



GOVERNMENT  
OF MALTA



FONDI.eu

INTERESTED IN WINE?  
OR BLOCKCHAIN? OR BOTH?



**VINOVERITAS**  
... when wine  
meets blockchain

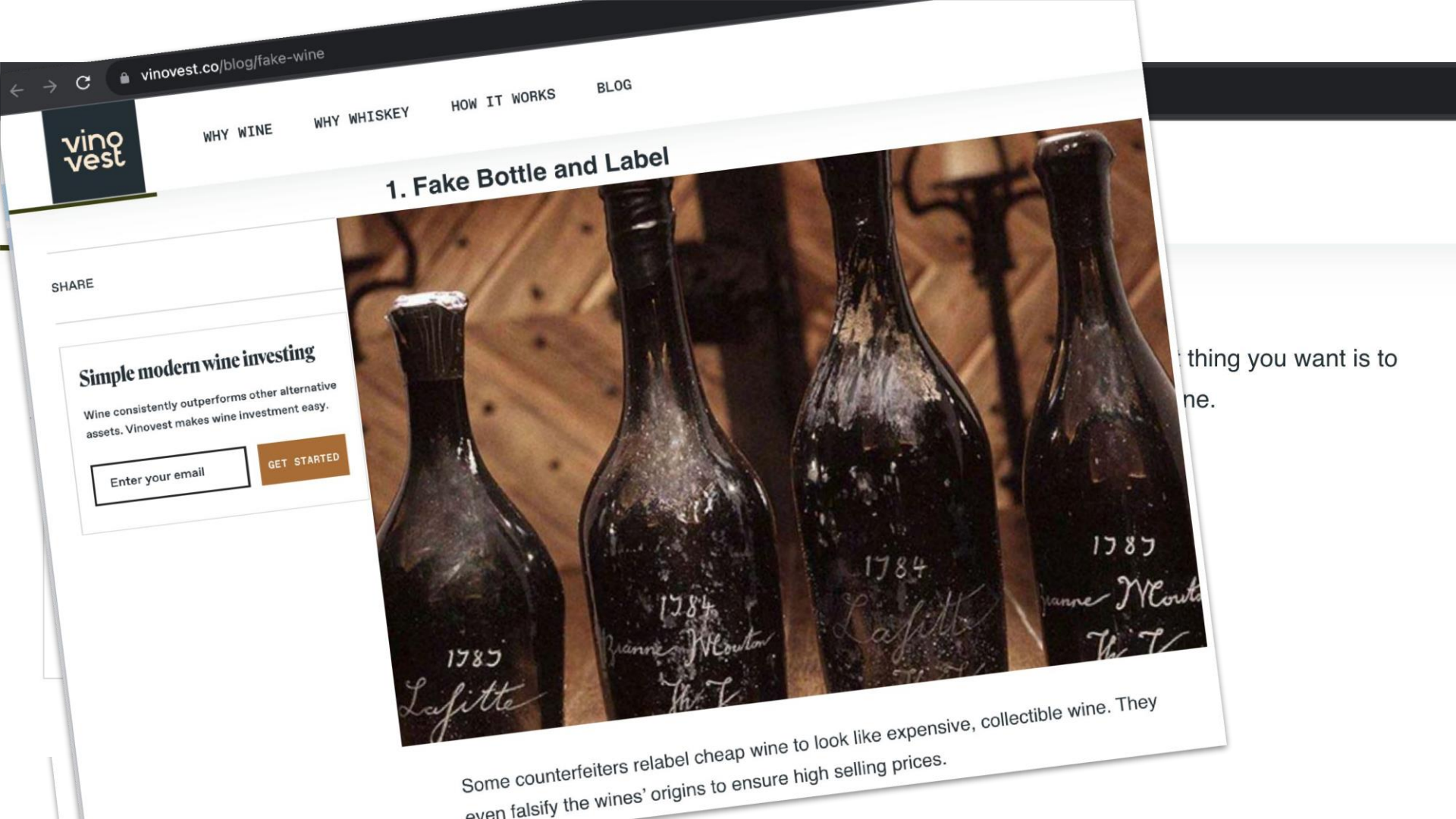


Co-funded by  
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L-Università  
ta' Malta

**Everything is fine with wine...**



## 1. Fake Bottle and Label

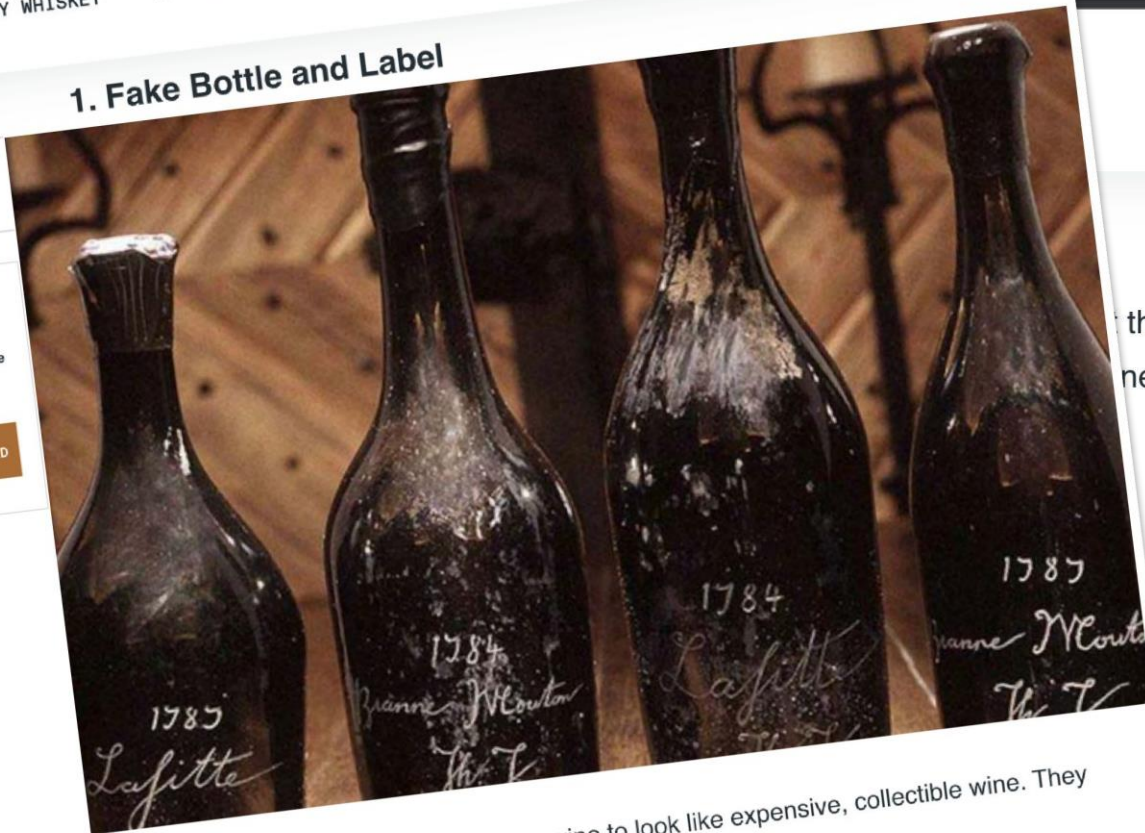
SHARE

### Simple modern wine investing

Wine consistently outperforms other alternative assets. Vinovest makes wine investment easy.

Enter your email

GET STARTED



Some counterfeiters relabel cheap wine to look like expensive, collectible wine. They even falsify the wines' origins to ensure high selling prices.

thing you want is to  
ne.

## 2. Wine Adulteration

SHARE

### Simple modern wine investing

Wine consistently outperforms other alternative assets. Vinovest makes wine investment easy.

GET STARTED



Wine adulteration is when the wine is weakened or thinned, often with the inclusion of ingredients like juices. Sometimes counterfeiters also add sweeteners and additives to improve flavor or color.

you want is to

### 3. Fraud Wine Investment Firms

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#### Simple modern wine investing

Wine consistently outperforms other alternative assets. Vinovest makes wine investment easy.

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GET STARTED



If you're an investor, do your due diligence about wine investment firms.





[christianseiler.com/geschichten/the-scandal-that-changed-everything](#)


# Christian Seiler

## The Scandal that changed everything

[Zur Person](#)[Bücher](#)[Geschichten](#)[Kolumnen](#)[Corporate](#)[Kontakt](#)

Weinskandal (wine scandal) is a potent word, much like blitzkrieg or wanderlust. The German language has such a talent for words like this, it even exports them into English. Anyone whose interest in wine isn't limited to asking where the corkscrew is knows the story of the Austrian wine scandal. It's a good story, especially because it has a happy ending.

For anyone who doesn't have the facts to hand right now: in the summer of 1985, anonymous reports revealed that Austrian winemakers, as well as large German bottlers, had laced their wines with diethylene glycol. Added in the form

 teilen

# Christian Seiler

Verlag

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Zur Person

Bücher

Geschichten

Kolumnen

Corporate

Kontakt

dose. Just one small glass of a wine like this, gulped thirstily down, could be fatal.

Methyl alcohol ( $\text{CH}_4\text{O}$ ), has a strong toxic effect on the human organism. Once it has entered the system, it leads to hyperacidity of the blood, and of the whole body, within six to 30 hours. The symptoms are headaches, vomiting, dizziness and breathlessness. If treatment (usually administration of the antidote, fomepizole) is not started in time, it causes nerve damage, in particular damage to the optic nerve, followed by blindness, and eventually respiratory failure and death.

When reports of the victims of this methanol poisoning became public, consumption of wine sank dramatically.

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decanter.com/wine-news/bordeaux-court-convicts-suspects-in-major-wine-fraud-case-496828/

Home / Wine News

# Bordeaux court convicts suspects in major wine fraud case

A scheme believed to have involved **millions of litres of Spanish wine being falsely passed off as French** has led to convictions in a Bordeaux court, with local media reporting prison sentences and hundreds of thousands of euros in penalties.



Chris Mercer  
January 31, 2023



decanter.com/wine-news/british-fraudster-faces-jail-after-admitting-13m-wine-...

# Decanter

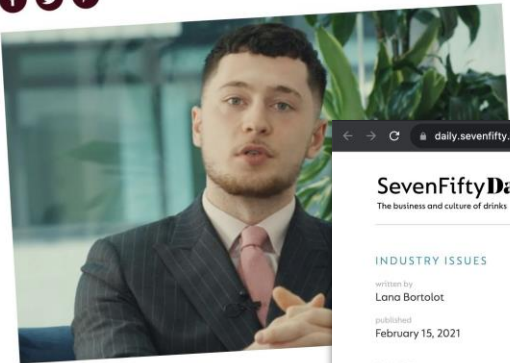
Home / Wine News

## British fraudster faces jail after admitting \$13m wine and whisky investment scam

Casey Alexander preyed upon more than 150 elderly American investors before he was finally rumbled in an FBI sting.

Martin Green  
April 11, 2023

f t p



Casey Alexander

daily.seventy.com/beyond-high-profile-scandals-wine-fraud-is-rampant/

### SevenFiftyDaily

The business and culture of drinks

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#### INDUSTRY ISSUES


written by  
Lana Bortolot  
published  
February 15, 2021

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## Beyond High-Profile Scandals, Wine Fraud Is Rampant

How the pandemic-fueled increase in online sales and decrease in vetting has led to more counterfeit bottles—and how wine professionals can spot them



## Châteauneuf-du-Pape Wine Scandal

It is France who is the undisputed historical motherland of premium wine and the birthplace of wine law. Here fraudsters face **serious jail time** and very public disgrace when mucking about with French wine.

As was the case recently when bulk wine merchant Raphaël Michel fell from grace. Raphaël Michel buys wine from 100's of producers to blend and bottle wine all over the world. In 2017, the Rhône Valley arm of the company was at the center of a massive wine scandal.

Authorities found that **48 million litres** of simple, inexpensive Côtes du Rhône wine was mislabelled and sold as the more prestigious Châteauneuf-du-Pape wine over a 4-year period.

Originally, the organizations chairman, Guillaume Ryckwaert, "**was charged with fraud, deception and violations of the consumer and tax codes.**" He faced a US \$370,000 fine and a \$600,000 bail.

brazilreports.com/brazilian-wineries-involved-in-a-slave-labor-scandal/4129/

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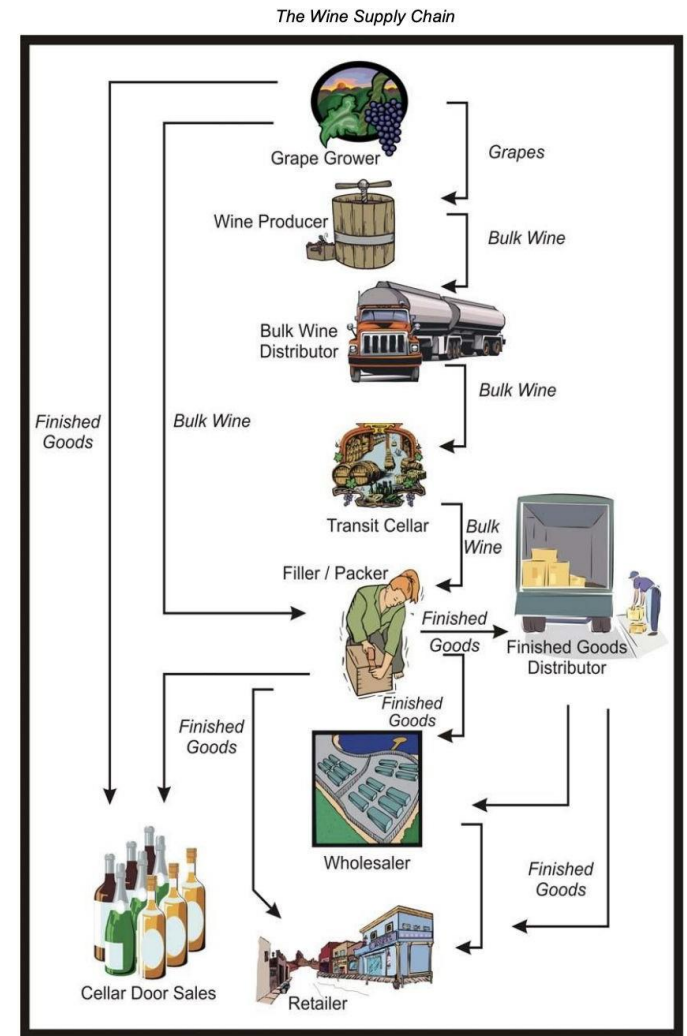
## Brazilian wineries involved in a slave labor scandal

By Thiago Alves March 7, 2023

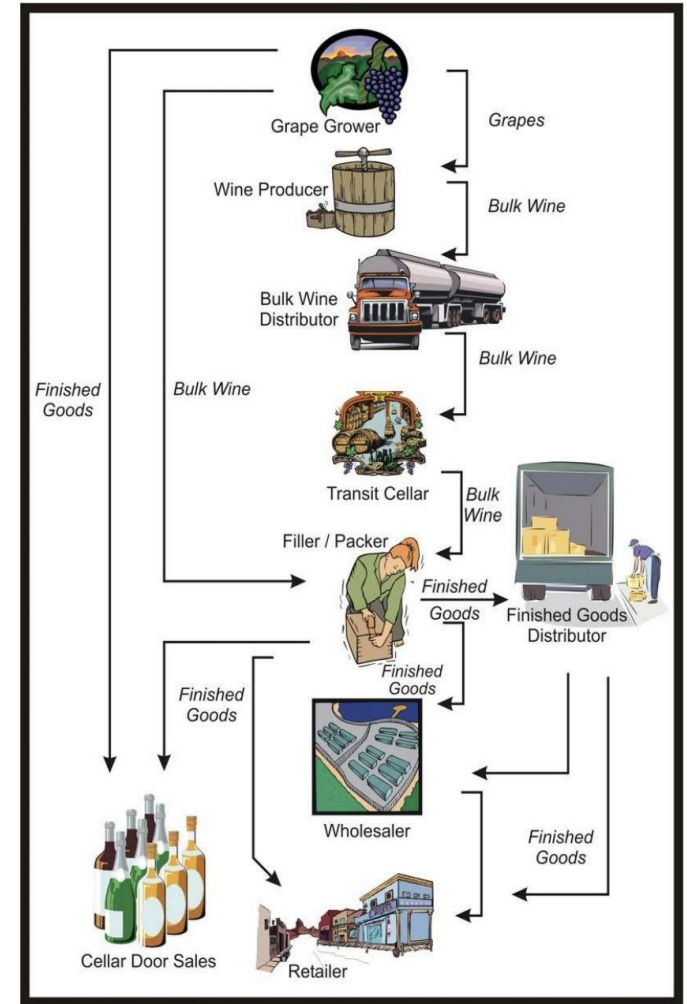


More and more...

