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✳ **CARDANO**

Foundation F13 Project Catalyst Participation

Cardano Foundation F13 Project Catalyst Participation Instructions

Contents

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Cardano Foundation F13 Project Catalyst Participation

Specifications

- **Category:** Project Catalyst F13 Participation
- **Funding Amount:** 180 million ada

Introduction

The Cardano Foundation implemented a novel, multi-layered approach to guide proposal evaluation and voting for Project Catalyst F13. A group of internal subject matter experts, comprising approximately 30 Foundation staff members, filtered over 1,800 proposals. During the selection process, these individuals considered both the Foundation's objectives and those of the broader Cardano ecosystem, reflecting the ethos and principles of Our Cardano. This rigorous process detailed distinct roles and responsibilities to ensure a comprehensive and balanced evaluation:

- **Champions:** Create a preliminary selection of proposals across one or more categories based on their subject matter expertise.
- **Contrarians:** Provide a critical perspective, challenge assumptions, and identify potential risks in the initial selection the Champions generate.
- **Executive Committee:** Conducts a final review and approval of the Foundation voting shortlist generated by the Champions and Contrarians.

These roles and their progressive stages enabled a robust evaluation process, promoting transparency and accountability during the subsequent allocation of 180 million ada in voting stake towards proposal selection.

Guidelines

The following criteria guided the Foundation's comprehensive assessment of Project Catalyst F13 proposals:

- **Measurable Impact:** Demonstrated on-chain or off-chain impact aligned with the Foundation's core focus areas.
- **Enterprise Adoption:** Solutions targeting enterprise adoption in authenticity, sustainability, and traceability.
- **Developer Ecosystem:** Enhancements to Cardano developer tooling and infrastructure.
- **Open-Source Commitment:** A strong commitment to open-source principles.
- **Proven Track Record:** Teams with a demonstrated history of delivering valuable tools for the Cardano

ecosystem, particularly those with prior Catalyst funding.

- **Audits:** Proposals incorporating technical audits undergo a case-by-case assessment.

This rigorous evaluation framework ensures that funded proposals contribute meaningfully to the Cardano ecosystem and advance our shared goals. There was a significant difference between the volume and ada value of proposals submitted in general categories compared with proposals submitted in the Cardano Partner category. This required a dedicated filtering procedure for each of these groups of proposals.

Filtering Procedure: General Categories

The large volume of 1,732 proposals in the Concept, Developers, Ecosystem, and Product categories was filtered down to a final selection of 170 in these general categories.

- **Step 1:** Champions (Coarse Acceptance or Rejection)
  - Proposal Distribution: Proposals within each category are randomly assigned to Champions with relevant subject matter expertise. Champions disclose any potential conflicts of interest.
  - **Initial Screening:** Champions conduct an initial screening of assigned proposals, categorizing them as:
    - **(A) Promising:** Worthy of a full review.
    - **(B) Potential:** May be reviewed if resources allow.
    - **(C) Rejected:** Does not warrant further consideration.
  - **In-depth Evaluation:** Champions conduct a comprehensive review of "A" proposals (and "B" proposals if resources allow) using a scoring rubric aligned with predefined guidelines.
  - **Collaborative Review:** Champions can comment on all proposals, fostering collaboration and leveraging diverse expertise within the review team.
- **Step 2:** Contrarians (Specific Rejection)
  - **Proposal Aggregation and Assignment:** Reviewed proposals in each category are aggregated and equally assigned to Contrarians.
  - **Comprehensive Review:** If the Champion completed only an initial screening due to resource constraints, the Contrarian conducts a full review based on established guidelines.
  - **Risk Assessment and Feedback:** Contrarians scrutinize proposals, assessing potential risks and alignment with guidelines. Each proposal receives a ranking:
    - **(1) Go:** Proceed with the proposal.
    - **(2) Risky:** Proceed with caution, addressing identified concerns.
    - **(3) No-Go:** Do not proceed with the proposal.
  - Contrarians provide written feedback for proposals ranked "Risky" and "No-Go."
  - **Collaborative Dialogue:** Champions are encouraged to engage with Contrarians to discuss concerns and advocate for their proposals if they choose. A third individual will review any proposals still deadlocked after the discussions between Champions and Contrarians.
- **Step 3:** Executive Committee (Final Selection)
  - **Asynchronous Assessment:** All proposals ranked that make it through the last step undergo an asynchronous assessment by the Executive Committee. Based on their evaluation, the Committee may validate the ranking, remove the proposal(s), or promote other proposals that did not pass Champion and Contrarian reviews to replace removed proposals.
  - **Final Decision:** The Executive Committee convenes to make a final decision on the Cardano Foundation's F13 proposal selection.

