Lisk Center Utrecht

Annual report 2019

10-12-2019

Lisk Center Utrecht

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// Content

2

// Introduction 2019

Lisk Center Utrecht has been created to give blockchain developers a coworking space to learn, work, share their knowledge and co-create projects. In addition Lisk Center Utrecht shares knowledge about blockchain and related projects with the region through the organization of events. It has originally been created as an initiative by Joo5ty.

Jurre Machielsen, Raphael Cornelis and Sander Mandemaker (The Moosty Team) have replaced Joo5ty as the driving force behind Lisk Center Utrecht halfway 2019. They have been involved with the Lisk Center Utrecht since late 2018 and have been responsible for the marketing material, website, back-end development, and the community management tasks since the beginning. In collaboration with the LCU community and Lisk as a partner they are working on evolving the proposition of the Lisk Center Utrecht into a sustainable business model.

There is a clear distinction between the first and second phase in 2019. During the first phase the focus has been on the creation of a community and not on the creation of a revenue model. During phase two it has been a focus to create a short and long term viable business model.

In general we have established a name in the Utrecht region and in the Dutch blockchain & startup ecosystem. In Utrecht the focus has been to create connections with public organizations, educational institutes and local businesses. These connections provide the possibility for inflow of talent and business questions.

During phase one it became clear that the lack of a clear value proposition created a challenge for the creation of formal business relationships. With the value created throughout 2019 and a clear strategy for 2020 it will be easier to set up formal relations and a sustainable roadmap.

In short 2020 will be about professionalization, structure, and the creation of a sustainable blockchain hub focusing on the diffusion of knowledge and the creation of tangible products.

Hereafter we will describe the strategy and results of 2019 and the plans for 2020.

// Strategy & Results 2019

The strategy is divided into three pillars; co workspace, events, and business.

As Lisk Center Utrecht we strive to deliver a qualitative and transparent experience. This will be reflected in the different pillars of our organization.

Co workspace

The co workspace is the foundation of Lisk Center Utrecht. It provides an added value to the LCU community and the region and fosters serendipitous interactions. The Lisk Center Utrecht is a breeding ground for collaboration and technological developments related to blockchain. Currently the co workspace is being used by technical and business developers who work on individual and collaborative projects aiming at a multitude of platforms - Ethereum, IOTA, Komodo, Lisk, Monero. During 2019 the Lisk Center Utrecht focuses on a broad target group which will change in the direction of (Javascript) developers during 2020.

To guarantee a continuous growth and effective output of the LCU community the Lisk Center Utrecht has the task to relieve the LCU community certain tasks and create the right rhythms. Some of the tasks include:

Community Management

- Stimulate collaboration within the community
- Link LCU community members to external parties
- Stimulate knowledge exchange and education

Operational

- Ensure availability of drinks and food and a clean environment
- Provide a continuous functional workspace
- Lay out the ground rules

Results

The Lisk Center Utrecht was opened in February as a coworking space, and the first step was to create a vibrant community. Now that we have achieved traction (a core group of 40-60 users and 20/30 daily users), we are adding more services for the members, including the incubator (more information will follow).

A small overview of the projects we host and what people are working on:
- Hybrix (https://hybrix.io)
- Spendies (https://spendies.network)
- Swarm (https://swarm.ethereum.org)
- Gimly (https://www.gimly.io)
- Xurux (https://xurux.nl)
- Wordproof (https://wordproof.io)
- Lisk Bike (https://lisk.bike)
- IOTA AION (https://ecosystem.iota.org/projects/aion)
- The Moosty Team
- Blockchain030 (https://blockchain030.nl)
- Copyright Delta (https://www.copyrightdelta.com/)

There are much more using the space, but in a less structured way.

Events

Focus of Lisk Center Utrecht is on the transfer of knowledge. This happens through the organisation of events like workshops, coworking days, meetups and hackathons.
Since the LCU community is a divers group of experts they provide the possibility to organise a broad amount of activities and attract different target groups if needed. Every event organised by Lisk Center Utrecht starts with an introduction on the LCU community, the Lisk Center Utrecht and Lisk. An easy way to get in touch with Lisk.

Halfway 2019 it has been decided to extent the focus of the co workspace to events and become the go-to place for blockchain related events in The Netherlands. This has been a success with more than 38 events during the second half of the year (50+ in total in 2019).

The Dutch blockchain ecosystem is providing the Lisk Center Utrecht with content and even the Ethereum community is asking us to host the ETH Global hackathon.

