

Attitudes towards Bitcoin in Iceland Supplemental Materials

An Interactive Qualifying Project submitted to the faculty of
WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
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by

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Report Submitted to:

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Informed Consent Process and Preamble

Before all data collection we informed participants of our goal, why we were researching attitudes towards Bitcoin in Iceland, and requested consent for data collection. In verbal discussion we used a verbal consent script. For our online survey, we posted our verbal consent script (Figure 1) and a mandatory question asking “By answering ‘yes’ below, you recognize these terms and consent to us collecting your survey information.” Participants who answered “No”, would not be asked any further questions.

Consent

1. We are the Attitudes Towards Bitcoin team from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts. We are conducting research to determine what the general feelings, attitudes, and opinions on Bitcoin and cryptocurrency in general are from the viewpoint of those living in Iceland. We believe our research could educate us on whether cryptocurrency is negatively impacting Iceland or not and if action should be taken.

Your participation in our research is completely voluntary and completely anonymous. You may withdraw at any time and all of your given answers will be recorded anonymously. No personal or identifying information will be shown on any project results or publications.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at gr-BitcoinIceland@wpi.edu. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research subject, please contact Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Institutional Review Board at irb@wpi.edu.

By answering “yes” below, you recognize these terms and consent to us collecting your survey information.

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Yes

No

Figure 1: Example of our online consent process where individuals who answer “No” will have no further questions asked

Verbal Consent Script

We are the Attitudes Towards Bitcoin team from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts. We are conducting research to determine what the general feelings, attitudes, and opinions on Bitcoin and cryptocurrency in general are from the viewpoint of those living in Iceland. We believe our research could educate us on whether cryptocurrency is negatively impacting Iceland or not and if action should be taken.

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Online Survey Questions

1. Are you an Icelandic citizen or resident?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
2. How long have you lived in Iceland?
 - a. Never
 - b. Less than 1 year
 - c. Between 1 and 5 years
 - d. Between 5 and 10 years
 - e. 10+ years
3. What is your profession? (Optional): _____
4. What is your age?: _____
5. Are you concerned about the preservation of Iceland's environment?
 - a. Yes
 - b. Yes, somewhat
 - c. No
 - d. I do not have an opinion on this
6. Have you ever heard of Bitcoin, or any other cryptocurrencies?
 - a. Yes, I own Bitcoin and/or other cryptocurrencies
 - b. Yes, but I do not own any
 - c. No, I have never heard of Bitcoin or cryptocurrency
7. If you have, which ones? (Put "None" if you answered "No" to question 7): _____
8. Do you know how cryptocurrency works?
 - a. Yes, fully
 - b. Yes, somewhat
 - c. Only a little bit
 - d. No, not at all
 - e. I do not know what cryptocurrency is
9. Do you believe the idea of cryptocurrency is legitimate?

- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I do not have an opinion on this
10. Do you know what cryptocurrency mining is?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
11. Are you aware of the energy usage of cryptocurrency mining?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
12. Do you think cryptocurrency mining has a substantial environmental effect on Iceland?
- a. Yes, totally
 - b. Yes, I believe it is likely
 - c. No, I believe it is unlikely
 - d. No, not at all
13. Should cryptocurrency be allowed to be freely traded/spent in Iceland?
- a. Yes, it should be treated like a normal currency
 - b. Yes, but there should be restrictions on how and where it can be used
 - c. No, it should be prohibited
 - d. I do not have an opinion on this
14. Should cryptocurrency mining continue to be allowed in Iceland?
- a. Yes
 - b. Yes, but it should be regulated
 - c. No
 - d. I do not have an opinion on this

Verbal Interview Questions

1. Do you know what Bitcoin is?
2. Do you know how Bitcoin works?
3. Is it a popular topic of conversation when you are in a social setting?
4. Are you aware of the environmental impacts of Bitcoin mining?

Short Informational Video

For our final supplemental material we have an educational video consisting of facts about crypto to raise awareness for a deliverable. This video is a culmination of our research and findings and presents them very plainly to allow viewers to be informed without persuading them, as we wish for them to form their own opinions and make a decision for themselves based on the facts. The video will be utilized as an educational resource and will bring much needed awareness to the topic of cryptocurrency to Icelanders and others around the globe. The following video can be viewed through the URL on YouTube or can be seen using the QR code directly below.



Figure 2: The QR code for our short informational video on Bitcoin