- - **Budgetary Constraints:** The total Catalyst funding requested by selected proposals within each category will not exceed the allocated Catalyst budget by more than 20%.

Filtering Procedure: Partner Categories

97 proposals in the Cardano Partner categories of Enterprise and Growth were filtered down to a final selection of 15. The Foundation participates in a shortlisting panel for the Partner categories alongside representatives from the genesis entities, Intersect, and the ecosystem.

1. **Due Diligence:** The Catalyst team conducts due diligence on partner category proposals to verify their adherence to eligibility criteria.
2. **Parallel Evaluation:** Concurrently, the Cardano Foundation employs its established multistage review process (Champion Review, Contrarian Review, Executive Committee Assessment) as applied to general category proposals. This selection remains subject to adjustments based on the findings of the Catalyst team's due diligence.
3. **Executive Committee Review:** The Executive Committee reviews selected Partner category proposals, ensuring alignment with strategic priorities.
4. **Partner Category Shortlisting:** The Catalyst team assembles a selection committee comprising representatives from the Catalyst Operator, Cardano Foundation, Emurgo, Intersect, and community members to shortlist proposals within the partner categories. The Cardano Foundation actively advocates for the inclusion of proposals from its shortlist.
5. **Final Selection:** The shortlist is refined based on the selection committee's decisions. The Executive Committee is informed of removed proposals and convenes a meeting to finalize the Cardano Foundation's F13 proposal selection across all categories.

This collaborative approach ensures a rigorous and balanced evaluation of all proposals, promoting transparency and accountability in funding allocation.

Data on Proposals Selected

Category	# of proposals reviewed	Catalyst funds available	Proposals selected for CF Vote	Amount requested by selected proposals	% of proposals in category	% of category budget voted
Concept	483	₳5,000,000.00	45	₳5,419,570	9%	108%
Developers	370	₳8,000,000.00	46	₳6,759,556	12%	84%
Ecosystem	602	₳5,000,000.00	55	₳4,348,641	9%	87%
Product	277	₳8,500,000.00	24	₳8,797,609	9%	104%
Enterprise	65	₳15,000,000.00	11	₳14,876,100	17%	99%
Growth	32	₳5,000,000.00	4	₳4,734,400	13%	95%
Total	**1829**	**₳46,500,000.00**	**185**	**₳44,935,876**	**10%**	**97%**

Cardano Foundation's Project Catalyst Selection

Cardano Open: Developers	[BBO] Virtual Assistant GovernCardanoBot = AI + Telegram – A tool to help you better understand Cardano Governance	Link
	[HTLABS] 5 Project templates combining blockchain and internet of things	Link
	[LANTR] Scalus: Multiplatform Tx Builder – same code for front&back end	Link
	Andamio SDK & UTxO-RPC client	Link
	Breeze – Trading Bot Framework	Link
	Cardano Ambassador Tools	Link
	Cardano EasyDev VS Tool	Link
	Cloud Native Blockchain Archive Node by Blink Labs	Link
	CoSponsor by Sundae Labs: A Community Crowdfunding Tool for Proposal Submission	Link
	cPoker DRED development	Link
	Dandelion-lite: Decentralized nodes for dummies for GameChanger, Gimbalabs, Roundtable and devs	Link
	Decentralized Domain Name System (DNS) Marketplace powered by Cardano and Handshake blockchains	Link
	Designing an API for ZK-Snark proof verification in Aiken – Eryx	Link
	Elixir implementation of Ouroboros networking	Link
	EUTxO-L2 interoperability: Connect Hydra and other L2s	Link
	Extend Open-Source Yoroi wallet to support seamless mobile Cardano dApp integration	Link
	Full-feature open-source NFT Web Forge	Link
	Handshake decentralized DNS blockchain integration with cDNSd by Blink Labs	Link
	HLabs: unembed plu-ts – the next aiken	Link