# We often think about the Consumer risks...

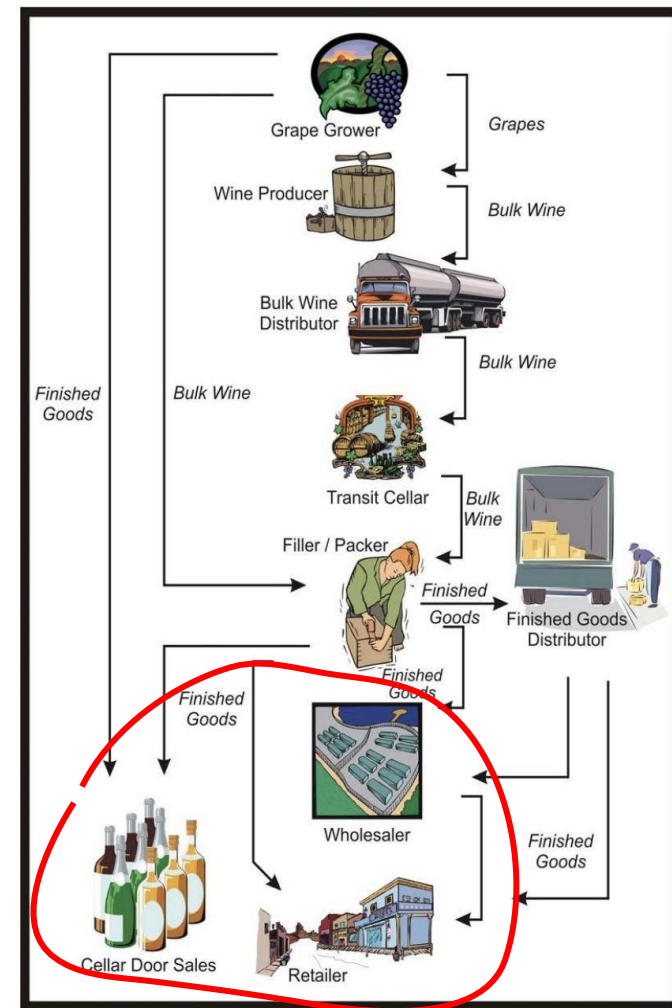


# Consumer risks... ...and risks borne by other stakeholders



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Sales related risks

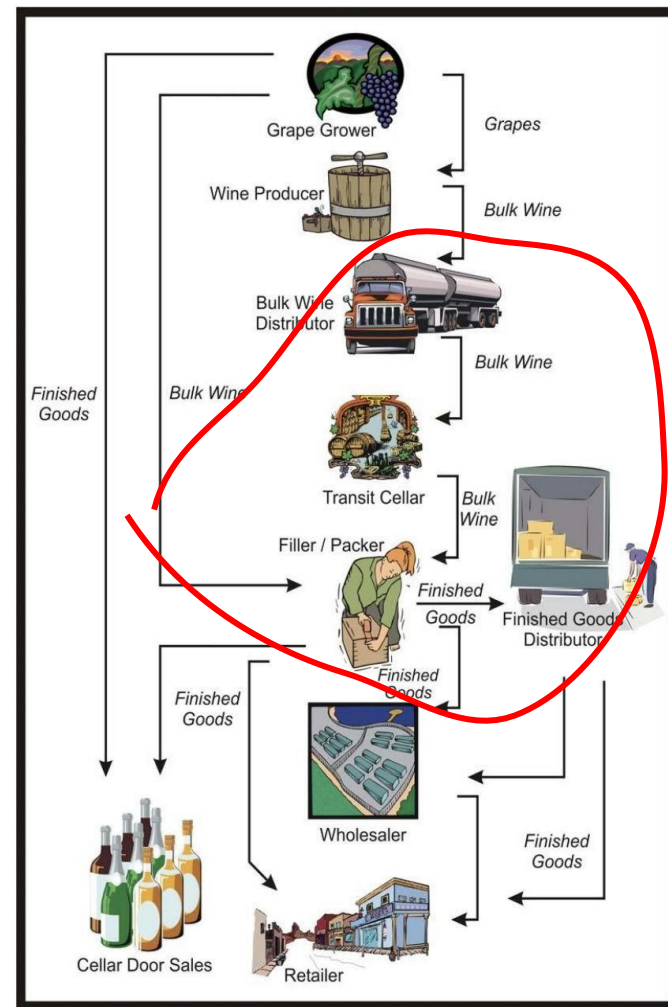




# Consumer risks... ...and risks borne by other stakeholders

Logistics related risks

Sales related risks

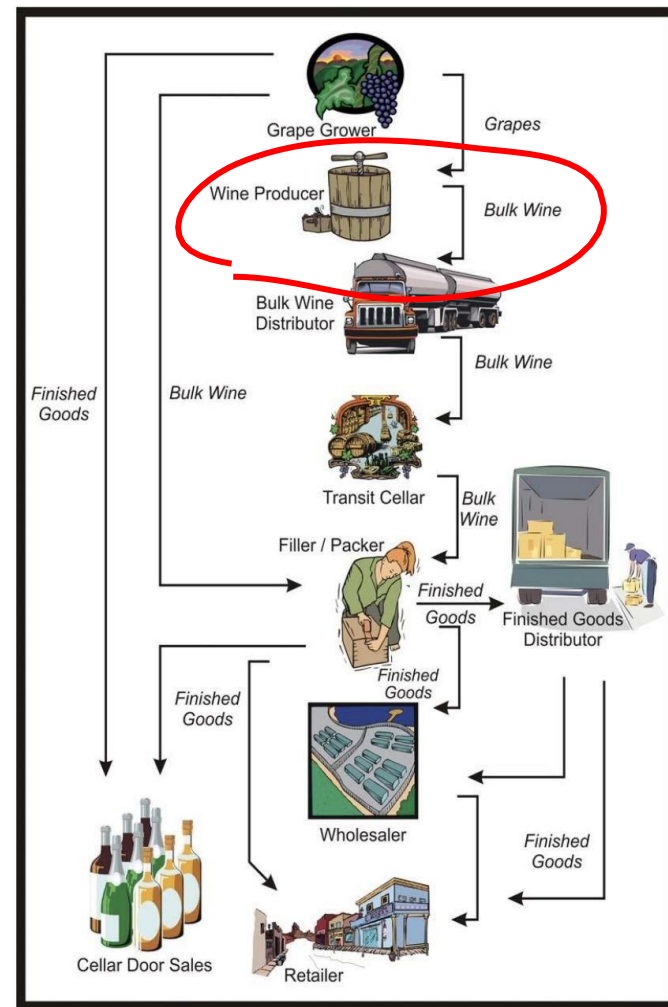


# Consumer risks... ...and risks borne by other stakeholders

Wine producer risks

Logistics related risks

Sales related risks



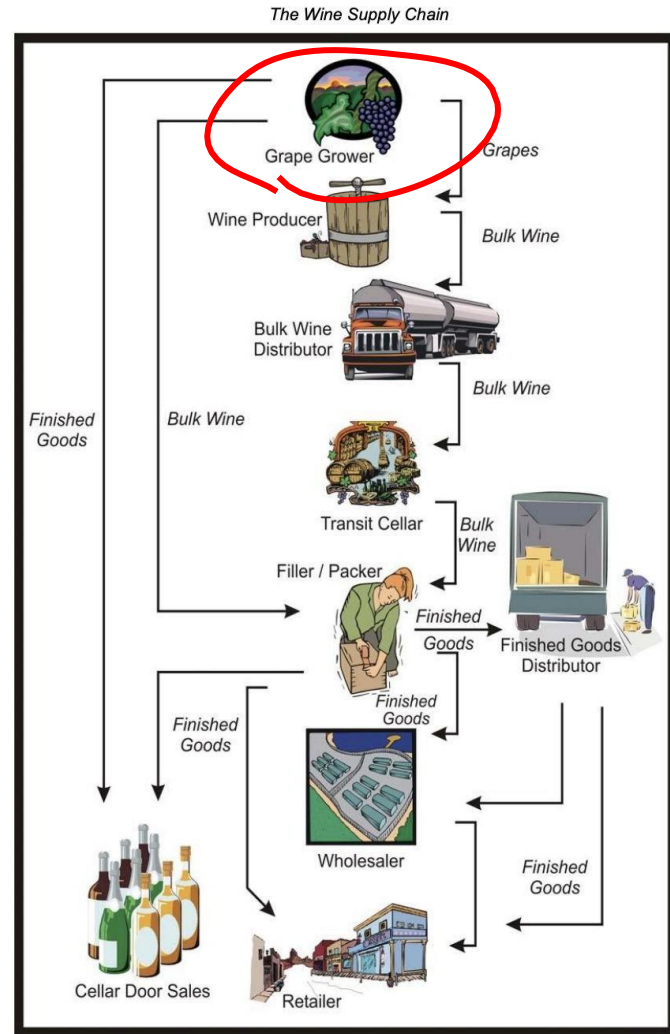
# Consumer risks... ...and risks borne by other stakeholders

Grape grower risks

Wine producer risks

Logistics related risks

Sales related risks



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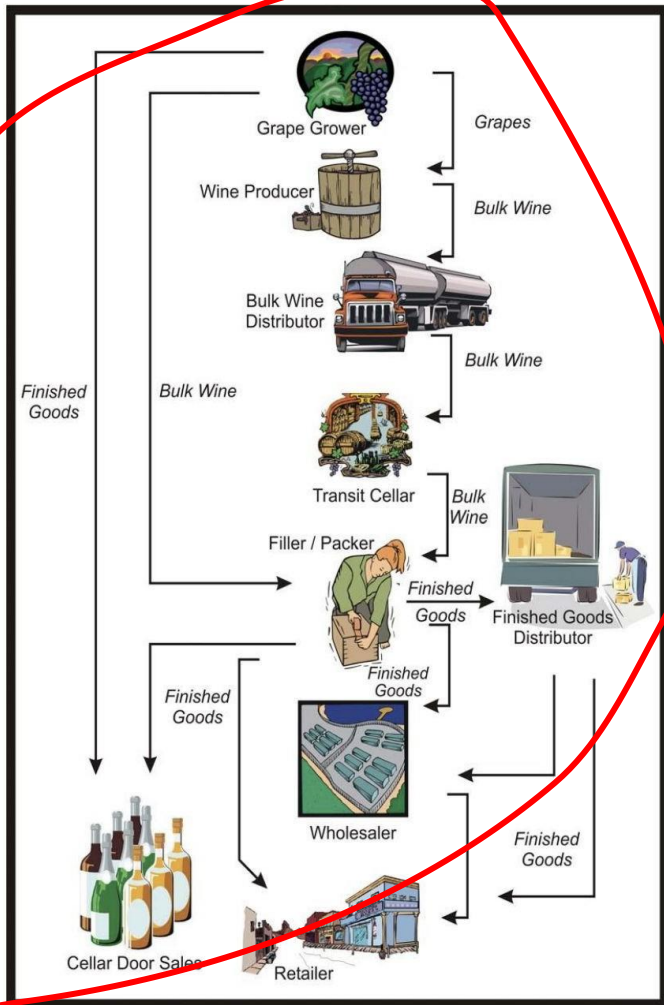
Regional /  
National /  
Authority  
risks

