



Enabling global identity
Protecting digital trust

Global Open Data Integration Network

Charter

Restricted in Draft
Version 1.0
2025-03-02

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Version	1.0
Date of version	2025-03-02
Created by	GLEIF, Open Ownership
Approved by	Alexandre Kech – CEO, GLEIF Stephen Abbott Pugh – head of technology, Open Ownership
Confidentiality level	Public after finalization
Next Review Date	March 2026

About this Document

This Charter document establishes the foundational principles, commitments, and governance framework for the Global Open Data Integration Network (GODIN). It serves as a guiding document to align member organizations in their shared mission to enhance data interoperability, foster innovation, and maximize the global impact of open data through collaboration and the integration of the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) system.



1 Preamble

The Global Open Data Integration Network (GODIN) is a collaborative effort to enhance global data interoperability and accessibility by connecting organizations that publish open data or create open data standards and aligning data to a global framework like the Global Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) System.

The LEI is a global, universal identifier, uniquely identifying legal entities world-wide. It connects to open and high-quality reference data providing insights into legal entities and their ownership structures. The Global LEI Repository made available by the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) is seen as a public good for the benefit of the users of the public and the private sector.

GLEIF is a non-for-profit Swiss foundation, established by the Financial Stability Board. GLEIF ensures the operational stability of the Global LEI System and manages a network of partners, the LEI issuing organizations.

GLEIF is subject to the oversight of the LEI Regulatory Oversight Committee (ROC), with about 70 public authorities from over 50 jurisdictions.

Open Ownership is a non-profit organization focused on beneficial ownership transparency. Open Ownership's vision is that governments, businesses, and citizens can readily access accurate, complete, and high-quality information on the people who own, control, or benefit from corporate vehicles – the beneficial owners – and use this information to achieve their goals, including reducing corruption and tax evasion, improving procurement, and creating a well-functioning business environment.

Since 2017, Open Ownership has worked with almost 40 countries to advance beneficial ownership transparency reforms and has developed the world's leading open standard for beneficial ownership information - the Beneficial Ownership Data Standard.

GLEIF and Open Ownership have jointly founded GODIN and invite other organizations to participate as a member. By embedding the LEI into open data sources, GODIN seeks to create a robust ecosystem that fosters transparency, efficiency, and collaboration.



2 Purpose

Publishing open data alone, or endorsing principles such as the **Open Data Charter**, is insufficient to address the complexity and fragmentation of the global data ecosystems. GODIN aims to:

- **Collaboration:** Establish a collaborative environment that transcends organizational boundaries.
- **Interoperability:** Drive the adoption of globally recognized identifiers, like the LEI, to improve data interoperability.
- **Innovation:** Advance innovation by encouraging joint efforts in use case development, technology creation, and data integration.
- **Accessibility:** Improve accessibility and interoperability for data users across jurisdictions and business sectors.

Through GODIN, member organizations commit to moving beyond open data principles, embracing practical and impactful measures that maximize the value of their data for the global community.

Our Vision is to revolutionize the existing industry perception of Open Data by implementing a practical approach to utilize Open Data, enabling enhanced transparency and risk assessment. We aim to empower businesses with the tools they need to harness the potential of Open Data, driving innovation and fostering a more informed and accountable marketplace.



3 Benefits for Members

By participating in GODIN, members gain:

- **Collaborative Environment:** Access to a network of like-minded organizations for joint initiatives and shared learning.
- **LEI Integration:** Leverage the Global LEI System to enhance the interoperability of their own data.
- **Data Accessibility:** Improved accessibility and usability of their own data through shared tools and mappings.
- **Shared Innovation:** Opportunities to co-create innovative solutions and use cases, expanding the impact of their own data.
- **Visibility:** Enhance the reputation of open data by demonstrating its high quality and practical utility, positioning it as a valuable resource for informed decision-making.
- **Network Effect:** Enhance marketing capabilities through collaborative development and data sharing, bolstered by joint communication efforts and strategic social media promotion.



4 Understanding

By joining GODIN, member organizations commit to:

4.1 Promoting Each Other's Purpose, Data and Standards

Actively support the objectives, open data, and initiatives of fellow members.

4.2 Collaborative Participation

Share information about and engage in activities such as (but not limited to) RFPs, tender bids, open consultations, tech sprints, and hackathons.

4.3 Data Mapping to LEI

Where feasible, create mappings between their data and the LEI and publish these as an open data to enhance interoperability.

4.4 Open-Source Code Contributions

Jointly develop and maintain open-source code to improve accessibility and usability of member data.

4.5 Integrated Use Cases

Develop and promote innovative use cases that combine diverse datasets from the network's members.

4.6 Encouraging Innovation

Foster a culture of experimentation and innovation, sharing insights, and best practices.



5 Governance Structure

5.1 Independent Chair

GODIN will be led by an **Independent Chair**, who is not employed by or affiliated with any member organization. The Chair will provide neutral leadership, ensuring fair representation of all members.

5.2 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will consist of the Independent Chair and representatives from the founding organizations (GLEIF and OO). Responsibilities include:

- Defining and overseeing achievement of strategic priorities
- Approving new members
- Overseeing operational and risk management
- Overseeing compliance with relevant laws, regulations and industry standards
- Overseeing members' joint activities and compliance with code of conduct

As when necessary, the Executive Committee can decide to expand the representation of the Executive Committee by unanimous vote.

5.3 Working Groups

Specific working groups could be established to address thematic areas, such as technical integration, outreach, and innovation as the needs require. These sub-groups are required to regularly report their progress to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will then determine the most effective method for disseminating this information to the entire GODIN community.