	Indigo Protocol: Typescript Off-chain SDK	**Link**
	Integrating Hydra Scaling into Cardano Kuber Library	**Link**
	Koios Rust Client Library	**Link**
	Ledger Live Cardano Integration Maintenance	**Link**
	Lucid Evolution 2.0 – Blueprint & Enhanced Plutus Schema	**Link**
	Lucid Evolution 2.0 – Maintenance & Development Strategy	**Link**
	Maintain Mesh and Build Developer Community	**Link**
	Mesh: Cquisitor – Transaction Investigation Tool	**Link**
	Mesh: Hydra Tools for administrating & interacting with Hydra Heads	**Link**
	MLabs: Static analysis with Covenant	**Link**
	MLabs: Tooling upgrade for Conway compatibility.	**Link**
	Next-Gen DAOs: On-Chain Delegation, Hierarchies & Reputation	**Link**
	Open-Source Datum Explorer: Decode, Understand, Build	**Link**
	Open-Source Rapid DEX: Batcher-less, instant, with transaction chaining	**Link**
	Optim OADA OPEN: Local, Open Source OADA Frontend for Developers	**Link**
	Oura by TxPipe: going multi-chain	**Link**
	PoolTool Sustaining	**Link**
	Powers of Tau: Cardano Zero-Knowledge Setup Ceremony event	Encoins <> Modulo-p	**Link**
	PyCardano Evolution: Embracing the Chang Hardfork	**Link**
	SAIB: Buriza.Browser – A Dedicated Built-in Browser for the Buriza Wallet	**Link**
	SAIB: Buriza.Desktop – A Secure, Dedicated Desktop App for Buriza Wallet	**Link**
	SAIB: Buriza.Mobile – A Secure, On-the-Go Mobile Cardano Wallet	**Link**