Grape grower risks

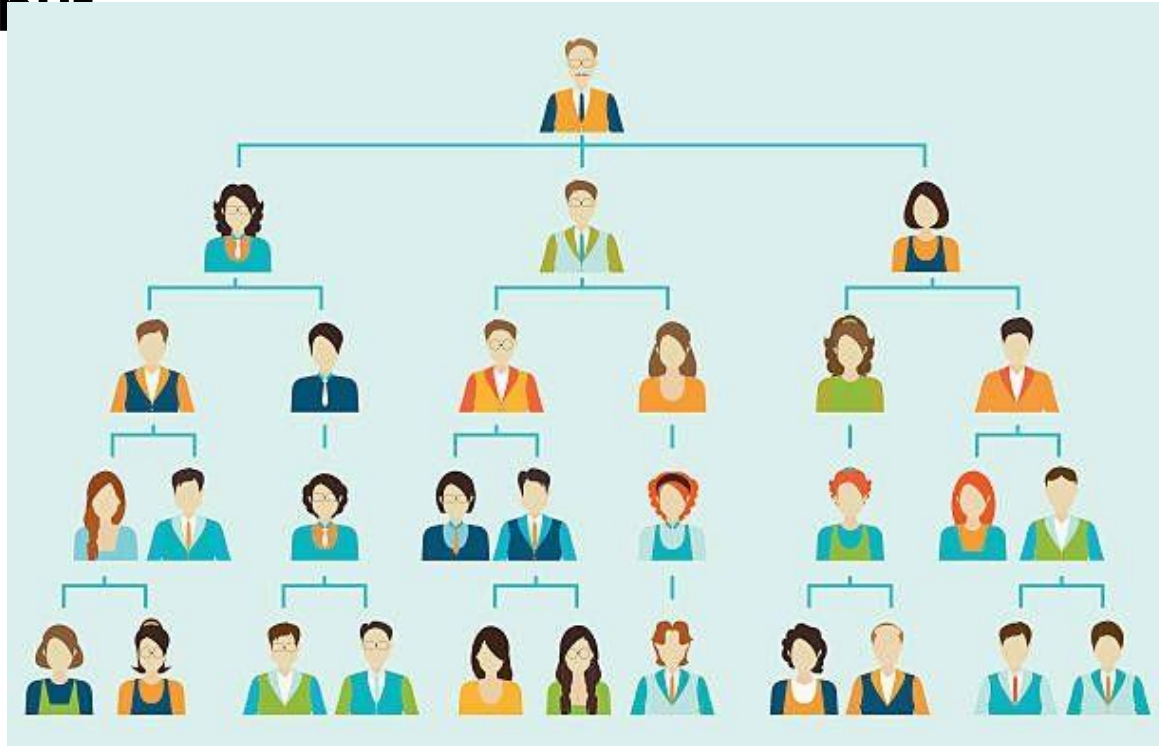
Wine producer risks

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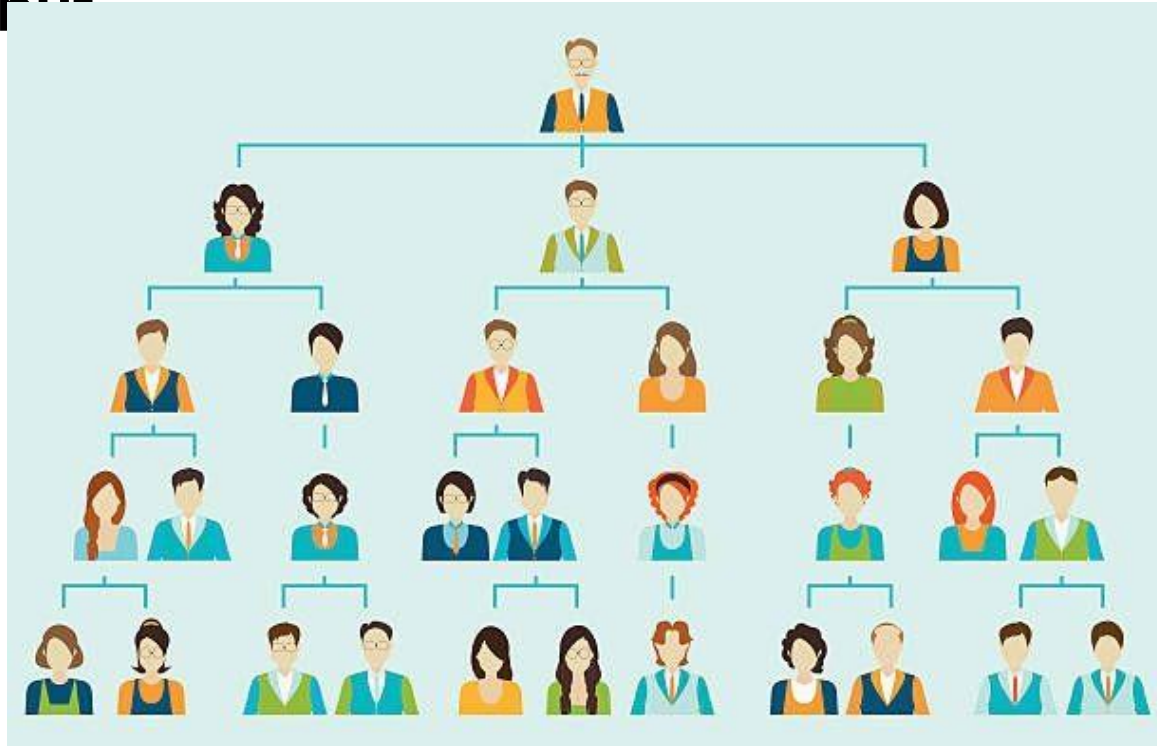


**Organisational structures and  
risks... We may trust the  
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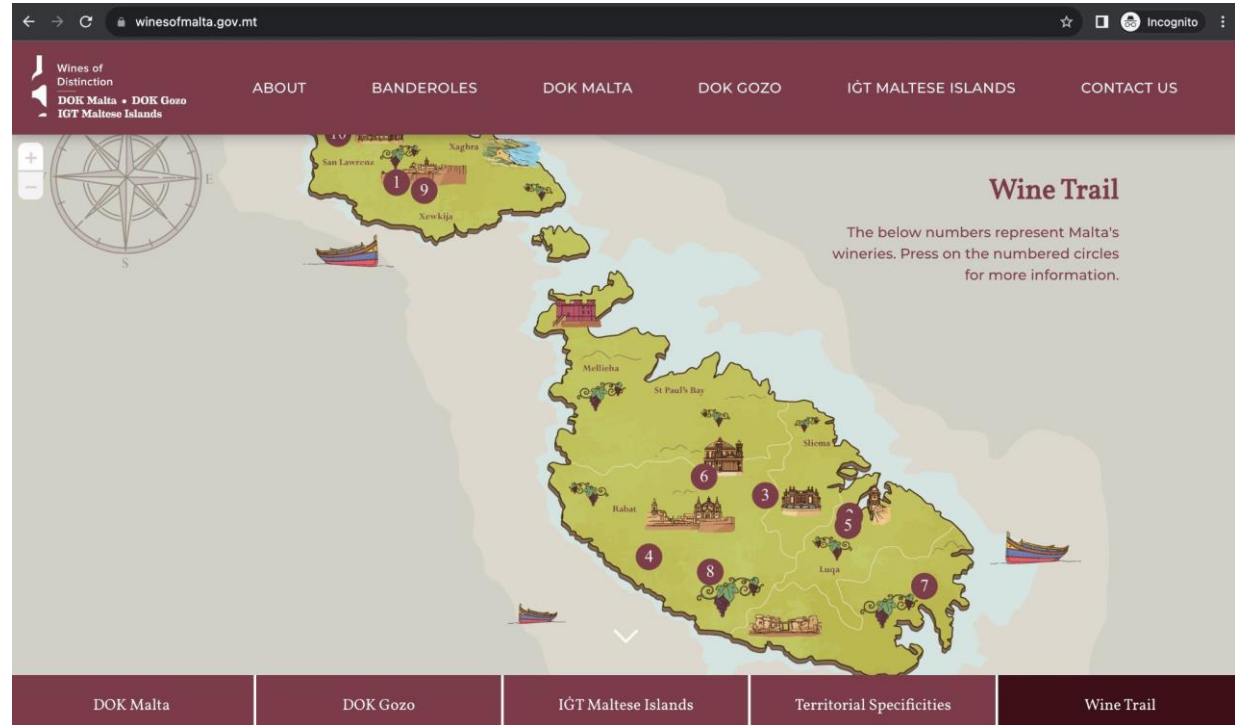


# **National wine certification programmes**

Some of the risks mentioned can be covered via national/regional certification programmes.

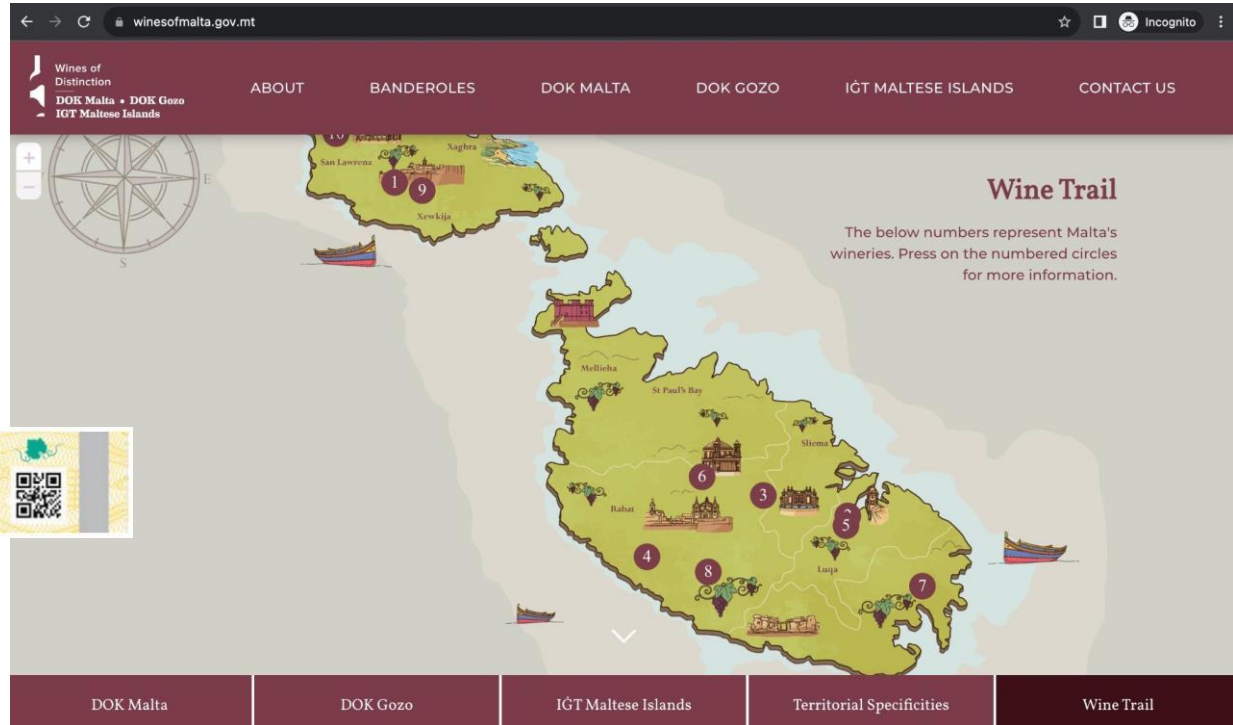
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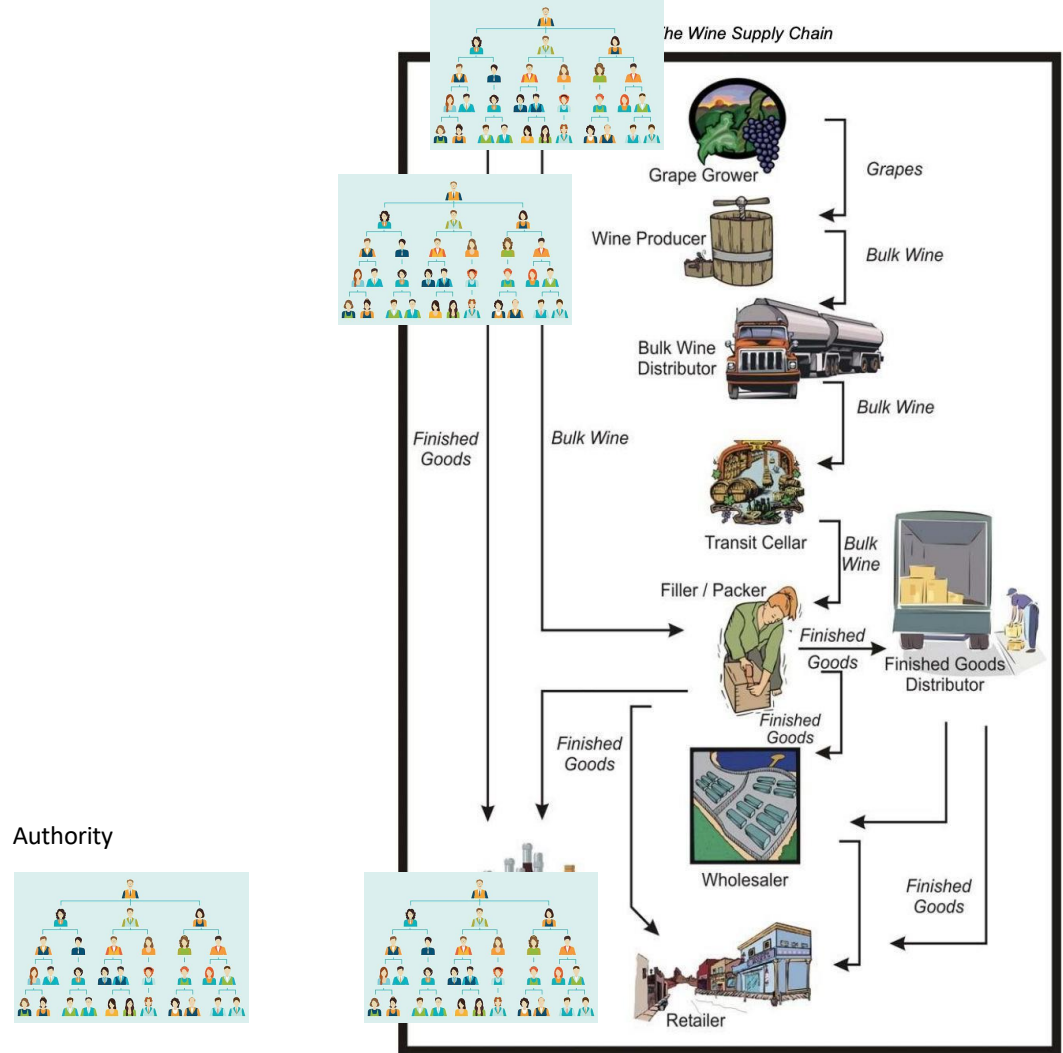
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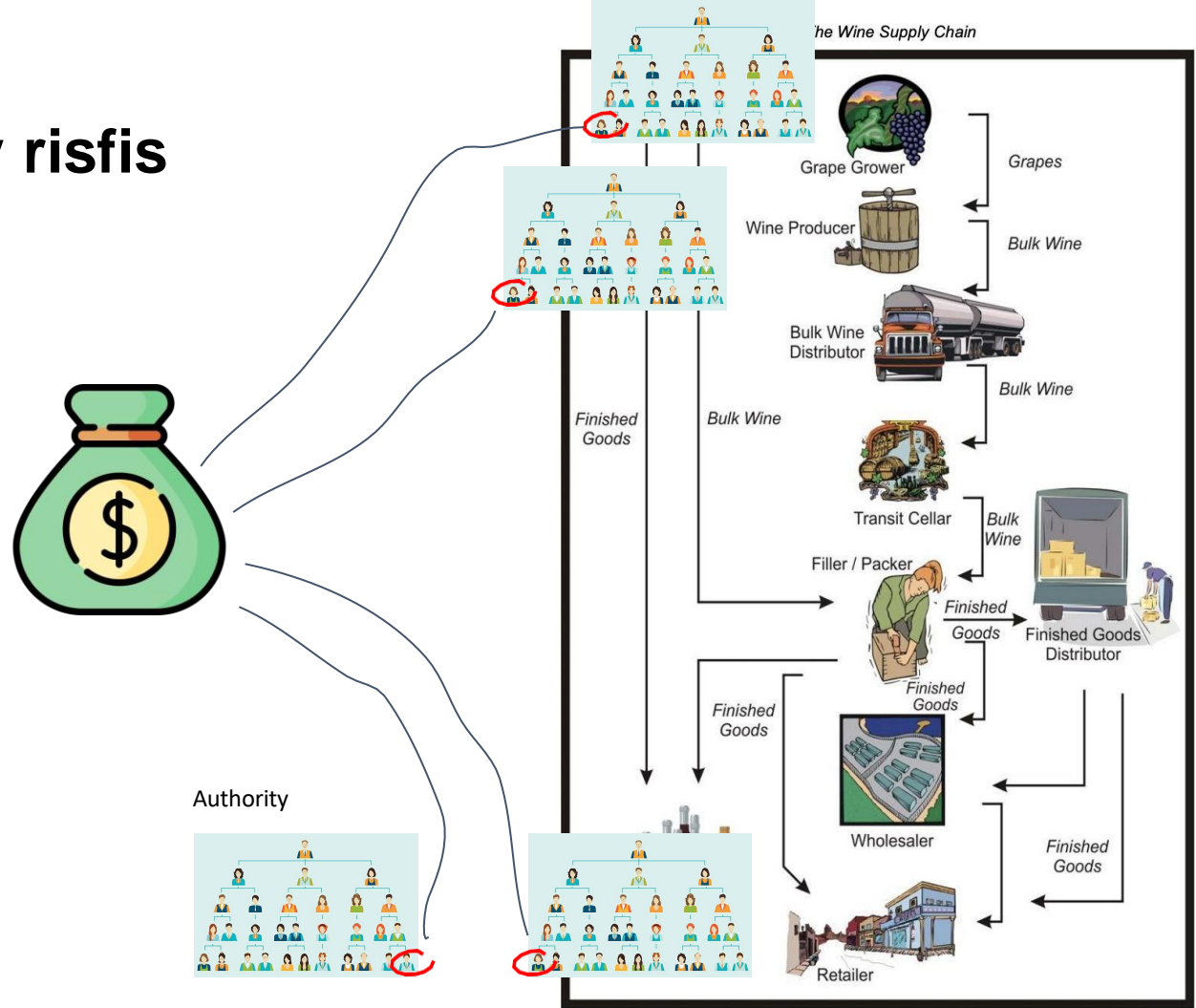
# Staff/third-party risks

