Meetup Bounty Report - January 2025

As we step into 2025, we continue our mission of fostering community engagement and growth within the Polkadot ecosystem. January has been a month of strategic improvements, collaboration, and operational refinements aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Polkadot Meetup Bounty program.This report highlights the meetups that took place during December, provides updates on the bounty process, and summarizes the progress made to strengthen the initiative's structure and execution.

Key Updates

- **Finalization of Internal Evaluation Table**
  We have completed the internal evaluation table that categorizes and grades meetups, this will help standardize evaluations and provide consistent compensation across events.
- **Updated Organizer Rewards Information on Notion**
  We have included a dedicated section on Organizer Rewards in our public Notion page. This provides event organizers with insights on how they can optimize their events for better engagement and rewards.
- **Curator Reassignment Proposal Submitted**
  The proposal for reassigning curators is live at: Polkadot Referenda 1382. We are awaiting its completion to proceed with the curation and awarding of pending meetups.
- **Polkadot Branding Update**
  In compliance with OpenGov Referendum #1350, we have added Polkadot branding to our Notion site. This ensures transparency and acknowledgment that our initiative is funded by the Polkadot Treasury.
- **Curators in Polkadot Ambassador Fellowship**
  3 of our curators have been selected in the Polkadot Ambassador Fellowship, further strengthening our network & involvement within the Polkadot ecosystem.
- **Meetups Bounty Presentation**
  A short presentation on the Meetup Bounty program was delivered during a call with the Polkadot Ambassador Fellowship. This helped to clarify our objectives and encourage more participation.
- **Group Collaborations**
  We are actively working on forming and strengthening local groups across various regions to enhance collaboration and engagement within the Polkadot community. Our first iteration will kick off with OpenGuild and the Meetups Bounty initiative, aiming to establish structured support and funding mechanisms for grassroots-level community engagement.
- **Weekly Sync-Ups**
  Our weekly sync meetings are now scheduled every Wednesday for 1 to 1.5 hours, ensuring that all curators stay aligned and informed about ongoing developments.

- **AfterMerge Madrid Approved**
  The AfterMerge Madrid meetup was officially approved. We had a productive discussion with Snax to refine the event's execution. This highlights the need for better communication with event organizers. To facilitate this, we have established a dedicated group chat for real-time collaboration and updates.
- **Operational updates**
  - We have successfully updated the SSL certificate for our domain, ensuring secure access for all users.
  - We are in the process of acquiring Google Workspace to streamline internal operations & management, to facilitate efficient team collaboration.
  - **Note**: Just_Luuuu's address has been updated from 5CRxWu1z86Z9o9LGjv2QNXkxKQzRe4e29YYzdnnsQA3qesZb to 5FxphnGymMQiouw4jWmWncqbaWtnmc7SD5Ko9wovv4RJJZCf
- **January 2025 Engagement Statistics - [Interested People](#)**
  Despite a temporary pause in operations, we actively engaged with the community, held calls, and connected with interested individuals. We have also added this section to our Notion page
  - Total Interested Individuals: 19
  - Regions Covered: Africa, Southeast Asia, Europe, and Latin America
  - Moving forward, we aim to leverage these connections to strengthen event planning and community collaborations. 🚀

Following Meetups are in review :

The following meetups were curated from during this period:

Submission Date	Location	Event Name	Organizer	Funds Allocated
26 November 2024	Argentina	Polkadot Meetup Mendoza DOT	Matt Santo	113.42 DOT
15 December 2024	Uganda	Polkadot Meet-Up Kampala, Uganda	Joab Niwagaba	86.57 DOT
22 December 2024	Vietnam	Polkadot Hanoi Builder Year-End Meet-Up	Minh Ngoc	54.98 DOT
31 December 2024	Hungary	Polkadot Meetup Budapest - November	Vikk	27.85 DOT
31 December 2024	Hungary	Polkadot Meetup Budapest - December	Vikk	31.42 DOT

Financial Summary

- **Total Funds Allocated**: 314.24 DOT
- **Curator Salaries**: 758.62 DOT
- **Average Cost per Meetup**: 62.85 DOT

Success Stories

- **Community Engagement**: Events strengthened local Polkadot and Substrate communities, fostering collaboration and innovation.
- **Global Reach**: Meetups spanned Argentina, Uganda, Vietnam & Hungary highlighting the meetups' global impact.

Challenges and Improvements

- **Curation Backlog**: Due to temporary pauses, some meetups were delayed in the review process.
- **Structural Enhancements**: With the new evaluation framework, curated documentation, and improved transparency, we aim to improve operational efficiency.

The Polkadot Meetup Bounty program remains committed to supporting grassroots events worldwide. Despite some challenges, January has been a month of meaningful progress, positioning us for a more efficient and impactful year ahead.