	Sundae Labs: Amaru Node Development Support - Rust Developer Contract	Link
	Unlock Apollo's Potential: Join & Build Cardano's Golang Library	Link
	Verifiable Data Registry for Identus in Cardano	Link
	Zero-Knowledge Privacy Protocol for DeFi Lending and Borrowing on Cardano (open source)	Link
	zkFetch: Integrating zkTLS-Powered Oracle Solution for Cardano	Link
Cardano Open: Ecosystem	"Cardano Unleashed: Hybrid Events to Inspire Innovation"	Link
	[BUTC] Fueling Growth: Cardano Hackathons to Inspire Startup Success	Link
	[C2VN]: Promoting education through the development of Blockchain lecturer teams at universities in Vietnam (Phase 2: Advanced course on on-chain and off-chain programming on the Cardano Blockchain)	Link
	Cardano App Development Course: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners - From basic Web development to use Cardano Libraries and interacting with Smart Contracts	Link
	45B: Cardano Design center to supporting Projects	Link
	Activate non-English speakers to build on Cardano	Link
	Africa Townhall: Empowering Blockchain Education and Growth Across Africa	Link
	Art Beyond Borders - Global Youth Art Competition & Marketplace	Link
	B4Good 2.0 Summit: where Cardano meets int. development ($$)	Link
	Building with Aiken: Project-Based Learning Course for Non-Native English Devs	Link
	Cardano Academy: YouTube Blockchain Education in Amharic	Link
	Cardano Ambassador Workshop - Europe	Link
	Cardano Builder Asia - Building a Connected Cardano Builder Network in Asia	Link
	Cardano Builder Fest Asia by Mesh, Socious, SIDAN, Vietnam Cardano	Link
	Cardano Contract Suite: Essential Templates for Innovators	Link
	Cardano DeFi Adoption: DEX, Staking, and Lending PR Campaign	Link
	Cardano DEFI Workshop 2025: Learning Levvy or Fluid and Other DEFI Platform in Collaboration with MCU	Link
	Cardano Ecosystem Adoption Campaign through content creators (Amplification)	Link
	Cardano for Business & Web2 Devs: Multilingual Video Tutorials by Edda Labs	Link
	Cardano Ghana: Onboarding Tech Hubs & Developers.	Link
	Cardano Hackathon in Berlin Second Edition organized by NMKR	Link
	Cardano in Action: Youth Empowered with Practical Blockchain Education	Link
	Cardano in Spanish 2	Link
	Cardano India Developers Community Hub	Link
	Cardano Summit on Bolivia's Bicentennial	Link
	Cardano Tech Week Argentina	Link
	Cardano Use Cases & Success Stories PR Campaign	Link
	Cardano Vietnam Meetup: Connecting Passion, Driving Collaboration	Link
	Cardano x African Blockchain Championship	Link
	Community CIP Editor Robert Phair: 8 month budget	Link
	DAO Codex: Open Governance for Cardano Innovators	Link
	Decoding Legal Webinar: Legal Essentials for Cardano Founders	Link
	Digital Assets - Legislators Global Forum (DALG Forum)	Link
	Driving Effective Governance in Voltaire: Cardano Parameters Explorer [by Lido Nation]	Link
	Educating young university student entrepreneurs: Creating awareness of the Cardano platform and project catalyst to boost entrepreneurship skills and industrialization.	Link
	Embrace MiCA Webinar: Navigating Europe's New Crypto Regulation & Future-Proofing Cardano Projects	Link
	Empowering Community Hub Cardano in Brazil	Link
	Empowering DeSci with Marlowe: A Free|Course on Real-World Blockchain Applications	Link

	Empowering Ghanaian Youths through Cardano Blockchain: AIESEC Collaboration for Awareness and Adoption	Link
	ID-LATAM: Empowering Decentralized Digital Identity	Link
	IndiaCodeX - Nationwide Developers Hackathon Event with a Footfall of 3000 Students, Developers & Tech Professionals	Link
	Latam Cardano Community Operations	Link
	Offchain Impact analysis of Project Catalyst Fund Distribution and Performance from Fund 9 to Fund 12	Link
	Onboard Tertiary IT Students targeting 16 universities Globally	Link
	Onboarding Toolkit for New dReps	Link
	Onchain Impact analysis of Project Catalyst Fund Distribution and Performance from Fund 9 to Fund 12	Link
	Production grade code education: Aiken, Plutarch & PlutusTx	Link
	Rural Blockchain Revolution: 5,000 Students Learning on the Cardano Network	Link
	SPO JAPAN GUILD - Continued of the Japan SPO community	Link
	Sustain and Maintain Gimbalabs	Link
	Together Learning Haskell/Plutus in native language Club (Phase 2)	Link
	Unified Cardano Student Club Nigeria SANDBOX: Where Startups and devs Collaborate to make an explosion	Link
	Wada Hub Hackathon: A Local Community Catalyst	Link
	Waffle Capital - Monthly "State of Cardano" Reports	Link
	West Africa Undergraduate & Early Developer Hackathon: Cultivating the Next Generation of Cardano Innovators	Link
Cardano Partners: Enterprise R&D	Book.io - Bringing Top Book Publisher to Cardano	Link
	Bridging Web2 to Web3 with Swisscom: Onboarding SMEs to Cardano with Digital Signing	Link
	Cardano and GLEIF vLEI identity network	Link
	FC Barcelona - Fan engagement infrastructure Cardano	Link
	Freyr - Proof of Concept Pilot With Iagon Private Distributed Cloud Service and a Fortune 500 company	Link
	Iagon & Würth: Platform for Secure 3D Printing and Intellectual Property Management	Link
	Masumi: Secure, Compliant AI Agents for companies like BMW, Generali & more – by Serviceplan Group & NMKR	Link
	Plastiks and CSA powering plastic waste recovery for Danone and other leading brands with CARDANO built plastic credit marketplace	Link
	Switzerland for UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency) + Optim Finance - Innovative Donation Platform For Digital Assets -	Link
	Syngenta Agricultural Insight and Earth Observation Data uplifts subsistence farmers into profitability	Link
	Unbox Smart Battery Passports: Connecting the Largest Industrial Battery manufacturer in the world to Cardano, Using Zero Knowledge Tech for Secure and private Sharing of Battery Data Across the Supply Chain While Ensuring Full Data Privacy	Link
Cardano Partners: Growth & Acceleration	Cardano Accelerator by CV Labs	Link
	Draper University x Cardano Founder Residency (Silicon Valley)	Link
	EMURGO LM x UNDP Accelerator: Piloting UNDP's project pipeline through the Cardano blockchain	Link
	Techstars will help Cardano Builders grow their businesses to drive Cardano's Adoption	Link
Cardano Use Cases: Concept	[PKL] Cardano Governance Explorer Visualized with Graphs	Link
	[Tempo] Multi-party alliance	Link
	0XAuth (Project David)	Link
	ADA Wallet for Salesforce	Link
	Amnesty International DAO and Human Rights token Proof of Concept - 10 Million Global Membership Community	Link