Wine Supply Chain Traceability: GS1 Application  
Guideline  
GS1





# Staff/third-party risks



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**Can we fill some remnant 'trust gaps'?**

One "trust gap" that is often just accepted is the trust we have in our digital systems...

**We need to trust our digital systems  
too...**

**...consider Payment Systems as an  
example**

# Centralised Payments/Accounting Systems

AccountID	Name	<Balance>	...

# Centralised Payments/Accounting Systems

AccountID	Name	<Balance>	...
...			
1392	Me	EUR 0.01	...
1393	You	EUR 1,234,567.89	...
...			

# Centralised Payments/Accounting Systems

TransactionID	FromAccount	ToAccount	Amount


# Centralised Payments/Accounting Systems

TransactionID	FromAccount	ToAccount	Amount
1234	1392	1393	0.01



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TransactionID	FromAccount	ToAccount	Amount
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I am now broke :(

# Centralised Payments/Accounting Systems

TransactionID	FromAccount	ToAccount	Amount
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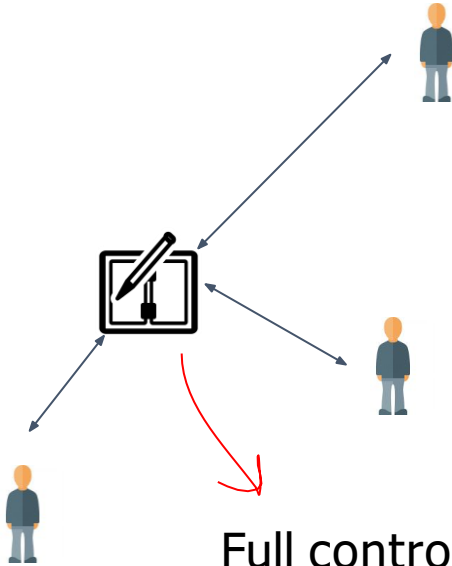
I am now broke :(

Can I somehow “hack” the system,  
steal money,  
or bribe someone?

# Centralised Payments/Accounting Systems

TransactionID	FromAccount	ToAccount	Amount
1234	1392	1393	0.01
1235	1393	1392	100,000

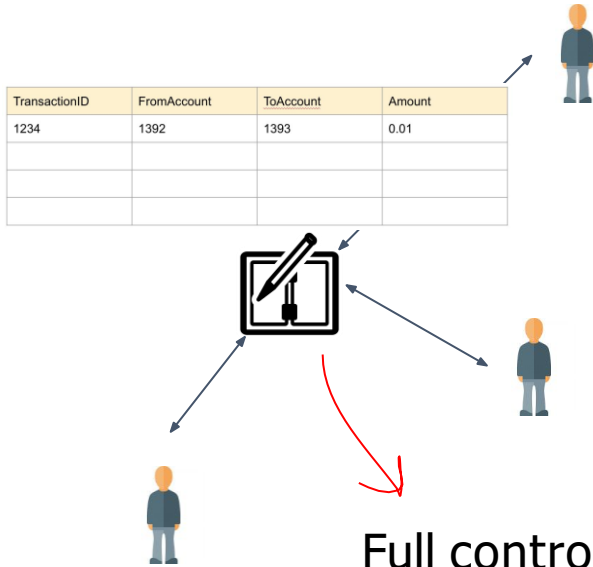
# Centralised Systems



Full control over:

- \* Code / Processes / Rules / Logic
- \* Data

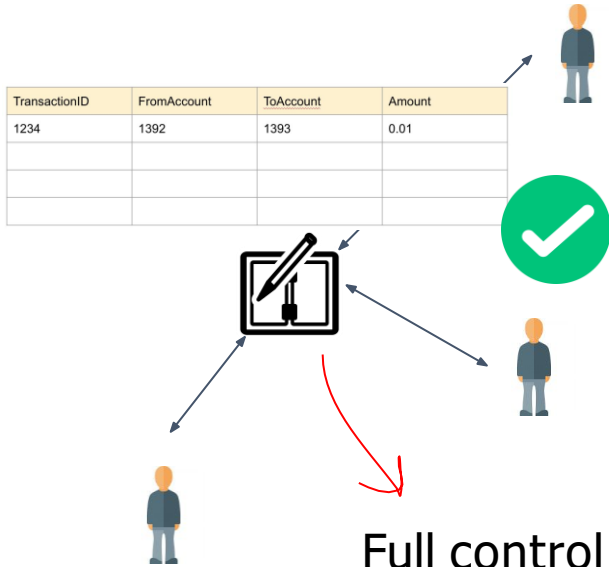
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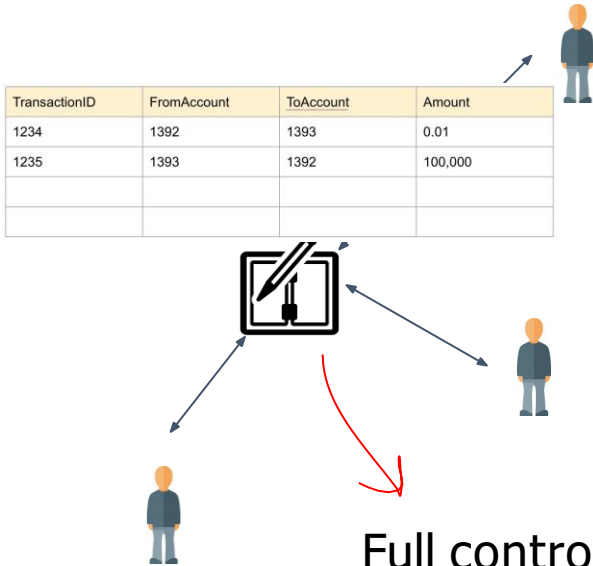
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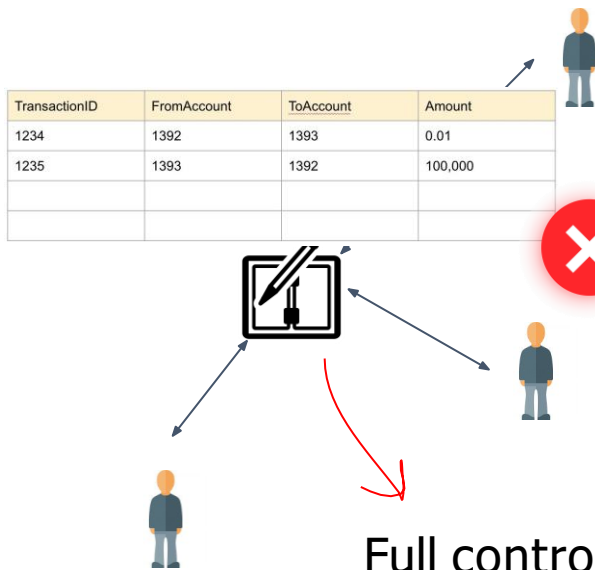
# Centralised Systems



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# Centralised Systems



The diagram illustrates a centralized system architecture. At the top, a table represents the data. Below it, a central server icon (a square with a pencil and a lock) is connected to three user icons (people) by blue arrows, indicating bidirectional communication. A red arrow points from the server icon down to the text 'Full control over:'. A red circle with a white 'X' is positioned to the right of the server icon, with the text 'Though a transaction should not be allowed...' next to it.

TransactionID	FromAccount	ToAccount	Amount
1234	1392	1393	0.01
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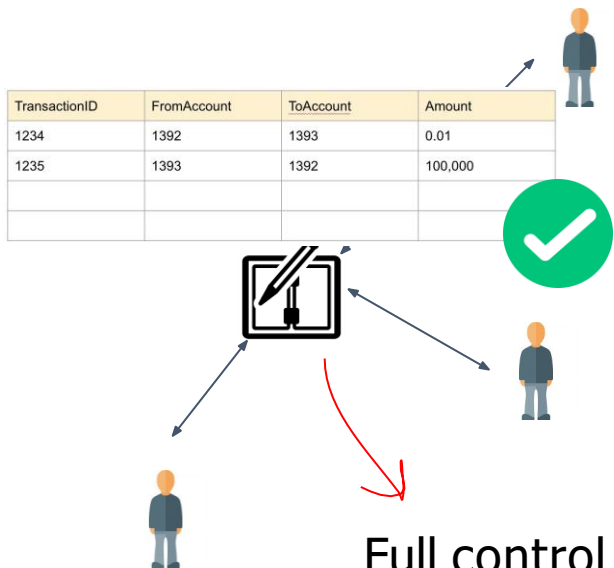
Though a transaction should not be allowed...

Full control over:

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# Centralised Systems



Because of the centralised nature of the system... rules can be broken.

Full control over:

- \* Code / Processes / Rules / Logic
- \* Data

Not just in Payment Systems..

... Consider Agri-Quality Assurance Systems

# NS just in Payment Systems..

## ... Consider Agri-Quality Assurance Systems

Date & Time	Lab Tester	Verified Batch	Details
1st Jan 2024 13:01	JE	Yes	...
1st Mar 2024 12:34	JE	Yes	...
1st Jul 2024 14:11	JE	Yes	...

# Not just in Payment Systems.. ... Consider Agri-Quality Assurance Systems

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Imagine we had to test a minimum of once every two months...  
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Simple... alter the data.

# Not just in Payment Systems...

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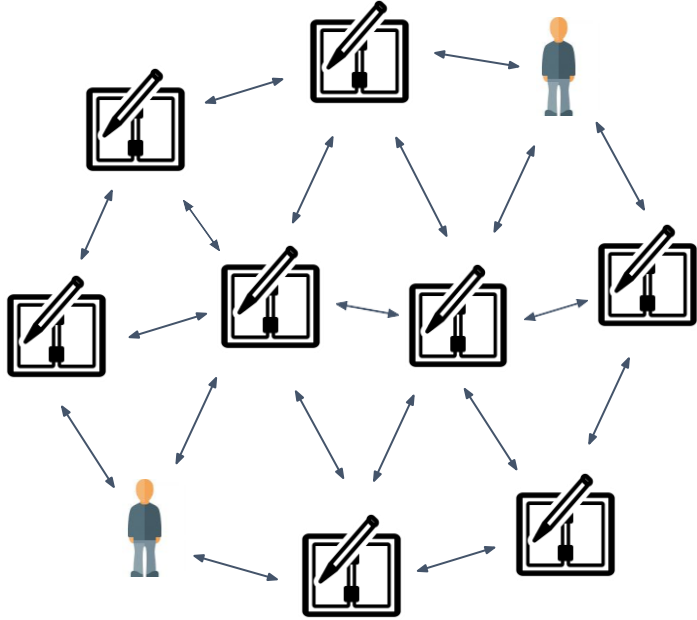
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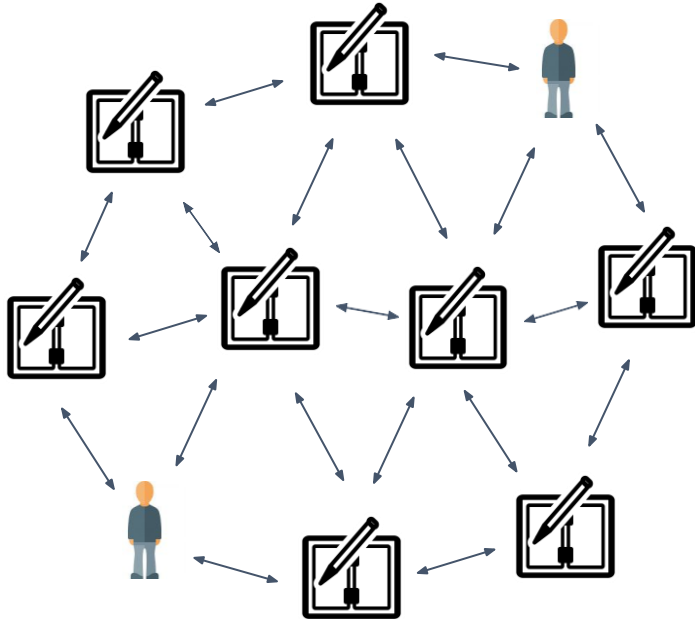


Wouldn't it be great if we could create tamper-proof digital systems?  
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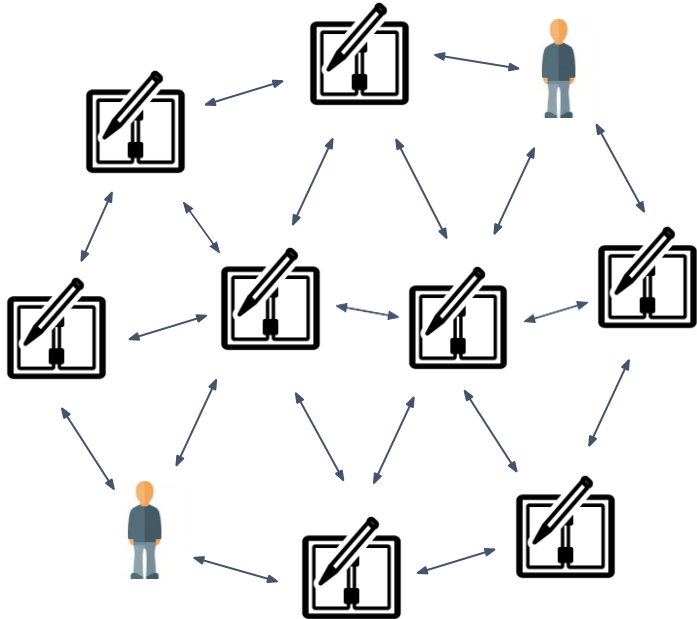


# Decentralised Systems



- The code will do exactly what is written in the code.
- No one can change or cheat the code.

