



University of St.Gallen

Center for Financial Services Innovation



University of St.Gallen

Institute for Law and Economics



HYBRID
EVENT

Decentralized Finance Symposium

Thursday | March 21, 2024 | 9 am | Zurich

Description

Decentralized Finance (DeFi) is a growing ecosystem offering financial services in a fully decentralized fashion – that is, without intermediaries like banks, brokerages, or exchanges. Users of DeFi applications and protocols can lend or borrow, trade cryptocurrencies and other digital assets, purchase derivatives, earn interest from savings, and buy insurance. All of this is made possible by leveraging on blockchain technology and smart contracts, which provide decentralized trust.

What are currently the most important business models of DeFi infrastructures and how are such services regulated in Switzerland? How does the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA assess DeFi infrastructures? What does FINMA expect from licensed financial market institutions that want to use DeFi?

The symposium intends to shed light on these questions by key notes and a panel discussion with representatives from FINMA, the industry, and academia. A summary of the event will be published in a white paper.

The event is addressed to representatives of DeFi infrastructures from Swiss industry and from industry abroad, regulated financial institutions (banks, securities firms etc.), academia, and authorities.

Event Information

- Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2024
From 9 am
- Location:** [Sheraton Zurich Hotel](#)
Pfingstweidstrasse 100
8005 Zurich
- Topic:** DeFi business models and their regulation in Switzerland
- Target Audience:** Representatives of DeFi infrastructures, financial institutions (banks, securities firms etc.), authorities, academia etc.

Contact

Dr. Tobias Trütsch
Managing Director FSI-HSG
T +41 71 224 71 55
tobias.truetsch@unisg.ch

Registration

Please register by visiting unisg.link/defi or by scanning the QR-Code. The official registration deadline is March 14, 2024.



Speakers



Björn Flückiger

Björn Flückiger is Head of Legal Services and Regulatory Affairs of Crypto Finance AG (part of Deutsche Börse Group) and is responsible for all legal and regulatory matters concerning the Crypto Finance group. Prior, he was part of the Digital Transformation Legal unit of UBS and of the Fintech-Desk of FINMA, where he was inter alia tasked with the managing and treating of Fintech-related legal inquiries and other Fintech-related projects from a regulatory and prudential perspective.



Dr. Lidia Kurt

Lidia Kurt is the founder of the digital asset business studio vision&. With her company, she is building products and creating ventures in the digital asset industry for her clients. She is also a co-founder of the recently launched Swiss Stablecoin. Previously, she was the managing partner of a consulting boutique for quantitative finance and has worked for J.P. Morgan and Swiss Re in Zurich, London, and Hong Kong. She graduated from the University of St. Gallen with a Ph.D. in asset management.



Matthias Obrecht

Matthias Obrecht is head of the Fintech Desk at FINMA. The Fintech Desk is a center of competence for fintech topics within FINMA and also authorizes and supervises institutions with the so-called Fintech-Licence (Art. 1b BankA) as well as DLT trading systems. He is attorney at law and holds a law degree from the University of Zurich and a MBA from Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul.



Prof. Dr. Nina Reiser

Nina Reiser is Associate Professor of Financial Markets Law at the School of Law, affiliated with the HSG Center for Financial Services Innovation (FSI-HSG), and Vice Director at the Institute of Law and Economics (ILE-HSG) at the University of St. Gallen. Prior, she held various positions at FINMA. She researches and teaches in the areas of financial market law and corporate law. In doing so, she combines basic research with practical insights from her work at FINMA. She holds a LL.M. from Harvard Law School and is attorney at law.



Michael Svoboda

Michael Svoboda is the CEO of Liquity. Previously, he co-founded atpar AG. The startup advised several DeFi projects and has built a digital securities solution for institutional clients. Before joining the crypto space, he consulted enterprises in their digital transformation at Swisscom. He has 20+ years experience in building digital products and a background in computer science and economics.

Program

DeFi business models and their regulation in Switzerland

8.30 am **Start Registration**

9 am **Welcome**
Prof. Dr. Nina Reiser

9.05 am **Keynotes**

- Bridging DeFi and traditional finance: An industry outlook
Dr. Lidia Kurt
- DeFi project of an exchange
Michael Svoboda
- Regulatory anchor points of DeFi-services and their use by regulated institutions
Matthias Obrecht

10.30 am **Panel Discussion**

- Björn Flückiger
- Dr. Lidia Kurt
- Matthias Obrecht
- Michael Svoboda

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Nina Reiser

11.30 am **Lunch**



Center for Financial Services Innovation (FSI-HSG)
University of St.Gallen (HSG)
Müller-Friedberg-Strasse 8
Postal address: Unterer Graben 21
9000 St.Gallen
+41 71 224 71 55
fsi@unisg.ch
[fsi.unisg.ch](https://www.fsi.unisg.ch)

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