



Terms of Reference FRIDA Call for proposals

1. Background and objectives

FRIDA is a program of [LACNIC \(Internet Address Registry for Latin America and the Caribbean\)](#) that supports projects, initiatives and solutions that contribute to the consolidation and strengthening of the Internet in Latin America and the Caribbean.

FRIDA was created in 2004 with the support of two Canadian government entities: the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) and the [International Development Research Center \(IDRC\)](#). Since its creation, this program has received contributions from LACNIC, [Internet Society](#), Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP), Martel GmbH, the [Swedish Cooperation Agency \(SIDA\)](#) and [Seed Alliance](#). FRIDA is currently coordinated and funded exclusively by LACNIC.

The funded projects are selected through an annual, open and public call, coordinated by LACNIC under the guidance of an external jury, with regional experts in the categories and thematic axis of the call.

2. General characteristics and requirements

The FRIDA program provides financial support (up to 20,000 USD) in the form of grants, as well as technical monitoring of projects with a maximum duration of 12 months. Interested parties must meet the detailed general requirements and submit their application within the specified deadlines.

In all cases, interested parties may submit research projects, case studies, development of proofs of concept and/or prototypes, implementation projects, measurements or others, as long as they seek to achieve practical objectives, specific original results, contribute with concrete solutions to technical challenges and/or generate knowledge that can be useful to expand and promote the development of the topic addressed in the region.

The call consists of two stages for the application and evaluation of proposals. Stage 1 consists of a simplified application that allows the preselection of those proposals that are mostly associated with the general requirements. During Stage 2, preselected projects are invited to submit the complete project for technical evaluation, based on first and second order criteria.





General requirements

1. Alignment with the objective of the FRIDA Program.
2. Application submitted by an institution that is legally constituted and belongs to one of the following groups of beneficiaries: the technical community, the academic sector, the private sector or industry, a government or civil society.
3. Establishment and development of the proposing/responsible institution activities' in LACNIC's coverage area¹ and a proposal focused on addressing needs and challenges in said territories.
 - Institutions located outside LACNIC's coverage area may apply as partners, provided that the project meets the other requirements and addresses challenges or needs of territories in LACNIC's coverage area in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In any case, applicants must be duly and legally constituted under its jurisdiction and have legal personality. If they do not have legal status, they must seek to associate with an institution/organization that meets said condition and acts as the responsible entity at an administrative, legal and financial level. If selected, said institution will sign the corresponding agreement with LACNIC – FRIDA and assume the rights and obligations under it, being the one to whom the corresponding Funds will be channeled. In all cases, the partner entity must be related to the area of activity of the beneficiary and the theme of the selected project.

4. Application and alignment with one of the categories and the respective thematic axis.
5. Alignment with other specific requirements in terms of duration, requested funding, open and free development, open access.

3. Categories and thematic axis

I. Internet Stability and Security

Thematic axis:

1. Network architecture and operations

¹LACNIC provides its services in 33 territories in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the following link you can access more information: [Coverage Area](#).





Monitoring, measurement, management, optimization, automation and/or innovation in network architecture and operation around one or more of the following priority topics:

DNS
BGP
Protocols
Performance

2. Traffic Engineering and Interconnection

Monitoring, measurement, management, control, modeling, optimization and/or innovation in one or more of the detailed priority topics related to the specific line:

IXPs
CDNs
BGP
QoS

3. Cryptography, security and resilience

Contribute to the security and resilience of the Internet, the prevention of and response to attacks, incidents and anomalies in the Internet infrastructure, the generation of innovative approaches and solutions with special emphasis on the priority topics detailed below:

DNS (approaches such as DNSSEC or others)
RPKI
Route Origin Validation
IoT
Routing Security
DDoS
Malware

4. Future Internet Development

This line of work and research seeks to contribute to the future development of the Internet in the region, which is why it has a broad approach, with special emphasis on addressing regional challenges presented by the priority topics detailed below:





IPv6
High performance computing
Other innovative topics related to the line

Subcategory: Use and application of Blockchain for Internet Stability and Security (associated with one of the axis/topics of the category).

II. Artificial Intelligence applied to the Internet and Networks²

In this category, projects related to the use and application of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning to the Internet and Networks may be submitted, in areas such as Internet operations, resilience, traffic management and interconnection, security, among others. Projects are expected to identify potential ethical implications of their development and study in the proposal.

4. Application, evaluation and selection

I. Application process

Those interested must access the online application form that will be enabled on the opening day of the call from 2:00 p.m. (UTC-3) at programafrida.net/en

Users must register on the platform or reset their password if they already have a user. Subsequently, they must enter the information related to their project.

II. Evaluation process

The evaluation process consists of the following phases:

1. Internal screening: proposals are evaluated based on their alignment with the general application requirements. Those proposals that succeed in this phase are preselected and invited to submit the complete project.
2. Technical evaluation: the preselected proposals are evaluated by the jury according to the criteria detailed below.

First order criteria:

²Thematic category included along with the community during the LACNIC 41 event -the program's 20-year anniversary-.



1. RELEVANCE AND APPLICABILITY

- Alignment of the project with challenges and needs of the region.
- Contribution of the project to the state of knowledge, advances in the thematic category and/or the selected axis.
- Consistency between the objectives, methodology, proposed activities and budget.
- Capacity of the technical team and proposing institution for the development of the project.

2. IMPACT AND RESULTS

It will be evaluated taking into account the following specific criteria. Each proposal is not expected to include and/or respond to all of them.

