

Cardano Foundation - ICANN ada gTLD Application

In response to Question Set 7 - Question #145

Yes, there was an established presence of the community prior to the opening of the application submission period.

The Ada/Cardano Community has a well-established global presence documented well before the application submission period opened. Evidence of clear organization and identification around ada includes international events, formal programs, structured participation in governance, and measurable community engagement metrics dating back to 2015:

- Initial coin offering and beginnings of the Ada/Cardano Community - 2015 - 2017 (<https://cardano.org/genesis/>)
- International Ada Community participation across more than 20 countries by 2019.
- Ongoing annual global events with over 44,000 in-person and virtual attendees from 75+ countries since 2019.
- Structured community programs active since 2018.
- Continuous governance, research, and voting cycles from 50,000+ participants and more than 1 million votes.
- Formal ambassador representation across 26 countries
- Institutional engagement with governments and academic institutions

For more links and evidence of community presence, please see the answers to questions 141-144.

Since 2017, the Cardano Foundation together with other community members has deployed numerous strategies to further establish an Ada/Cardano community presence. A selective list of strategies are described below:

1. Ada/Cardano Research Initiatives (2017-present)

Research and structured building of the Ada/Cardano ecosystem has been documented since 2017, demonstrating functional outcomes over the last nine years. In addition to the research noted below, resources can be located at the following link: <https://cardano.org/research/>

Resources which illustrate the growth of Ada/Cardano research over the years from 2017 to date include the below papers and publications:

- Ada/Cardano Inception
 - Why Are We Building Cardano (2017)
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uyoLEkCWh2_yQupBpcdFvD2rzGEUw4Qm/view?usp=sharing
- Byron Era
 - Ouroboros: A Provably Secure Proof-of-Stake Blockchain Protocol (2019)

- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KE81U5lysirIUFD04dgya_Ddt2CmRXp7/view?usp=drive_link
- Shelley Era
 - Ouroboros Genesis: Composable Proof-of-Stake Blockchains with Dynamic Availability (2019)
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TI3ZhMuXSzISdwLIJEcUzCWFWSN_GSv3/view?usp=drive_link
- Goguen
 - The Extended UTXO Model (2020)
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DLKpddrvjUh1Kp4T49coyjrpxrqdmME2/view?usp=drive_link
- Basho
 - Interhead Hydra: Two Heads are Better than One (2022)
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s5rDX0zNQnU6B9LPfndtrkK1r69n-ksb/view?usp=drive_link
- Voltaire
 - SoK: Blockchain Governance (2023)
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_r5AhVJ8vUNA0c3y70UQVj9VzdrgrR5nd/view?usp=drive_link

2. Public Events to Foster Global Ada/Cardano Community Participation (2019–present)

Many Ada/Cardano events are held globally each year. This includes the 2019 IOHK Summit and the annual Cardano Summit since then, both of which occurred prior to this application and demonstrate a strong, established, community presence.

IOHK Summit 2019 (Miami)

The [2019 IOHK Summit](https://www.iog.io/news/hundreds-attend-the-iohk-summit-2019-in-miami)

<https://www.iog.io/news/hundreds-attend-the-iohk-summit-2019-in-miami> was the first publicly open Cardano global event, reporting the following attendance metrics (Forum post <https://forum.cardano.org/t/recap-iohk-summit-2019-keynote-by-charles-hoskinson/22584>):

- Over 700 attendees participated in person.
- Participants traveled from over 20 countries.
- The event included government officials, legislators, industry professionals, and community contributors.
- The Ada/Cardano Community at that time had grown to approximately 500,000 individuals globally.
- Cardano was listed on over 25 exchanges and ranked in the Top 10 digital assets at the time.

Annual Cardano Summit since 2022

- By 2022, the annual Summit <https://cardanofoundation.org/blog/the-blockchain-community-at-the-cardano-summit->

[2022](#) had expanded into a large-scale hybrid international program.

