



# 2019

IN REVIEW

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# Coherence and the SSI Metasystem



## From the Chair of the Board

*We often hear that the internet is a product of standards. While that's true, it also only exists because people strung cable, wrote code, created rules, built organizations, and formed alliances. A functional identity metasystem is also more than just a set of technical standards. Self-sovereign identity has similar needs and meeting them won't happen just because we define nice protocols and write some open source code. It requires building coherence to align the actions of people and organizations. We created the Sovrin Foundation to build this coherence. And in 2019, the Foundation led work in the core areas necessary for the Sovrin Network to thrive and become a true, functional identity metasystem: Governance, Community, Operations, and Adoption.*

## Governance

An identity system that you can't use everywhere is just a different technology implementation of what we have now like “Login” with Apple (or Amazon or Google or Facebook or...). In 2019, it was made clear that governance is critical to universal interoperability in an identity metasystem because all participants must be able to make their own decisions about who and what to trust. **Credential issuers and credential verifiers of all stripes, including banks, governments, educational institutions, etc., must be comfortable using Sovrin for it to gain universal adoption as an identity metasystem.** These institutions will avoid using any system that is perceived as rogue or otherwise non-compliant. If the Sovrin community is not aiming to build a universal, interoperable system, then we're just building another silo that perpetuates all the problems with the existing silos: inflexibility, insecurity, and inconvenience. Governance gives assurances by providing process and accountability.

## Community

The Sovrin community is the heart of what makes our identity metasystem work. It's composed of identity holders, developers, Stewards, businesses, and other organizations—all acting in multiple roles, such as credential issuers, holders, and verifiers, all with varied interests, business models, compliance requirements, and geographic representation. The Sovrin Foundation supports developers from around the world as we help facilitate the Hyperledger Aries, Indy, and Ursa projects. This includes project coordination and organization, training on the code bases so developers can come up to speed quickly, and bringing together the various groups that inhabit the Sovrin ecosystem as we did in the [Aries Connect-a-thon](#) in December.



**Phillip J. Windley, Ph.D.**  
Chair

Another important community is comprised of the organizations who use Sovrin to build identity systems for their specific needs. While using a verifiable credential within a single industry vertical is a significant step forward, we believe the real benefit of an identity metasytem is expansive—such as being able to present a credential from your bank to a car dealership. Sovrin-based identity systems will open a world of possibilities that are only dreams today. The Foundation works to bring participants together in community-led meetings and through working groups where participants can solve problems together. The Sovrin Alliance has become an important part of this effort.

## Operations

The foundational layer of the Sovrin Network is a ledger for storing DIDs, credential definitions, and other important artifacts, that everyone needs for making decisions on who to trust. Validation on the Sovrin Ledger is based on a known set of nodes run by Sovrin Stewards. To operate nodes on the Sovrin Network, the Stewards use open source code produced by the Hyperledger Indy project.

Some of the key operational functions of the Sovrin Foundation are coordinating code releases and supporting our Stewards. The Foundation Ops Team monitors the nodes which run the network to ensure they operate in accordance with the Sovrin Governance Framework and the network meets important requirements, like censorship resistance.

Because Sovrin is a permissioned network, validator nodes are chosen for each of these ledgers according to a node selection algorithm defined by Sovrin's Technical Governance Board. The Foundation provides staff to monitor node selection, coordinate communications with Stewards, Transaction Endorsers, and Transaction Authors, ensuring the network is technically robust.

## Advocacy, Evangelism, and Adoption

The fourth key function of the Sovrin Foundation is evangelizing for self-sovereign identity, and bringing people and organizations together to spur adoption. The Foundation achieves this using a three-pronged approach.

1. First, we focus on building awareness of and affinity for self-sovereign identity. The Sovrin Foundation is a nonprofit, open-source project formed to advance the development and adoption of tools, products, and services that are aligned with the Sovrin Governance Framework. We believe that having a trusted leader in the decentralized identity space sets the Sovrin ecosystem apart from other SSI community efforts.
2. As many organizations actively contribute and participate in the Sovrin ecosystem, we also channel marketing efforts around the individual projects and their own respective value propositions, bringing awareness to specific features and communities.
3. Finally, the Sovrin Foundation works to highlight, promote, and bring awareness to individual use cases and what they provide to their customers. Our aim is to connect all parts of this new, evolving ecosystem to advance adoption and widespread use of self-sovereign identity and the Sovrin Network.

Foundation efforts include advocacy, publishing use cases and other educational materials, community building, awareness, regulatory and legal protections, and membership support.

## Conclusion

Over time, the Foundation's role in the Sovrin Network will lessen as more and more coherence is created through markets and the network itself. However, we must not underestimate the value of community leadership, guidance, and administration of network governance policies, especially as we bootstrap a thriving community.

Without the Foundation as an objective and independent entity, there is much greater potential for misuse, abuse, and strong-arm tactics that can remove the democratization of the underlying technology.

There are no shortage of examples in the recent history of the digital economy that point to the need for objective governance to ensure access to resources. If self-sovereign identity is going to be available to the world on an equitable basis, it cannot be taken over and controlled by a few large-scale players.

The Board of Trustees is committed to supporting these activities and building a working identity metasytem that provides “Identity for All” with equal and affordable access and opportunity for everyone.

Thank you,



# Investing for the Future

## 2019 Financial Report

*The Sovrin Foundation goal of internet Identity for All is a **BHAG** as coined by Jim Collins and Jerry Porras in the book “Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies” — a Big Hairy Audacious Goal. Achieving this in a lasting and meaningful way requires a functioning network of trust. In addition to the three technical pillars [as described](#) by Andy Tobin from Evernym, Phil Windley also mentions that this trust network rests upon [four additional pillars of trust](#): Governance, Community, Network Operations, and Brand Awareness.*

It has been a highly productive two years, where much was accomplished with relatively limited resources for the scale of this project: the Network is operational, and the Sovrin Token code has been developed and tested. Notwithstanding these advances, the regulatory landscape has shifted and evolved significantly between 2017 and the present, which presented significant challenges to clearing any utility token project for launch without registering that token as a security in the United States. The Foundation dedicated significant time and resources to exploring a path forward that complies with relevant regulatory requirements.

### The Foundation envisions four revenue streams to support its mission:

- **Community Support** – donations from the Sovrin community through the Sovrin Alliance.
- **Token Distribution** – funds derived from the sale of Sovrin tokens. The Foundation believes a token is necessary to achieve its Identity for All mission.
- **Network Operations** – revenue from fees associated with network use.
- **Education Services** – financial support from training and consulting services provided by Foundation staff and volunteers.

The Foundation believes funding from Network Operations fees will take many years to build to an amount sufficient to sustain ongoing operating costs. Prior to 2019, the Foundation believed funds from Token Distribution would provide funding sufficient to sustain Foundation operations until Network Operations and Education Services funding could take over. During 2017, 2018, and into 2019 the Foundation relied on sales of Simple Agreements for Future Tokens (“SAFT”) and Pre-Functionality Token Sale Agreements (“PFTSA”, pursuant to which the purchasers received future rights to receive Sovrin Tokens (the “Prior Sale”), receiving a total of \$4.3 million (\$3.2 million in 2017 & 2018 and \$1.1 million in 2019) donated by Evernym to offset legal costs and to share proceeds of a private sale.

The Foundation believes that a token is essential to achieving the Foundation’s mission of Internet Identity for All, however given prevailing market conditions, current indebtedness and remaining investments required to fully realise the potential of the token, a new business and operating model will need to be sought going forward.



Roy Avondet  
CFO

To support operations and network adoption efforts, the Foundation began efforts to encourage donations from the Sovrin community through the Sovrin Alliance. These efforts yielded \$657,000 in donations. Training programs, including the SSI Incubator yielded \$165,000 and Network use fees totaled \$2,500. Total support and revenue to the Foundation was \$1.9 million in 2019.

Total cost to support the Foundation's mission in 2019 was \$3.9 million Foundation expenditures were:

- **Legal \$1.5 million. Legal projects included:**
  - Regulatory advice regarding public token distribution - \$1.1 million
  - GDPR/OFAC and other regulatory issues - \$0.3 million
  - Steward contracts and other trust framework related issues - \$0.1 million
- **Payroll & Contract Services - \$2.1 million**
  - Payroll (~15 people) - \$1.7 million
  - Contractors (~8 contractors)- \$0.4 million
- **Facilities and Operations - \$0.3 million**
  - Facilities rent - \$0.1 million
  - Travel & Conferences - \$0.1 million
  - Operations costs - \$0.1 million

At year end, the Foundation's liabilities exceeded its assets by \$1.5 million. In December, the Foundation obtained a \$500,000 loan, with a two year term and five percent interest, from a potential investor in a new private round of pre-public token sales to raise additional funds to finalize the regulatory process of clearing and launching the Sovrin token for Network use, and to finally issue tokens to early investors.

