Project
Catalyst

Launch Guide

Fund14

CARDANO

Fund14 Launch Guide

Welcome to Project Catalyst. We're excited that you're exploring the world's largest decentralized innovation platform. This guide will walk you through everything you need to know about Fund14 and how to take part. To begin, let's cover the fundamentals:

What is Project Catalyst?

Introducing Project Catalyst, Cardano's revolutionary innovation engine and one of the world's largest decentralized innovation grants funds. Project Catalyst propels collaborative innovation to new heights and fuels Cardano ecosystem expansion by connecting people with groundbreaking ideas to funding, collaborating with and voted for by the Cardano community, and spearheaded by the Cardano treasury.

Why collaborate to innovate?

Across thirteen funding rounds, the Catalyst team and the Cardano community have focused their efforts on building distributed decision-making systems that enable individuals to have a meaningful voice in shaping innovation. You might be asking yourself, "why invest so much effort? What benefits does this bring to all of us?"

- **Distributed research and development:** By putting voting power in the hands of the Catalyst community, the creation, improvement, and implementation of ideas can happen more efficiently than traditional incubation methods.

- **Decentralized team building:** Great teams make innovation thrive! Many of our most impactful projects have started with individuals collaborating. By providing a platform for like-minded innovators to connect and create together, Catalyst is an environment where groundbreaking opportunities can experiment, demonstrate, and flourish.

- **Group refinement and execution:** When the community gets involved and offers valuable feedback, we notice a huge boost in the quality of proposals and projects. Collective accountability and constructive criticism from our diverse contributors helps fine-tune and enhance the projects Catalyst supports.

So, why do we do it? The answer is simple: by working together, we're building a more inclusive, efficient, and innovative future for all. Your voice matters, and we're here to help you make it heard.

How does Project Catalyst work?

Innovation: Proposals are submitted under one of the fund categories, beginning with brainstorming and evolving through community feedback into fully developed proposals.

Governance: Participants register to vote on the proposals they wish to see funded. A tally occurs once the voting period ends before verifiable results zare shared.

Execution: Funded projects receive grants to reach each milestone. Project teams provide updates when each milestone is hit while the community verifies evidence of milestone achievements to ensure everything goes to plan.

How can I participate?

- **Proposing:** Propose new ideas for a shot at being selected for funding.

- **Reviewing:** Provide opinions and help guide voters through submitted proposals.

- **Voting:** Decide on the future of Cardano by deciding which proposals receive funding.

- **Onboarding & Tracking:** The community helps the selected Projects through the onboarding process and subsequent deliverables review.

Introducing **Fund14**

Fund14 will offer a total funding pool for proposers and ecosystem roles in amount of ₳20,000,000 to boost the Cardano ecosystem.

What's key?

To spark groundbreaking innovation on Cardano, proposals are sorted into two dynamic categories:

Cardano Use Cases: Two tracks for either early stage or late stage demonstrators

Cardano Open: For open source development or ecosystem community builders

Fund14 also introduces an all new user experience with the Catalyst Application for proposal submission and discovery.

Project Participants may submit only six Catalyst proposals across all categories. If more than six are submitted, only the first six published entries will be eligible for funding and the remainder will be archived.

Fund14, introduces Generalised Quadratic Voting (GQV) as a proof of concept to the tallying stage. This preserves the existing vote-casting process and will compare traditional linear voting outcomes with quadratic results. Learn more here.

Community Review module replaces the IdeaScale and Moderation modules, serving as the new platform for proposal reviews and review moderation all in one place.

Leftover funding will only consider projects that have a maximum of one funded entry in the current fund and exclude Cardano Use Cases: Partners & Product.

Proposals must be submitted via Catalyst App by completing the proposal Submission Form and demonstrating the proposed idea's impact, feasibility, and value for money.

For full rundown of the guidelines, please refer to additional resources listed on docs.projectcatalyst.io knowledge base.

Fund14 Categories

In Fund14, applicants can submit their proposals under one of two categories, Cardano Use Cases or Cardano Open.

Both categories have two tracks depending on the type of proposal you wish to submit.

Cardano Use Cases

The total category **budget is ₳12,500,000** - divided into two funding tracks. Proposal submissions should answer one of the following:

Cardano Use Cases

Concepts   up to ₳100k   **₳4,000,000** Budget

Concepts will accept early stage ideas to deliver proof of concept, design research and basic prototyping through to MVP for novel Cardano-based products, services, and business models.

Submissions that are building new features to existing prototypes must include evidence of prototyping in an early stage of development.

Cardano Use Cases

Partners & Products   **₳8,500,000** Budget
₳250k to ₳1M

Cardano Partners & Products accelerates Cardano's mainstream adoption by supporting mature, mainnet-deployed products and strategic enterprise collaborations that deliver real-world utility and high-value transactions.

Unlike Cardano Use Cases: Concepts, which funds novel, early-stage ideas like prototypes or MVPs, this funding category is for established teams or enterprises with proven products or collaborations driving measurable adoption.

Cardano Open

The total category **budget is ₳6,100,000** - divided into two funding tracks. Technical proposals should be submitted to the Cardano Open: Developers category. Non-technical proposals should be submitted to the Cardano Open: Ecosystem category.

Cardano Open

Developers   up to ₳100k   **₳3,100,000** Budget

Open: Developers supports development of open source technology, centered around improving the Cardano developer experience and creating developer-friendly tooling that streamlines an integrated development environment.

Scope is wide open for creating tools like smart contract debuggers, crafting SDKs, supporting new languages, and designing interoperability CLIs or novel combinations of open source software.

Cardano Open

Ecosystem   up to ₳60k   **₳3,000,000** Budget

Open: Ecosystem will fund non-technical initiatives that drive grass root ecosystem growth, education, and community engagement to broaden Cardano's reach and onboard new users.

This category focuses on building the creative capacity to deliver local campaigns and beyond that bring awareness and attention to Cardano from the hearts and minds of the grassroots community collective

📅 Catalyst Horizons Insights

Built something with Catalyst? Now you're on the map!

Scan the QR and take a trip around the Catalyst global innovation network in our new interactive world map.

Or dive deeply into 4 years of funds data in the Catalyst Horizons 2025 report at projectcatalyst.io/horizons2025

₳293,333,802
Allocated

₳224,391,300
Distributed

3,083,778
Total votes cost

9,950
Proposals voted on

2,091 funded Projects
Voted and approved

86%
Project completion rate

~1:5
Ratio of proposals
to funded projects

114
Countries have benefitted
from Catalyst resources

821
Active projects

1,270
Completed projects

Explore Catalyst Worldwide
View our global project map
projectcatalyst.io/global-map
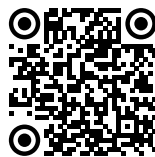
👤 How to get involved

There are several ways to engage with Project Catalyst, and we encourage as many ADA holders as possible to take part. To join the Catalyst community, simply create an account on the Catalyst App.

Once you become a part of the Catalyst community, you can participate in discussions, share opinions, and cast your vote.

📅 Key Dates

The most up to date timeline can be found on our official documentation portal here.

Where to find Project Catalyst?

To submit a Proposal:
app.projectcatalyst.io

For all things Catalyst:
projectcatalyst.io

For Announcements only:
t.me/cardanocatalyst

Please subscribe to the Catalyst mailing list:
bit.ly/ProjCatNews

Follow us on twitter:
@Catalyst_onX

Connect with us on LinkedIn:
catalystvoting

Join one of the world's largest decentralized innovation funds and become a part of the Project Catalyst Community.