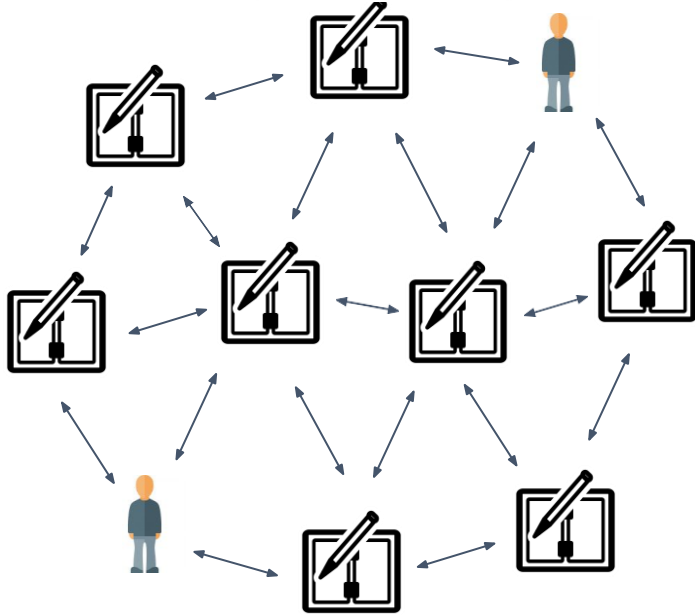
# Decentralised Systems



- The code will do exactly what is written in the code.
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- We did not know how to create systems like this
  - Till Bitcoin proposed "Blockchain"

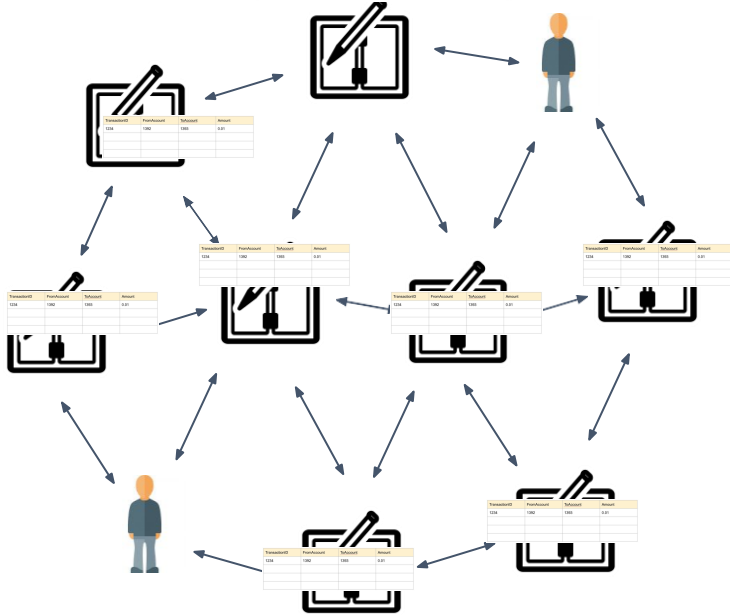
TransactionID	FromAccount	ToAccount	Amount
1234	1392	1393	0.01

# Decentralised Digital Money



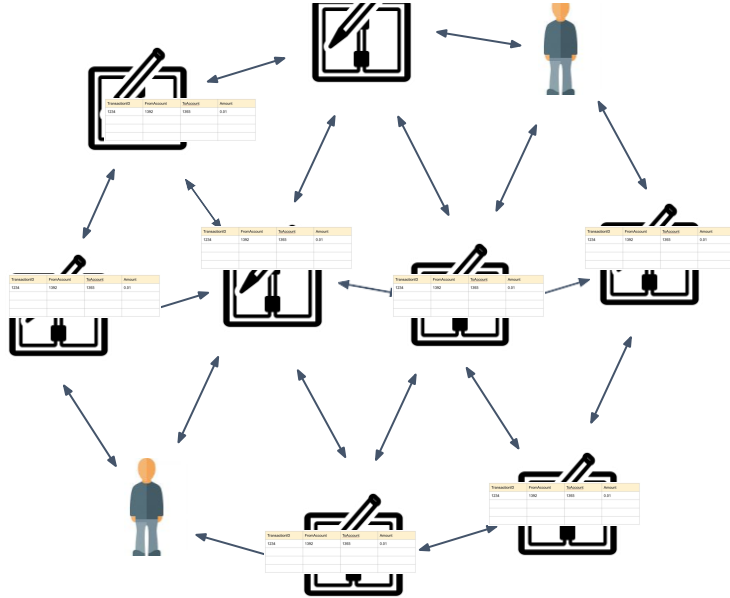
TransactionID	FromAccount	ToAccount	Amount
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TransactionID	FromAccount	ToAccount	Amount
1234	1392	1393	0.01
1235	1393	1392	100,000

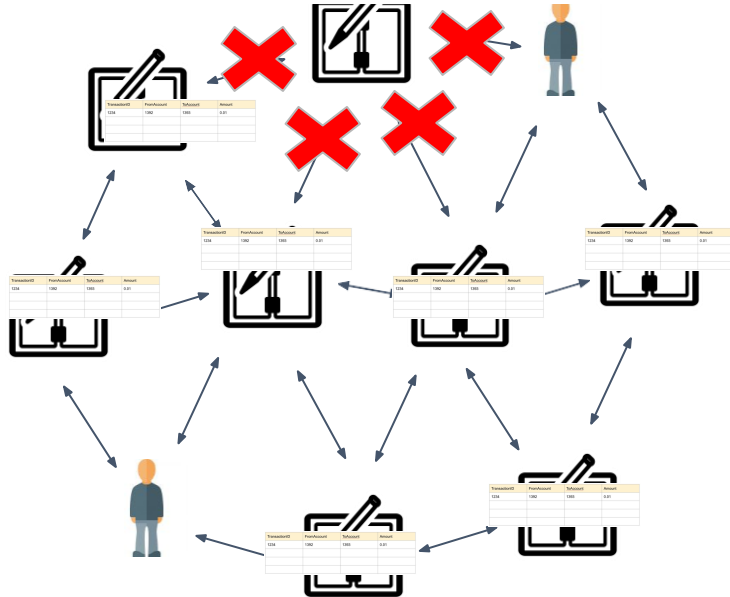
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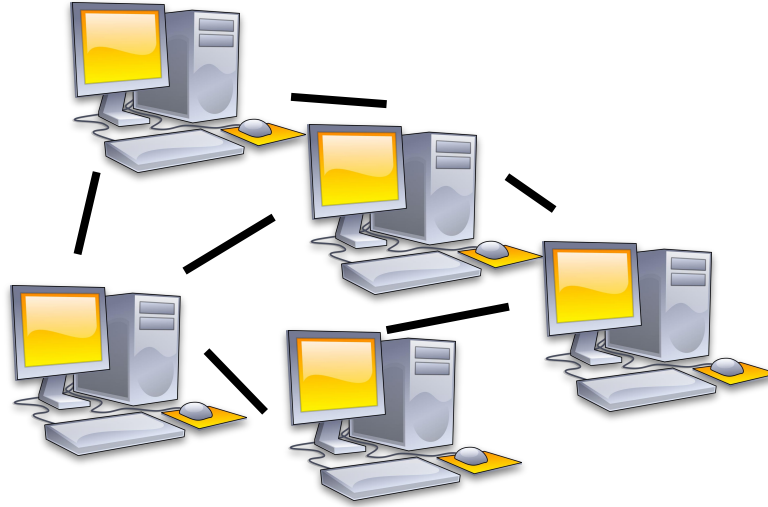


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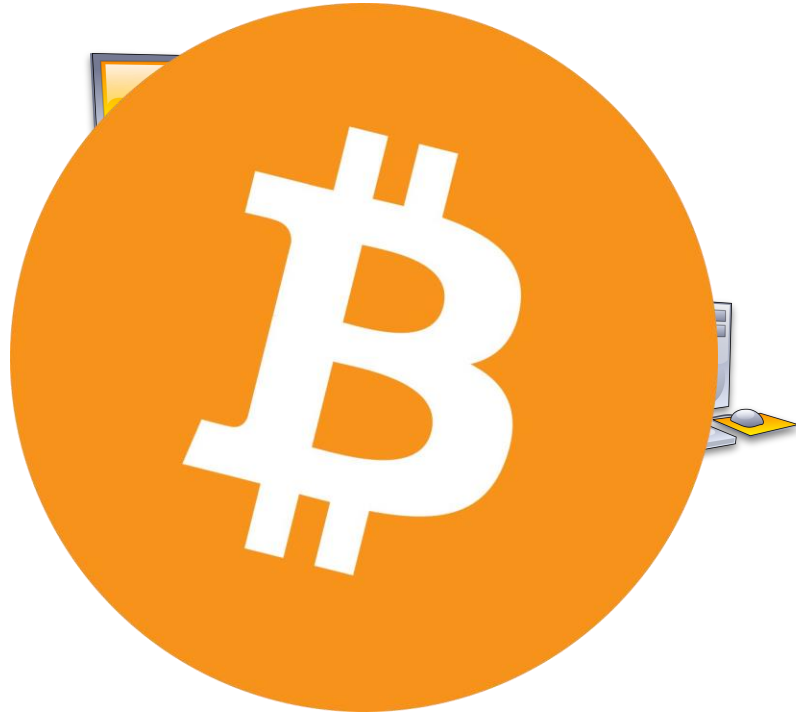
# Decentralised Digital Money



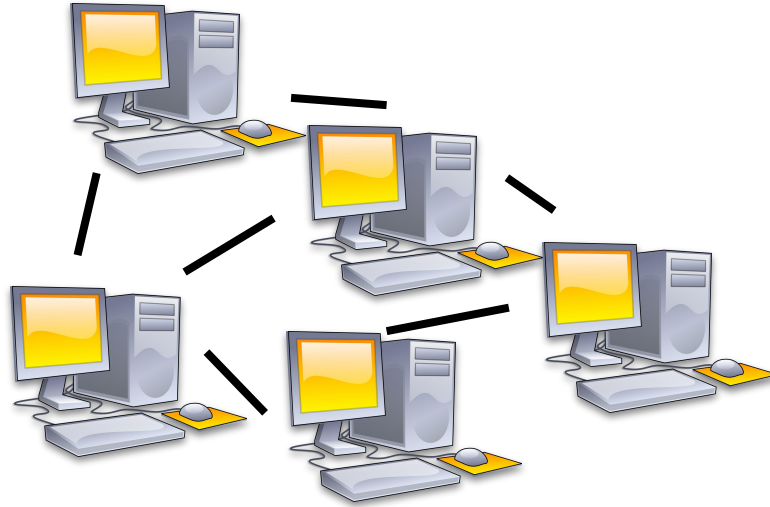
**Blocfichain: uses algorithms to mafie sure the rules are not brofien**



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**With the introduction of smart contracts:  
can be used for much more than just a  
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# Blocfichain: can be used for much more than just a ledger



We can encode rules into the blockchain:

E.g. A certification QR code is only issued if:

- \* Forms have been fully completed by producer & validated by blockchain
- \* Verified and approved by delegated Authority Official

# Can Blocfichain help minimise remnant

**'trust gaps'?**

\* Full trust is required in authorities' processes and maintenance of data

# Can Blockchain help minimise remnant 'trust gaps'?

\* Full trust is required in authorities' processes and maintenance of data

Certification process can be encoded into blockchain,  
and certification issued if all rules are followed.

# Can Blocfichain help minimise remnant 'trust gaps'?

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# Can Blocfichain help minimise remnant 'trust gaps'?

- ~~\* Full trust is required in authorities' processes and maintenance of data~~
- \* Authority only gets access to stakeholder data once requested/submitted
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# Can Blockchain help minimise remnant 'trust gaps'?

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Various stakeholders can immutably log data on blockchain.

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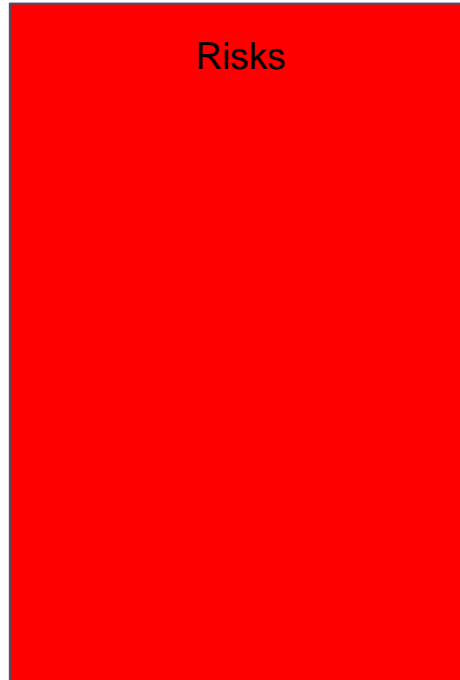
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Again,  
Various stakeholders can immutably log data on  
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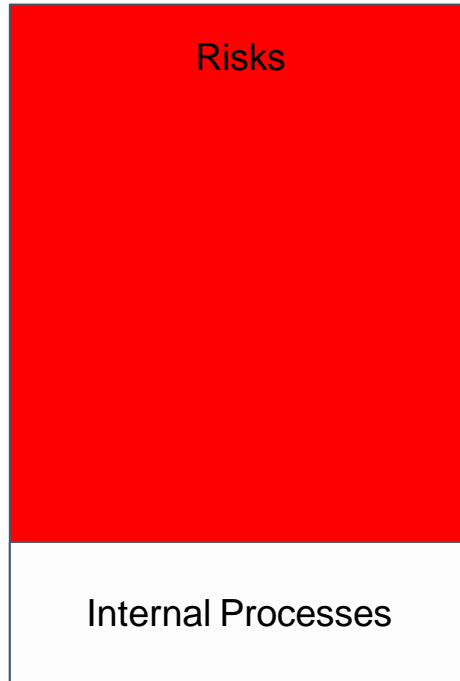
# **Do Blocfichains solve all issues?**

No, other remnant 'trust gaps' will remain.