While there have been many factors in raising investment to support the launch of a regulatory compliant token that were out of our control in the past two years, we are confident that this investment from a new private round, will position Sovrin for a successful Token launch and Foundation sustainability.

Unless the Foundation is able to obtain stable funding through donations, or funds from pre-public sale of tokens, the Foundation may have to terminate substantially all paid employees and return to a volunteer-only operation. Such action would have a material adverse effect on the Foundation's ability to pursue its mission. Such action would likely curtail entirely or materially delay the Foundation's ability to distribute a token to the public. A token is essential to achieving the Foundation's mission of Internet Identity for All. Foundation management believes funding through a pre-public sale of tokens combined with continued growth of donations to the Sovrin Alliance will allow the Foundation to obtain stable funding, distribute a token to the public, and continue to pursue its mission.

### Acknowledgements— Economic Advisory Council

The purpose of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) is to advise the Sovrin Board of Trustees (BoT) on the financial sustainability of the Sovrin Network as a global public utility for self-sovereign identity, including recommendations on design and governance of the Sovrin Token ecosystem.

Thank you to the team of volunteers that dedicate their time serving this group.

- **Ron Amstutz**
- **Roy Avondet**
- **Heather Dahl**
- **Emily Fry**
- **Rebecca Goldin, Ph.D.**
- **Fabrizio Leoni**
- **Rumi Morales**
- **Kalin Nicolov**
- **Joyce Searls**
- **Sam Smith**
- **Oskar Van deVenter**

**SOVRIN FOUNDATION  
 STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND EXPENSE  
 FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018  
 (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Corporate contributions:</b>		
Evernym – private sales & legal costs	US\$ 1'062	US\$ 2'955
Sovrin Alliance members	657	--
Training	175	--
Ledger write fees	3	--
Interest		1
Total support and revenue	1'897	2'956
<b>Costs and Expenses</b>		
Payroll	1'671	1'015
Outside contractors	407	643
Legal	1'532	384
Travel and conferences	121	198
Operating costs	112	233
Facilities and equipment	88	96
Total cost and expense	3'931	2'569
Excess (deficit) of support and revenue over expense	(US\$ 2'034)	US\$ 387
<b>Balance Sheets As of December 31, 2019 and 2018</b>		
Cash	US\$ 222	US\$ 805
Pledges receivable	178	--
Security Deposit	12	12
Total Assets	US\$ 412	US\$ 817
Accounts payable	US\$ 1'384	US\$ 255
Note payable	500	--
Total liabilities	1'884	255
Earned surplus (deficit)	(1'472)	562
Total liabilities and equity	US\$ 412	US\$ 817

# A Global Public Utility



## The Sovrin Network and its Stewards

**Sovrin Stewards are the trusted organizations that donate time and infrastructure to operate the Sovrin Network.** Many of these organizations believe in the self-sovereign identity movement, while others are building business applications that rely on the Sovrin Network to provide trust and security. The Sovrin Network launched in July 2017 with 10 Founding Stewards, but the process for recruiting, announcing, and onboarding these organizations was adhoc until the Sovrin Stewardship program was formalized in 2018. This nearly tripled the number of approved Stewards and with it, increased Steward engagement exponentially. In 2019, 30 more organizations joined the Foundation as Stewards, raising the total number of approved Stewards to 79.

### Sovrin Network and Steward 2019 highlights include:

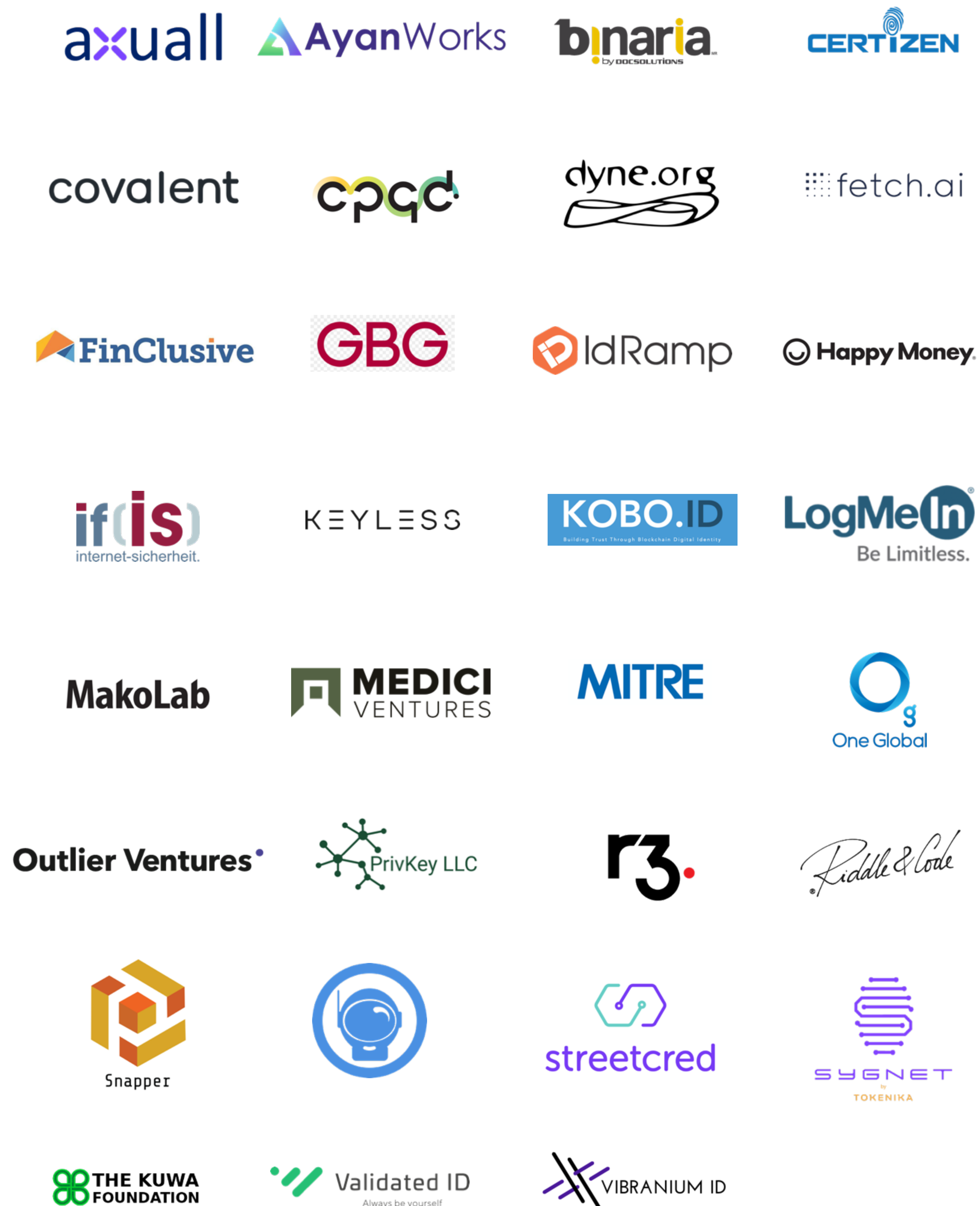
- More than doubled the number of transactions on the MainNet
- A second test network was created in the spring. Called the BuilderNet, this network provides a development environment for anyone to build their solutions on, and test on a real, decentralized network operated by Stewards
- The Sovrin “TestNet” was renamed to the StagingNet and became a more stable environment designed specifically to host demos and PoCs. At the end of 2019, this network had the most traffic, promising several production use cases in 2020.
- Thirty more organizations joined the Sovrin Foundation as Stewards, each adding a valuable contribution to the censorship resistance of the Networks
- Steward organizations now include every continent, except Antarctica
- A regular upgrade schedule was created to provide incremental stable releases of the Sovrin software
- A successful virtual “Steward Showcase,” where Stewards were able to show their Sovrin solutions
- In conjunction with the Sovrin Governance Framework Working Group, several Sovrin Stewards participated in the creation of the Transaction Endorser and Transaction Author Agreements that were subsequently implemented across the Sovrin Network
- Significant Steward contribution in the creation of the Data Protection Agreements and GDPR Position Paper
- A group of Stewards created the Charter for the Steward Council, launching the Steward Council Task Force– the fourth main Sovrin governing Council alongside the Technical Governance Board, Economic Advisory Council, and Identity for All Council

These achievements enabled the Sovrin Foundation to thrive in an environment of increasing interest in the network and in the Steward program with nearly 80 approved Stewards. Thanks to the Sovrin Foundation’s organizational infrastructure, the Sovrin Network is prepared for many more Stewards to come.



