



Knowledge Management Fund Information and Application Criteria

Overview

The objective of the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law (KPSRL) is to harness the energy and ideas of its community to improve the quality of Security and Rule of Law (SRL) policy and programming, and of people's lives.

With that intent, the KPSRL is launching the Knowledge Management Fund (KMF) as its new mechanism to support activities. The KMF is a €300,000 annual fund that will award grants of up to €15,000 for events, research ideas and other initiatives that contribute to improving the quality of knowledge generated by the SRL field, *and* its subsequent uptake.

KMF Thematic Headlines 2017-18

The KMF will award funds to projects that fall within this year's thematic headlines. Following consultations with Platform members, the results of an online survey, and discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the KMF in 2017-18 will support initiatives that pertain to existing and emerging problems within the following themes:

1. Preventing Conflict and Sustaining Peace

This theme asks what social, political and economic issues are driving conflict, and what the best ways are to transform them, build peace, and prevent violence. It recognizes that there is a seeming 'mismatch,' whereby the international system is not geared towards the longer-term engagement that we know is required for sustaining peace. This is just one of a growing set of tensions hindering conflict prevention at all levels of security and rule of law work. Competing priorities, values, power structures and time scales can lead to difficult choices and trade-offs. Some examples might include international justice norms vs. customary justice practices; peace vs. justice; economic growth vs. economic equality; political expediency vs. human rights; national vs. international security; or stabilization vs. long-term reconciliation.

In addition to looking into how to overcome these, other example areas for investigation might include (but are not limited to): how conflict prevention efforts can help tackle emerging challenges such as refugee flows, climate change, or political nativism; how justice and rule of law can help prevent violent conflict; how to tackle systemic patterns of corruption that undermine peace; how governments, the UN and NGOs can better leverage international frameworks to build peace; how to better align peacekeeping efforts with local security and justice provisions; the role of gender in SRL provision; how to forge successful political settlements; or how programs can adapt to changing political realities to remain relevant and sensitive in fragile and conflict-affected settings (FCAS).

2. Inequality, Power and Governance

Social and economic inequality is rising between rich and poor countries, as well as between demographic groups within countries, driving political disaffection and violence. But why, and what should our responses be? The answer is often to promote 'good governance,' which is important but vague. As such, this theme will explicitly look to explore the systems of power driving inequality at the micro and macro levels; understand what impact power has on people's experiences of security, the law and peace; and provide support to plan and learn from responses that challenge unequal power structures and improve how problems are governed and overcome.

3. Implementing Goal 16 of the SDGs

Goal 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies provides, perhaps, the first fully international framework for peace. Yet with violent conflict rising and the statebuilding agenda in crisis, initial hopes for the Goal are at risk of succumbing to fragmentation and cynicism. There have been some international initiatives, but problems abound about how to really implement the Goal, and where to start. In direct response, this theme will provide a space for people to look for and seize upon opportunities for different actors to maintain the momentum behind the Goal. With invigorated focus on how to implement and measure progress as per the agreed targets and indicators, Goal 16 can begin to be realized both in and of itself, *and* act as the enabler for the other goals as it was intended.

4. Change and Learning Processes

This theme explores how people, organizations and institutions working on SRL learn and why situations, practices and behaviors really change – for better or worse. Specifically, this theme will help elucidate how to translate research findings and lessons into better programming and policy. Example areas for investigation might be (but are not limited to): what really nudges behavioral change (at all levels) and how can this improve the quality of SRL work; how can accountability and oversight mechanisms better induce positive change processes; and how can interventions hope to reshape institutional practices or shift cultural norms in ways that are meaningful, sensitive and sustainable?

Who can apply?

The KMF is open to any consortium or individual with the ambition to improve policies, programs or knowledge in the field of security and rule of law in fragile and conflict affected countries. Think-tanks, (I)NGOs, academics, universities, private sector organizations, government institutions, journalists, independent researchers or innovators, data specialists, learning experts, and PhD candidates are all welcome to submit proposals. Partnerships between individuals and organizations and across sectors are highly encouraged, particularly partnerships that link people from different regions of the globe.

Geographic foci are not limited, but preference is given to countries located in the following priority regions: Middle East, North Africa, Horn of Africa, Great Lakes, Sahel, Afghanistan/Pakistan. In exceptional cases research outside these regions may be considered.

Please note the KMF will not fund salaries, personnel or fee days beyond 30% of the total submitted budget. Nor will it cover overheads or any expenses not agreed in advance, as designated in the budget within the signed contract.

