



LEDGER

## The Venture Builder For Human-Centric Solutions

LEDGER  
Grant Agreement N°: 825268  
Start Date:01/11/2018  
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# Frequently Asked Questions

LEDGER <sup>2nd</sup> Open Call (November 2019)

*Applications' submission starts on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019, at 00:00 (CET).*

*Submission deadline on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 18:00 (CET)*

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Thank you so much for your interest in LEDGER's 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Call for the The Venture Builder for Human Centric Solutions and welcome to our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). We hope these questions can help you resolve your doubts about the application and submission process of LEDGER's Open Call.

This FAQ will be updated based on the questions we receive but, if you cannot find the answer you need here, please submit your question(s) through our [Q&A space](#) on LEDGER's Online Community or in last case to our Helpdesk ([social@ledgerproject.eu](mailto:social@ledgerproject.eu)).

This document refers to the second Open Call under LEDGER project, which launches on Friday 1st November 2019, at 00:00 (CET) and has a submission deadline on Friday 31st January 2020 at 18:00 (CET).

Please refer to [LEDGER website](#) for more information about the project and to the [Guide for Applicants](#) (GfA) for further information about the call.

You can apply on the Open Call microsite <https://ledger-2nd-open-call.fundingbox.com/>

# 1. General questions related to LEDGER

## 1.1 What is LEDGER?

LEDGER is a project funded by the European Commission that aims at achieving new models that preserve citizens' control over the management of their data, where data is a common good owned by citizens and wealth created by data-driven platforms is equally distributed.

LEDGER will support human centric innovators through the MVP Builder Programme which is focused on Free/Libre and Open Source Software (FLOSS) solutions and will provide to new teams a good environment to work their ideas from the first implementation steps (at TRL3/5) to minimum viable products (TRL7).

The technologies and ideas that LEDGER refers to are connected all with data: privacy-by-design<sup>1</sup> decentralized data governance<sup>2</sup>, traceability and trust, trusted computation and algorithmic governance<sup>3</sup>.

## 1.2. How it will work?

LEDGER will launch 2 Open Calls, with a total budget of € 5.6 million for human centric innovators to develop minimum viable products (MVP)<sup>4</sup> and services that make good use of decentralised technologies and algorithms (such as blockchains, distributed ledger technology, peer-to-peer technology, artificial intelligence, internet of things, immersive media and new connective infrastructure as 5G) to preserve citizens' control over the management of their data in 5 different specific verticals (#HEALTH, #ECONOMY, #MOBILITY, #PUBLIC SERVICES AND #ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY) and an additional generic one.

MVP Builder Programme will provide you with equity-free funding (up to € 200,000 for the 8 best-in-class teams) and will pass on partners' good experience in technical and non-technical support, methodologies, services, and access to a selected team of mentors and tutors.

## 1.3 What is the “Health” vertical about?

Do you have a great idea on how to leverage patient-generated health data in a decentralised way respecting their privacy? Or on how to design a data driven service that is leading to a measurable improvement of life conditions of patients? Are you studying algorithms promoting decentralised data governance practices or tools to access personal health data in a secure and disintermediated way? Or perhaps you have the key that will allow the healthcare sector work

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<sup>1</sup> Is a design where privacy is not a feature but a condition intrinsic to the technology used (1). The concept (and a technology developed to enforce it) is being envisioned and enforced according to the GDPR regulation and to FLOSS (Free and Open Source Solutions) development and [licencing](#) in the EU project [DECODE](#).

<sup>2</sup> Decentralization is the process by which the activities of an organization, particularly those regarding planning and decision-making, are distributed or delegated away from a central, authoritative location or group.

<sup>3</sup> What's the role of sovereignty considering the ethic of algorithms? Sovereignty relates to the way a community can influence an algorithm, appropriate it, distribute it, share it and create new ones. You can point to this [observatory](#) for some recent research on this topic.

<sup>4</sup> MVP is a development technique in which a new product is developed enough to be used by early customers, who provide feedback for future product development.

in a more connected way using patient data to make care more accessible and efficient while maintaining the privacy of patient data?

If your answer is yes, this is the vertical for you, may it be a micro service for B2B data processing or a more complex new service that needs to take in account trust and traceability or the ethical use of personal data in other industries.