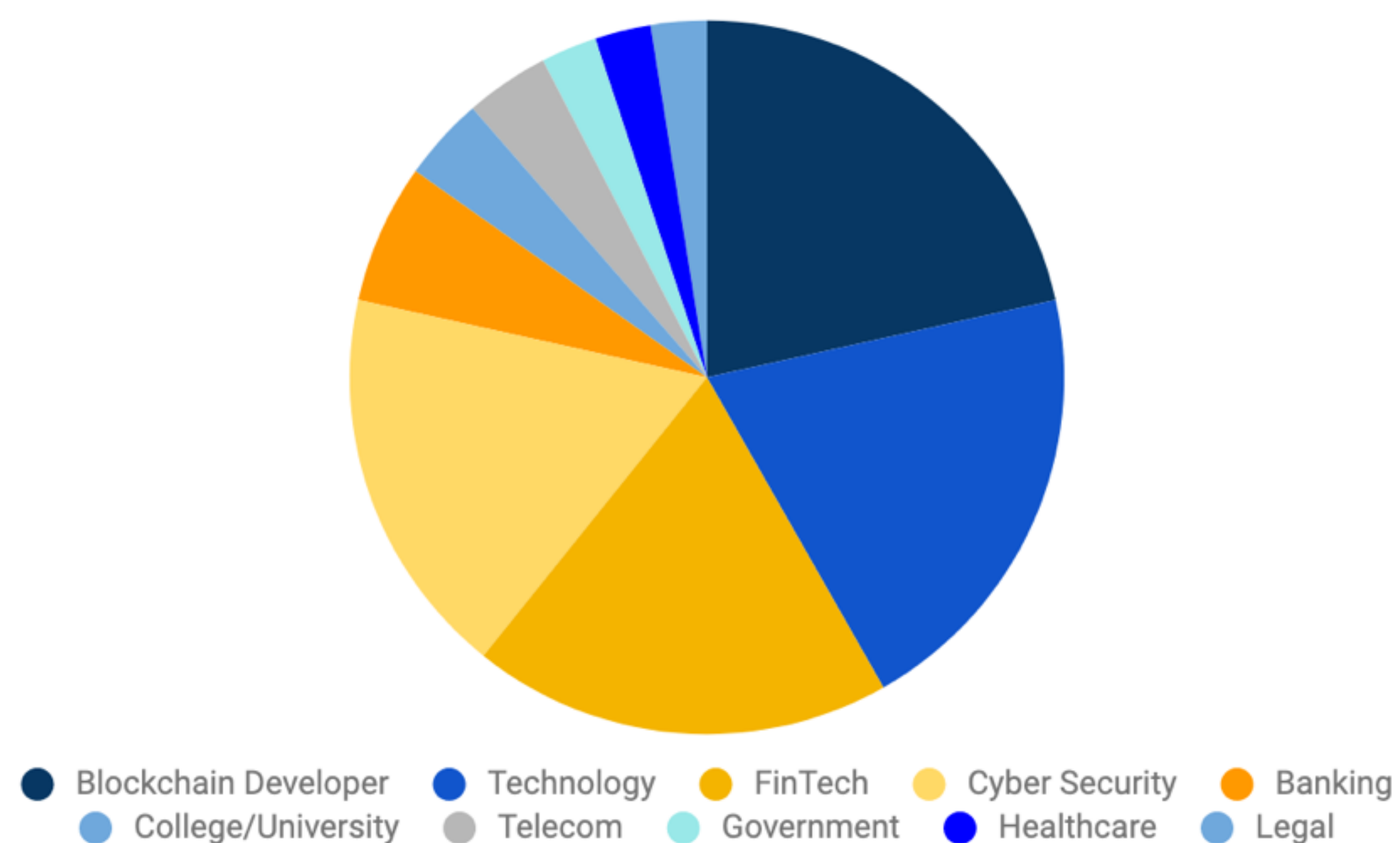
**Steve Fulling**  
Director, Steward Operations

## Approved Stewards in 2019

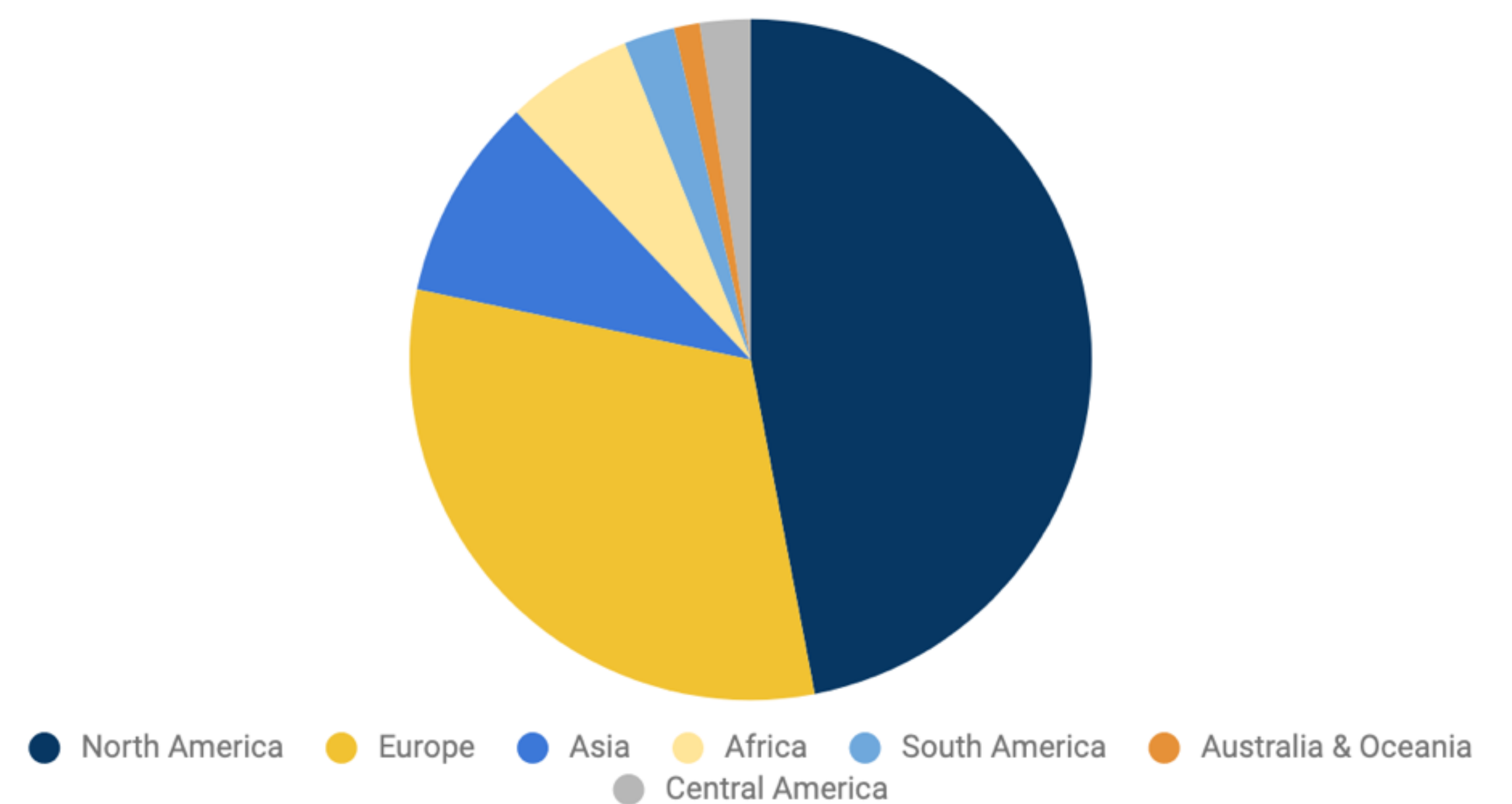


Go **here** for a complete list of current Sovrin Stewards

Steward Industry Breakdown



Steward Geographic Distribution



# Identity for All



## Planning SSI for Vulnerable Populations

**The mission of the Identity for All (I4A) Council** is to lead the Foundation's efforts in developing more inclusive and ethical identification systems. I4A also seeks to help the broader identity community understand the distinct needs and opportunities in serving these populations and facilitate efforts to help design appropriate best practices, standards, and solutions. While the decentralized, privacy-preserving nature of Sovrin is a tremendous step forward for the rights and agency of individuals, technical architecture alone does not guarantee that it will be accessible or fair to the marginalized and underserved populations most in need of robust identification.

