

Cardano Foundation - ICANN ada gTLD Application

In response to Question Set 7 - Question #147

The pursuits of the Cardano/Ada Community are enduring and sustainable, as demonstrated by a ten-year operational history, recurring global events, continuous governance participation, sustained development activity, and measurable long-term engagement metrics. Indeed, Tenet 9 of the Cardano Constitution says:

“All users of the Cardano Blockchain shall be treated fairly and impartially, taking into account the collective desires of the Ada/Cardano Community, consistent with the long-term sustainability and viability of the Cardano Blockchain.”

Sustainability and viability are themselves key pursuits of the Ada/Cardano Community, in its goal of developing and encouraging adoption of the Cardano blockchain.

This can be evidenced with reference to the below factors:

1. Ten-Year Operational History

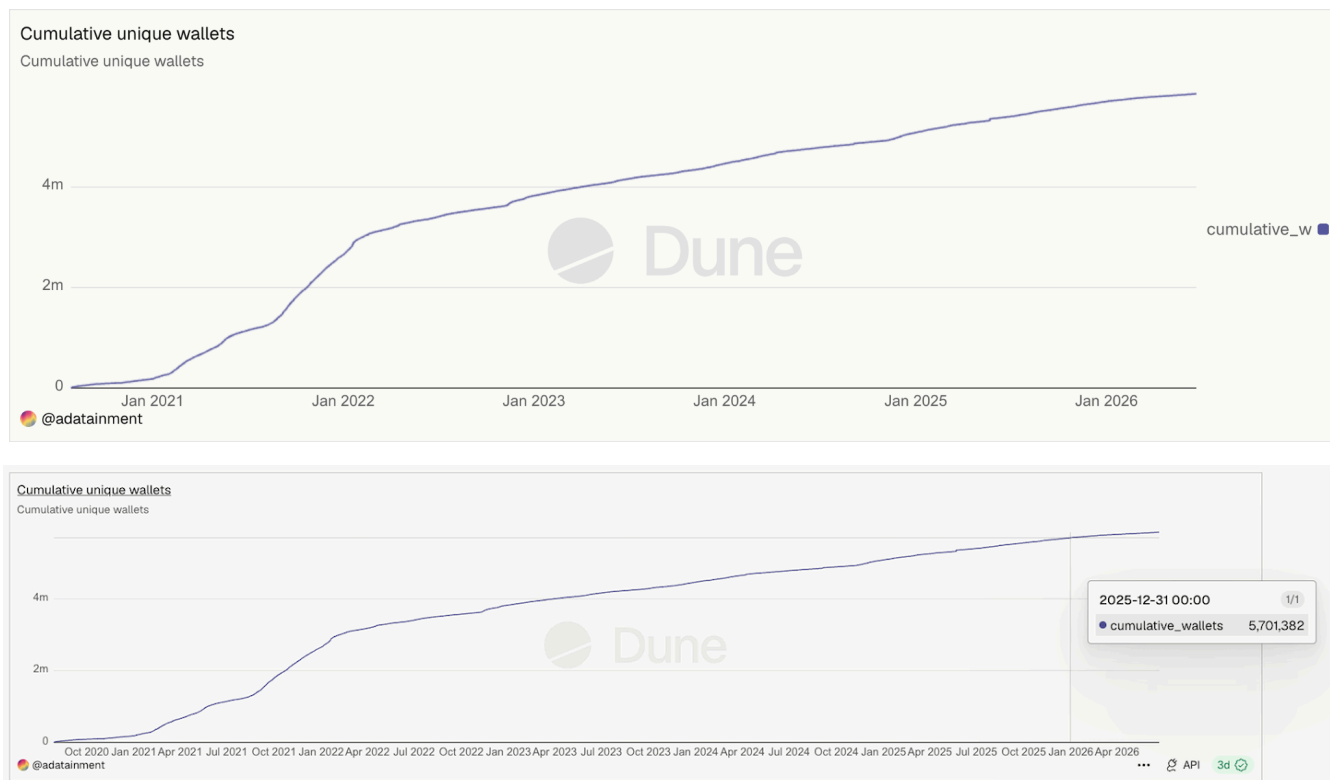
The formation of the Ada/Cardano Community began in 2015, which culminated in the community's first achievement of launching Ada in four stages between 2015-2017. With nearly 10 years of continuous operations, the Ada/Cardano Community has demonstrated structural sustainability, demonstrated by:

- The ecosystem has maintained uninterrupted network operation for 9+ years (reported on here https://www.tradingview.com/news/u_today:e96970b48094b:0-cardano-marks-8-years-of-up-time-second-only-to-bitcoin-what-s-next-for-network/ and here <https://www.ledger.com/academy/topics/blockchain/cardano-vs-solana> .
- The Cardano/Ada Community has expanded to millions of users globally (See answer to Question 139).
- Governance mechanisms have evolved from foundational development to fully implemented multi-stakeholder voting processes.
- There have been continuous upgrades and hard-forks on Cardano as the network develops (see the roadmap here <https://roadmap.cardano.org/en/> and further development plans in the latest development reports here <https://cardano.org>)
- Control of “Cardano” and “ada” trademarks held by the Cardano Foundation (see the attachments to Question 135)

2. Sustained and Growing Community Participation

Participation metrics demonstrate ongoing and recurring engagement:

- The total number of unique addresses in the Cardano ecosystem exceeded 5,700,000 in December 2025, reflecting year-over-year growth of more than 18%.



The above chart is a report generated using Dune analytics Dune Analytics, a blockchain analytics platform <https://dune.com>

- These off-chain participation metrics complement on-chain governance activity through Delegated Representatives (DReps). As of early 2026, over 1,000 DReps were registered on-chain, reinforcing the global and participatory nature of the Ada/Cardano Community.
- Events held by the Cardano Foundation and by Ada/Cardano Community members in 2025 demonstrated the following participation figures and attendee locations:
 - United States: 500+
 - Germany: 1,000+
 - India: 600+
 - Brazil and Argentina: 700+
 - Kenya: 250+ (event held in early 2026)
- Intersect, a member-based coordination body, comprises 5,359 members (as at end 2025) across at least 125 countries and conducts repeated activities.
- The PRAGMA association coordinates open-source development to enable sustained collaboration among developers and organizations, contributing to shared technical resources.

See the supporting documentation to Questions 141-142 for further information on the activities of the referenced organisations.

3. Ongoing Governance Cycles

Cardano Foundation supports recurring governance processes that demonstrate institutional continuity and structured participation within the Cardano/Ada community.

In 2025, the Ada/Cardano Community ratified a formal Constitution through on-chain governance, with participation thresholds exceeding 75% approval, establishing a framework for community decision-making. The Cardano Constitution is published on Cardano and on the Cardano forum operated by the Cardano Foundation.

As of the beginning of 2026 more than 1,000 Delegated Representatives (DReps) were registered to participate in governance processes, with voting activity recorded across multiple formal governance actions.

Subsequent governance actions, including updates and iterations to the Constitution, demonstrate that the framework is actively maintained and refined through continued Ada/Cardano Community participation.

4. Annual Global Summits and Events

The Cardano Foundation and the Cardano/Ada Community convene annually through structured global events that help sustain Ada and advance community objectives:

- The 2019 Summit hosted 700+ in-person participants from 20+ countries.
- Following a 2-year suspension due to COVID, the 2022 Summit included nearly 50 community-led events worldwide.
 - Over 6,000 in-person attendees participated across global locations.
 - The hybrid event recorded 44,000+ virtual visits from 75+ countries.
- 2023 Summit
 - More than 35 sessions with over 70 speakers.
 - 30,000+ virtual participants, over 500 in-person attendees, 25+ industries, 25+ countries
- The 2024 Summit hosted over 1,000 industry leaders, developers, and blockchain enthusiasts from across 87 countries for two days.
- 2025 Summit (Regional)
 - The Cardano Foundation supported regional events in the USA, Brazil, Argentina, India, and Kenya
- 2025 Summit (Berlin)
 - The Cardano Foundation event hosted 1,460+ in-person attendees, 70+ nationalities represented, and 26,000+ online participants.
 - 145 speakers, 60+ masterclasses, 3-day event duration.
 - 70+ media outlets, 1,000+ media pieces, estimated reach: 2+ billion views.
 - 130+ developer sign-ups, 14 hackathon project submissions.

See the links to Question 142 for reporting on these events.

5. Institutional Infrastructure and Financial Sustainability

The Cardano Foundation is a Swiss foundation established with a purpose which includes the

support of long-term development and sustainability of the Cardano/Ada ecosystem. As reflected in the audited financial statements submitted in this application, the Cardano Foundation maintains sufficient financial resources to support long-term operations.