Application criteria

The KMF is made up of three strands to which you may apply: General, Research, and Innovation. Each strand funds different kinds of activities and initiatives that, collectively, aim to produce original insights to help the Platform improve the quality and uptake of knowledge across its thematic areas.

Knowledge Management Fund (KMF)			
	General	Research	Innovation
WHAT?	This strand is the most flexible, and developed to service the majority of applications.	The Research strand offers opportunities to respond to clear gaps in knowledge and understanding.	This strand is specifically designed to provide a safe space for testing (failing) and learning by enabling low-risk trial and error.
FOR WHO?	It is for applicants wishing to discuss, disseminate, or debate issues related to the four thematic areas.	It is for applicants who will conduct small-scale studies 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	Initiatives may include but are not limited to, learning events, dissemination of research findings, debates, validation workshops, blog series, or capacity building workshops. These events may be one-off or part of a thematic series. This fund may not be used for research.	This may be through primary research, fieldwork, desk studies, literature reviews, exchange visits, pilot studies, organizing small conferences, or panels and side-events, and other related initiatives.	It will support activities that generate and test innovative ideas, theories, and approaches to address the problems inherent within the thematic headlines; highlight and help policy makers prepare for emerging issues; and/or present research in innovative ways more conducive to learning and uptake.

In order to do so, the Secretariat discerns three dimensions of knowledge acquisition: production, distribution, and uptake. For each knowledge question, it must be specified whether the question requires primarily new research (is it a question for which insufficient knowledge or expertise is available?), the linking of existing knowledge and/or actors (does the question stem from a lack of awareness of and insight in existing knowledge?), or breaking down the barriers for learning and change within an organization (does an adequate knowledge base exist, is the knowledge known, but not applied in policy making or program development?)

Each strand has its own eligibility criteria against which applicants will be assessed. These criteria are laid out in the remainder of this section and will help you decide which strand to apply to.

Please note that *all* applicants must meet the eligibility criteria in the General strand. Applicants to the Innovation and Research grants must meet the General strand requirements, *plus* the specific criteria for that particular strand:

1. General

General strand Eligibility Criteria

All applications must:

- Explain how the project aligns with one of the Platform's thematic headlines
- Describe the specific knowledge and/or capacity gap to be addressed, specifying whether the question addresses a lack of existing research or evidence, a lack of awareness of existing research, actors, evidence, or ideas, or whether it addresses a barrier to change and uptake despite awareness of existing evidence. The question should be explicitly linked with the audience the proposal seeks to address.
- Demonstrate relevance to the Platform membership, the Dutch MFA, and/or the wider security and rule of law field by outlining a minimum of two clear 'actionable' outputs designed for policy and programming uptake
- Detail an interactive, innovative plan to present results to Platform members, with the aim of enhancing knowledge uptake
- Explain any potential links to international networks and processes
- Include a prospective budget not to exceed €15,000 (see guidelines and template below)
- Present a feasible planning: projects should commence within six weeks of funds being awarded. The running time of projects may not exceed six months
- Commit to providing in-kind contributions equal to at least 20% of the total award sought
- Be willing to present findings at the KPSRL Annual Conference

2. Innovation

Innovation strand Eligibility Criteria

In addition to the General Fund requirements, applications must:

- Describe how the project will test new evidence, analysis, ideas, theories, approaches and/or solutions to a clearly defined problem
- And/or propose new and creative ways to disseminate results, and describe how this will encourage learning and knowledge uptake

3. Research

Research strand Eligibility Criteria

In addition to the General Fund requirements, applications must:

- Demonstrate, referencing literature, the novelty of the research question
- Where possible, make use of a multidisciplinary approach that features cooperation between researchers, practitioners and/or policymakers
- Where possible, work in collaboration with research academics and institutions from a different global region

How to apply

Interested parties are asked to complete an application form and budget using the templates [here](#), and submit them via email to KMF@kpsrl.org. Alies Rijper, Research Specialist, can also be contacted via a.rijper@kpsrl.org if you have any questions regarding the application process.

Once received, the Secretariat will assess proposals based on the criteria outlined above. The Secretariat will provide the applicant with feedback on their proposal along with its funding decision. KMF grants will be awarded according to the following weighting: 40% for General; 25% for Innovation; and 35% for Research.

All applicants will be notified of the outcomes within three weeks of their submission. If approved, the Secretariat will contact you to discuss deliverables, budgets, and the division of labor between the Secretariat and the applicant(s) in more detail. What is agreed will be drawn up in a contract and signed by the Secretariat and the applicant(s).