Established in 2018, the volunteers of I4A have spent the past year cultivating a more in-depth understanding of the current state of technology geared toward the humanitarian sector by providing a body of work to break down the needs and uses of self-sovereign identity technology for these underrepresented populations.

Broadly seen as a laggard in new technology adoption, the humanitarian sector has not been immune to the hype of blockchain or distributed ledger-based solutions. New service providers are promising to solve a wide range of persistent challenges in the sector, including identification of beneficiaries, and there are a number of pilot projects that have launched.

To help build a shared understanding of this space, I4A and the Sovrin Foundation asked Aiden Slavin, visiting fellow for humanitarian innovation at the Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs at Fordham University, to analyze how DLT-based identification systems may provide advantages in the humanitarian sector. Launched July 31, 2019, this report titled ***Distributed Ledger Identification Systems in the Humanitarian Sector***, examines several issues such as:

- **Cash transfer programming:** Can DLT improve auditability through recording the life cycle of a CTP? How could better interoperability benefit an aid organization?
- **Identification of refugees, stateless persons, and internally displaced persons:** Can the personal control offered by DLT reassure vulnerable populations and counterbalance data collection avoidance?
- **Land registration and titling:** Can the timestamping features of a blockchain help transform ownership disputes?
- **Health services:** How can DLTs ensure continuity of care and build interoperability between agencies?

The volunteers of I4A continue to make progress establishing an environment of awareness and inclusivity within the Sovrin Foundation for vulnerable populations while cultivating opportunities for further involvement from around the humanitarian sector.

In 2020, I4A will continue to engage with stakeholders in the development sector working on identification issues. This includes providing ongoing support of initiatives such as **iRespond's work** in refugee camps in Thailand, and collaborating with the nonprofit **ID2020**, which is launching a certification program that may help raise the profile of Sovrin-based solutions.



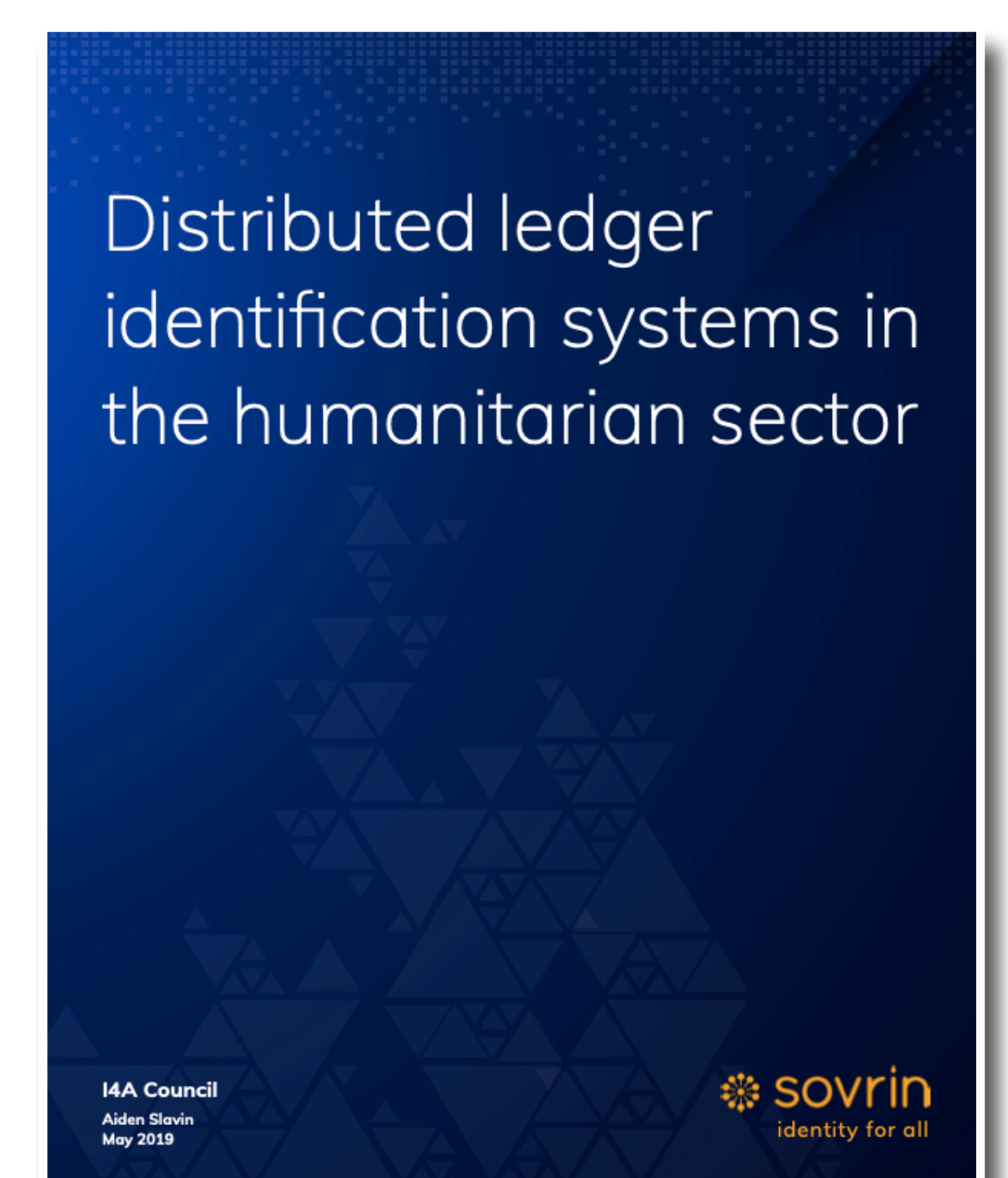
**Bryan Pon**  
**Co-Chair, I4A Council**

Bryan Pon is an analyst with Caribou Digital, a research and advisory firm with deep experience studying identification systems in the Global South.



**Amos Doornbos**  
**Co-Chair, I4A Council**

Amos Doornbos is the Disaster Management Strategy & Systems Director for World Vision International, one of the world's largest international development & humanitarian NGOs.



**Distributed Ledger Identification  
Systems in the Humanitarian Sector**  
[Download the report](#)

# Greater Adoption & Community Growth



## CTO Report

*The Sovrin Foundation witnessed firsthand the impact that a growing community of innovative thinkers can have on the future of identity technology when they work together. As developers come together with their individual motivations, the promise of self-sovereign identity continues to inspire, driving the growth and adoption of the Sovrin Network.*

## Standards Community Achievements

In 2019, advocates of SSI were pleased to see the great strides made by the [World Wide Web Consortium \(W3C\)](#) in their efforts to create standards relating to identity. The release of the [Verifiable Credentials Data Model Recommendation](#) and charter of the [Decentralized Identifier Working Group](#) resulted in greater participation and interest in self-sovereign specifications and an increase in compatible implementations across the field of digital identity.

Other highlights include increased interoperability efforts at the [Decentralized Identity Foundation \(DIF\)](#), active participation in standardization building on the efforts of the [Hyperledger Aries](#) community, and [improved materials for learning](#) about how to get involved and use the technology provided by our community.

## Open Source Crypto Improvements

In the cryptography sphere, Hyperledger Ursa, a project under the Hyperledger umbrella facilitated in part by the Sovrin Foundation, continues to draw new developers and cryptographers looking for a shared library of tools and resources. Significant progress is being made within the project to improve the overall performance of the current system and extend its reach to interesting new use cases and information sharing applications. Ursa's 2019 improvements include:

- **Multi-signature credentials:** These formats allow for a credential to be issued by multiple parties, allowing for blockchain state to be verified by external systems as a verifiable credential. It also opens issuer anonymization use cases, the ability to model additional enterprise key management strategies, and the ability to configure new issuance and revocation patterns.
- **Improved revocation performance:** This delivers significantly more efficient revocation registries, eliminating large tails file transfers between the issuer and the holder of a credential. This improvement also adds the ability to create binary on/off attributes in a credential beyond revocation, like group membership, for attributes that can be updated independently of revocation and reissuance.
- **Transferrable credentials:** This is a new credentials pattern that is also enabled by the improvements to revocation. Instead of tying a credential to just the wallets link secret, the credential can also be bound to a secret that is part of the revocation-like Merkle tree on the ledger. This allows a holder to present proof of ownership, along with the new "public-key" of the new credential owner, such that the ledger can guarantee a double-spend-proof transfer from one party to the next, without the issuer involvement beyond allowing such transfers in the credential definition.