	Amplifi	Link
	BANGK: Merging Traditional Finance with DeFi Solutions	Link
	Cardano Analytics Platform powered by LLM	Link
	Cardano Hub Indonesia: Marketing Initiatives	Link
	Cardano Mercury for MedusaJS	Link
	Cardano's NFC Solution to Counterfeit-Proof Commerce using Asymmetric Encryption	Link
	CardanoFlow: Transparent Supply Chain & Environmental Impact Management	Link
	CardanoTicker (DIY assembly instructions and 3D printed case)	Link
	CASIA x Cardano4Good - a dApp Fundraising Platform for Social Good Projects (Tokenization Pilot - phase 2)	Link
	Chaincrib	Tokenizing RWA Real Estate Properties On Cardano	Link
	Chicago Cubs and Cardano: Transforming team operations with innovative technology to enhance performance and fan engagement in sports.	Link
	cPoker Hydra Case Study: Implement Interactive dApp	Link
	Create and launch a custom NFT marketplace with ease.	Link
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	Dallas Mavericks (NBA) - Innovating Beyond the Court - A Cardano Driven Tech Transformation	Link
	Data Well	Link
	Decentralized Belt System for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ).	Link
	Eintracht Frankfurt (Bundesliga) - Leading The Sports Tech Revolution By Showcasing The Impact Of Cardano Integration	Link
	ElectionGuard + Cardano: provably fair traditional elections	Link
	Fluid swaps - Trade CNTs against BTC, ETH or MATIC	Link
	Foreon Network	People Powered Prediction Market On Cardano	Link
	GeroWallet - Bank API and Wallet Integration	Link
	Indonesia CAR-dano: An Immutable History Record System for Pre-Owned Automotive Transactions in Indonesia [PHASE 1: DEVELOPMENT]	Link
	Janus Wallet: Simplified Cardano Onboarding with ZK Proof	Link
	Juventus FC (Serie A) - Transforming Fan Engagement with Cardano Solutions	Link
	LuxeChain: Decentralized Luxury Watches & Accessories Authentication	Link
	Marlowe 2025: Oracle Protocol, Design and Implementation	Link
	Mercury: Tokenomics Statements	Link
	MineFreeUkraine: Cardano-based DeFi Platform for Large-Scale Humanitarian Demining and Socio-Economic Recovery of Ukraine	Link
	Minting NFTs from historical agricultural field boundary crop performance	Link
	MLSE (Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment) - Cardano Initiative to Revolutionize Team Operations	Link
	Proportionality in Stake-based Voting	Link
	RideChain: Decentralized Carpooling for a Sustainable Future on Cardano	Link
	SIDAN	KnightSafe - Self-custodial Vault for DeFi Trading	Link
	Solving the problem of traditional academic publishing: a decentralized, Cardano-based alternative	Link
	Subbit.xyz: Cardano's featherweight L2	With Real World Application	Kompact.io x Orcfax Collab	Link
	The first Plastic Credit ReFi Protocol with USDM	Link
	Track Cardano Asset Stats, Price Movements, Wallet Alerts, and More via Telegram	Link
	USDM and BTC payments support in Hydra Contactless Micropayments app	Link
	WP NMKR Connect - WordPress Plugin to Display & Manage Cardano/Solana NFTs	Link

