

Cardano Foundation - ICANN ada gTLD Application

In response to Question Set 7 - Question #143

Yes, the Ada/Cardano Community members demonstrate clear and measurable awareness of the Ada/Cardano Community and its distinct participant groups, including key organisations within the Community, Stake Pool Operators (SPOs), Delegated Representatives (DReps), developers, and ada holders. This awareness is evidenced by participation in governance, structured surveys, documented cross-group activities, online forums, and event attendance.

Evidence of Awareness and Interaction:

1. Governance Participation and Voting Records

The Ada/Cardano Community continuously participates in on-chain voting, in various roles and on a broad spectrum of issues. Across various proposals put forward in the ecosystem, there is a clear recognition that an Ada/Cardano Community exists and that its interests should be furthered. This governance system functions because holders of ada and participants on Cardano (community members) are aware of each other and can participate in the system.

- For an overview of governance roles, see here <https://cardano.org/governance/>
- On-chain governance actions allow community members to put up proposals for voting by other community members, this can be viewed here <https://adastat.net/governances>

2. The Cardano Constitution, which defines the Ada/Cardano Community as:

“Cardano Community. The collective group of all individuals and organizations that, in embracing the shared principles and objectives set forth in the Cardano Blockchain Ecosystem Constitution, own ada, develop, build on, support, maintain, contribute to, and use the Cardano Blockchain.”

(“Defined Terms” of the Cardano Constitution).

A copy of the Cardano Constitution can be found here: <https://cardano.org/constitution/>

This Constitution was voted on by Ada/Cardano Community members, which can be verified by on-chain records both with respect to the first Cardano Constitution of 2025 (<https://adastat.net/governances/8c653ee5c9800e6d31e79b5a7f7d4400c81d44717ad4db633dc18d4c07e4a4fd00>) and the updated version of 2026 (<https://adastat.net/governances/91a79f5c934b7c91e3027736d565080c2b6611fb8484b1156fdf16121fcfb41000>). This demonstrates awareness of the Ada/Cardano Community between different members.

The Constitution was debated and refined at a major event in 2024, reported on here <https://cardanoconvention.com/> and here <https://cardanoconvention.com/delegates>. This was preceded by months of workshops over 52 countries with over 1400 participants.

3. Surveys and Structured Feedback Mechanisms

Documented surveys provide evidence of active feedback loops and awareness across community segments within the required two-year period.

- Developer Ecosystem Survey (2025):
 - Conducted by the Cardano Foundation since 2022, this survey captures developer composition, engagement levels, and tooling preferences, demonstrating awareness of the developer segment as a distinct Ada/Cardano Community group.
 - Surveys can be found here <https://cardanofoundation.org/developer-ecosystem>
- Infrastructure Survey (2024):
 - Conducted by the Cardano Foundation in 2024 to understand key needs of infrastructure operators <https://cardanofoundation.org/blog/infrastructure-survey-2024>
- Intersect Community Surveys (2025):
 - A marketing and ecosystem sentiment survey with 150+ respondents collected feedback from Ada/Cardano Community members on strategic direction, demonstrating structured engagement across diverse participants.
 - Cardano Vision 2030 Survey <https://committees.docs.intersectmbo.org/intersect-product-committee/committee-oucomes/2030-long-term-cardano-vision/insights-collected/surveys/survey-english?q=survey>

These surveys confirm that Ada/Cardano Community members both recognize and actively engage with different segments of the ecosystem.

4. Records of Cross-Group Activities

The Cardano ecosystem operates through continuous interaction between clearly defined participant groups, supported by documented activities.

- Stake Pool Operators (SPOs) and Delegators:
 - With approximately 2,900–3,000 active stake pools globally, delegators must identify and select operators, demonstrating ongoing awareness of the relationship between infrastructure providers and ada users.
- Intersect Committees and Working Groups:
 - Intersect's committee structure brings together technical and non-technical participants (e.g., the Membership and Community Committee and the Open Source Committee) to collaboratively develop governance artifacts, such as the Cardano Constitution, that require direct coordination across community segments. See more information here <https://docs.intersectmbo.org/intersect-knowledge-base/intersect-overview/intersect-committees>
- Global Events (Cardano Summit 2025):
 - The 2025 Summit hosted over 1,400 in-person participants and more than 26,000 virtual attendees, with participation spanning 74 countries. Ada/Cardano Community voting mechanisms (e.g., Summit awards via the Cardano Ballot app) further demonstrate peer recognition and cross-group interaction. See links in answer to Question 142 for more information.

5. Ongoing Digital and Regional Engagement

Ongoing communication channels and regional initiatives further reinforce Ada/Cardano Community awareness.

- Digital Platforms:
 - Active discussions on the Cardano Forum, LinkedIn, Reddit, X, and governance channels demonstrate continuous interaction between developers, stakeholders, and Ada/Cardano Community members on topics such as budgets and protocol development. See links in Question 142 for evidence of these discussions, particularly the Cardano Forum <https://forum.cardano.org/>.
- Regional Ada/Cardano Community Hubs:
 - Local Ada/Cardano Community groups across regions, including Africa, Latin America, and Europe, organize meetups and events that connect geographically dispersed participants to the broader ecosystem. For an events calendar, see here <https://luma.com/CardanoEvents>, this is not exhaustive but shows high community participation.
- The Ada/Cardano Community demonstrates a high degree of mutual awareness through verifiable participation in governance, documented surveys, and sustained cross-group collaboration. These activities, supported by measurable participation metrics and occurring within the required time period, confirm that community members are aware of both the identified community and its internal structures.