*"The Sovrin community represents a global commitment to innovation. As members of this community, your efforts to develop use cases are the foundation for universal adoption. Our strength is found in the collaborative opportunity of our open ecosystem, and that is all about you—the people making this happen."*

**Nathan George**  
CTO

## Token Testing Functionality

The community was able to begin testing permissionless write access and value transfer use cases on the Sovrin BuilderNet and Sovrin StagingNet via a token-plugin. Progress continues on related performance and privacy-enhancing improvements to this testing functionality. Anyone looking to participate in this test process can contact the Sovrin Foundation at [info@sovrin.org](mailto:info@sovrin.org).



## Strides Toward Interoperability

In February, the community hosted its first **Sovrin Connect-a-thon**. This type of event is an opportunity for developers from around the world to meet face-to-face, discuss protocol developments, and test implementations in person; it's also a place where debugging help and issues can be more quickly discovered and resolved. Our first Connect-a-thon was well attended and led to the creation of **Hyperledger Aries**.

**Facilitated in part** by the Sovrin Foundation, Hyperledger Aries addresses peer-to-peer messaging, key management and credentials systems allowing information sharing, and identity-related interactions for people, organizations, and things. Through this initiative we have been able to standardize many aspects of the credentials protocol and extend their reach beyond the Sovrin Ledger, increasing interoperability and providing wire-level protocol compatibility.

At the second **Aries Connect-a-thon last December**, the community made further strides toward testable protocol profiles. In early 2020, the Foundation will announce a versioned protocol along with accompanying automated testing. The growth of the Aries community has been spectacular with independent framework implementations in multiple programming languages and multiple services deployed in production. Events like the Connect-a-thon help the community to collaborate on challenges to interoperability and ensure that solutions which maintain compatibility are rewarded while any overreach in claiming protocol functionality doesn't end up reflecting negatively on the overall community

## Data Protection & Regulation

Mechanisms for **GDPR Compliance** were also a major theme in 2019. The Transaction Author Agreement was added to the network to enumerate data retention requirements and obligations for writes to clear the way for both permissioned and permissionless access to the system. **The Sovrin Governance Framework Working Group** was instrumental in gathering requirements and establishing roles within distributed ledger systems in support of emerging data privacy regulations around the world.

## Community Involvement

All of these advancements have been driven by a maturing community with an increasing number of volunteers leading working groups. They have created new innovative features and have generously donated code under open source licenses for the collective benefit of the community at large.

Other new ideas and functionality have not yet been added to released code bases because we are seeking champions to do the integration work, flesh-out wire-level protocols, or simply document the work being done. Beyond the Sovrin development community, there have been many innovative new advances in distributed consensus and ledger technology that are not yet available in the Sovrin ecosystem, as the Indy-Node and Indy-Plenum code bases maintainership have limited resources to support new improvements. Additionally, the rich schemas initiatives to update the W3C Verifiable Credentials standards compliance and the Open Source Mobile Agent, known as OSMA, could all use additional support from contributors, as well as many more initiatives the community would find valuable the Sovrin Foundation Technical staff welcomes new volunteers—especially code contributors.

Please **contact us** if these or any other opportunities to contribute sound interesting to you or your organization. We would be happy to have a conversation about how to help your team add to the ecosystem.



**Nathan George**  
CTO

### 2019 Open Source Stats

#### GitHub Commits:

17,000

#### Code Contributors:

Over 270, averaging 20 new contributors per quarter with over 76 tracked repositories having more than 43,000 total commits

### Use Cases to Pilots

The Sovrin Foundation hosted a virtual showcase where nearly a dozen companies demonstrated a variety of use cases, POCs, projects, collaborations, and pilots across a wide range of industries. Industries using the Sovrin Network include—but are not limited to—banking, NGOs, healthcare, governments, and financial services.

- **CULedger**
- **iRespond**
- **Evernym Accelerator**
- **Truu**
- **IBM - ATB - Evernym**
- **Tieto**
- **Luxoft**
- **Trustlab**
- **Government of British Columbia**

# Collaborative Governance

## Governance Framework V2 and Beyond

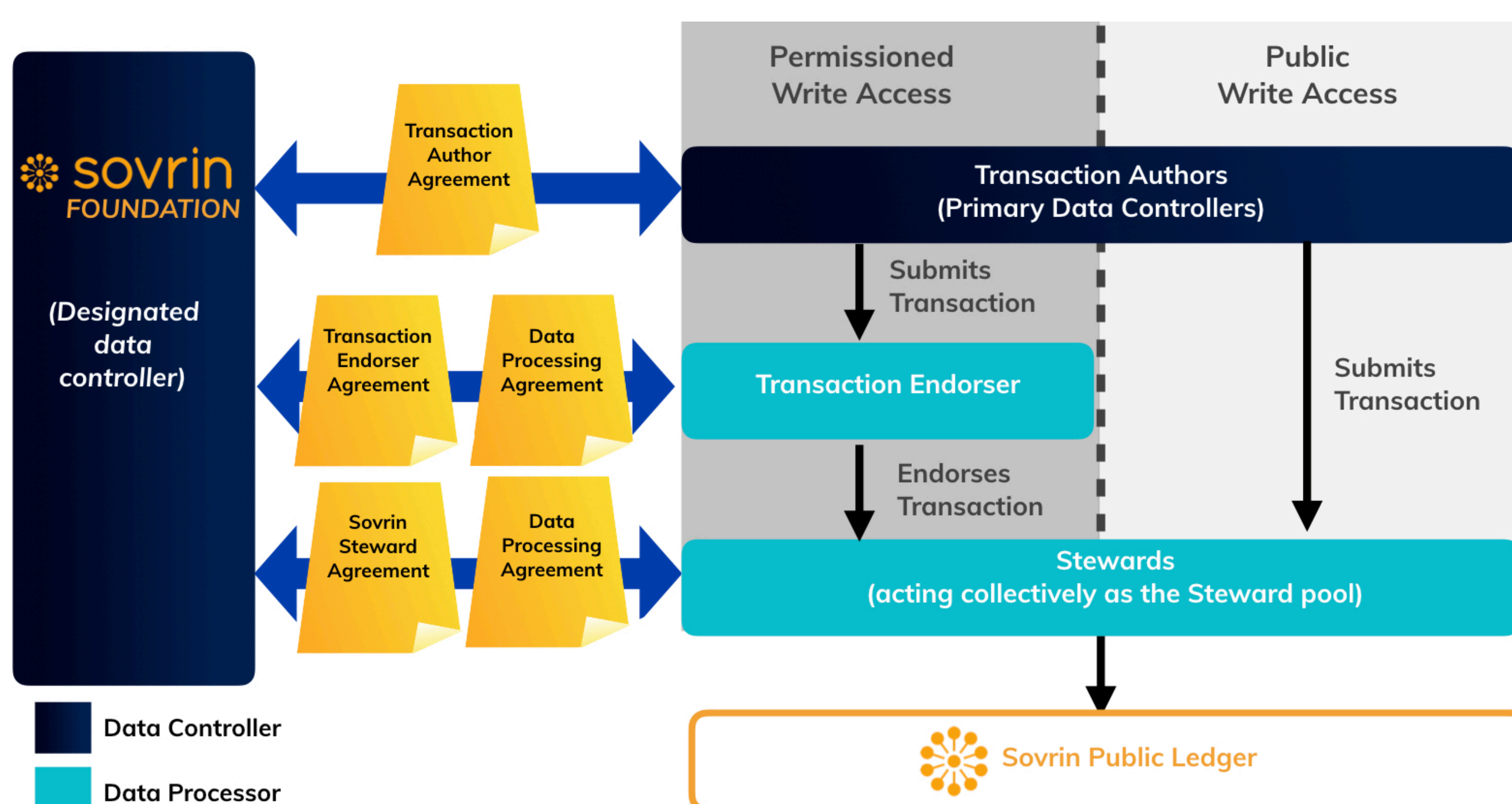
In 2019 the **Sovrin Governance Framework Working Group (SGFWG)** has proudly grown to nearly 50 members from around the world and from multiple industries and backgrounds. Although the bulk of the second generation of the **Sovrin Governance Framework** (SGF V2) was completed at the end of 2018, several major tasks remained for the SGFWG in 2019.

The first task was to work through all the details of the new **legal agreements** created in the SGF V2. The highest priority was the Sovrin Steward Agreement, especially given that Sovrin now has over 70 Stewards around the world. This was followed by the new Transaction Endorser Agreement for organizations who wish to have direct permission to write to the Sovrin Ledger.

