Data Trusts Initiative

Pilot Funding Expression of Interest Questions

The application process has two stages. This first stage Expression of Interest seeks introductory information about your proposed project and its current state of development. The following questions will allow us to assess the suitability of your project to the funding objectives.

Section 1 – Key Details

1. Project Title

2. Contact name

3. Contact email

4. Who are the key personnel that will be involved with the project?

5. Organisation name

6. Registered Address

Section 2 – About your organisation This section asks for more details about your organisation and its current areas of work. It will be used to conduct due diligence checks by the Cambridge University team.

7. What type of organisation will be running the project? E.g., Individual, community group, social enterprise, public sector or, registered company

8. Tell us about the mission, or objectives, of your organisation. (up to 180 words)

Section 3 About your proposed pilot - This section seeks information about the focus of your proposed pilot, including its objectives, areas of work, and potential beneficiaries.

9. Please describe the data trust you intend to establish (300 words)

10. What data or data rights would be managed through your data trust? (200 words)

11. What type of demand or issue does your data trust help address? (For example, what type of community need does it help meet? What type of benefits would it produce?) (300 words)

12. What are the main challenges or operational barriers you anticipate you would consider in setting up this data trust? (up to 500 words)

13. Who are the beneficiaries of your proposed trust? (For example: which communities do you expect your trust will engage with? Is your trust targeting a particular stakeholder group or geographic location?)

14. How much is the project likely to cost? Please indicate anticipated important costs, a detail break down will be required if asked to submit a full application.

Section 4 Likert Questions - *there are no right or wrong answer to these questions, they will allow us to understand the stage of the pilot idea and type of support that will be needed*

15. To what extent are you considering trust law as the foundational legal structure for your data trust?

A. We have not yet investigated what legal frameworks might be most suitable for setting up our data trust.

B. We think trust law may be suitable but are also exploring other types of data stewardship, such as a community interest company or a co-operative.

C. We have considered a range of legal mechanisms and trust law is not our preferred legal structure for establishing a data trust

D. Trust law is our preferred legal mechanism, but we need further advice on how to use it.

E. We plan to use trust law as the legal foundation for our data trust, and have a plan for how to do so.

16. Thinking about the technical infrastructures or systems that might need to be in place to help manage data or user interactions with your trust, which of the following best describes the 'technical readiness' of your project?

A. We have not yet considered or identified the technical requirements associated with this project.

B. We have a few ideas about what technical systems might be needed, but need advice to develop these into a plan.

C. We have an initial plan for our technical infrastructures but need to test and develop this before we could be confident in operationalizing it.

D. We have a clear plan for these technical systems and now need to create the relevant systems and implement them.

E. We already have a platform or technical system for data management or user engagement and expect only minor adjustments will be needed before this is ready to roll out.

17. Thinking about the potential beneficiaries of your data trust, which of the following best describes the current state of development of your user base?

A. We do not have an existing user base

B. We have identified a group of individuals that may wish to collaborate through a trust, but not yet engaged in depth with them.

C. We have identified a user base and our initial engagements suggest there is a demand for a data trust.

D. We already have an established user base which we would like to increase or change our way of engaging with.

18. Which of the following best describes your current plans for involving beneficiaries in decision-making in your trust?

A. Stakeholders will have minimal involvement in access decisions

B. We are investigating what methods might be appropriate for bringing stakeholders into decision-making.

C. We have an initial idea about how to organize participatory decision-making, which we wish to test.

D. We have a clear plan for stakeholder participation and involvement in the use of data