

GUIDELINES FOR SHARE-NET INTERNATIONAL

ACTIVATION GRANTS 2023

1. ABOUT THE SNI GRANTS SCHEME

Since 2014, Share-Net International (SNI) has awarded 84 grants to its members. The SNI grants contribute to supporting the knowledge management activities amongst its members. The grants provide funding traditionally for applied research, documentation of practices, and knowledge products to improve policy and practice in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). They also offer the opportunity to enhance the work of SNI members and facilitate the development of knowledge product(s) that can be otherwise difficult to get funded.

Activities proposed by members must contribute to achieving the knowledge-related outcomes of SNI, which are as follows:

- Policymakers, practitioners, and researchers have better access to SRHR information and knowledge.
- Researchers address scientifically, politically, and practically relevant knowledge gaps in SRHR.
- Actual and effective learning is taking place between and in countries among policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.
- Knowledge is applied to evidence-informed SRHR programs, policies, and practices.

Hence, our grants scheme strengthens the links between research, policy, and practice, through sharing, generating, translating, and promoting the use of knowledge to develop better policies and practices in SRHR.

2. WHAT ARE WE ACTIVATING?

Activation grants facilitate the generation and uptake of knowledge, research, and documentation practices, and influence practitioners and policymakers in the SRHR field. We activate stakeholders' ability to comprehend the complexity and relevance of a wide range of SRHR themes. We activate knowledge so that it achieves impact and covers a comprehensive SRHR agenda. We activate the minds and souls of the people who dedicate their lives to providing SRHR services. We activate communities often not prioritized by, or with limited access to, SRHR funding, including (but not limited to) young people, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ people, sex workers, and people of colour. We believe that activating knowledge is a powerful tool to dismantle systems of oppression and uphold the sexual and reproductive rights embedded in the human rights frameworks adopted in most contexts.

SNI recognizes that historically oppressed communities and people at the margins of society are protagonists of their own lives and know best how to address issues that concern them. For this reason, this call funds organizations that are led by, or meaningfully engage, with the communities they aim to target. Successful

applications must comply with the principles of participation, diversity, and inclusion at the project and organization levels. *'Leaving no one behind'* means making funding available for organizations and communities that often do not receive funding. Hence, we encourage applicants to consider these principles highly before applying.

As a genuinely participatory process, we aim to provide unrestricted funding to organizations and groups. SNI does not prioritize any themes for this grant-making round because the peer reviewers prioritize topics/themes at the national and international levels. For instance, the SNI country hubs in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan, the Netherlands, and our SNI members decide what is most suitable for funding based on their needs and perspectives. Unrestricted funding for knowledge generation and translation activities aligns with our efforts to work towards a more equitable network. We aim to be flexible enough to allow our community of experts to decide what is most suited for policy and practice change in SRHR.

- We encourage applications that identify innovative approaches in SRHR and can successfully reach and sensitize a set of selected stakeholders.
- We encourage reflections about gender equality, discrimination, and stigma as drivers of systemic exclusion and oppression of marginalized communities, limiting their access and enjoyment of SRHR.
- We encourage clear linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and human rights frameworks.
- We encourage the use of sound research and methodologies. Although we do not demand any specific approach, data analysis should be ethical, verifiable, and adequately referenced.

3. FUNDING AVAILABLE

The maximum total amount available for grantmaking is **250,000 euros**. The upper limit per grant is **25,000 euros**. The final number of grants awarded will depend on the grants committee's types of grants prioritized for funding. The grant is a *lump sum* in euros that will be executed according to Dutch law (VAT and other legal obligations).

4. APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The (lead) applicant must be an organization/group or an individual consultant registered in a company or one-person organization that is an official member of SNI. For more information about our membership process and membership charter, please see [our membership information page](#).
 - *Please note, if you are applying for SNI membership in order to be eligible to apply for one of our grants, we are only able to review and process new membership requests received by Monday, October 31st 2022. This is due to the increased number of membership applications received around the grantmaking process. If you apply for membership after this date, regretfully we do not guarantee we can review your membership application before the grants close.*

- The (lead) applicant must be a registered organization with a bank account. In exceptional cases, organizations without registration or bank account will be considered if the context or situation does not allow that. Please justify accordingly.
- The (lead) applicant must be committed to the principles of self-leadership and participation and/or demonstrate meaningful engagement with marginalized and oppressed groups.
- The applicant has not received an SNI grant in 2022.
- The proposed knowledge product can be developed within the 9-month time frame, with the final product ready for delivery by December 31st, 2023.