**The second and much larger task** was to tackle the very difficult challenge of harmonizing the Sovrin Ledger as a decentralized blockchain with the requirements of data protection regulations around the world, including the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Canadian Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA), and the new California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA).

This meant the SGFWG needed to coordinate efforts with the Global Policy Working Group (GPWG), the Sovrin Stewards, and Sovrin Foundation legal counsel Perkins Coie to develop a complete legal and policy framework by which all participants in Sovrin infrastructure could maintain compliance with GDPR and other data protection regulations while still enjoying open access to a public, permissioned blockchain where all the data records are fully public and immutable.

This year-long effort was approved by the Sovrin Board of Trustees in December 2019. For a complete explanation, see the new **Data Protection** page on the Sovrin Foundation website, which includes the following diagram summarizing the legal architecture:



**Drummond Reed**

**Chair,  
Sovrin Governance  
Working Group**

In addition to data protection, the SGFWG hosted a task force on another critical issue for self-sovereign identity: guardianship. This is the difficult challenge of providing the full benefits of SSI to individuals who are not in a position to wield it themselves: children, refugees, homeless people, dementia patients, and countless other examples that together comprise over a third of the world's population.

The SGFWG Guardianship Task Force formed in January of 2019 and reached its goal of publishing a comprehensive whitepaper on digital guardianship that is now featured on the new [Guardianship page](#) of the Sovrin Foundation website. The task force and this paper generated so much interest that the Sovrin Board of Trustees approved the formation of a new standalone Guardianship Working Group that will begin its work in January 2020.

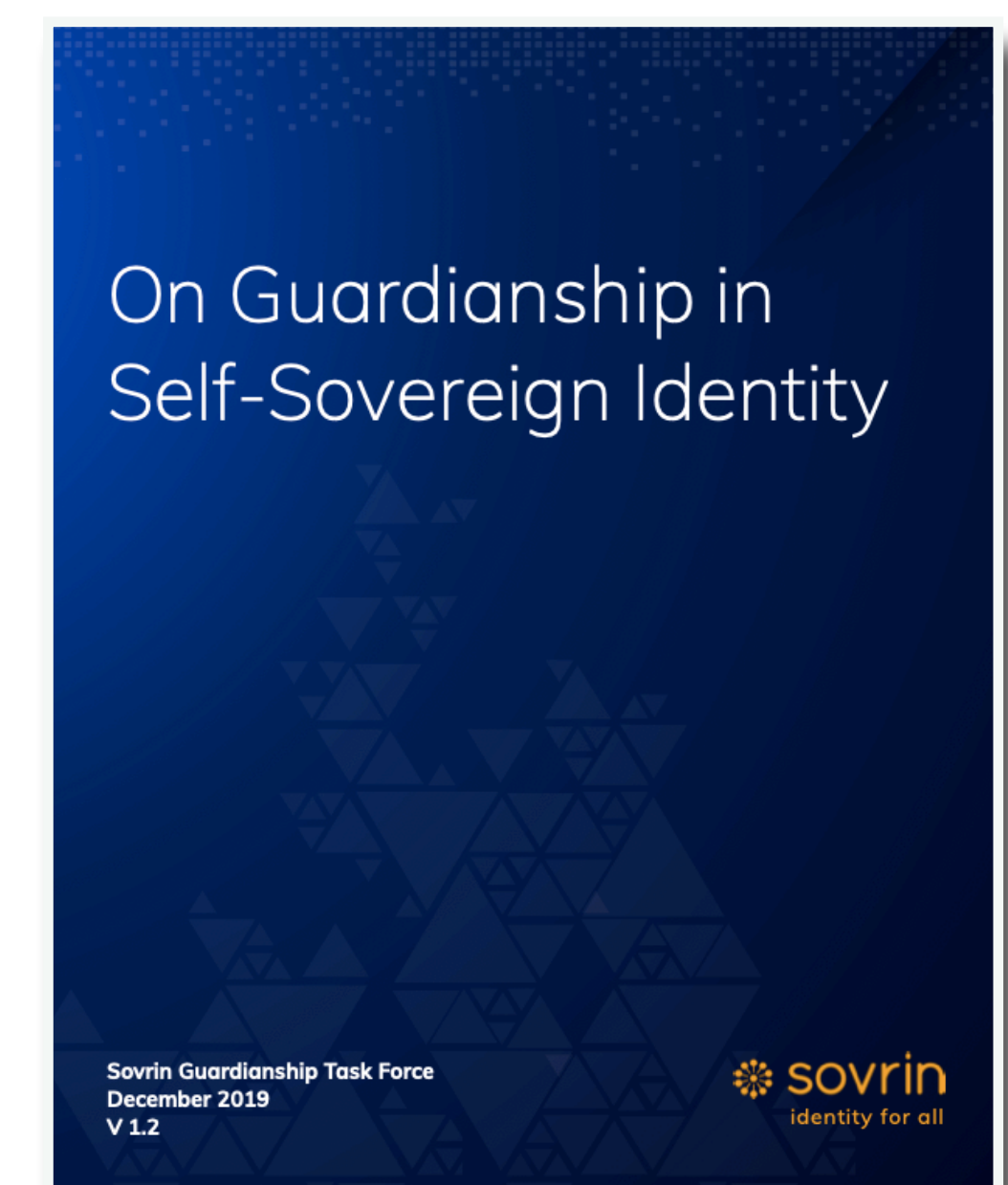
2019 also saw the formation of three other SGFWG Task Forces: SSI and IoT, Business of SSI, and Compliance and Payments, all of which plan to publish their whitepapers in the first half of 2020.

**In 2020 our major goal is to produce the third generation of the Sovrin Governance Framework. SGF V3 will address the growth of Sovrin infrastructure into a "network of networks" and provide for nested layers of specialized governance frameworks designed to meet the needs of different trust communities of all sizes around the world.**

For details on participating on any of the SGFW Task Forces, please see the [Governance Framework](#) page on [sovrin.org](#) and scroll down to the section titled: "Participation in the Sovrin Governance Framework Working Group".



**Innovation Meets Compliance**  
[Download the report](#)



**On Guardianship in Self-Sovereign Identity**  
[Download the report](#)

### **Acknowledgements — Thank you to the committed volunteers supporting the Sovrin Governance Framework Working Group:**

#### **Drummond Reed (Chair)**

#### **Emily Fry (Co-Chair)**

Adam Gunther  
Adewale O Omoniyi  
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Alan Jasper  
Amit Sharma  
André Kudra  
Andrew Hughes  
Antti Jogi Poikola  
Avesta Hojjati  
Brenda Francis  
Brian Pon  
Chris Raczkowski  
Christopher Hempel  
Dan Gisolfi  
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Eric Welton  
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Kelly Cooper  
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Markus Sabadello  
Mawaki Chango  
Michael Corning  
Michael Shea

Mike Brown  
Nick Meyne  
Nicky Hickman  
Peter Simpson  
Rick Cranston  
Riley Hughes  
Roanie Levy  
Scott Blackmer  
Shaun Conway  
Scott David  
Scott Perry  
Scott Warner  
Sherry Stein  
Steven Cotes  
Tim Brown  
Tomofumi Okubo

# Task Forces & Working Groups

## Business of SSI Task Force

### Chair:

- **Riley Hughes**

### Members of Committee:

- Diana Stern
- Alan Jasper
- Adrian Doerk
- Tim Brown
- Nick Meyne
- Alan Davies
- Steve Magennis
- Timothy Ruff
- Michael Corning
- Jamie Sterling
- Chris Raczkowski
- Michael Shea
- Nicky Hickman
- Andre Kudra
- Christopher Hempel
- Joyce Searls
- Frednand Furia
- Scott Warner
- Duwane Bryan
- Tony Rose

- **Meeting Minutes**

## Compliance and Payments Task Force

### Chair:

- **Amit Sharma**

### Members of Committee:

- John Ainsworth
- Darrell O'Donnel
- Sean O'Kelly
- Tony Rose
- Mike Brown
- Scott Perry: Observer
- Michael Shea: Observer
- Riley Hughes: Observer
- Drummond Reed
- Emile J. M. Van Der Does De Willebois
- Samantha Pelosi
- Shas Das: Observer
- Steven Cotes: Observer
- Nick Meyne: Observer
- Brian Rankin: Observer
- Oskar van Deventer: Observer

- **Meeting Minutes**

## Decentralized Identity UX Working Group

### Chair:

- **Bart Suichies**

### Members of Committee:

- Actively recruiting
- Contact [info@Sovrin.org](mailto:info@Sovrin.org) to join