Examples for “**Health**” vertical may include (but are not limited to):

- free, open source and hardware solutions to avoid technical depth and lock-down from a few multinational corporate players,
- bio-lab initiatives focusing on wealth improvement, bridging the “maker culture” in this vertical,
- secure, aware, GDPR compliant data access, sharing and aggregation,
- enhanced consent mechanisms,
- privacy preserving machine learning and analytics,
- privacy-preserving tools,
- medical applications of the Internet of Things, or
- active and assisted living.
- automatization of insurance approvals
- insurance fraud detection and prevention

## 1.4 What is the “Economy” vertical about?

We think that solutions for new innovative forms of economic interaction between peers are at hand. Crowdfunding, P2P lending and participatory budgeting already appeared, many more are possible and will be facilitated by the evolution of technology. In particular, Cryptographic applications, which favour disintermediation and standardisation and allow computations, are reproducible and certain. These building blocks are waiting to be used.

Examples for “**Economy**” vertical may include (but are not limited to):

- facilitate the operation of platform cooperatives for accounting and regulatory compliance of their financial operations,
- overcome situations of scarce liquidity by means of complementary currencies and credit circuits,
- provide novel, qualitative ways of risk mitigation that address the growing scenario of social entrepreneurship,
- design decentralised, free and open source software architectures and components to ease access to circuits such as SWIFT, PSD2 and SEPA,
- lower transaction costs to facilitate micro-financing,
- facilitate secure information and value exchange,
- crowd-sourced monitoring of financial speculation,
- easing the activity of customs, VAT reporting to simplify fiscal policy enforcement, or
- structural prevention of financial crime, fraud, KYC-AML, and corruption.

## 1.5 What is the “Mobility” vertical about?

In the word of data there is much solid stuff that still needs to go from A to B. LEDGER looks for your best ideas to design, implement and deploy solutions to land stuff from one hand to another; mobility ecosystem in domains including: urban planning and smart cities, automotive, public and private transport and mixed mobility. From Logistics through distribution to car sharing to the moon, this is the vertical to climb.

Examples for “**Mobility**” vertical may include (but are not limited to):



- implementing decentralised data governance for vehicles registration, tagging and tracking also without the use of traditional plates (especially in cross-border scenarios),
- drivers and riders data protection compliance,
- new models for distributed ownership of and insurance on vehicles,
- decentralised mobility network monitoring and maintenance,
- process and service management,
- decentralised analytics storage solutions, or
- device management and security.

## 1.6 What is the “Public Services” vertical about?

It's about solutions to make life easier for citizens, public officers and cities. By streamlining bureaucratic processes or allowing self-organisation. These solutions should imply the creation of interoperable public services that put citizens, at large, back in control of their data (and facilitate the process of safely collecting that data by the public institutions).

Think in the direction of citizens' participation in governance, first of all on the local level, but there are no limits. Participation in decision making can help citizens as beneficiaries and also enable public institutions to know what their clients need. Higher education solutions are also welcome in this vertical.

Administration doesn't have to be painful. Think of the most frustrating paperwork thing, find a solution and apply it for the LEDGER project.

Examples for “**Public Services**” vertical may include (but are not limited to):

- simulation environments such as virtual-twin cities,
- remote participation to public deliberations,
- new models for public private partnerships in which solutions are implemented in open and cooperative structures,
- the promotion of self-sufficiency in food provision,
- low carbon footprint in public transportation,
- decentralised, transparent accountability and auditing, or
- decentralised and participatory budgeting,
- verifiable student records and credentials,
- reinforced Copyright and Intellectual Property protection.

## 1.7 What is the “Energy and Sustainability” about?

Decentralised production, fair use, accumulation and distribution of energy from renewable sources is one of the most promising and delicate fields of action in this moment.

Carbon footprint reduction, ocean pollution control, alternative food production, tagging and food chain management systems, the creation and distribution of new and less-polluting materials or an efficient and trustworthy re-use and recycling of existing materials are just one of the areas that are in need of intervening in a positive direction..

Sustainable, decentralised data economies for urban ecologies, business modelling food, energy, water, basic needs of ecosystem appeasement can also be placed in this vertical.

Examples for “**Energy and Sustainability**” vertical may include (but are not limited to):

- the production of open source software and hardware solutions to create MVPs for decentralised renewable energy production,
- accumulation and exchange systems in segments such as geothermal, wave, wind, solar photovoltaic and biomass processing systems,
- passive and active housing,
- management systems for less pollutant food production,
- implementation of distributed micro-grid ownership, operation and dividend distribution models,
- creation and distribution models of new materials,
- decentralized models for re-use and recycling,
- decentralised billing and renewable energy production and accounting systems in privacy-by-design and secure environments,
- smart metering,
- multi-purpose batteries for IoT, or
- decentralised carbon credits management platforms.