5.4 Decision-Making Process

Decisions will be made based on consensus where possible, with voting mechanisms for situations requiring formal resolution.

When decisions regarding specific activities are required, organizations must not exercise a veto based solely on self-interest or because they have similar initiatives planned independently.

6 Membership and code of conduct

6.1 Eligibility

Membership is open to organizations that publish open data or set open data standards, including governments, non-government organizations, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and private entities with public-facing data initiatives.

6.2 Application Process

Organizations may apply for membership by submitting a signed GODIN Charter (latest version) and an application that demonstrates alignment with GODIN's objectives and commitments.

6.3 Member Responsibilities

Members must actively participate in network activities, comply with agreed-upon standards, and contribute to joint initiatives.

Should members initiate any joint activities within GODIN, it is essential that they promptly (within 2 weeks' time from initiation of the engagement) inform the Executive Committee of these developments.

6.4 Communication Protocol for Media and Social Channels

To ensure consistency, accuracy, and alignment with the network's objectives, all external communications to media and social channels must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. **Alignment & Approval**
 - Any communication intended for media (press releases, interviews, statements) or social media (official posts, responses, announcements) must be aligned with the networks's overall strategy.
 - The ExCo must approve all official communications before they are shared externally.
2. **Member Notification**
 - A heads-up must be given to all members before any external communication is published or sent to the media.
 - This ensures transparency and allows members to be informed in case of any follow-up inquiries.
3. **Social Media Management**
 - Personal opinions should be clearly distinguished from official statements when discussing network-related matters online.

7 Amendments to the Charter

The Charter may be amended upon proposal by any member, subject to approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee.

8 Place and Time of Collaboration

Collaboration between the Parties can be conducted via audio-visual, conference call or in person. The Parties must agree in detail by mutual consent about the time and place of performance.

GLEIF, Open Ownership, the members and their representatives have no intention to start a business cooperation of any kind by participating in GODIN. Participating in GODIN does not prevent any member from forming a business relationship with another current or future member of GODIN or Open Ownership or GLEIF.

9 Anti-Trust Statement

Participation as a member in GODIN might bring companies and organizations together that compete with each other in the market. The competition is both horizontal and vertical. It is the GLEIF's policy that all of its actions are carried out in full compliance with applicable anti-trust legislation.

Accordingly, it is necessary for members to avoid discussions of sensitive competitive topics and especially important to avoid recommendations with respect to such subjects. Agreements e.g., to fix prices or fees or to allocate markets are automatically illegal under the anti-trust laws. It does not matter what the reason for the agreement might be.

An anti-trust violation does not require proof of a formal agreement. A discussion of a sensitive topic such as fees, followed by parallel action by those involved in or present at the discussion is enough to show a price fixing conspiracy.

Violations of the anti-trust laws can result in injunctions, treble damage judgments, heavy fines, and even imprisonment.

Therefore, member of GODIN must always act in alignment with GODIN's purpose as defined in Chapter 2 of this Charter. Because GLEIF's activity almost always involves the cooperation of competitors, great care must be taken to assure compliance with the anti-trust laws. This means:

- Participation must be voluntary, and failure to participate shall not be used to penalize any company.
- There shall be no discussion of prices, allocation of customers, boycotts, refusals to deal, or market share.



- If any participant has reason to believe participants are or may be engaging in impermissible discussion, the topic shall be tabled until the opinion of counsel can be obtained.
- Meetings shall be governed by an agenda prepared and circulated in advance (minimum two business days) by the ExCo.
- The recommendations arising from any discussions through GODIN and its members are just that. Individual companies remain free to make independent, competitive decisions.
- Any standards developed must (i) be set on a non-discriminatory basis and (ii) have to be objectively necessary to foster the Purpose as described in 2 of this Charter.

10 Confidentiality

Information may be transferred between the members to the extent necessary to fulfil the purpose of this Charter. Such information may be, without limitation, in the form of business and/or financial records, specifications, software programs, samples, models, photographs, diagrams, drawings, correspondence and/or other documents or may be disclosed orally or in writing, by demonstration or presentation or otherwise.

Each GODIN member acknowledges that other members may, in reliance of this Charter, provide the one other or group of member(s) access to confidential data on a good will. All such information so disclosed and explicitly marked as “confidential” is hereinafter referred to as “Confidential Information”. Each member agrees to retain said information as confidential and not to use said information on its own behalf or disclose same to any third party. Each member also agrees to take reasonable security measures to prevent accidental disclosure.

The members will undertake to keep confidential any information received from the other member and will make no use of such Information, either directly or indirectly,

- unless such Information is general public knowledge or becomes general public knowledge through no fault of any member, or
- unless such Information was in the receiving member’s possession prior to member’s receipt thereof as proven by written records, or
- unless such Information has been received by the member from any third party under no obligation of confidentiality, or
- unless such Information was not marked as “confidential” from the other member, or
- unless obliged by the regulator, oversight committee or by law.

11 Costs

Each member shall bear their own costs unless otherwise agreed in writing by the members investing funds in a related activity.

12 Duration and Termination

This Membership shall remain in effect for any signed member until terminated by the member giving 30 days written notice to the Executive Committee of their desire to terminate their Membership. The requirement to protect confidential information disclosed under this Charter shall survive termination of the membership. If the Executive Committee is of the opinion that a member is in breach of the Charter, the Executive Committee may give two weeks' notice of extraordinary termination in writing.

13 Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, GODIN's resources and responsibilities will remain with the founding organizations.