- **DIDUX Charter**

## Sovrin Guardianship Working Group

**Chair:**

- **Europe:** Philippe Page
- **Americas:** Jamie Sterling
- **APAC:** John Phillips and Jo Spencer

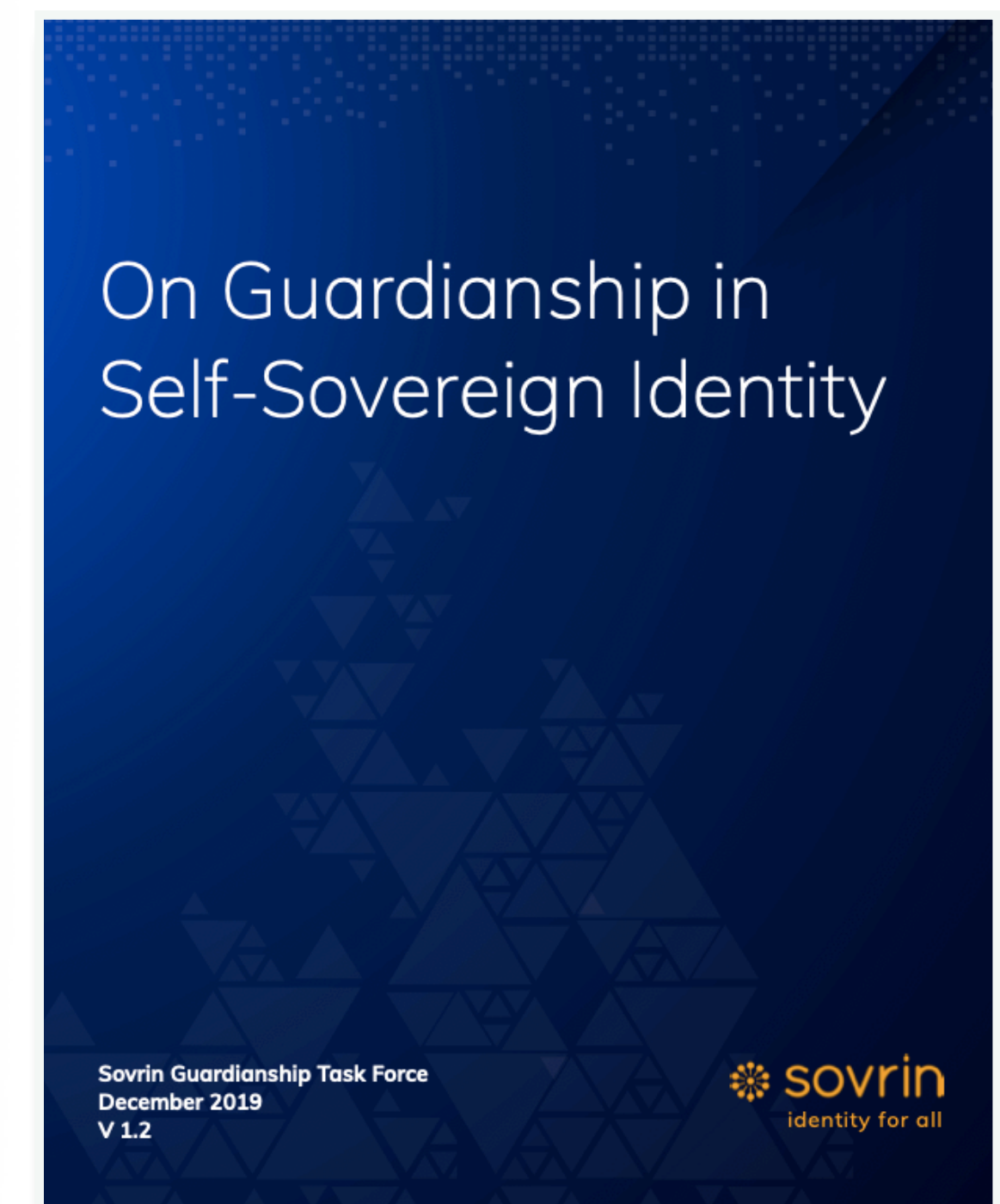
**Facilitator:**

- **Kelly Cooper**

**Members of Committee:**

- Peter Simpson
- Nicky Hickman
- Elizabeth Renieris
- Drummond Reed
- Cris Torres
- Heather Dahl
- Mike Brown
- Daniel Hardman
- Philippe Page
- Amos Doornbos
- Rick Cranston
- Darrell Oâ€™Donnell
- Joyce Searls
- Manreet Nijjar
- Sterre den Breeijen
- Jack Najarian
- Michael Corning
- Scott Warner
- Noelannah Neubauer
- Jamie Stirling
- Aamir Abdullah
- Octavia Coutts
- Jo Spencer
- John Phillips
- Kelly Cooper
- Emily Fry
- Jill Bamforth
- Paul Chandley
- Todd Gehrke

- [Guardianship Working Group Charter](#)
- [Meeting Page](#)



**On Guardianship in  
Self-Sovereign Identity**  
[Download the report](#)

## Steward Council Task Force

**Co-Chairs:**

- Lohan Spies
- Heather Dahl

**Members:**

- Steve Fulling (Sovrin Foundation)
- Matt Norton (Sovrin Foundation)
- Markus Sabadello
- Fabrizio Leoni
- Steve McCown
- Andre Kudre

- [Steward Council Draft Charter](#)
- [Task Force Meeting Minutes](#)

## Steward Qualification Committee

**Chair:**

- Steve Fulling

**Members:**

- Tim Brown
- Drummond Reed
- Markus Sabadello
- Sam Smith

- [Steward Qualification Committee Charter \(V2\)](#)

# Sovrin Alliance



## Supporting the SSI Community

*The mission of the Alliance is to nurture the growth and adoption of self-sovereign identity (SSI) by providing its members direct access to business and technical resources needed to help bring their Sovrin-compatible projects to market. Recruiting help from organizations from around the world, the Sovrin Alliance has become the leading destination for SSI education and community collaboration. Thanks to the generous financial contributions from its members, the Sovrin Alliance is integral to the sustainment of the community work of the nonprofit Sovrin Foundation.*

## Sovrin Alliance 2019 Highlights:

- **19 organizations** joined the Alliance in its inaugural year
- Alliance membership donations totaling **\$657,000**
- Webinars offered to Alliance members twice each month from the Sovrin Foundation staff and community members for a total of **13 webinars in 2019**
- Alliance members received over **100 hours** of one-on-one consulting and guidance from the Sovrin Foundation technical team to aid members in the development of their SSI based use cases
- The development of a Sovrin Network **Masterclass Series**, sponsored by the Alliance. Created in Q4, the Masterclass is a three-day bootcamp for teams to master the business and technology of self-sovereign identity, first to receive the training was Alliance Member–Medici Ventures
- Alliance member IdRamp began development of the **Sovrin Developer Exchange** (expected to launch Q1 of 2020) a platform designed to help match high-caliber SSI talent with the companies and organizations looking for experienced help in the creation of their SSI applications
- Alliance member IBM and Farmer Connect announced a new consumer-facing, blockchain-based app that bridges the gaps between all of the players in the coffee supply chain. Farmer Connect is **collaborating with other Sovrin Alliance members** to address the identity portion of the FarmerConnect app
- SITA is the first Alliance member to be pioneering **SSI in the air transport industry**
- Alliance member **CULedger unveiled a viable proof-of-concept** version of CUPay, a highly secure electronic funds transfer payment solution that utilizes R3's Corda for organizational identity and CULedger's MyCUID, which is anchored to the Sovrin Network, for personal identity
- Alliance members Absa Group Limited with the collaboration of BankservAfrica and the South African Financial Blockchain Consortium **created a proof-of-concept and demo** that showcases the potential benefits of SSI solutions for the South African financial services sector
- Alliance member HearRo successfully participated in the **Self-Sovereign Identity Incubator** demonstrating their SSI enabled solution for telecommunications

## More to come in 2020

The Sovrin Foundation is currently updating the Alliance membership prospectus and benefits for 2020. This simpler and streamlined approach to membership benefits will provide an inclusive approach to joining the mission of the Sovrin Foundation. With nearly 400 Members already, Sovrin Membership encompasses the Volunteers, Donors and Stewards that are working together to support the efforts of the Sovrin Foundation– maintain a working Governance Framework, Network updates and operations, ongoing Community Engagement, and global Advocacy for SSI.



**Anna Johnson**  
Marketing & Membership  
Program Manager



**SOVRIN  
ALLIANCE**

Please Contact  
[Anna Johnson](#)  
for information about  
becoming a member  
of the Sovrin  
Foundation today!