## 1.8 Where can I find detailed information about verticals and their challenges?

Detailed information on the verticals and the challenges that they tackle, the scope of the proposals and their expected impact are included in the Strategic Research and Innovation Work Programme (SRI Work Programme), which is available at <https://ledger-2nd-open-call.fundingbox.com/pages/ledger-workprogramme>

## 1.9 Can I apply if I don't fit in any of the defined verticals?

Yes, you are encouraged to think outside of the box. If your project does not fit in any of the 5 pre-defined verticals there is an additional **generic vertical for innovative solutions** (Open Innovation) under which you can file your request. Therefore if you have a good idea corresponding with the LEDGER's overall agenda, feel free to apply.

## 1.10 What is the MVP Builder Programme?

The MVP Builder Programme, core of LEDGER, will help selected teams to develop Minimum Viable Products or services and consists of 2 phases and 5 stages. The first phase, called Research and Development, will consist of the following stages:

- MBP Stage 1 - Welcome. Selected teams will meet during an intensive Welcome Event, ending with a matching of the team with a technical mentor and a business mentor.
- MBP Stage 2 - Inception. The teams will work intensively over a 4 weeks period (month 1) to define the road to success with the support of industry, end users, and mentors.
- MBP Stage 3 - Research & MVP Development. During this stage (months 2 to 6), the bridging process between Research and Innovation will take place; each team will focus on Prototyping and MVP Agile development.
- MBP Stage 4 - MVP Test. Next 3 months, the focus will be on Market adoption. Teams will focus on testing the MVPs with first early adopters and defining Business models.

The second phase, called Business Ignition, includes one last stage:

- MBP Stage 5 - Scalability. The 8 best-in-class teams that will access this stage will focus on growth, covering sales, scalability, pivoting and fundraising.

## 1.11 What will the teams get from the MVP Builder Programme?

LEDGER will provide every team with both technical and market experts as a Researcher in Residence (RiR) mentor, which will guide teams in order to develop their project and prepare it for the future clients. Not only that, every team will also be able to use LEDGER partner's software, methodologies and services, as well as participate in various organized events and bootcamps where they will discuss and exchange ideas with other participants, experts and potential investors. Also, teams will also have the opportunity to ask listed external experts any specific question or for advice.

In particular, during the first 9-months phase, the programme will provide to the 16 selected teams technical support, initial business support, technology (access to state-of-art privacy-by-design open source software and hardware) together with funding (up to € 150,000).

Of those, 8 best-in-class teams will progress to the second phase, a 3-months business ignition stage and get additional € 50,000 funding. Business Mentoring support in this stage will focus on stages prior to market readiness, for example: building proposition and techniques to attract early adopters (i.e. for mock-up or testing), brokerage with early adopters and early investors' feedback etc.

## 2. Questions related to LEDGER Open Call

### 2.1 Who can apply to the Open Call?

Teams legally established/resident in eligible countries, with a multidisciplinary configuration including at least 3 members/profiles: academic researcher, software developer and business developer or entrepreneur.

Teams might be composed of only legal persons (up to 2 of them), such as e.g. start-ups, SME, or research organizations, or only natural persons, or both natural and legal persons but, in any case, teams must involve at least three different people/profiles: an academic researcher, a software developer and a business development or entrepreneur.

Gender, ethnic and cultural diversity will be deemed as an indicator of quality.

Please, note that, if there is not a constituted legal entity, teams of natural persons will be required a written commitment to set up a legally registered SME if reaching “Scalability” stage (Stage 5 of the programme).

Eligible countries are EU Member States and Associated Countries to H2020. You can see the complete list in the [Guide for Applicants](#), section 3.2.

### 2.2 Which requirements must proposals fulfil?

There are a few important requirements you must take into account:

- Proposals should address specific social or industrial challenges related with one or more of the application domains or challenges, defined within the [Strategic Research and Innovation Work Programme](#),
- Proposals should explicitly address a research component related with the topic of Privacy-by-design Decentralized Data Governance and resulting products and services should be able to provide a significant improvement in preserving citizens’ data sovereignty, and should be compliant with Free and Open Source Licences (i.e. Open Hardware, Free and Open Source Software and/or Creative Commons).
- Proposals must be submitted before the deadline (31/01/2020 at 18:00 CET) through the Open Call submission tool at <https://ledger-2nd-open-call.fundingbox.com/> .
- Proposals have to be submitted in English.
- Applicant shall not have any conflict of interest.

