



Knowledge Management Fund 2023 Information & Application Process

Overview

The Knowledge Management Fund (KMF) is the Knowledge Platform's instrument to financially support activities arising from its community. The aim of the KMF is to strengthen policies and programs, particularly in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings (FCAS), by diversifying thinking, evidence and ways of working in the Security & Rule of Law (SRoL) field. The small-scale grants awarded by the KMF offer a low barrier to entry for pioneering, agile and experimental proposals.

The KMF is a €200,000 annual fund that awards grants of up to €20,000 initiatives that contribute to high-quality learning in the SRoL field, and the subsequent use of (co)created knowledges in programming and policy. Please note that this is the only application window we will be opening this year, thus we will be accepting more projects accordingly.

The KMF is divided into three strands: Events, Research, and Innovation. This helps applicants maintain focus on the methodological approach by which they are trying to achieve their objectives. Proposals should reflect the specific added values of the KMF: addressing emerging priority areas, seizing opportunities to strengthen SRoL policy and practice, addressing knowledge gaps, and feeding research outcomes and original ideas into the SRoL sector. These are purposefully broad to leave as much scope as possible for applicants to generate knowledges in their thematic and geographic areas of interest.

Thematic Focus and scope of proposals

Our 2023 Thematic Headline is '[Toward Just Social Contracts](#)', which the KPSRL has chosen to explore more concretely through three subthemes:

1. Participatory and inclusive social contracts
2. Authoritarian social contracts and the security sector
3. Resilience to polarization

To stimulate a diversity of proposals, KMF applications are not required to link to any specific subthemes, but applicants may choose to align their proposals with them if they wish.

The KMF remains a fund focused on the generation and brokering of knowledges as well as learning exchanges supporting the work of our community, rather than implementation of activities. We are interested in three dimensions of knowledges: (co)creation, connections, and use. Each proposal is expected to work towards at least one of the following:

- (co)creation of new knowledges – to fill gaps where there is insufficient knowledges or expertise available,

- linking knowledges and actors – to address a lack of awareness or understanding of existing knowledges, or bring actors together for network strengthening or collaborative efforts
- breaking down the barriers for learning and change within or between people, institutions and organizations – to create enabling environment for or strengthen programmatic or organisational learning,
- creating the impact of knowledge through its uptake – to ensure the use of knowledges and learning that already exists, which is either ignored or not made available to policymakers and practitioners.

Put differently, in line with KPSRL Theory of Change, we would like KMF projects to contribute towards network strengthening, creating opportunities for learning, and/or ensuring that learning and knowledge contribute to higher quality and impact of SRoL policies and programmes.

Besides, initiatives seeking KMF funding should aim to collaboratively identify, explore or exchange innovative approaches to challenges and opportunities in the field of security and rule of law (i.e. initiatives related access to justice, human security, conflict prevention or resolution, inclusive governance, etc.) in Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings (see the [World Bank list](#)). Further, the KMF is interested in bringing wider and more diverse perspectives and sources of evidence into SRoL policy and programming. We particularly encourage applicants to engage members of communities and appreciate indigenous knowledges throughout their project design and implementation.

Project strands

The KMF is made up of three strands to which you may apply: Events, Research, and Innovation. Each strand funds different kinds of activities and initiatives that, collectively, aim to produce original insights to help the KPSRL improve the quality and use of knowledge and learning in programming and policy.

For Full Proposals, each individual strand has its own assessment criteria. (At the Expressions of Interest phase, these criteria are not yet applied.) The following schema can help you decide which strand to apply to, should you be invited to submit a full proposal.

Knowledge Management Fund			
	Events	Research	Innovation
What	The Events strand is designed for events such as meetings, workshops, round tables, conferences, exchanges, or seminars.	The research strand offers opportunities to respond to clear gaps in knowledge and understanding through data collection and/or analysis.	This strand is designed to provide a safe space for testing (failing) and learning by enabling trial and error.
For who	It is for applicants wishing to convene actors, discuss, reflect on, disseminate, or debate current issues, processes or approaches.	It is for applicants who will conduct small-scale studies or analysis and sense making of data to address knowledge gaps and spur knowledge uptake.	It is for applicants who wish to try out of the box approaches with a high potential for impact, even if success is not guaranteed.
Activities	Initiatives may include, but are not limited to, strategic convenings, learning exchanges, dissemination of research findings, debates, policy design or capacity strengthening workshops. These events may be one-off or part of a longer trajectory.	This may be through primary data collection and analysis, desk studies, or literature reviews. Research should be the main focus, but the project can include subsequent and related activities such as organizing research dissemination and presentations, or validation workshops.	It will support activities that generate and test innovative ideas, theories, tools and approaches to address the problems inherent within the SRoL field; highlight and help policy makers prepare for emerging issues; and/or present research in innovative ways more conducive to learning and uptake.

Eligibility

- Applications are open to any organization, consortium or individual with the ambition to improve policies, programs or learning in the field of security and rule of law in fragile and conflict affected settings. Think-tanks, (I)NGOs, academics, universities, activists, community groups, private sector organizations, government institutions, journalists, independent researchers or innovators, local governance authorities, and data specialists are all welcome to submit proposals.
- Partnerships between individuals and organizations and across the range of sectors within our network are highly encouraged. The KMF also welcomes partnerships that link people from different regions of the globe.
- The KMF will only fund costs that are directly attributable to the project, up to €20,000. All costs – especially salaries and fee days – must be substantiated and justified. The KMF will not cover overheads, organizational running costs, or any expenses that fall outside the budget agreed in the signed contract. Please see below and the [budget template](#) for the full budget guidelines and requirements.

Process and Timeline

Interested parties are invited to submit a brief Expression of Interest form by clicking "[Submit Expression of Interest](#)", on the KPSRL website, [Knowledge Management Fund](#) page. A selection of Expressions of Interest will be selected based on the quality and thematic relevance, and asked to develop full proposals.

On 25 May, 2023, from 15:00-16:00 (CEST) the KPSRL Secretariat will host an informational webinar on the KMF and the application process ([please click here](#) to register). An overview of the Expression of Interest webpage, the full application form and criteria scorecard template will be shared to help prepare full proposal submissions. This information can also be found on the [Knowledge Management Fund](#) page. Invited applicants will have a window of time between 23 June – 16 July (23:59 CEST) 2023 to submit their Full Proposals.

Selection of proposals that will receive funding is made by the KPSRL secretariat based on scoring criteria. Each proposal is scored by at least two people. In case of conflict of interest, Advisory Committee or Management Committee members are asked to score the proposal.

If a full proposal is approved, the Secretariat will contact the grantee to discuss deliverables, budgets, and the division of labour between the Secretariat and the applicant(s) in more detail. What is agreed upon will be drawn up in an award letter and signed by the Secretariat and the applicant(s). All projects will be expected to begin by 17 August 2023 and close by 17 May 2024.

The entire timeline for this window is presented in the table below:

	Phase I: Expressions of Interest Due	Phase II: Full Proposal Invitations Sent	Phase II: Full Proposals Due	KMF Recipients Awarded	KMF Projects Start
Dates	4 June (23:59 CEST) 2023	23 June 2023	16 July (23:59 CEST) 2023	11 August 2023	17 August 2023