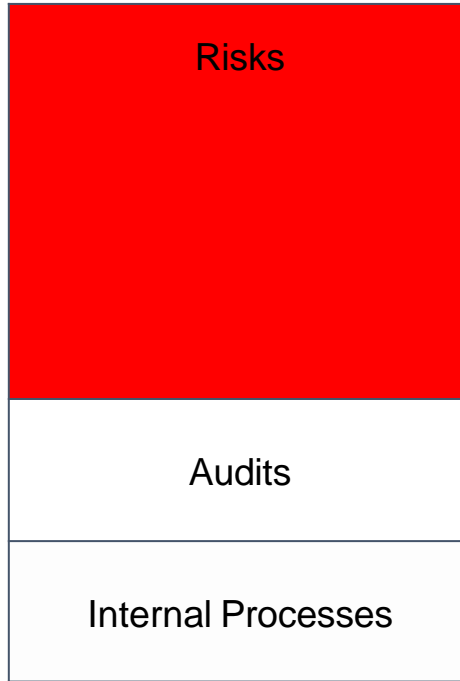
**But we should remove as many risks as possible...**



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**But we should remove as many risks as possible...**

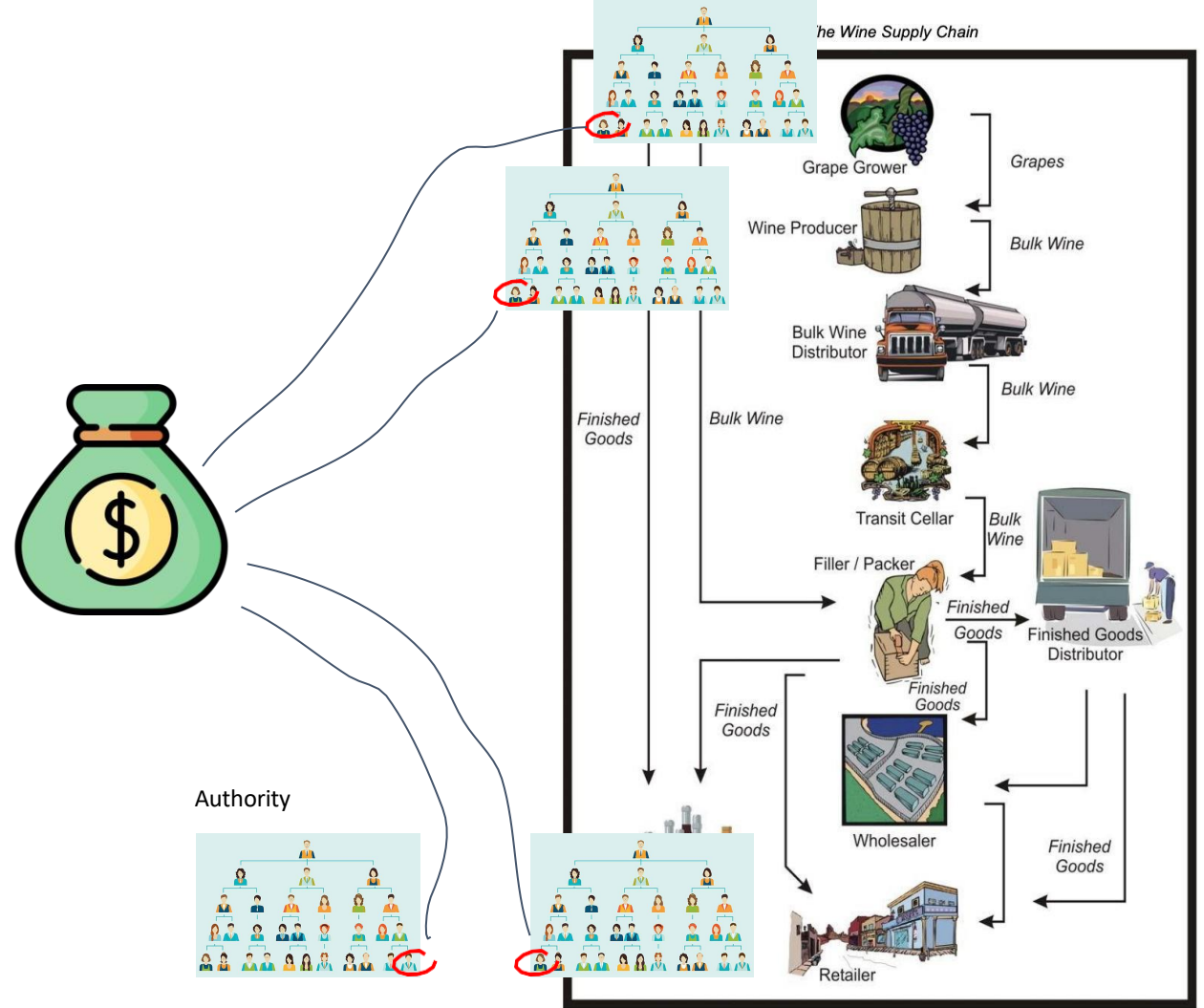


**But we should remove as many risks as possible...**

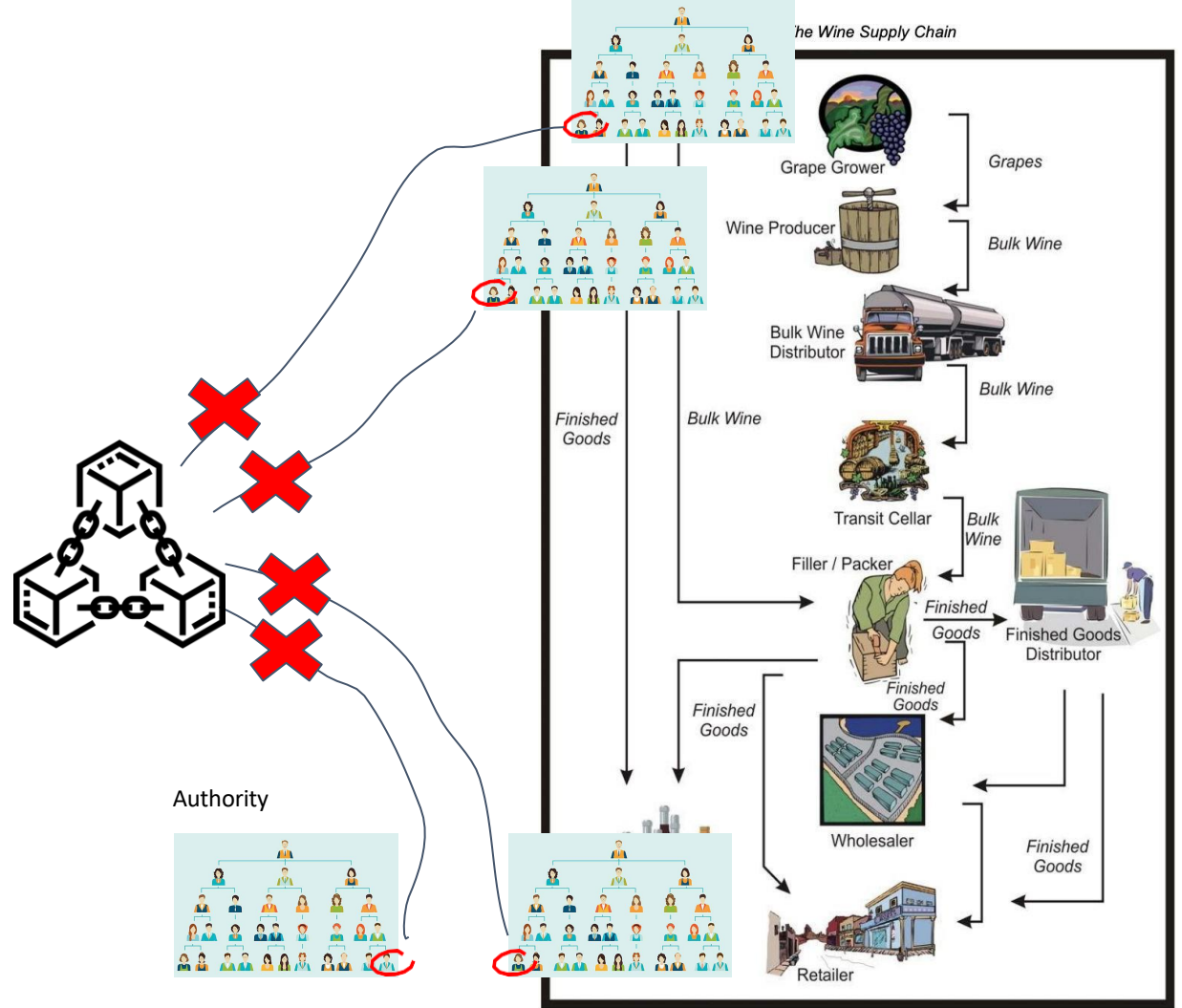
Risks
Blockchain (decentralisation)
Authority Oversight
Audits
Internal Processes



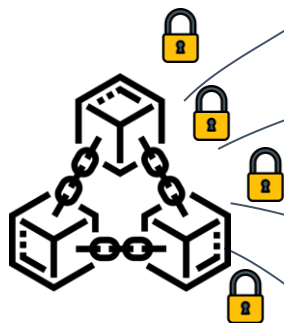
# From...



...To.

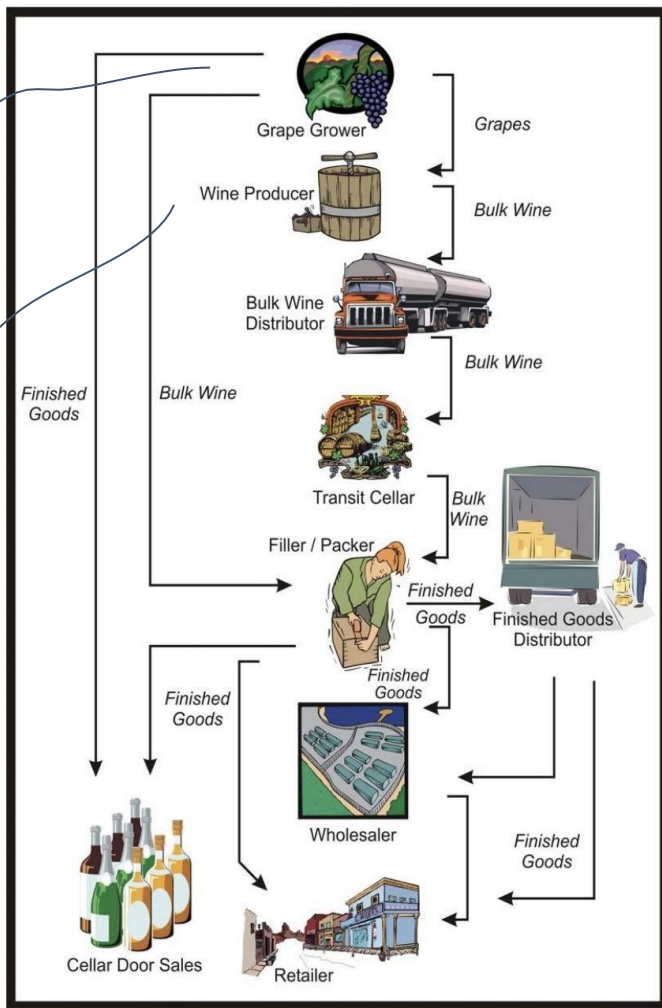


...To.



Authority

The Wine Supply Chain





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## 1st Step: Survey

Date of publication xxxx 00, 0000, date of current version xxxx 00, 0000.

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/ACCESS.2023.0322000

# Bottling Up Trust: A Review of Blockchain Adoption in Wine Supply Chain Traceability

**GOWHER MAJEED PARRY<sup>1</sup>, IOANNIS REVOLIDIS<sup>1</sup>, JOSHUA ELLUL<sup>1</sup>, and GORDON PACE<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Centre for DLT, University of Malta, Malta

Corresponding author: Gowher Majeed Parry (gowher.parry@um.edu.mt).

The project, VinoVeritas, is part-financed by the European Union, EAFRD 1153 2014-2020.

Over 209 papers across:

- \* challenges of wine supply chains
- \* proposed blockchain solutions

Findings:

- \* Solutions tend to be focused on a specific stakeholder
- \* Solutions often non-intuitive (blockchain UI)
- \* Need for more: process flexibility, ease-of-use, technology-independence



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Aim of project:

**Focus on infrastructure development  
to support ease of:**

1. Process definition
2. Attestation
3. Verifiability



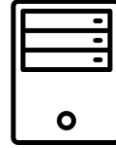
**VINOVERITAS**

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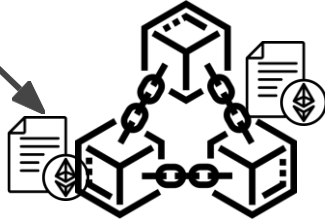
Supply Chain  
Stakeholders



Authority



VinoVeritas



Verified  
on the  
blockchain



Consumer

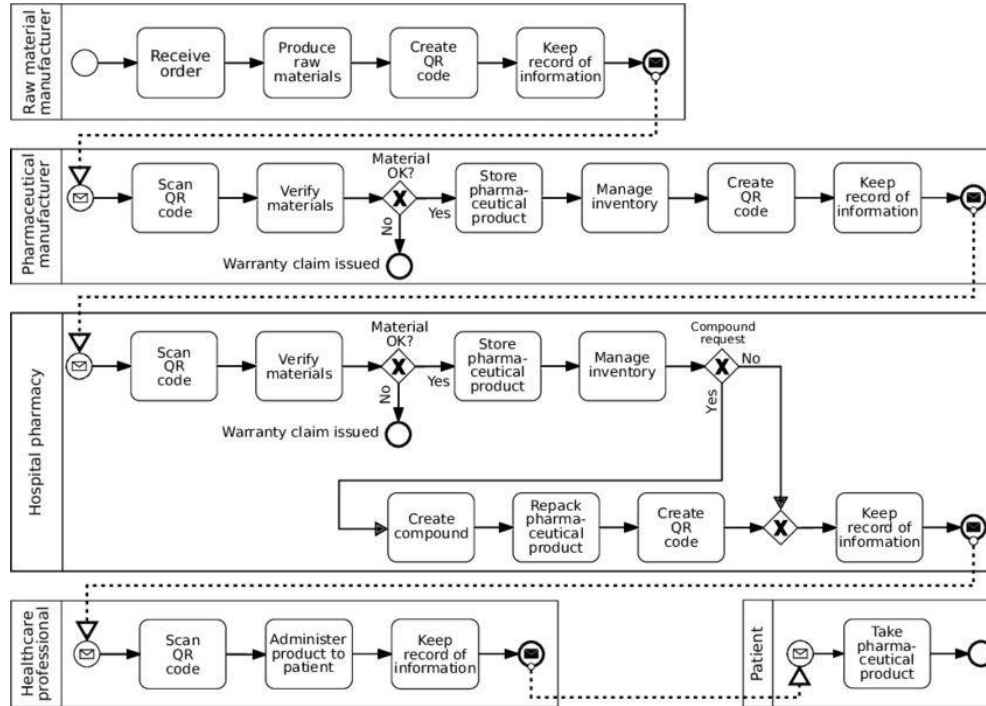


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# Need for an Attestation Flow Model Framework

Why not use something existing like BPMN?