For more information on eligibility criteria, you can visit section 3 of the [Guide for Applicants](#).

### 2.3 If we have a partnership with a large company for product development, does this make us ineligible?

A product development partnership, focused on technical or technology collaboration, is not a limitation for application per se.

Other kind of partnership, e.g. business partnership or more specifically crossed share capital participations, with a large company should not breach EC RECOMMENDATION of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (notified under document number C(2003) 1422) (2003/361/EC)<sup>5</sup>.

If the large company owns more than 25% of the SME's shareholders capital, this would most probably mean that the small daughter company could NOT be considered an SME.

## 2.4 What type of projects is LEDGER looking for?

To be eligible, projects applying to LEDGER must be based on research components that are relevant to preserving citizens' control over their data management and should consist in the development, test and validation of technical and economic viability of a Minimum Viable Product (this is a representative model or prototype system) to be applied in one or more operational environment.

The results of these bottom-up projects should be compliant with Free and Open Source Licences (i.e. Open Hardware, Free and Open Source Software). LEDGER will only support bottom-up projects that will commit to generating Open Knowledge as result of their projects in the shape of "free software", "free hardware" and "Open Access" accordingly with the nature of the result, being software, hardware or other intangible piece of knowledge (i.e. research paper).

For more information on eligibility criteria, you can visit section 3 of the [Guide for Applicants](#).

## 2.5 Are there any particular features that will be regarded especially?

LEDGER partners will aim to select the most ambitious projects that show the highest potential. For this purpose, this Open Call will also reward especially those teams that present high impact solutions satisfying values such as privacy-by-design; the capacity to influence the norms and standards regulating technological, algorithmic and data sovereignty; business models that provide revenue for all participants, for instance in the form of decentralised dividend allocations and forms of business structures like platform cooperatives that leverage steward-ownership models for the Internet Commons.

The aspect of shared gains for the entire ecosystem impacted by the projects will also be regarded as a highly positive aspect for proposed projects: the cooperative model of platform should be taken as a driving example for the conceptualisation and realisation of projects that can leverage sustainability seen as the possibility to reach a higher plateau in their own environment, rather than a distinguished and competitive excellence.

These last aspects are recommended, they are not mandatory (what is mandatory is fulfilling all the eligibility criteria in section 3 of [Guide for Applicants](#)). The more closely the projects match these criteria, the more likely it is that they will be selected.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en)

## 2.6 How do you expect our idea to be presented in the application process?

Proposals have to be submitted through the LEDGER's Open Call microsite at: <https://ledger-2nd-open-call.fundingbox.com/> Applications submitted by any other means will not be considered for funding. Inside the online application form there are specific fields to provide descriptions.

The proposals – submitted through the online platform – will include the following sections:

1. Contact Information
2. Team Composition
3. Project description
4. (Scored) EXCELLENCE
5. (Scored) IMPACT
6. (Scored) IMPLEMENTATION
7. TRANSVERSAL CRITERIA (used in case of a tie)
8. Statistical section (optional)
9. Informed consent form
10. Declaration of honour – confirmation of the exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest to be accepted by the Applicants.
11. Processing of personal data – legal requirements related to the processing of the personal data of the Applicants (in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, EU 2016/679)

Additional material, which hasn't been included and specifically requested in the online application form, will not be considered for the evaluation of the proposals. Data not included in the proposal will not be taken into account.

All applicants are strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit the proposal. Failure of the proposal to arrive in time for any reason, including extenuating circumstances, will result in rejection of the proposal. The applicants are solely responsible for verification of the completeness of the form. Data not included in the form will not be taken into account during assessment regardless of the reason.

## 2.7 Can I apply if I don't have a company?

Yes, you can apply if you have a great idea on LEDGER's domain and a great team. Applicants do not need a company or to form any other legal entity in order to apply for the calls of LEDGER project.

However, if you succeed to reach the phase two in the MVP Builder Programme ("Scalability" stage, 9 months after the beginning of the competition process, so you have time) teams of natural persons will be required to set up a legally registered SME in an eligible country.

## 2.8 Can one team submit 2 project ideas?

You can start the application process for as many projects as you wish but in order to get elected for the competition you will have to choose only one. This is because only one project with similar team members or from a similar organisation can be selected for the MVP Builder Programme, what implies that in this situation only the project ranked higher will be awarded.

## 2.9 Can we apply to LEDGER if we are already in an Acceleration Programme?

It is allowed to be in another Acceleration Programme, as long as the programme doesn't overlap (duration) or incur in double funding. If you are selected, you will have to sign a Declaration confirming that you will not take part in another Acceleration Programme in case you become beneficiary of LEDGER MVP Builder Programme.