Results

As Lisk Center Utrecht we have organised more than 50 events during 2019. During that period our meetup group has grown from zero to more than 650 followers. This provides us with the possibility to target more specifically from now on. We have had events in the following categories; meetups, brainstorms, hands-on techdays, hackathons, Lisk workshops, coworking days.
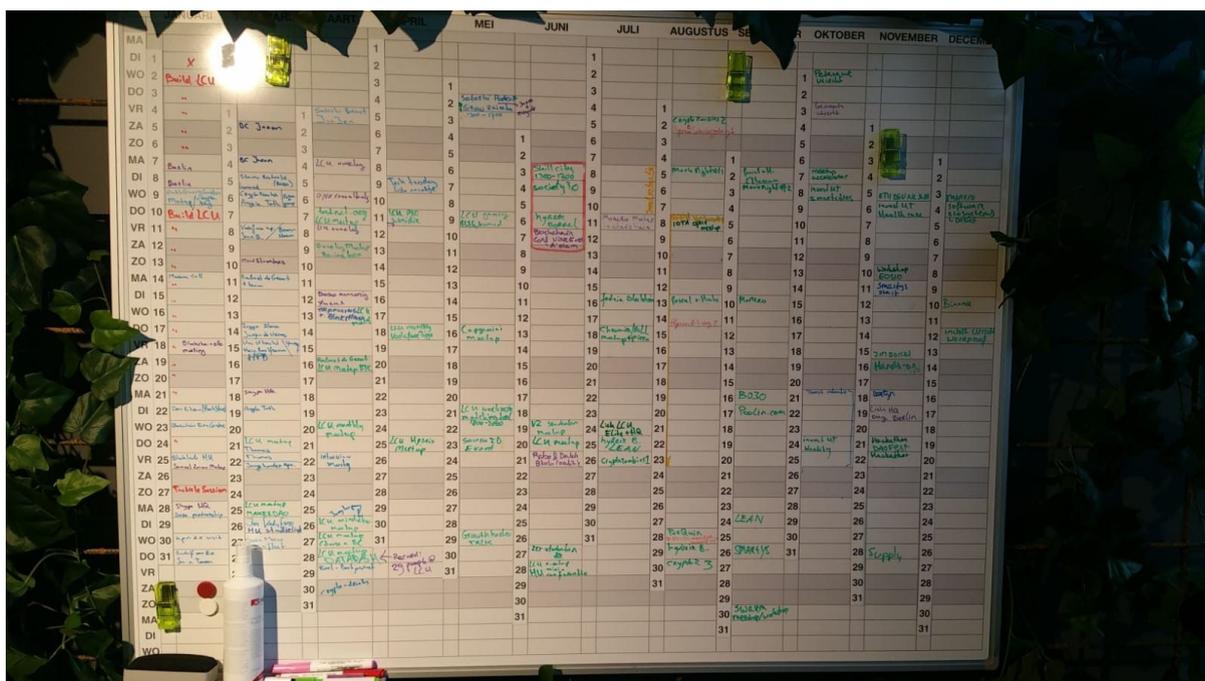

Figure I - Picture of the planbord of Lisk Center Utrecht. For a complete overview of events see attachment A

Utrecht Blockchain Nights

At the end of 2019 the brand "Utrecht Blockchain Nights" has been created by the Lisk Center Utrecht. This creates a certain standard in the format and the expectation. The brand is currently well known in the region of Utrecht.

Some examples of events

12-12-19 Utrecht Blockchain Nights - Media

26-11-19 Utrecht Blockchain Nights - Supply chain

6-11-19 Utrecht blockchain Nights - healthcare

8-10-19 Utrecht blockchain Nights - Smart Cities

24-10-19 Utrecht blockchain Nights - Identity

Techdays

At the end of the year we have hosted multiple tech focused events. During these events multiple workshops have been given; EOSIO, hybrix, Lisk.Bike, ULA. The events have been received well by the community, developers and our business partners.

Hackathon

We have hosted two different tech related events for the University of Applied Sciences; yearly conference and a hackathon. During the conference at the end of June multiple students presented their work and afterwards all participants could work on different use cases during a workshop. Last November we hosted a two-day hackathon during which the different project teams could work on their school project, got extra training from experts in the field and were expected to deliver a sharpened concept at the end. The experts from the field (for the conference and the hackathon) are all chosen from the LCU community (hybrix, IOTA, leapfunder, Blockchain030).

