

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Call for Research Teams: Building the Economics of Open Transaction Networks

Eligibility and Applicants

1. Who is eligible to apply?

Applications may be submitted by research teams affiliated with universities, think tanks, non-profit organisations, and other research-oriented institutions or consortia based in Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC), as currently classified by the [World Bank](#). Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to undertake empirical economic research. To ensure contextual knowledge and stakeholder engagement, applicants must have prior research experience in the country where the proposed OTN implementation is located.

The organisations should be eligible to receive international grant funding.

2. Can an applicant submit more than one proposal?

Applicants should submit only one proposal.

3. Can researchers from different countries collaborate?

Yes, consortia applications are accepted; however, the application must identify the lead organisation responsible for receiving and managing the grant.

4. Can researchers from high-income countries be part of the research team?

Yes. Researchers from high-income countries may be included in the research team, provided that the majority of team members are affiliated with the lead organisation, which must be based in an eligible LMIC.

Research Scope

5. What types of Open Transaction Networks (OTN) are allowed to be part of the study?

Any OTN that meets the requirements outlined in the Call can be studied. If you have doubts about the OTN eligibility, please reach out to us at OTN@gdn.int. We aim to respond within 2–3 business days.

6. Can we propose a qualitative study?

No, the scope of the research is restricted to empirical economics studies employing quantitative or mixed-methods research design.

7. Can we include research questions that fall under both research themes?

We encourage research teams to focus on a single research theme. If your proposed research fits both themes, please contact us at OTN@gdn.int before submitting your application.

8. Can we use existing data, or is new data collection required?

Both are acceptable, provided the proposed research addresses the objectives of the Call and uses an appropriate empirical research design.

9. What level of methodological detail is expected in the proposal?

Applicants should provide sufficient detail to demonstrate the feasibility, rigour, and appropriateness of the proposed research design within the project timeline.

Funding and Budget

10. How much funding is available?

Successful applicants will receive a grant of USD 50,000 to undertake the proposed research.

11. What expenses can the grant cover?

The grant may be used to cover all costs necessary for the successful completion of the research project, including:

- Personnel costs
- Research assistance
- Data collection
- Statistical Software License
- Travel required for research
- Dissemination activities
- Other eligible direct and indirect costs, including applicable taxes

13. Is a budget required?

Yes. Applicants must submit a detailed budget showing how the grant funds will be allocated across project activities.

Selection Process

17. How will proposals be evaluated?

Applications will be assessed against the evaluation criteria described in the Call, including relevance, methodological rigour, feasibility, and the research team's capacity.

18. When will applicants be notified of the results?

Applicants will be notified according to the timeline published in the Call.

19. How many grants will be awarded?

Six teams will be awarded the grant to conduct research on six different OTNs.

Submission Process

20. Can I revise my application after submission?

Applications cannot be revised after the submission deadline.

21. What happens if I miss the submission deadline?

Late applications will not be considered.

22. In what language should proposals be submitted?

All applications must be submitted in English.

23. What file formats are accepted?

Please submit PDFs of all required documents, including budget.

Project Timeline and Deliverables

14. What is the expected duration of the project?

The expected project duration is from October 2026 to April 2028. Research activities, including data collection, analysis, and preparation of the final research outputs, should be completed by February 2028.

March and April 2028 will be dedicated to dissemination activities.

15. What are the reporting requirements?

Successful grantees will be required to submit technical and financial reports according to the grant agreement.

16. What are the deliverables of the project?

The Call outlines the specific deliverables for the research teams.

Questions and Contact

14. Where can questions be directed?

Questions regarding the Call for Proposals should be sent to the contact email provided in the call document. Questions of general interest may be addressed through updates to this FAQ.

15. Can we discuss our research with the Programme team before submitting our proposal?

To ensure fairness for all applicants, we ask that you contact us by email first. If we find that a discussion would be helpful, we would be happy to arrange a meeting.