Please note that in section 4, of [Guide for Applicants](#) says that: "Beneficiaries will not take part in another Acceleration Programme while participating in the LEDGER MVP Builder Programme".

## 2.10 How can I apply for Ledger Open Call?

You can apply for the call through <https://ledger-2nd-open-call.fundingbox.com/>

## 2.11 How long does it take to fill in the application?

In order to successfully fill in the application form you will probably need 1 or 2 days of writing, but we imagine that your team is composed of members specialized in their area of expertise, you can divide and conquer. You'll be able to add contributors to your application so that each team member can tackle their application area to be done quicker.

Take into account that specific character limits have been established in each section of the online application form, so we encourage you to keep your proposal focused on the requested information keeping in mind the challenges and topics covered by this 1st call.

We also recommend you to start the submission process quite before the deadline in order to avoid last minute circumstances.

## 2.12 What type of support is available for preparing the proposal?

The [Guide for Applicants](#) is the main reference document. It provides detailed information about the requirements of the evaluation and selection process, and the MVP Builder Programme offered by LEDGER.

We will be holding several webinars where you can pose questions and get to know the details and tips for increasing your chances of success.

The key space is the LEDGER's Online Community. There will be all updated, information asked by previous candidates and a [Q&A space](#) available for such purpose. As last option you can write us at ([social@ledgerproject.eu](mailto:social@ledgerproject.eu)) to clear up any doubts you have if you are not able to find an answer in the community.,

## 2.13 When is the deadline for my application submission?

The deadline for the first call is **31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 18:00 (CET)**. No applications will be accepted after this deadline.

## 3. Questions related to LEDGER evaluation process

### 3.1 What happens after the proposals are submitted?

Right after the submission deadline (on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 18:00 CET), the evaluation process begins. A pre-scoring criteria is applied in first term. You can find more information about the criteria we will be looking for in the [Guide for Applicants](#). At least 60 proposals will pass to the second stage where external experts validated by the LEDGER consortium will evaluate proposals submitted through the [online system](#) and score them adequately to the quality of the content presented. In a final stage 32 projects will be invited to the Jury Day where they will need to assist physically to pitch their projects. The goal of the process is to select 16 teams with the highest scores that will be invited to the first phase of LEDGER's MVP Builder Programme.

### 3.2 How are the proposals evaluated? Which are the criteria for selecting them?

The LEDGER's selection process has been designed to be fair, fun and interesting for you. The selection process will be as follows, from the moment of application reception<sup>6</sup>:

#### *Phase 1. General Eligibility Check and Pre-scoring*

Submitted applications will be checked for compliance against eligibility criteria<sup>7</sup> and will then be automatically scored by the FundingBox Platform according to the following criteria:

- Team skills and composition and members' dedication to the project,
- Scalability. Growth potential and knowledge of potential market,
- % of female members in the team
- TRL (Technology Readiness Level),
- Research component of the project,
- The way the project is dealing with Decentralized Data Governance and data sovereignty and
- The way the project is planning to use Free and Open Source Licences (open software, open hardware, and/or creative commons).

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<sup>6</sup> Take into account that, on receipt of each application, the system will send an acknowledgment of receipt to the applicant. Late submissions won't be accepted.

<sup>7</sup> Eligibility criteria are listed in Section 3 of the [Guide for Applicants](#)

**Phase 2. External Evaluation:**

60 best ranked applications will be evaluated by 2 (two) independent and confidential experts with wide expertise in Privacy-by-design Decentralized Data Governance and given industries. The proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Excellence.
- Impact.
- Implementation.

**Phase 3. Consensus Meeting:**

The “Evaluation Committee” will select, by consensus and based on the ranking obtained as a result of the Experts Evaluation, the best applications that will be invited to the Jury Day.

**Phase 4: Jury Day:**

All teams invited will be requested to send a video pitch in advance and, during the Jury Day, at least two representatives of each team should explain their proposal in front of the “Selection Committee” during a 5 to 10 minutes session.

For more information about the evaluation process, check the [Guide for Applicants](#).

## 4. Questions related to LEDGER funding

### 4.1 Do selected teams receive any money in advance?

No, there is no advanced payment. LEDGER funding scheme is based on a series of payments against proofing the achieved milestones. This means that payments will only be made upon receiving and validating the previously agreed milestones of the team.