LCU Coworking & Lisk Workshops

Every week Blockchain030 organises a coworking Monday. If you are interested you can join around 10 o'clock for a stand-up. Afterwards it is possible to discuss your challenges, pitch your ideas, ask help for your project and much more. After the release of the Lisk SDK they have organised multiple coworkings specifically focusing on developing for the Lisk ecosystem.

Business

The Lisk Center Utrecht had over 200 meetings with a variety of companies. Knowledge institutions (HU, UU, TU/e, Fontys Tilburg), blockchain startups (hybrix, swarm, Xurux, Weconomics, Sovrin, Project Genesis), Media partners (Bitcoin Magazine Nederland, Cryptocafe, Satoshi Radio, Datadash), Exosystem partners (Blockchain Netherlands, Dutch

Blockchain Coalition, Gemeente Utrecht, Startup Utrecht, Utrechtinc., DAOfest, Utrecht Tech Community), Meetup partners (Poolin.com, Rabobank, Leapfunder, InvestUtrecht, Capgemini, VodafoneZiggo, Steeltrace, Smartys, Zoof-it), Blockchain projects (Monero, Chromia, Ethereum, IOTA, EOSIO, Komodo).

// Finance 2019 nov 2018 - Oct 2019

Total overview

Total in	€ 136.783
Total out	€ 130.272

Balance

Balance €	€ 6.511
Balance LSK	10.760

Main Income

Type	In
Donations Lisk Community	€ 120.017
Donations LCU Community	€ 10.765
Donations Events	€ 5.191

Main expenses

Type	Out
Administration	€ 3.320
Drinks & food	€ 2.056
Events	€ 2.144
Improve facilities	€ 6.541
Marketing	€ 1.986
Building the LCU begin 2019 + interior	€ 113.816

The rent of the Lisk Center Utrecht was paid by the Lisk Foundation.

// Conclusion 2019

We have been able to create visibility for the Lisk Center Utrecht, attracted a professional developer community, have had lots of high valued events and we are known by every actor in the Dutch ecosystem. In addition we have a tangible blockchain product with Lisk.Bike, have groups of students working on other projects and work on an accelerator program.

To reach the same success in 2020 the Lisk Center Utrecht has to focus and create a more sustainable and professional organisation. The focus will be on developers and development of tangible proof of concepts. And the foundation itself will connect local businesses and community members to the Lisk Center Utrecht in order to make it financially viable.

// Strategy 2020

In 2020 we will start with a clear strategy. We have developed it together with our local community and hereafter we provide you with a quick overview.

The focus will be on the creation of an infrastructure for the LCU community and for events. In addition Lisk Center Utrecht will stimulate productivity by actively aiming on practical applications of blockchain like Lisk.Bike.

Through acquiring a valuable community the Lisk Center Utrecht is valuable to local and international businesses in multiple ways; learn from innovative solutions, build proof of concepts, find talent.

Community

In 2020 the Lisk Center Utrecht focuses on a productive development community, complemented with extra skills which will create a more balanced multidisciplinary team. In this way the community can enforce itself. Additionally the Lisk Center Utrecht will play a bigger role in the development of blockchain students from associated knowledge institutions. An extra focus group for 2020 is Javascript developers. This is realized through connecting Javascript communities in Utrecht and its region. The Lisk Center Utrecht will approach these communities at external event organized by the Lisk Center Utrecht in Utrecht and its region.

The Lisk Center Utrecht will provide more structure within the community in 2020, such as monthly consultations between LCU community members and the Lisk Center Utrecht board in order to take notice of the wishes of the community and take actions on it in an earlier phase.

