

#OMN Project Budget – NGI Zero Commons Fund

Duration: 9 months | All paid roles part-time

Work Package Labour

WP	Description	Lead	Days	Rate	Cost
WP1	Research & specification – architecture mapping, flow documentation, landscape analysis of existing Fediverse tools	Hamish	40	€170	€6,800
WP2	Core development – flow service implementation, ActivityPub integration, trust layer, Emissary extensions	Michael	80	€170	€13,600
WP3	UX & prototype – #makinghistory interface, user testing loops, dual-layer UX design	Michael	40	€170	€6,800
WP4	Testing & documentation – community testing with institutional partners, public documentation, iteration	Hamish	43	€170	€7,310
Labour total			203 days		€34,510

Infrastructure

Item	Cost
Development server hosting – 3 instances over 9 months	€1,800
Storage, backups, domain and tooling	€350
Security review and dependency audit	€400
Infrastructure total	€2,550

Outreach & Community

Item	Cost
6 grassroots events at €400 each	€2,400

Item	Cost
European partner travel (MayDay Room, Bishopsgate, Peace Museum, EU partners)	€944
Documentation translation for European rollout	€500
Outreach total	€3,844

Administration

Item	Cost
Fiscal hosting via OpenCollective – 10% of subtotal (€40,904)	€4,090
Admin total	€4,090

Grand total	€44,994
Rounding adjustment	+€6
Total	€45,000

Budget Notes

Part-time working pattern: All paid team members work part-time across the nine-month project period. Hamish contributes approximately two days per week across WP1 and WP4, with heavier involvement at the project's start (months 1–3) and end (months 7–9). Michael works at approximately two to three days per week, with intensity peaking during months 3–6 when WP2 and WP3 overlap and the Month 6 prototype milestone is the primary focus. This distributed pace is intentional, it reflects the commons-contribution model of the project and allows space for community feedback loops to inform development in real time.

Wage parity: All paid roles are remunerated at an identical rate of €170 per day, regardless of role or seniority. This reflects the project's non-hierarchical values and its roots in commons-based working practice. €170 per day represents subsistence-level compensation for skilled open source and ActivityPub development work – significantly below commercial market rates of €400–€600 per day for equivalent expertise.

Ben's in-kind contribution: Ben contributes as a non-remunerated technical adviser throughout the project, providing architectural guidance on the Emissary codebase and mentoring Michael through the core implementation. No payment is drawn from the grant for this contribution. Ben's advisory input – covering ActivityPub integration strategy, Emissary template architecture, and code review –

represents an estimated €4,000–€6,000 of equivalent value at subsistence rates, had it been included as a funded work package. This in-kind contribution strengthens the value-for-money case for the grant.

Institutional seed data partners: MayDay Room, the Bishopsgate Institute, and the Peace Museum in Bradford contribute their archival collections as seed data for the #makinghistory prototype at no cost to the project. This in-kind contribution of real-world, historically significant content would be prohibitively expensive to replicate commercially and is a material asset to the R&D process and to the credibility of the proof-of-concept.

Infrastructure rationale: The infrastructure budget has been set at a realistic level for active development hosting across a nine-month period with three live instances. The security review signals the team's awareness of audit readiness.

Second-stage intent: This budget is explicitly a seed project for proof-of-concept and validation. A second-stage proposal will seek wider funding to expand the team, widen the European partner network, and move toward a polished production-ready system. The lean, part-time structure of this first grant is therefore deliberate - it is sized to seed the concept.

Focus is on **building working code + real community**, not overhead. Events are key to expanding the crew to test implementation in the wild to growing a sustainable #openweb ecosystem

Further reading:

<https://hamishcampbell.com/a-minimal-governable-infrastructure-for-trust-based-media-flows/>

Technical Overview (engineering focus):

<https://unite.openworlds.info/Open-Media-Network/Open-Media-Network/wiki/Technical-Overview-%28engineering-focus%29>

Small-print-for-funding:

<https://unite.openworlds.info/Open-Media-Network/Open-Media-Network/wiki/Answering-the-small-print-for-funding>