### 4.2 When do the selected teams receive the funding?

Each selected team to take part in the programme will sign the “LEDGER Sub-Grant Agreement” with the “LEDGER consortium”. Detailed payment schedule and payment conditions will be settled in the Sub grant Agreement.

However, as an indicative reference, the suggested calendar of the payments is:

During the 1st phase (months 1-9 of the Programme):

- € 25,000 after successful participation in the Welcome Event (month 0 –)
- € 25,000 after completing the Work Plan definition of MVP (month 1 –)
- € 25,000 after completing the MVP Mock-up (month 3 –)
- € 25,000 after completing the MVP (month 6 –)
- € 25,000 after completing the Market Proof (during MVP test, month 9 - ).

One last payment of € 25,000 will be done to all 16 participant teams in this phase once MVP Builder Programme is fully completed in month 12.

During the 2nd phase, (months 10-12 of the Programme), for the 8 best-in-class performers:

- € 50,000 after successful delivery of the Business Plan (month 12 –).

To all payments, a 15% retention of the total amount will be applied. This retention will be paid to the projects once LEDGER project ends and has received from the European Commission the final payment. This should happen 6 months after the project ends. The expected end of the project is programmed for June 2021.

Take into account that the funds awarded under the Sub-Grant Agreement are provided directly from the funds of the European Project LEDGER, and are therefore funds owned by the European Commission. The “LEDGER Sub-Grant Agreement” will include the set of obligations that the Beneficiaries of FSTP have towards the European Commission.

### 4.3 What kind of benefits will LEDGER offer to selected teams?

Selected teams will be invited to join LEDGER’s MVP Builder Programme, which will provide:

- technical support (Researcher-in-Residence type of services) during 9 months,
- business support,
- technology (access to state-of-art privacy-by-design open software and open hardware) and

- funding (up to € 150,000 for the 16 teams taking part in phase 1 and additional €50,000 for 8 best-in-class teams progressing to scalability stage), part of which can be booked as Technical & Facilities or Business Vouchers (up to a 5%).

## 4.4 How will LEDGER monitor the progress of the teams?

There will be a “Review milestone” every 3 months and the financial support will be provided after the achievement of the KPIs/Deliverables established at some of these milestones.

The “Review Milestones” will be applied in 2 steps:

- In a first step of the review process, the Technical/Business performance will be evaluated based on the KPIs and Deliverables established at the beginning of each Stage by the “Mentoring Committee”. Bottom-up projects not reaching the minimum KPIs or whose Deliverables are not validated by the “Mentoring Committee” yet, because they are not mature enough, will not be candidates to upgrade to the next stage.
- In the second step, the “Selection Committee”, will ratify the final decision, based on the info provided by the “Mentoring Committee”. The teams will receive a detailed feedback and advice from LEDGER Mentors for further development of their activities.

## 5. Questions related to participation in LEDGER MBP

### 5.1 Are all activities included in the MVP Builder Programme compulsory?

Yes, all activities included in the MVP Builder Programme are compulsory.

### 5.2 Are all projects required to go through the training process?

Yes, your project is UNIQUE and so are your training needs. The LEDGER team will help you identify your needs and those of your team, providing the necessary tools and training to ensure the experience is of maximum benefit for your project.

### 5.3 Is it mandatory to move our business for the MVP Builder Programme?

No, it isn't. Every beneficiary can operate in their home country. The project monitoring, both financial and technical, is done remotely. However, as a participant in MVP Builder Programme, you will have to take part in different events which will require travelling in order to attend:

- Welcome Event, at the beginning of the MVP Builder Programme, to allocate the mentors to the teams, to introduce themselves and to properly explain the resources available and the procedure to follow within the programme.
- Training Master Class weekend, at the beginning of the Research & MVP Development Stage. It's 2 days of live classes by a variety of high-level researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals with deep experience in DLT technologies, ELSE and Social Innovation.
- Co-working Bootcamps, during stages 3 and 4 of the programme, to share tacit knowledge among teams and mentors and across teams. Moreover, these Bootcamps will provide also with a proper environment for networking and cross-fertilizations between teams.
- a Demo Day will be organised at the end of 5th stage to build successful links among innovators and private investors.

### 5.4 Does LEDGER offer technical facilities or any other services?

If you identify this particular need, "Researcher-in-Residence" (RiR) assigned to your team will assess it and, if needed, will help you ask for a Technical & Facilities Voucher (valued up to € 7,200), available during stage 4 for services such as technological support in DLT, HPC or Data storage, access to infrastructure for research and innovation, support on development of pilot and demonstration of prototypes or access to IPR or data.