Social Capital

Due to the new structure and clear guidelines for the LCU community, it is expected that LCU community members will contribute more in the form of social capital. Social capital includes the following: creating proof of concepts, sharing knowledge and organizing meetups. This will be actively be managed by The Lisk Center Utrecht to ensure that
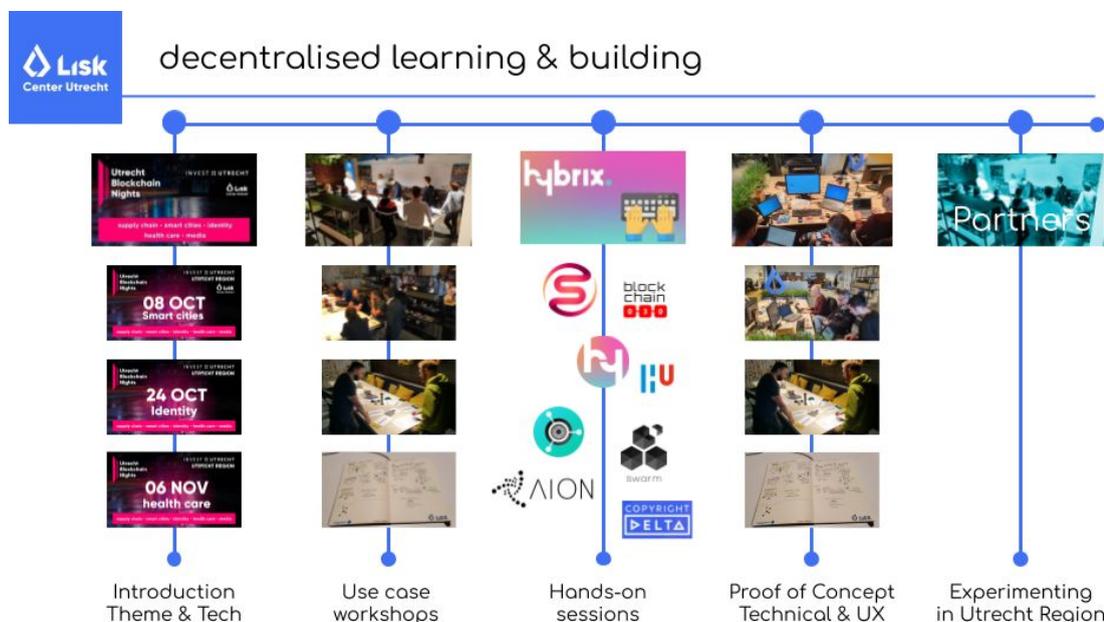
11

operational tasks, but also the expansion of the community, will be divided between the LCU community and the Lisk Center Utrecht board.

Events

The Lisk Center Utrecht offers a clear agenda for the events in 2020. This way, the Lisk Center Utrecht but also the community can plan ahead in order to organize even more relevant events.

Weekly	1 LCU Meetup
Weekly	1 LCU Co Workday
Per 3 months	1 LCU Hands-on techday
Weekly (open)	1 LCU Community networking event
Yearly	1 LCU Community + Partners event

The clear structure also ensures that the Lisk Center Utrecht can offer certain routes in the form of events. See the image below.

The different processes all have their own purpose. For example, one event is aimed at inspiring new developers, the following is intended to elaborate on use cases and another is intended to build proof of concepts. The ultimate goal is to test multiple proof of concepts in the region and use them in the region as showcases for tangible blockchain solutions.

Utrecht Blockchain Nights

The successful Utrecht Blockchain Nights series will be continued in 2020 to build a bridge between developers and local companies.

Techdays & Hackathon

One of the goals is to attract more developers for the Lisk Center Utrecht. By organizing regular tech days, student hackathons and Lisk.js Utrecht events, we want to offer the place for blockchain developers in 2020.

The tech days will be used to provide blockchain workshops and demos, the student hackathons are events aimed at students (the University of Applied Sciences has shown interest to organise such a hackathon multiple times over the next year). And the Lisk.js Utrecht event is a tech day entirely devoted to Lisk development.

LCU Coworking

In 2020 the LCU will facilitate coworking days. During these days it will be possible to actively connect with community members, ask questions, put your ideas on the agenda, and work together on projects. By making it a rhythm underneath the LCU umbrella it will get more attention from the community and it will be possible to fit in challenges from the LCU community and Lisk.

Finances

The Lisk Center Utrecht focuses on the following 3 sources of income in 2020
- Monthly community fee
- External events
- Connecting community partners

Monthly community Fee

A monthly fee of €50,- makes you a special community member that stimulates community development in multiple ways. This revenue will be used for community events. In exchange for this financial impuls the LCU community member receives an access card and therefore has 24/7 access to the Lisk Center.

External events

In addition to the usual Lisk Center Utrecht events, the Lisk Center Utrecht also facilitates external events. The Lisk Center Utrecht will ask an event fee for this. The amount of the fee can vary per event. The ambitious goal is to facilitate 1 external event every week. By positioning the Lisk Center Utrecht as the blockchain hub of the Netherlands, it is an attractive location for events around the theme.

Community partners

Local companies and startups are connected to the LCU community. For this they pay an annual fee of € 2,500. In return, the LCU community partner has a direct connection with the LCU community, the possibility to introduce challenges into the community and they will be taken along in promotional activities. The Lisk Center Utrecht organizes a conference once a year in collaboration with the LCU community and the LCU community partners. The Lisk Center Utrecht will also keep the LCU community partners informed of the successes achieved every quarter.