Cardano Use Cases: Product	Anti-Counterfeiting System Integrating with Cardano Blockchain	Link
	Anvil x Nuvola: 'C-Hub' - Bringing Collateralization to the Global Stage	Link
	Cardano Beam - DePIN	Link
	Cardano Multisig Platform by Mesh, Clarity DAO & Fluid Tokens	Link
	CatalystExplorer 2.0: AI-powered Exploration, Proposal Tinder, & Funding Transparency at your fingertips [by Lido Nation]	Link
	Cexplorer 2.0: Newer, Faster, More Powerful	Link
	Cexplorer.io: Advanced DRep & SPO analytics	Link
	CHARLI3: Live API with all Cardano DEX aggregated data	Link
	CSWAP: Real World Asset Expansion - Real Value for Cardano	Link
	Iagon: Architecture and Security Audit for Enterprise Adoption	Link
	Lock'n': Cardano L1 & Hydra L2 support for bypp IoT smart hardware products (e.g. GachaGacha)	Link
	Merchadise x UVerify x Little Legends Merch Store for Authenticity and Privacy	Link
	Minswap Lending Market - Long/Short	Link
	MLabs + Clear Contracts -Agora dRep Effect Validator	Link
	Open-sourcing VESPR | VESPR Turbo	Link
	Proof of Onboarding with Onboard.Ninja	Link
	Protocol Risk Simulation Engine built by Xerberus	Link
	TapTools: All-in-One Cardano News Aggregator	Link
	The #1 Enterprise-Grade CFO Tech Stack Bridging Cardano Txn Data into Quickbooks, Netsuite, Workday, Sage, XERO and more!	Link
	Tokeo x Mastercard powered by Mercuryo: Cardano's gateway to the $550 billion credit card industry	Link
	UNHCR x Unbox: Rewarding Advocacy & Creating Stronger Connections between Donors and the Initiatives They Support	Link
	UVerify Web3 without NFTs and FTs	Link
	Work Courses: Accelerating Ecosystem Growth With Cardano MastersClass & Proof-Of-Knowledge	Link
	zkFold x Asterizm - Interoperability Solution	Link

FAQs

- **Q: How are proposals selected for funding?**
  - **A:** Proposals are selected based on a rigorous evaluation framework ensuring contributions to the Cardano ecosystem and alignment with shared goals.
- **Q: Who participates in the selection process?**
  - **A:** The Foundation, Catalyst team, Contrarians, Executive Committee, Catalyst Operator, representatives from entities like Intersect, Emurgo, and community members are involved in the selection process.
- **Q: How is transparency maintained in the allocation of funds?**
  - **A:** Transparency is ensured through a collaborative approach involving various stakeholders and a multistage review process for proposal evaluation.

Documents / Resources

Cardano Foundation F13 Project Catalyst Participation [pdf] Instructions
F13 Project Catalyst Participation, F13, Project Catalyst Participation, Catalyst Participation

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