

Real Estate Tokenization Advances With Global Standards and Blockchain Frameworks

Global adoption of real estate tokenization accelerates in 2025 with compliant frameworks, fractional ownership, and blockchain based liquidity.

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Tokenization is redefining global real estate by enabling secure, fractional ownership and cross-border investment powered by regulated digital infrastructure." *Muhammad Shahid, PhD Research Scholar, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia* tokenization is rapidly becoming a foundational element in the evolution of global property investment. As blockchainbased standards, legal frameworks, and institutional adoption mature, the tokenization of real estate is redefining how property is accessed, owned, and traded worldwide.

Tokenization enables real estate assets residential, commercial, or mixed-use to be digitally represented as fractional shares on blockchain platforms. These digital tokens can be securely traded, held, or integrated into broader financial ecosystems, providing investors with liquidity, transparency, and accessibility that traditional

property ownership models often lack.

In 2025, the global momentum for tokenization is evident. Regulatory developments in the European Union under the MiCA (Markets in Crypto-Assets) framework, along with compliance-focused standards like ERC-3643, are driving a secure, scalable environment for real estate token transactions. These frameworks allow for permissioned transfers, integrated KYC/AML controls, and programmable ownership rights—all essential for institutional and cross-border adoption.

"Tokenization is no longer experimental," said <u>Muhammad Shahid</u>, a PhD Research Scholar in Blockchain at Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (<u>UTHM</u>). "With real-world asset protocols and legally structured digital tokens, we are witnessing a transformation in how real estate investment operates at scale."

Recent case studies confirm this shift. A logistics facility in Rotterdam was tokenized and sold to global investors using compliant smart contracts and blockchain-based custody solutions. In South Africa, Flyt Property has expanded its retail investor programs through tokenized real

estate offerings accessible via mobile applications. These use cases demonstrate the potential to modernize capital raising, lower entry barriers, and diversify investor participation.

Alongside secure infrastructure, tokenized real estate is being integrated into decentralized finance (DeFi) applications. Real estate-backed tokens can now be staked for yield, used as collateral, or traded within composable finance protocols. Smart contracts automate functions such as rent collection, dividend payouts, and governance voting, streamlining operational complexity.



Muhammad Shahid, PhD Research Scholar in Blockchain at Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia

Key advantages include:

1- Liquidity: Property shares, once

highly illiquid, can now be traded on secondary markets with instant settlement.

2- Transparency: Blockchain's immutable records offer full audit trails, enhancing trust and regulatory oversight.

3- Global Access: Investors from any jurisdiction can participate in real estate markets using secure digital identities.

4- Cost Efficiency: Reduced reliance on intermediaries and paper-based processes lowers operational costs and increases speed.

According to Security Token Market, tokenized real estate surpassed \$2.3 billion in global volume during the first quarter of 2025, reflecting a 92% increase year over year. Boston Consulting Group projects the tokenization of real-world assets will reach \$16 trillion by 2030, with over \$3.5 trillion attributed to real estate alone. These figures underscore the scalability and economic relevance of tokenization.

Developers benefit by using token sales tied to project milestones, enabling phased capital access without traditional financing bottlenecks. Legal professionals are structuring enforceable hybrid contracts that integrate property rights with blockchain assets, creating alignment between traditional registries and digital ledgers.

Despite progress, challenges remain. Regulatory differences across jurisdictions, secure digital custody, investor education, and blockchain interoperability are all ongoing priorities for industry stakeholders. Additionally, distinguishing between asset-backed tokens and speculative cryptocurrencies is vital to ensure responsible market growth.

Globally, countries such as Germany, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom are taking concrete steps. Germany's digital bond framework now supports tokenized real estate securities. Switzerland's SIX Digital Exchange continues to facilitate cross-border property tokenization. In the UK, trials are underway to integrate blockchain into national land registries for enhanced traceability and verification.

The long-term vision is one of inclusive, digital-first property markets. A teacher in Colombia, a developer in Poland, or a retiree in Malaysia can now participate in institutional-grade real estate investments previously out of reach.

As blockchain infrastructure matures and regulatory clarity increases, tokenization is poised to become a standard mechanism in global real estate investment and financing. Its ability to create fractional, transparent, and borderless ownership models marks a turning point in the industry's future.

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