5. WE DO NOT FUND

- **Individuals**

We do not fund private individuals that are not registered as a company.

- **Non-members of SNI**

Non-members of SNI cannot be a lead applicant but can be a partner in grant type 1. Still, we encourage all applicants to apply for membership.

- **Non-registered groups**

Non-registered organizations may partner with a lead applicant that holds an organizational registration.

- **Organisations based in Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria**

We acknowledge that knowledge, information, and exchange on SRHR are necessary for all contexts. Unfortunately, our donor's funding is restricted, and we cannot fund organizations based in these locations.

- **General organizational work**

Please do not submit proposals to implement regular NGO activities and services that do not serve the purpose of this grant scheme. This is because we do not provide core funding. Instead, our grant schemes have a particular purpose, and applications that do not comply with that will not be selected.

- **Excessive budget requests**

All applicants should limit to the maximum amount of funding available per grant type. Given our limited time for the selection, we will not look at requests above the limit per grant.

- **Excessive word count**

All applications with more than 2000 words will not be accepted.

6. GRANTS TYPOLOGY

SNI has three types of grants. Applicants can select one only. We do not accept two applications from the same organization. However, an organization that is partnering in a type 1 grant, may apply for type 2 or 3.

Type 1. Activation Grant – Knowledge Collaboration

Annual grant amount: up to 25.000 euros

Purpose: Contribute to creating knowledge product(s) for improving policy and practice in SRHR. This grant does so by making it possible for more than one organizational member of SNI to strategically formulate a sound proposal for the SRHR movement and other SNI network members. Each collaboration should have a lead applicant, which submits the application and is liable before SNI. Ideally, collaborations are not meant for more than four organizations unless there is a strong justification.

Type 2. Activation Grant – Knowledge Translation

Annual grant amount: up to 10.000 euros

Purpose: Contribute to creating knowledge product(s) for improving policy and practice in SRHR. This grant does so by making it possible for one organizational member of SNI to formulate a valuable proposal for the SRHR movement and other SNI network members. In addition, with this grant, SNI wants its members to sensitize stakeholders on the SRHR issue of concern and provide a clear strategy for achieving that goal.

Type 3. Activation Grant – Knowledge Generation

Annual grant amount: up to 7.500 euros

Purpose: Contribute to funding research and documentation of practices in SRHR, particularly in contexts where there are knowledge gaps and limited knowledge about specific issues or affected communities. If ethical approval is required, this additional amount should be requested in the proposal and the maximum amount if needed. If funding allows, a grant increase for ethical approval may be granted.

7. BUDGET

For the selection phase, SNI does not require a complete budget. With that, we aim to reduce the application burden. Instead, we need an estimate of the amounts necessary for the implementation of the selected grant type. The amount requested must be considered reasonable by the grants committee.

SNI will request a detailed budget explaining how you plan to spend the approved budget during the contracting phase. Please note, that the amounts awarded by the grants committee may differ from your request. A dedicated team will provide a budget template once and invite your organization to receive a grant.

8. SELECTION PROCESS

As in every process of SNI, its grant-making – that is, the art of making grants – is also participatory. As in previous grant-making cycles, SNI will involve its members and hubs in the selection process of the grants. We now refer to this process as "Participatory Grantmaking" to highlight participation as critical for making grants. The SNI members and hubs make the grant decisions, aligning with the network's collaboration and southern leadership principles. A scoring committee will be set up in each hub to review the hub applications. Each Share-net international member will score two applications of the SNI members to be eligible. SNI values the expertise and knowledge that its members bring into this process and aims to promote cross-member learning and educate the Secretariat about the SNI members' perspectives and needs. Participation

enhances communities' deeper understanding of philanthropy, power structures, and hierarchies, decision-making and enables a platform for learning and shared knowledge.

9. ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed based on their:

- Ability to address an SRHR issue or problem effectively by creating knowledge product(s) or generating suitable knowledge for change in policy and practice.
- Ability to demonstrate commitment to the principles of participation, diversity, and inclusion in the project.
- Ability to demonstrate uptake, interest, and engagement of the stakeholders sensitized, including a clear strategy for disseminating your product. For instance, explain how you want to enhance impact by sensitizing stakeholders with the knowledge product(s) that you aim to create.
- Ability to innovate and create strategies that are contextually relevant and sensitive.
- Ability to achieve an impact by creating, improving, and strengthening knowledge production in SRHR.
- Ability to collaborate effectively and/or produce useful content for members of the SNI network and Share-Net's country hubs.
- Ability to showcase organizational and/or collaboration relevance and legitimacy to work on the selected issues and target groups.

10. GRANT INFORMATION WEBINAR AND WRITESHOP

A webinar will be recorded and published on our website to clarify the grant-making scheme and process. This will be published on grants call for applications page, which can be found on our grants page: <https://share-netinternational.org/grants/> On **25 October 2022**, SNI will host a writeshop to guide applicants on how to write a proposal for the Activation grants, answer any questions this guide does not answer, and clarify any doubts that have concerning the call for proposals. We welcome potential applicants to watch the recorded webinar and join the writeshop. Information about the writeshop will be published via our events listing page at <https://share-netinternational.org/events/> in early October 2022. It will be held in English, with translation available on request. Translations can be requested via the event registration form.

11. EMAIL SUPPORT & APPLICATION FEEDBACK

SNI is only able to answer email enquiries about the grants to questions that *are not* covered in these grant guidelines or in the information webinar, from October 15-November 8, 2022. This means we cannot guarantee responding to any questions in the last week of the grants call.

All the applicants will receive feedback on their applications, we aim to share this by 13th January 2023.

12. HOW TO APPLY FOR AN ACTIVATION GRANT:

12.1. FOR SHARE-NET INTERNATIONAL & COUNTRY HUB MEMBERS WITH A DIGITAL PLATFORM ACCOUNT

Applications can only be made online, via our website, you must have an account on the digital platform (our website) in order to access the application form.

All SNI members have digital platform accounts, and some country hub members do. If you cannot login to your account, please try a password reset (link available on the [login page](#)), and if that fails, please contact info@share-netinternational.org and we will help you gain access to your account.

Please note, we DO NOT accept grant applications via email.

How to access the application form and apply

1. [Login](#) to the digital platform and navigate to the [grants page](#). Here, you can find the call for applications.
2. Click on the Knowledge Activation Grants listing to open the grants call, and then click on the 'apply' button at the top right-hand side of the page. *Please note, you will only see this button if you are logged-in to the digital platform.*
3. After completing the application form and submitting, you will receive an automatic email to confirm your application has been received. If you do not receive this, your application has not been received. You can check your application progress via the 'My Activities' section of your profile.

You can save partially completed applications before submitting them, and review your submitted application via the 'My Activities' section of your profile.

12.2. FOR SHARE-NET COUNTRY HUB MEMBERS WITHOUT A DIGITAL PLATFORM ACCOUNT

If you **do have** a digital platform account, you can follow the instructions above and apply via our website.

If you DO NOT have an account on the digital platform, you can apply for a grant via a password-protected link that the country coordinator of your hub will send to their members around October 15th 2022.

Please note, if you apply this way, you cannot save and return to your application later, and must submit your application in one go. You will receive an email confirming you have successfully submitted your application. If you do not receive this, your application has not been received.

13. Privacy / GDPR

Applications are stored in our digital platform and in our organization's SharePoint storage space, which is only accessible to the SNI secretariat. We will store all applications for a maximum of two years, after that all- unsuccessful applications will be permanently deleted from our systems. We retain all successful applications for 5 years. To protect personal details, applications are anonymized during the peer-review procedure with a reference number, with all personal identifying information removed from the application. We cannot guarantee full anonymity, as it can be possible that in the main grant application, some identifying information about the applicant may be included.

14. TIMELINE

18 October 2022: we will open our call for proposals in four languages (Arabic, English, French, and Spanish) via the Share-Net International Digital Platform – <https://share-netinternational.org/grants/>

25 October 2022: a writeshop will be held to explain the new participatory grantmaking process, clarify questions about the call, and share writing tips. Details will be published on our events page: <https://share-netinternational.org/events/>

15 November 2022, at 23:59 CET: Deadline for submitting applications.

15 December 2022: selected applicants are informed about the decision and requested to provide information about their due diligence and complete budget

26 January – 10 February 2023: grants letters are made, followed by the first payments

11 February- 31 December 2023: the grants are implemented.