Application deadline

There will be two rounds of calls in 2017 with a total of €150,000 available in each. The deadline for the first round was July 31st. The second will be opened at the Annual Conference on 7 September, and will run until December 11th Close of Business (17:00 Central European Time)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can apply?

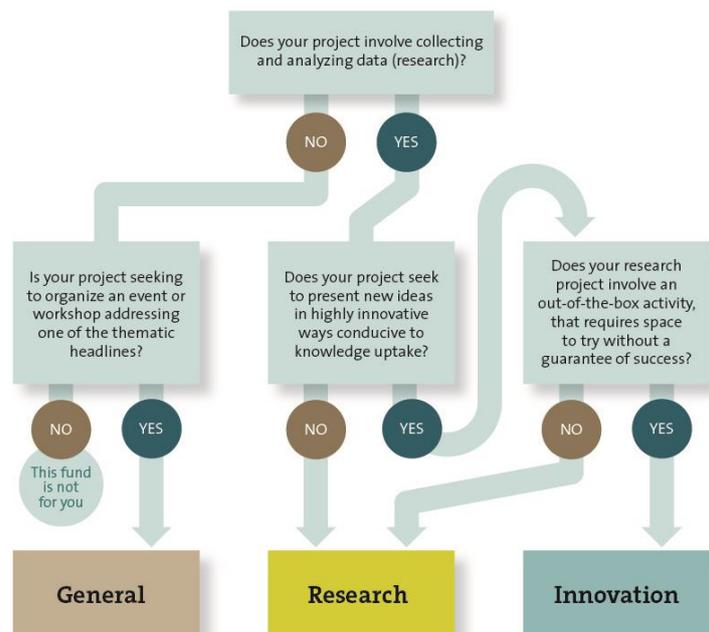
The grant is open to any consortium or individual with the ambition to improve policies, programs or knowledge in the field of security and rule of law in fragile and conflict affected countries. Think-tanks, (I)NGOs, academics, universities, private sector organizations, government institutions, journalists, independent researchers, data specialists, learning experts, and PhD candidates are all welcome to submit proposals.

Partnerships between individuals and organizations are highly encouraged, particularly partnerships that link people from different global regions.

2. Which of the three strands should I apply for?

We understand that there is some overlap between the three strands. However, each strand has a specific purpose. As a rule of thumb, if your application involves events, workshops etc. then the General strand is likely to be the most relevant. If your application is at all Research based then you may not apply to the General strand.

For research projects, that is, pilot studies, proof of concept studies, methodology testing, literature reviews and other activities focused on collecting and analyzing data, we encourage you to apply for the Research strand. If your idea is committed to experimentation or fresh ways to present findings and stimulate learning, then the Innovation strand is best for you. See the following flow chart for clarification.



3. How much can I apply for?

The fund will award grants of up to a maximum of €15,000. There is no minimum amount, however, the Secretariat will assess each grant's level of impact against the administrative burden involved in allocating and managing it.

All applicants must commit to providing in-kind contributions to at least 20% of the total award sought, and use the [budget template](#) to propose how they will do this.

4. How long does each grant last?

Projects must commence within six weeks of funds being awarded. The running time of projects may not exceed six months.

5. Can I apply for security and rule of law related projects outside of the thematic areas?

No. In 2017-18, the KMF will only award grants to projects that fall within one of the thematic headline areas:

1. Preventing Conflict and Sustaining Peace
2. Inequality, Power and Governance
3. Implementing Goal 16 of the SDGs
4. Change and Learning Processes

These themes have been decided following extensive consultation with Platform members, the Dutch government, and NWO/WOTRO and reflect people's most pressing and emerging priority areas. They are purposefully broad and try to leave as much scope as possible for applicants to engage the Platform on their specialist thematic and geographic areas.

6. Can I apply for more than one grant?

Yes, it is possible to submit multiple proposals. However, in order to maintain the strategic vision of the Platform, we encourage applicants to explain how the different proposals are strategically linked and/or sequenced.

7. What will the KMF not fund?

The KMF will not fund salaries, Personnel or Fee Days beyond 30% of the total submitted budget. Nor will it cover overheads or any expenses not agreed in advance in the budget within the signed contract. For full information please see the budget guidelines, [here](#).

8. Do I have to present at the Annual Conference?

There must be some public presentation of the results of the project in order to ensure that the entire community can benefit. One of the preferred ways of doing this is to host a session at the Annual Conference. If you are unable to present at the Conference in September 2018 then please do state this in your application.