



Relationships between The Startup Society Foundation, The Institute for Decentralized Government, and the Destiny zone for Nevis and St. Kitts [12/29/2025]

The Startup Societies Foundation (now usually called the Startup Societies Network), the Institute for Decentralized Governance, and the Destiny Special Sustainability Zone in Nevis–St. Kitts sit in the same broad “startup jurisdictions / private cities / SEZs” ecosystem, but there is no evidence that the first two institutions formally sponsor or govern Destiny itself. Their relationship is best described as intellectual and network-level rather than direct organizational control.^{[1][2]}

The two institutes

- The **Institute for Decentralized Governance** (formerly the Institute for Competitive Governance) is a think tank that promotes special jurisdictions and runs the *Journal of Special Jurisdictions*, the only academic journal focused specifically on SEZs, charter cities, and related arrangements. It supplies theory, case studies, and policy models for projects like Destiny but does not appear as a shareholder, developer, or statutory authority in Nevis.^{[3][4]}
- The **Startup Societies Foundation** rebranded as the **Startup Societies Network** and works closely with the Institute for Decentralized Governance to promote “startup societies” and private-city-style experiments worldwide. It operates in the same milieu (charter cities, ZEDs, SEZs, network states) and shares personnel and conferences with other private-city advocates, but again has no public formal role in Destiny’s corporate or legal structure.^{[4][1]}

Destiny zone in Nevis–St. Kitts

- **Destiny** is a proposed multi-billion-dollar *Special Sustainability Zone* on the south coast of Nevis, marketed as a hybrid of Monaco and Dubai with low-rise, family-oriented development, thousands of jobs for locals, and a “locals-first” hiring policy. It is led by early crypto entrepreneur **Olivier Janssens**, who purchased several square miles of land and is positioning Destiny as a highly autonomous, for-profit special economic zone with profit-sharing to citizens.^{[5][6][2][7]}

- The public commitments include: roughly USD 50M for Nevis infrastructure, a 20% profit share to Nevis (split between government and a sovereign wealth fund), and a direct 5% share of Destiny profits to Nevisians via digital / blockchain rails from 2026, plus a scholarship fund. Political and civil-society responses in St. Kitts and Nevis show both strong enthusiasm and sharp criticism, especially around land control, sovereignty, and who actually benefits from the enclave.^{[8][9][6][2][10][11][12][5]}

How they connect conceptually

- **Shared idea space:** All three are part of the same conceptual project of creating special jurisdictions — SEZs, charter cities, “private cities,” and network-state-style enclaves that mix public authority with private governance and investment. The Institute and Startup Societies Network provide much of the intellectual infrastructure (journals, conferences, policy playbooks) that projects like Destiny draw on, even when that influence is only indirect.^{[2][3][1][4]}
- **Overlap in networks:** The German-language overview of “Privatstädte” explicitly lists the **Startup Societies Network (formerly Startup Societies Foundation)** and notes it cooperates closely with the **Institute for Decentralized Governance**, alongside other private-city players like Prospera’s backers, Free Private Cities Foundation, and the Seasteading Institute. Destiny is already being discussed in those same startup-jurisdictions circles (e.g., Reddit communities focused on startup jurisdictions and network states), which indicates a shared community of investors, consultants, and policy entrepreneurs even if no formal affiliation is declared.^{[1][2][4]}

What is *not* currently evidenced

- There is **no public documentation** that Destiny is:
 - founded by,
 - legally owned by, or
 - contractually governed by the Startup Societies Foundation/Network or the Institute for Decentralized Governance.^{[6][5][2]}
- Existing coverage in Nevis media, Caribbean news, and international commentary attributes Destiny’s leadership and ownership to Olivier Janssens and associated commercial entities, not to those two institutes or their parent organizations.^{[13][8][5][6]}

Working hypothesis on the relationship

- The most defensible characterization is that **Destiny is a concrete Caribbean SEZ / “private city” project that inhabits the intellectual and network ecosystem cultivated by the Institute for Decentralized Governance and the Startup Societies Network, but operates as an independent commercial and political venture.**^{[3][2][4][1]}
- For purposes of mapping “freeorder” experiments, Destiny looks like a case study of a proprietary, profit-sharing SEZ; the Institute and Startup Societies Network look like upstream metainstitutions that systematize, legitimize, and cross-pollinate such projects globally, including but not limited to Nevis–St. Kitts.^{[2][4][3][1]}

*
**

1. <https://journalofspecialjurisdictions.com>
2. https://www.reddit.com/r/startupjurisdictions/comments/1o8hej2/destiny_new_special_economic_zone_in_nevis/
3. <https://journalofspecialjurisdictions.com/index.php/jsj/about>
4. <https://www.klassismus.de/index.php?title=Privatstädte>
5. <https://sknpulse.com/destiny-special-sustainability-zone-unveiled-a-transformative-vision-for-nevis-and-st-kitts/>
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wB1H78DKTv8>
7. <https://www.instagram.com/p/DSkLf6MDesj/>
8. <https://www.nevispages.com/destiny-special-sustainability-zone-unveiled-a-transformative-vision-for-nevis-and-st-kitts/>
9. <https://timescaribbeanonline.com/201530-2/>
10. <https://nia.gov.kn/skn-business-community-commends-nia-for-transparency-on-proposed-ssz-development/>
11. <https://www.sknvibes.com/news/newsdetails.cfm/126706>
12. <https://www.facebook.com/KnowYourCaribbean/posts/leaving-this-right-here-we-on-sale-in-every-form-and-fashion-a-wealthy-bitcoin-i/1701443631228118/>
13. <https://nypost.com/2025/12/20/world-news/billionaires-are-betting-big-on-new-tech-topia-cities-where-they-will-set-the-laws/>
14. <https://destiny.com>

15. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/176530020440/posts/10173141812435441/>
16. <https://www.theskittsnevisobserver.com/wp-content/uploads/SKN-10-24-25-complete.pdf>
17. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/176530020440/posts/10173566312405441/>
18. <https://www.facebook.com/SouthNevis/>
19. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVMs5CXrrvo>