Promotion

Lisk Center Utrecht is already the hub for blockchain related developments in the Netherlands. We will enforce this position by better communication, better visibility and more high value events. In addition we would like to involve our community even more in the organisation and promotion of Lisk Center Utrecht. The connection with the region will be enforced through community partnerships, and stimulated by connecting challenges to the community. This will partly be a way to stimulate innovation at external business and simultaneously generate revenue for the LCU community.

// Lisk Ecosystem

Aim on Lisk during 2019

Events

All events start with an introduction into the Lisk Center utrecht, the LCU community and the Lisk blockchain.

workshops

The LCU community provides workshops around the Lisk SDK.

Co Work space

The name of the Lisk Blockchain is used at the physical location of the Lisk Center Utrecht and in communication expressions.

Business

At every meeting the Lisk Center Utrecht had with community members, community partners, local companies and knowledge institutions. The Lisk blockchain is mentioned and, if needed, explained.

Aim on Lisk during 2020

We will continue promoting the Lisk blockchain in the way we did in 2019.

Brand name

We see that people associate our meetups with Lisk and the Lisk Center Utrecht. The connotation with the brand Lisk is strong and it is well received by the community that 'Lisk' is providing this possibility. The University of Applied Sciences and the Rabobank are relations that started through meetups.

15

Workshops

The different Lisk workshops will also be given during our weekly coworking sessions.

Hackathons

It will be a perfect moment to let students experience the Lisk SDK and get them on board of the ecosystem by providing different workshops/masterclasses.

Lisk events

We will organize 3 big events like Lisk.js for the dutch javascript community in 2020.

Lisk POCS

Promoting the creation of Proof of Concepts for the Lisk Ecosystem.

// Appendix

A - Overview of meetups

Date	Subject
21-2-19	Lisk center: blockchain meetup #1
13-3-19	Wanneer is blockchain de juiste keuze
20-3-19	Lisk center: blockchain meetup
27-3-19	Brainstorm - waar let ik op bij het kiezen van een blockchain platform?
28-3-19	Project Genesis - open-source blockchain initiative
11-4-19	Subsidie
18-4-19	Vodafone Ziggo Blockchain Projects
25-4-19	Monthly get together
9-5-19	How blockchain will change the gaming industry
16-5-19	Is Interoperability the holy grail?
21-5-19	Blockchain matching tool werksessie
23-5-19	Self-sovereign identity (sovrin & tykn)
4-6-19	Society 3.0 - Overvloed dankzij technologie
6-6-19	Hybrix monthly get together
19-6-19	Vodafone Ziggo Studentenbijeenkomst
20-6-19	Lisk center: blockchain meetup
28-6-19	HU conferentie
18-7-19	Chromia; lets talk decentralised apps
24-7-19	Lisk center: blockchain meetup
25-7-19	Blockchain voor LEAN
25-7-19	Hybrix monthly get together
26-7-19	workshop cryptozombies
2-8-19	workshop cryptozombies
5-8-19	First brainstorm how to proceed with lisk sdk
8-8-19	5th IOTA meetup
8-8-19	Workshop set up lisk node
13-8-19	Midsummer Meetup: Lightning Talks by local devs! @Lisk Center Utrecht
29-8-19	Hybrix monthly get together

17

30-8-19	workshop cryptozombies
2-9-19	So you think you can code a client (ethereum)
6-9-19	workshop cryptozombies
10-9-19	Monero #5 - How to protect your privacy
17-9-19	Introduction into Mining and Mining Pools by Poolin
24-9-19	Blockchain voor LEAN
26-9-19	Smartys testsessie incl. pizza
30-9-19	Swarm - intro in Swarm & the accounting protocol
7-10-19	Aeternity - How to get funding for your startup
8-10-19	Utrecht blockchain nights - Smart Cities
18-10-19	Digital Leadership & Blockchain (Weconomics)
24-10-19	Utrecht blockchain nights - Identity
31-10-19	Spendies Testnight
5-11-19	Post Devcon Workshop
6-11-19	Utrecht blockchain nights - healthcare
10-11-19	EOSIO Developer Workshop
16-11-19	Hands-on Techday @ LCU in collaboration with hybrix
18-11-19	Investor Readiness Session
18-11-19	okeX
19-11-19	Monero #6
21-11-19	Hackathon University of Applied Sciences (2 days)
21-11-19	DAOfest
26-11-19	Utrecht Blockchain Nights - Supply chain
9-12-19	Blockchain 101 voor Financials
12-12-19	Utrecht Blockchain Nights - Media
16-12-19	Blockchain 101 voor Financials

18