However, take into account that if your team make use of such voucher mechanism, those amounts will be deducted of last payments in corresponding stages.

## 6. Short Questions emerging from the 1<sup>st</sup> Open Call

### 6.1 Technical Questions

**Q: Is it mandatory to use the tools developed by Dyne.org? Does it add value to the application?**

A: No, it is not mandatory

**Q: Is the use of DECODE/Devuan tech mandatory??**

A: No

**Q: Is Devuan the only DLT you're able to coach the participants**

A: No. Devuan is a base OS. we do have experience of operating with many DLTs and will coach teams to choose what suits best

**Q: Is it mandatory to use the social wallet?**

A: No

**Q: Is only Blockchain based technology funded? Our Project builds on an existing, highly distributed, federated server system. Is that In-Scope?**

A: Yes! Still in scope!

**Q: Are projects using p2p networks based on DHT technology also suitable? Or should it be a DLT/Blockchain?**

A: Absolutely suited! Great tech, but don't forget to focus on the human-centric qualities of the idea.

**Q: Can we develop our protocol on EOS Blockchain?**

A: Yes

**Q: Are the projects increasing the privacy of the users but completely unrelated to blockchain accepted?**

A: Yes

**Q: I am not an expert in the field, but why is Free Software is not considered?**

A: Free and Open Source software is definitely considered, GPL licensing is even a plus in our eyes.

**Q: Would it be even more valuable to develop a new open source license for data? There mightn't be a good license on data sharing currently partially because data is economically handled as property.**

A: According to legal researchers we work with in DECODE, data cannot be covered by a license, but that's debatable on terminology and context. In general, data is either private or public and we would like to introduce a "common" category for data that is aggregated and anonymised and useful to process.

**Q: I was asking if you as an organization will allow projects touching Bitcoin in any way? In more concrete would these projects be ostracized?**

A: No ostracization, we at dyne.org and at LEDGER believe bitcoin can be put to good use and we welcome the bitcoin community to participate.

### 6.2 Questions on Partnering

**Q: Would you encourage collaboration between applicants? Would merging similar teams be possible?**

A: Not in the application phase but, for those selected, we will do it in the bootcamps.

**Q: Where can I find a good business developer? Are there some groups for the LEDGER project for team building?**

A: You can ask around in the Ledger community. You can find the link in our website [ledgerproject.eu](https://ledgerproject.eu)

**Q: Do we receive support to get in contact with potential, relevant partners?**

A: Not in the application phase but we will provide support for those completing the whole MVP Builder Programme.

## 6.3 Questions on a Business Role

**Q: How do you define an entrepreneur?**

A: An individual with business experience.

**Q: Business profile inside a startup NGO (legally constituted) is also fine?**

A: Yes!

**Q: Can a team member have a Master's degree, an MBA in business administration? And can the same person be the business expert?**

A: They cannot be the same person. An MBA master can be a researcher if he/she has a track record on research methodologies and/or publications.

**Q: Is freelance comparable to "Business experience"? In the call we have to prove success business?**

A: Yes, it is comparable if business experience is demonstrated. No need to prove success, only experience.

## 6.4 Questions on the Academic Research Role

**Q: How do you define an academic researcher?**

A: "As a general rule, a researcher is defined as a person active in research, including at a training level, of at least post-graduate or equivalent level."

**Q: Does it have to be someone that is working at a University?**

A: No, definitely not. Just a track record of being capable of proving research with methodologies. The definition we use, "researcher" is broad on purpose.

**Q: Does Researcher include also MSc student?**

A: It include a MA graduated or someone with a substantial amount of publications done.

**Q: I have spent 6 years researching blockchain solutions and presenting my 'research' to organizations, events and industry communities, but I do not work at a University. How can I prove I am a researcher?**

A: List your publications and that will be a proof you are a researcher

**Q: Is holding a PhD enough to be qualified as researcher?**

A: More than enough! Also if there are enough publications to assess the quality of research they can work as academic title.

**Q: Ok! so we don't actually need a researcher since she/he will be provided?**

A: You need a researcher in the team too.

**Q: Not sure if it's counted as an academic to have MSc or PhD but working "in the industry" instead in academia. :)**

A: According to the Marie Curie definition as researcher you are eligible if you possess a master degree.

**Q: and if the researcher holds a MSC, but his PhD is not recognized?**

A: It is fine

**Q: Does a MSc Student qualify as researcher?**

A: As long as they have validated the degree to access PhD.

**Q: The researcher must be researcher in science / tech field or is business field also ok?**

A: It is fine if it is from another field.