- Nearly 50 community-led events were held worldwide.
- Community-led events attracted more than 6,000 in-person participants across multiple continents.
- 19 events were fully booked prior to commencement, demonstrating demand.
- The virtual Summit platform received over 44,000 visits from more than 75 countries.
- Approximately 40 hours of content were streamed globally.
- Community voting was used to select Summit Award recipients and speakers.

These metrics demonstrate sustained growth, global geographic distribution, and structured community participation prior to the application period.

The Cardano Summit 2023, 2024, and 2025 showed repeated success and engagement with the Ada/Cardano Community. The 2025 Summit hosted over 1,000 in-person participants and more than 26,000 virtual attendees, with participation spanning 74 countries.

3. Structured Ambassador Program to Establish a Global Ada/Cardano Community Presence (2018-present)

The Cardano Ambassador Program was established in 2018 to promote awareness of the Ada/Cardano ecosystem and community development <https://cardano.org/ambassadors/>

As of January 2026 there were 84 Ambassadors participating in the program, across 37 countries. Ambassadors produce content, hold local events and provide educational material for Ada/Cardano community members across the globe. This is one of many efforts to connect the global Ada/Cardano community, in addition to many events, research initiatives, online and offline presence and collaborations active within the community (as detailed in this question set).

4. Policy Engagement to Create a Responsible International Ada/Cardano Community (2019-present)

Both individually and as a member of international associations, the Cardano Foundation has participated in the following policy consultations and/or made the following contributions which further solidifies the presence of the Ada/Cardano Community prior to this application:

- Response to the consultation on the changes to the Swiss Financial Institutions Act regarding Stablecoins, 2026. Submitted a formal response providing feedback in the course of the public consultation.
- Joint Response to the FCA's Consultation Paper 25/40 - Regulating Cryptoasset Activities, 2026. Co-authored and published a joint response to the UK Financial Conduct Authority's discussion paper.
- GBBC Risk Mitigation Framework on non-financial risks of blockchain infrastructures, 2025. Contributed directly to the drafting and development of the risk assessment framework.

- Joint Response to the FCA's Discussion Paper DP25/1 - Regulating Cryptoasset Activities, 2025. Co-authored and published a joint response to the UK Financial Conduct Authority's discussion paper.
- Response to public consultation on EDPB Guidelines 02/2025 on processing of personal data, 2025. Submitted a formal response providing feedback to the European Data Protection Board's public consultation.
- U.S. SEC Crypto Task Force Questionnaire, 2025. Submitted written answers and policy recommendations in response to the agency's fact-finding questionnaire.
- BIS consultation - third party risk management, 2024. Submitted a formal consultation response to the Bank for International Settlements regarding their guidelines.
- BIS consultation - cryptoasset standard amendments, 2024. Published a formal response addressing the Bank for International Settlements' proposed standard amendments.
- IOSCO's consultation - policy recommendations for crypto and digital asset markets, 2023. Submitted a formal consultation response providing feedback to the International Organization of Securities Commissions.
- HM Treasury consultation - future financial services regulatory regime for cryptoassets, 2023. Published a comprehensive formal response to the UK HM Treasury's regulatory consultation paper.
- Australian Government's Treasury consultation - token mapping, 2023. Submitted a formal response paper contributing to the Australian Government's foundational token mapping exercise.
- FSB's public consultation - international regulation and supervision of crypto-asset activities, 2022. Published a formal consultation response submitting policy recommendations to the Financial Stability Board.

These engagements can be accessed here <https://cardanofoundation.org/legal-policy>

These engagements demonstrate external institutional recognition of the Ada/Cardano Community and its organizational bodies prior to the application period.

Beyond participating in formal consultations, the Cardano Foundation regularly engages in industry roundtables, working groups, stakeholder meetings, conferences, and policy discussions across multiple jurisdictions. By this, the Cardano Foundation is able to share its technical expertise and contribute to informed, constructive discussions on policy questions and regulatory frameworks surrounding public, permissionless infrastructure, further strengthening the international recognition and institutional presence of the Ada/Cardano ecosystem.

All of the above documented metrics, activities and programs demonstrate a sustained, organized, and international Ada/Cardano community presence well in advance of the application submission period.