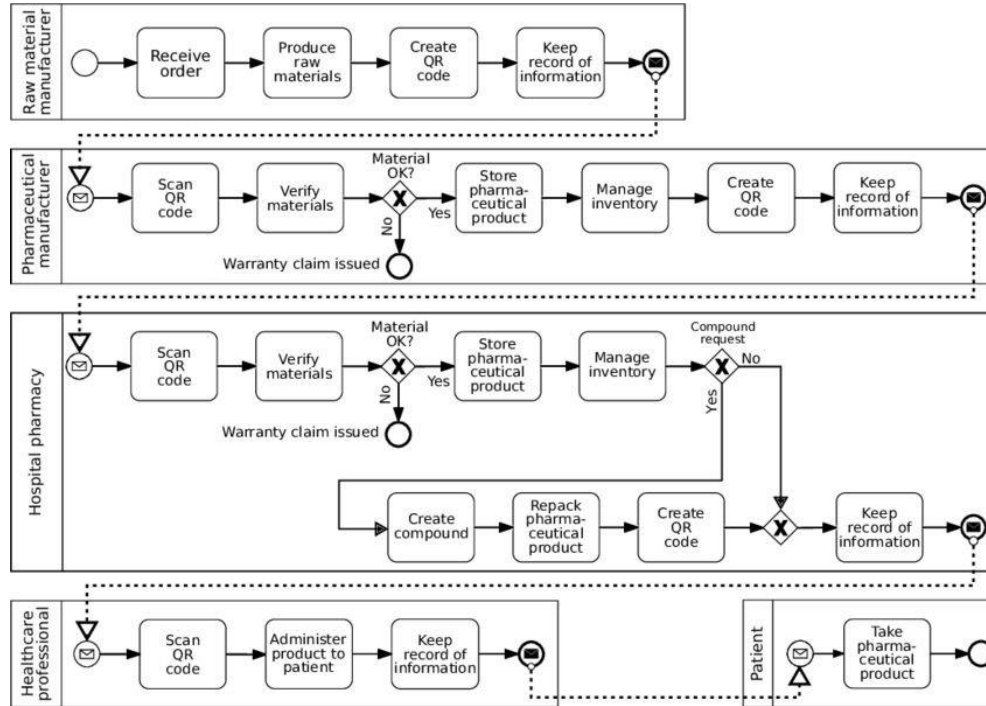
**Complexity:** BPMN is designed for comprehensive business process modelling.

We need something that is simple.



# Need for an Attestation Flow Model Framework

Why not use something existing like BPMN?

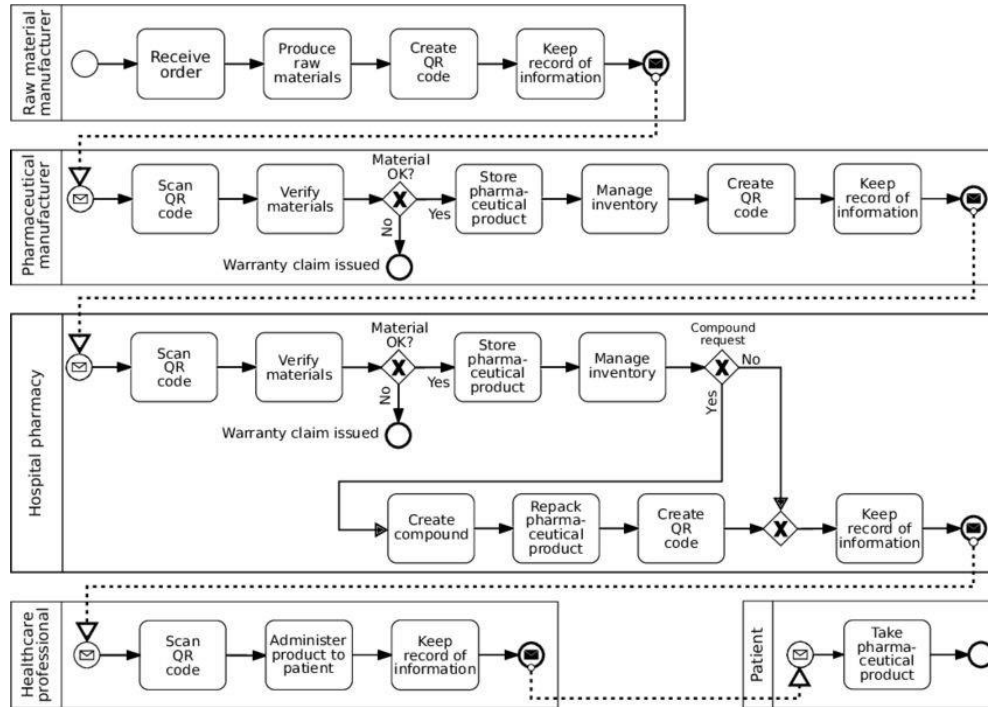


**Specificity:** BPMN is designed for general purpose process modelling.

We need something that is specific for attestation verification.

# Need for an Attestation Flow Model Framework

Why not use something existing like BPMN?

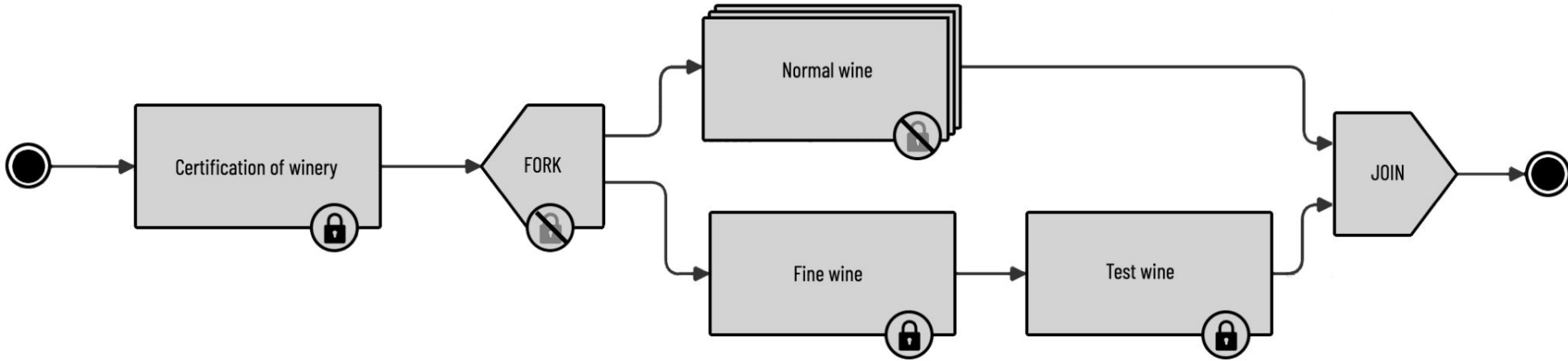


## Data Location

**Specificity:** While BPMN can support where tasks/data can be stored to some degree, it isn't ideal for specific node-related data locations.

We need something that allows for ease of data location specification.

# Design of General Attestation Model Flow



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## Extension of National Declaration Platform

gov.mt

Sign In EN | MT

**Sign in with your e-ID Account\***

ID Number [\(view sample\)](#)

00000XXX ×

Password

.....

**Sign In**

[Sign-in and change my password](#)

\*If you don't have an e-ID account, kindly contact us during office hours on **2590 4300**.

---

[Forgot your password?](#)  
[Help on how to start using e-ID](#)

gov.mt

**Verify Two-Factor** EN | MT

Enter the 6-digit code shown in the Authenticator application or as a text message.

Enter the verification code

If you can't set preference method to receive a code or can't use your mobile now, [get a code in a different way](#).

**Verify** **Cancel**



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## Declaration

### Policy on Data Protection

The Directorate of Agriculture carries out its functions in accordance with all relevant European Commission and local regulations. This application together with the documents attached will be kept confidential and will be processed with compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679. Personal information maybe given to the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and the Climate Change, as well as departments under this Ministry, to manage the agricultural policy. You are entitled to ask regarding personal data being processed about you as provided by the Privacy Policy of the Agency, if and when you want you can request a copy.



I agree



SAVE AS DRAFT



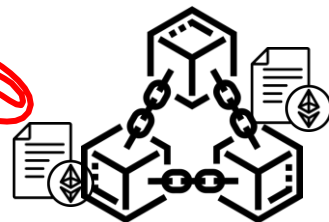
PRINT



SUBMIT

VinoVeritas: Notarise Declaration

VinoVeritas



## IoT Deployment



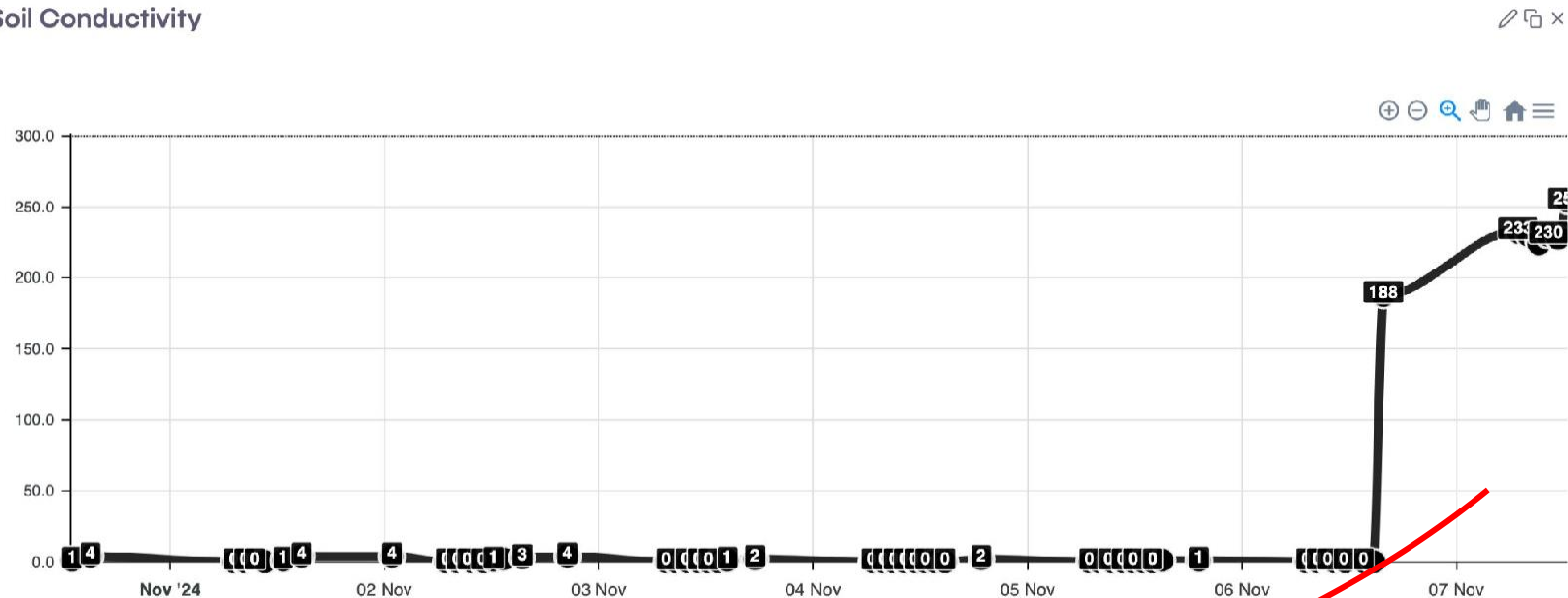
Installation underway  
(any day now)



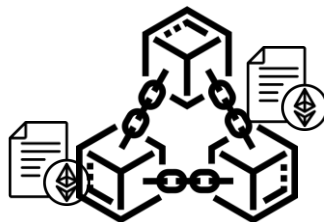
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# IoT Data Collection

## Soil Conductivity



VinoVeritas



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# Supply-chain stakeholder Attestation

Click on step to go back: Prototype Wine > Vineyard owner > Barreling

## Attest

Barreling

Select the related Grape Testing preceding Barreling

Grape Testing - 01-Jun-2024 12:33:11

+ Add more

Provide details to be included in attestation:

Witnessed by JA

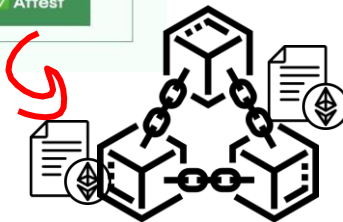
Upload a file to be included in attestation:

Choose File

CERT\_202406\_11.pdf

Attest

VinoVeritas



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# Consumer Verification

Vino Veritas

About Us



Syrah

## Prototype Wine

BTL1

Description

History

Reviews

### Grape Testing

01-Jun-2024 12:33:11

This attestation stage has been verified as successfully attested to at the indicated timestamp.

Comment from Attester:

Tested imported grapes to ensure grapes are of a high-level of quality

### Barreling

01-Jun-2024 12:33:37

This attestation stage has been verified as successfully attested to at the indicated timestamp.

Comment from Attester:

Barreled grapes and stored barrel in wine cellar

### Barrel Testing

01-Jun-2024 12:35:09

This attestation stage has been verified as successfully attested to at the indicated timestamp.

Comment from Attester:

Carried out lab testing to check acidity levels

### Barrel Testing

01-Jun-2024 12:35:33

This attestation stage has been verified as successfully attested to at the indicated timestamp.