## Alliance Members 2019



ANONYME LABS



**Ensuring the future of  
self-sovereign  
identity  
requires a strong  
community.**



Community



Education



Awareness

The Sovrin Alliance brings together our vibrant community of developers, enterprises, business and government leaders, NGOs, Sovrin Foundation staff, and volunteers.

## 2019 Webinars and Educational Content Snapshot



Please Contact  
**Anna Johnson**  
For further information about  
bringing a Sovrin Masterclasses  
to your organization



**Title: Wallet Deep Dive: What are they, what do they do, and how to manage them**  
Speaker: Mike Lodder



**Title: Anoncreds 1.0 & 2.0 Update**  
Speaker: Mike Lodder



**Title: Sovrin & Standards**  
Speaker: Ken Ebert



**Title: Network Interactions and Development Test Flow**  
Speaker: Adam Burdett & Lynn Bendixsen



**Title: Indy Agent to Aries—What does it mean for you?**  
Speaker: Daniel Bluhm



**Title: How Does the Sovrin Ledger Operate?**  
Speaker: Nathan George



**Title: Preventing Fraud with Sovrin Credentials**  
Speaker: Daniel Hardman & Mike Lodder



**Title: The Economics of SSI**  
Speaker: Riley Hughes



**Title: Overlays data capture architecture (ODCA): Providing a standardized global solution for data capture and exchange**  
Speaker: Paul Knowles



**Title: Zero Knowledge Proofs**  
Speaker: Daniel Bluhm

# An Incubator for Digital Independence



SELF-SOVEREIGN  
Identity Incubator

## Driving Community Growth

*On July 23rd, 2019 the Sovrin Foundation announced the launch of the first ever incubator for decentralized digital identity. The **Self-Sovereign Identity Incubator**, based in San Francisco, marked the transition from decentralized identity as a concept to a reality where start-ups, companies, and organizations begin the actual business of transforming the way we use the internet and how we manage our digital lives. The mission of SSI Incubator is to facilitate the creation of the next generation of SSI-based companies of all kinds and in all markets, by providing early stage startups with industry-leading technological guidance, business development expertise, and financial investment to bring their self-sovereign identity solution to market.*

## Self-Sovereign Opportunity

The Sovrin Foundation designed, created, and launched the Self-Sovereign Identity Incubator in partnership with **Hard Yaka**, an investment firm founded by Greg Kidd, CEO of **globaliD**. Five companies were selected out of nearly 100 applicants to participate the 12-week program. These promising young companies took this opportunity, working to change the nature of the digital economy while respecting individual data rights.

**Sovrin and Hard Yaka's goal with the SSI Incubator is to support these young companies within an environment where emerging technology can create a new marketplace that is interoperable with existing markets.** The SSI Incubator hosted several exclusive events including the program kick-off sponsored by **Orange Silicon Valley** with over 100 attendees hearing from representatives from **Blockstack**, **uPort** (ConsenSys) and Microsoft on their perspectives on self-sovereign identity.

While working for three months in the heart of San Francisco at a Market Street hub for innovative tech companies, the teams had access and help from the world's leading SSI technologists and business executives and participated in seminars and obtained valuable mentorships by notable Silicon Valley enterprises and venture capital firms. These include **Morgan Stanley**, **Core Innovation Capital**, **Forrester Research**, and **Sequoia Capital (Sequoia Scout)**. The SSI Incubator also co-hosted a pitch program event with **UC Berkeley Blockchain Accelerator** and launched the successful **SSI Sweep Newsletter** with a growing readership of some of the most influential names in blockchain identity.

The participants arrived to Demo Day, held at **AWS Loft**, in December 2019 with working technical demonstrations of their solutions a business pitch presentation of their company, and a greatly expanded expert network. This specialized incubator program successfully integrated participants into a global community of leading SSI companies.

## 2019 Program Highlights



Launch Video



**Maya Kanehara**  
Managing Director, SSI Incubator

## #SSI2019

- **Domi** (Berlin): Digital passports for landlords and tenants that would create a fairer rental market.
- **HearRo** (Los Angeles): Blockchain Powered Phone System for Trusted, Effortless Communication.
- **MetaDigital Inc** (Toronto): An Intelligent Healthcare Platform that would eliminate medical prescription and insurance claim fraud with real-time digital verification.
- **Spaceman ID Inc** (Chicago): Tools for companies to easily implement private, secure, and portable digital credentials.
- **Xertify** (Bogotá, CO): A network where people and institutions can exchange trusted information based on blockchain technology.

domi

HearRo

METADIGITAL



Xertify

# People

## Board of Trustees



Philip J. Windley, Ph.D.  
Chair



Rebecca Goldin, Ph.D.



Bryan Pon



Drummond Reed



Heather C. Dahl  
Executive Director/CEO



Jason Law



Joyce Searls



Kazue Sako, Ph.D.



Mawaki Chango, Ph.D.



Peter Simpson



Rondle Amstutz



Tim Brown

## Technical Governance Board



Anthony Bender



Avesta Hojjati



Axel Nennker



Dan Gisolfi



Daniel Hardman



Dave Longley



André Kudra, Ph.D.



Jan Camenisch



Jason Law



Manu Sporny



Markus Sabadello



Samuel Smith



Stephan Curran



Nathan George  
CTO

## Staff



**Anna Johnson**  
Marketing & Membership  
Program Manager



**Matt Norton**  
Steward Relationship Manager



**Kayla C. Glover**  
Executive Assistant



**Helen Garneau**  
Vice President of Marketing



**Mike Lodder**  
Security Maven



**Steve Fulling**  
Director, Steward Operations



**Lynn Bendixsen**  
Quality Assurance &  
Network Operations



**Daniel Bluhm**  
Associate Software Engineer



**James Schulte**  
Steward Operations  
Associate



**Adam Burdett**  
Software Engineer



**Ken Ebert**  
Software Architect &  
Open Standards Engineer



**Steven Gubler**  
Associate Software,  
Quality Assurance Engineer



**Maya Kanehara**  
VP of Business Development,  
Incubator Programs &  
Managing Director, SSI Incubator



**Sam Curren**  
Software Architect &  
Open Source Maintainer

# Conclusion: Success Through Collaboration



**The story of the internet is the story of how we lost control of our data and with it, privacy and security. The story of self-sovereign identity (SSI) is how we created the opportunity to start over, to add the missing identity layer to the internet, and to begin a new era in online life.**

Self-sovereign identity means we can own and share our digital credentials, wherever and however we please. We are our own sovereign power online. In principle, it's a hard thing to argue against: If you believe you have a basic right to control your identity in the physical world, why would you not have the same right online?

Even so, it's a bit of a stretch for the average digital consumer to envision a world where they get to do this. They've been conditioned to see their online selves as completely different to who they are offline. They don't see a technology that can change this— and they can't imagine why companies would let it happen even if it did exist.

But 2019 was the year when the technology became real. After an immense amount of hard work, the Sovrin Network—a global network for self-sovereign identity—went live. And far from it being seen only as a “win” for consumers, [Forrester Research described](#) SSI as a “win” for business too.

We agree. Self-sovereign identity's universal power comes from its protean ability to solve fundamental—and increasingly debilitating—identity and data management problems for everyone: the consumer, the citizen, businesses, and governments. Its prospective use cases and potential efficiencies are vast. It makes the threat of data regulation go away, and it addresses the growing fears around the misuse of personal information for nefarious purposes.

If 2019 was the year that data privacy went mainstream, with Europe launching the GDPR and other jurisdictions looking to follow suit, it was also the year that the Sovrin Foundation, which represents a global community of privacy experts, showed how [self-sovereign identity](#) can rewrite the privacy problem. In publications like [Innovation Meets Compliance: Data Privacy Regulation and Distributed Ledger Technology](#), we showed how SSI's use of distributed ledger technology and zero-knowledge proofs provide an elegant, flexible, and legally robust solution to regulation without the cost of suffocating innovation or burdening businesses and organizations with a costly compliance infrastructure.

Sovrin has reached the status of a global leader in blockchain digital identity technology because our goal of self-sovereign identity for all is both industry agnostic and untethered to any nation, state, company, or enterprise. Our technology is adaptable and scalable—and it has been built by an open-source developer community nurtured by Sovrin, under the guidance of a robust, independent, and rights-driven governance framework provided by Sovrin. We are community-minded, community-built, and community-driven.

Our community will soon change the way we do business and the way we interact with each other as individuals online. We've created a system that enables and generates trust online. We represent an unstoppable force—one that will lead to our natural rights to identity and privacy-holding sovereignty online.