*A reminder: in the context of the second open call of LEDGER project, a "researcher" should be understood as an academic researcher, who has, at least, done its master to access the PhD.*

*They can have background in either technological or humanistic sciences (referring, in this last case, to some kind of sociological, psychological, philosophic, linguistic, literary, historic, artistic or ethnographic competence)*

*Indeed, LEDGER is about human centric solutions and it is framed under the Next Generation Internet (NGI) Initiative, which aims to re-imagine and re-engineer the internet, so that it enables “human potential, mobility and creativity at the largest possible scale – while dealing responsibly with our natural resources”.*

*Bearing this in mind and, as far as NGI considers that one of the key change drivers for this is shift is related to transforming the internet in a “creativity and human potential enabler”, we consider that those humanistic profiles are really positive for socially-acceptable (and possibly marketable) solutions.*

## 6.5 Questions about legal form of applicants and team roles

**Q: Can nonprofit associations (not foundation) apply?**

A: Yes! non -profit is eligible as long as it is SME, LEGAL PERSON is defined according to the national law.

**Q: Business profile inside a startup NGO (legally constitute) is also fine?**

A: Yes!

**Q: I understand that RTO are allowed to participate, right?**

A: Yes!

**Q: Do you expect one person per role with clear distinction or can it be a hybrid where the 3 people satisfy all 3 roles?**

A: There should be one person per role, yes.

**Q: Our team skills are quite spread: a researcher with business development experience, a software developer that has experience running its own business and someone coming from the private sector with experience in business development and software development. Is it allowed to have a mix of skills within the team?**

A: Yes, it is a plus that team members are skilled in more than one area but, for the project, each one should be taking a specific role.

**Q: also regarding team composition: P: can the master be an MBA (business administration)? And can be the persona holding the MBA the same business expert?**

A: Yes

**Q: Is there a limit on how big the team can be?**

A: No, there is no limit

**Q: One of our team members is both MSc graduated and entrepreneur. The other team member is studying MSc. (And the other is a developer) Does our team qualify?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Would it be possible if team is now part time but would become full time if the project wins?**

A: Yes, in the form we expect you to detail the dedication of the team during the project.

**Q: Can we change members of the same skill set as we go? Can a legal entity participate send different members of it to different sessions?**

A: Take into account that quality and composition of the team are taken into account for evaluation, so changes must

be justified and the profile replacing the former should be comparable.

**Q: Does the legal entity count as one of the 3 members or it has to define a specific person?**

A: there must be at least 3 natural persons, they might be appointed by one legal entity

**Q: So how do we submit the legal entity?**

A: There must be at least 3 persons (one per role) from the legal entity dedicated to the project.

**Q: What do you mean in your application by "DT SW development" and "SW developer"?**

A: In this context, "DT SW developer" is a software developer with expertise in decentralized technologies and "SW developer" is a generic software developer.

## 6.6 Questions about core values and eligible countries

**Q: When you talk about significant improvement in data sovereignty it needs to be the core value proposition of the project or is it ok if it is just a part of it?**

A: Any proposal should have a purpose to improve or preserve citizens' control over the management of their data, even if this is only part of the project.

**Q: What is the definition of human centric values?**

A: We have a [work programme](#) document which details an answer to this question for every industrial vertical mentioned. Please have a good read to it before applying

**Q: Does the idea have to match one of the Sustainable Development Goals or is it an added value?**

A: It is an added value

**Q: Can an Indian person based in the EU be part of the team? Or an Australian based in the EU?**

A: no, it is not

**Q: If the startup is legally based in the EU, but most of the people are based in UK, is it ok? (since the current uncertainty about Brexit)**

A: Yes, legal entities legally established in Member States of the European Union are eligible regardless of the countries where the team members are resident.

## 6.7 Questions on Verticals

**Q: We are currently developing an application regarding the academic ECTS and the use of diploma certificates that can be used in several scenarios such as job finding. Is this scenario eligible for the public services vertical?**

A: Yes

**Q: Does the MVP have to stay broad in each vertical or are they supposed to be more specific solutions under those topics - so solving a part of the larger problem?**

A: it can be broad and encompass more than one vertical, but it can also be submitted within the open innovation vertical.

**Q: Any preferential sector?**

A: No. Just check if the project fits into one of the 6 verticals (there is one open) and read in depth the SRI [work programme](#). It's linked in our site.

**Q: Are all verticals judged equally, or are there any verticals more or less desired than others?**

A: Yes, they are all judged equally.