- Geographic area/population benefited and/or coverage achieved.
- Technical developments (hardware/software/prototypes or others) and/or material results at a technological level.
- Enhancement/Improvement in provided services.
- Development of knowledge at a practical and/or academic level (guides, methodologies, publications and/or presentations at conferences) among others.

3. CONTINUITY AND REPLICABILITY

- Potential for continuing the project.
- Potential for use/application of the results in other contexts/geographic areas or populations different from the original objective.
- Alliances with other institutions -already developed or identified-.

Second order criteria

Proposals associated with the following criteria will be positively assessed:

1. Innovative nature of the proposal in terms of the methodological approach, the proposed solution and/or the expected results.
2. Inclusion of the gender perspective (whether the proposal addresses issues related to gender equity in the Internet ecosystem).
3. Alignment to the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals.

5. Results, products and/or developments



Any development that is proposed to be carried out with the support of FRIDA, as well as the results of the research, must be made available to the technical, research community or other interested parties under open source, free hardware or open licenses according to what is appropriate for each case and on the platform or support that the proposing organization(s) consider most relevant.

In the case of the final results, these will be sent through a final publishable open access report, requested prior to the conclusion of the research -object of the Project-. It may be published on the platforms that LACNIC considers relevant in common agreement with the research group.

The above will not prevent the research team from making applications and/or proposals for publications in peer-reviewed journals that are not open access. The responsible institution(s) that are beneficiaries of the program will inform LACNIC-FRIDA of the proposals made under the modalities detailed above, and/or of those that are under evaluation and/or embargo. Likewise, they will be solely responsible for complying with the conditions stipulated in said publications. LACNIC-FRIDA will have no responsibility for compliance or less thereof.

6. Intellectual property

It is a condition for the selected projects that the responsible organization(s) develop all intellectual property rights in relation to works, reports and in general any task generating intellectual property rights under the project with the funds received from LACNIC-FRIDA (the work). Likewise, such rights may not be assigned, nor the Ownership of the work nor any other license may be granted, without the prior written consent of LACNIC.

7. Communication and dissemination

The selected institutions grant broad consent to LACNIC-FRIDA (and applicable Partners) to reproduce, publish, copy, adapt, perform, communicate, show or exhibit in or for the public, alter or otherwise change for other uses the work resulting from the Project (or a substantial part or adaptation thereof) for the purposes of promotion, communication, dissemination and presentation of reports -always respecting the corresponding copyright and intellectual property rights-. Likewise, they are obliged to obtain the aforementioned consent from their employees and subcontractors, if applicable.





Likewise, in all cases, the logos and brands of LACNIC-FRIDA or its corresponding Partners must be included in any work or material developed within the framework of a project funded or awarded by LACNIC-FRIDA. Outside of the above case, the Recipient may only use the LACNIC, FRIDA or its Partners' trademark, name, acronym or emblem/logo with the specific prior written authorization of LACNIC-FRIDA or its Partners.

8. Administrative, financial and technical capacity

Selected institutions will sign an agreement with LACNIC that stipulates the terms, conditions and reciprocal obligations of the parties. The first must have the administrative, financial and legal capacity to carry out the necessary procedures within a maximum period of two months to receive the LACNIC - FRIDA funds, manage them in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in the agreement to be signed and execute the project within the expected deadlines.

Institutions are recommended to inform themselves sufficiently in advance and act with due diligence to ensure that the internal conditions in their respective institutions, as well as in their country of origin, allow them to receive non-refundable financial assistance for the execution of research, development assistance, innovation and/or other projects.

9. Ethical issues associated with the project

The proposals presented and finally selected must comply with the applicable legislation (both the regulations of the place where LACNIC's headquarters are located), as well as the states in which its headquarters are located and/or its activities will be carried out.

The LACNIC-FRIDA call expects that the selected projects also respect disciplinary rules, fundamental rights and values, protection, respect and autonomy of users or potential users.

LACNIC-FRIDA beneficiary institutions must commit to ensuring respect for the fundamental rights included those in international conventions, such as: human dignity and autonomy, democracy, equality, the rule of law, legislation, human rights, as well as the balance between development and environmental and ecological preservation.





Likewise, they must declare potential conflicts of interest and maintain the following standards:

1. Integrity in research: plagiarism or falsification, whether of information, data or otherwise, will not be tolerated. Copyright and authorship of the results obtained must be respected in accordance with current regulations. All the project funding parties' must be clearly stated.
2. The veracity of the research, the results and/or data generated: Due to the rapid evolution of tools that allow disseminating and modifying parts or partial data of a project, we suggest that the selected institutions pay particular attention to misinformation, use of deep fakes and/or publication of partial information about their work.
3. Clearly identify and take reasonable steps to address the use and challenges created by recent developments in Generative Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning or Autonomous Systems. In the proposal they will have a specific field where they can address these aspects, with particular attention to avoiding or mitigating bias, mitigating and addressing the collection and use of data (whether personal or not).
4. Evaluate and take the necessary measures to guarantee the security of the information collected, avoid data breaches, among others.

10. Important dates

- Call opening: Thursday, May 28, 2026 (2:00 p.m. UTC-3).
- Deadline for submission of initial proposals: Sunday, July 12, 2026 until 11:59 p.m. (UTC-3).
- Announcement of shortlisted projects: Friday, August 7, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. (UTC-3).
- Presentation of detailed proposals (selected projects): From Wednesday, August 12 to Sunday, August 30, 2026 until 11:59 p.m. (UTC-3).
- Results announcement: Friday, October 9, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. (UTC-3).

It is recommended to carefully read the terms of reference and frequently asked questions available on the website programfrida.net/en We invite you to direct your questions to: frida@lacnic.net