Comment from Attester:



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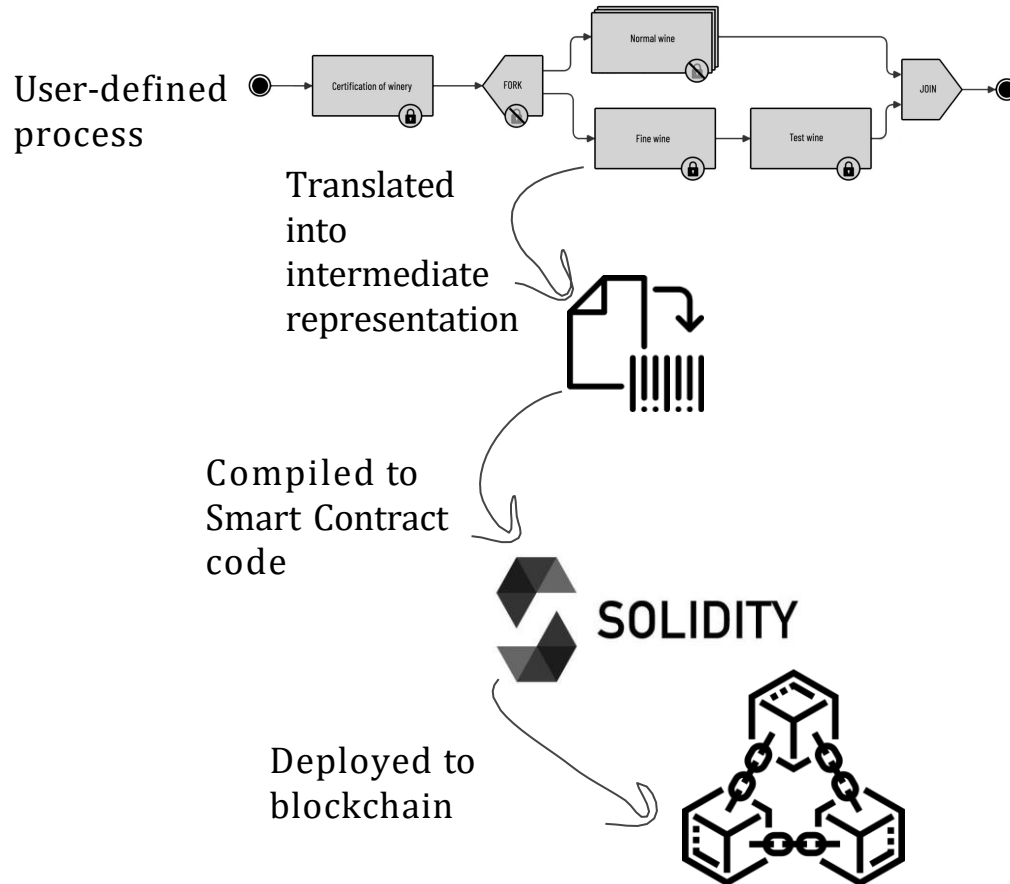


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# What should Smart Contract code look like?

V1:



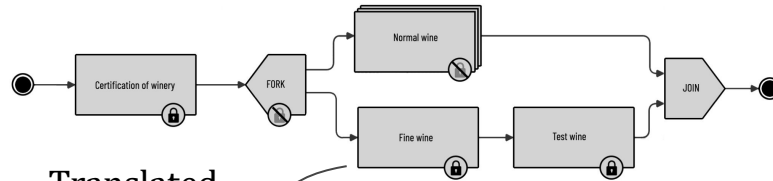
## Disadvantages:

- **Deployment of smart contract code to blockchain consumes costs**
- **For attestations that are relevant to different processes/flows, attestation needs to be sent individually to each associated smart contract...  
...more costs**

# What should Smart Contract code look like?

V2:

User-defined  
process



Translated  
into  
intermediate  
representation

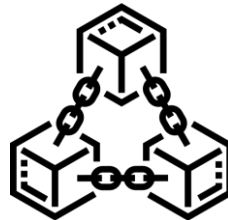


IR uploaded  
to SC.  
IR interpreted  
on-chain

Static general  
verification code  
uploaded once, and  
used by all processes



SOLIDITY



## Advantage:

- + **Single smart contract uploaded and used for all processes.**
- + **A single attestation can be uploaded and used across different processes.**

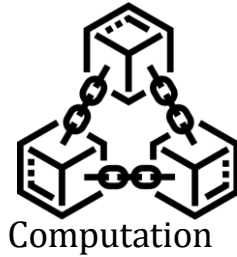
## Disadvantages:

- **Interpretation of processes on-chain introduces interpretation execution costs.**

# Where should verification code live?

Solutions proposed execute verification code “on-chain”  
(in smart contracts)

Whilst this provides guarantees wrt processes followed,  
involves cost for “on-chain” execution



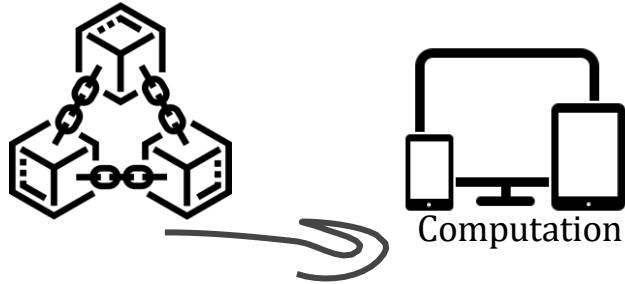
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# Where should verification code live?

Solutions proposed execute verification code “on-chain”  
(in smart contracts)

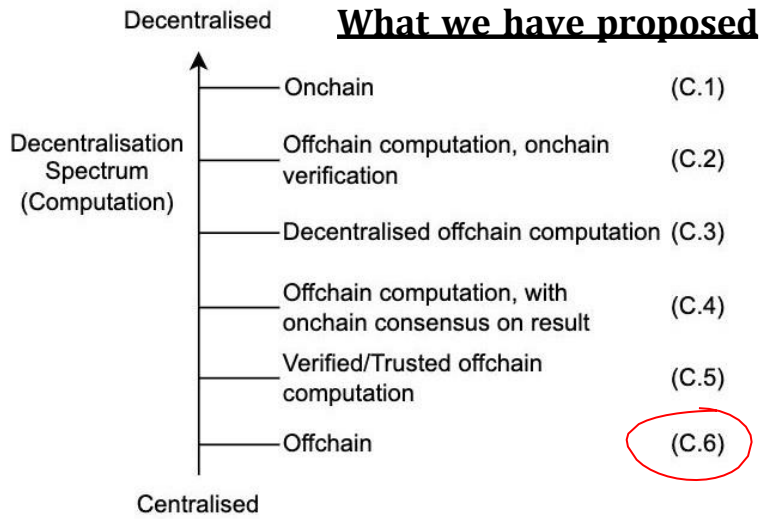
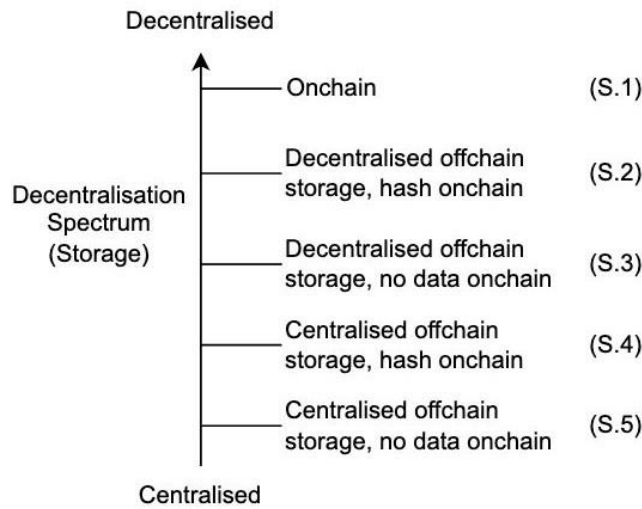
Whilst this provides guarantees wrt processes followed,  
involves cost for “on-chain” execution



We proposed execution verification off-chain, on  
users' devices — to minimise costs  
without sacrificing guarantees.



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## What we have proposed

Low storage requirements  
(less than a hash)  
might as well store on-chain

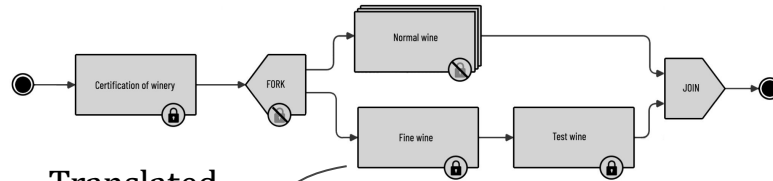
For verification, each user  
can verify the process  
off-chain. Same levels of  
guarantees, since data is  
stored on-chain.

Approach	S.1	S.2	S.3	S.4	S.5	C.1	C.2	C.3	C.4	C.5	C.6
[Farokhnia and Kafshdar Goharshady 2023]									×		
[Körbel et al. 2021]							×				
Bulletproof [Bünz et al. 2018]							×				
Ekiden [Cheng et al. 2018]										×	
ZoKrates [Eberhardt and Tai 2018]							×				
TrueBit [Teutsch and Reitwießner 2019]									×		
SlimChain [Xu et al. 2021]		×						×			
[Zheng et al. 2018]		×									
[Chou et al. 2020]		×									
[Jayabalan and Jeyanthi 2022]		×									
[López-Pimentel et al. 2020]				×							
[Sutton and Samavi 2017]			×								

# What should Smart Contract code look like?

**V3:**

User-defined process



Translated into intermediate representation

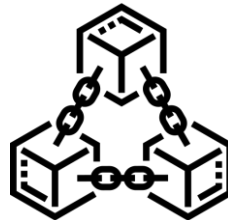


IR uploaded to SC.  
IR interpreted off-chain

Static general verification code uploaded once, and used by all processes



**SOLIDITY**



**Best of both worlds:**

- + **Single smart contract deployed and used for all processes.**
- + **A single attestation can be uploaded and used across different processes.**
- + **No on-chain interpretation costs (as this can be done off-chain on users' devices)**

# Final Steps

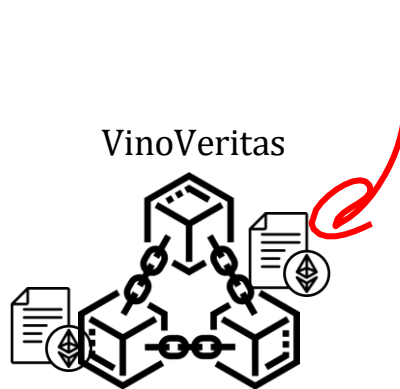
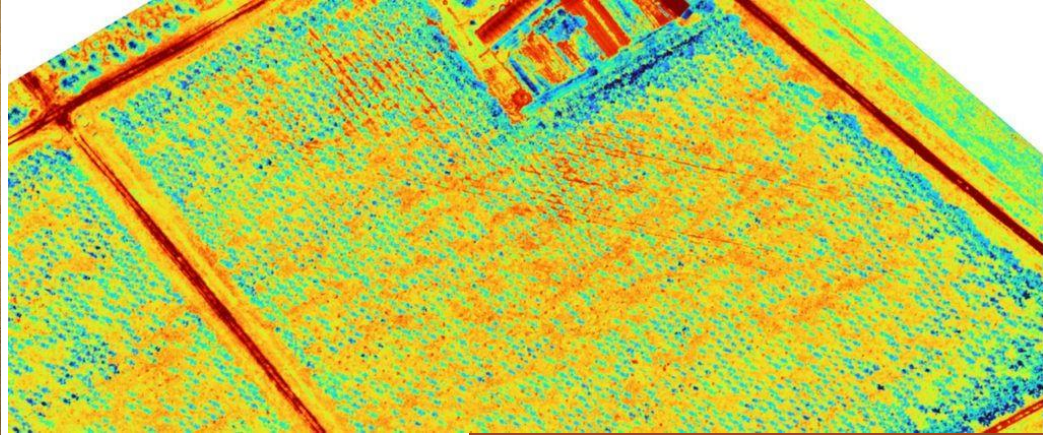


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# Drone Data Integration



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# General Attestation Framework Paper

- Model Semantics



Finally, the example below shows a single-shot attestation node with branching. One of the conditions (checking whether the attestation is for a fine wine with acidity level less than 0.5 and not from a sample barrel) is shown in the callout.

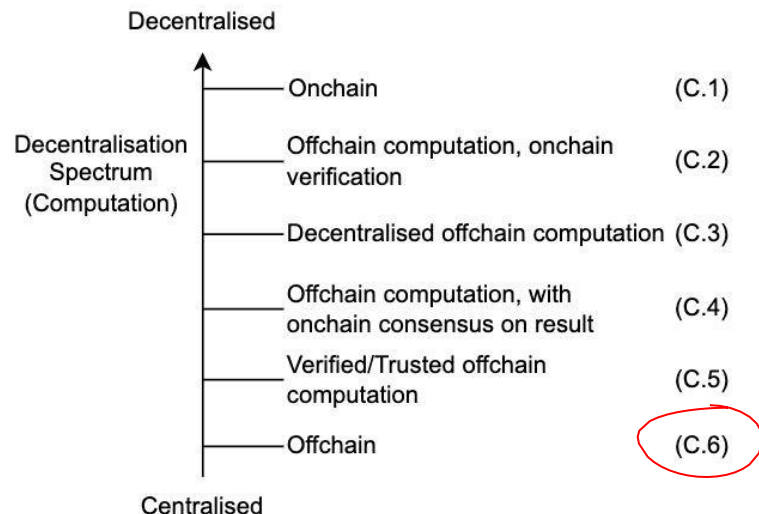
**Enable through non-blocking nodes:** Non-blocking nodes that become enabled, enable their successors:

$$\forall q, q'. q \in E' \cap \text{nonblocking} \wedge q \rightarrow q' \Rightarrow q' \in E'.$$

- Blocking vs. non-blocking:** The node must be specified to be a blocking or non-blocking. This affects whether the successor node is enabled, but not the completion status.
- Completion-constraint:** The node contains a condition which may refer to attestations already received from attestation nodes and objects to which they refer to.

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- Onchain (C.1)
- Offchain computation, onchain verification (C.2)
- Decentralised offchain computation (C.3)
- Offchain computation, with onchain consensus on result (C.4)
- Verified/Trusted offchain computation (C.5)
- Offchain (C.6)

[illegible]

# User Acceptance Testing

- Winery training and feedback
- Authority demo and feedback
- Adapt software to better support user needs



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## Future:

- Increasing temperatures is literally changing the Maltese landscape and will likely impact quality of future produce (and wines)
- Helping winerys to make sense of the data
  - Continual Data Collection
  - Prediction/Intelligence
- Application to other Agri-supply chains and sectors.



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# Thank you for listening!

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Associate Professor

**Dept. of Computer Science** and **Centre for DLT**

University of Malta



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