

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY WITH SCHOOL OF THINK TANKERS

ORGANIZED BY:

ON THINK TANKS

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

DATE: 28 JANUARY - 3 FEBRUARY 2024

- One week intensive program
- Fully funded
- For individual researchers, policy entrepreneurs and executives from policy think tanks
- Application requirements: CV, Motivation Letter, Think Tank profile
- Application deadline: **31 October 2023**
- For details visit:
<https://policylab.ku.edu.np/>
- Contact: policylab@ku.edu.np

CALL FOR
APPLICATIONS

*UNLOCK YOUR
POTENTIAL WITH POLICY
THINK TANKS!*

*Collaborate with Experts
Conduct In-Depth
Research
Influence Policy
Connect Globally
Elevate your career*

Selection will be based on: experience, aptitude, relevance and commitment to think tank excellence.



giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Professional Opportunity

Application for the School of Think Tankers Program (2024)

BRUSSELS, 28 JANUARY – 3 FEBRUARY 2024
ON THINK TANKS (<https://ott.school/>)

What is the School for Think Tankers?

The School for Think Tankers (<https://ott.school/courses/school-for-thinktanners-2024/>) represents a transformative educational endeavor aimed at equipping participants with a profound understanding of the intricate world of think tanks. This intensive one-week program has been meticulously crafted to provide a comprehensive exploration of the myriad facets involved in the operation of think tanks while simultaneously empowering participants to excel in leadership roles within this dynamic field. A distinguishing feature of this program is its faculty, which comprises a distinguished roster of instructors who are former and current leaders within think tanks, as well as recognized experts in various domains. Their wealth of experience, knowledge, and practical insights serves as an invaluable resource for participants. By learning from these seasoned professionals, participants gain unparalleled insights into the inner workings of think tanks, the art of policy research, and the strategies for effective advocacy.

KUSOM Policy Lab and GIZ-SFF

GIZ-Study and Expert Fund, in collaboration with the Strengthening Policy Think Tank for Improving Policy Governance and KUSOM Policy Lab, leading the Centre of Excellence and Policy Think Tank in Public Policy and Governance, is excited to announce a call for applications from individuals who are affiliated with think tanks. This call invites participation in the prestigious School of Think Tankers, scheduled to take place from January 28th to February 3rd, 2024. This program is meticulously designed to provide an enriching and transformative experience to a select group of participants.

Selection Criteria

The selection process for participants representing think tanks is a rigorous one, reflecting our commitment to ensuring the effectiveness and relevance of the School of Think Tankers program. We believe that the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives within think tanks enriches the learning experience, making it valuable for a wide range of individuals – from career researchers looking to deepen their expertise to seasoned senior executives and policy entrepreneurs seeking to refine their leadership roles. Our selection criteria are designed to identify individuals who will make the most of this educational opportunity, contribute meaningfully to the program, and carry forward the knowledge and skills gained to positively impact the think tank community and the broader sphere of public policy and governance. The application process is competitive, emphasizing the importance of a strong commitment to the principles and practices of think tanks, as well as a demonstrated passion for advancing policy research and advocacy.

The following selection criteria are employed:

Commitment to Think Tank Excellence: An individual (Think Tanks) must demonstrate a clear commitment to advancing the field of policy research and analysis. This commitment should be reflected in the think tank's mission, values, and track record of impactful work.

Track Record of Impact: Participants (Think Tanks) should demonstrate a history of producing research and analysis that has influenced policy decisions or made a meaningful impact on society.

Capacity Building Objectives/ Career aspirations: Participants (Think Tanks) should have a clear strategy for how the knowledge gained from The School for Think Tankers will be disseminated and utilized to strengthen the organization's capacity and impact. An intention to remain with the organization for at least 2 years after the training. (2 pager motivation letter is required).

Commitment to Collaboration: Participants should demonstrate the ability and willingness to engage in collaborative efforts and share knowledge with peers and the broader think tank community are highly regarded.

Policy Research and Analysis: Willingness to contribute to policy research and analysis, Volunteerism-volunteer spirit in policy analysis, substantial contribution to GIZ/SFF/ KUSOM Policy Lab research works with deliverable as per contractual agreement.

Policy Initiatives: Any sort of policy initiative of his/her own or institutions- exemplary policy works and contributions, and future policy initiatives of GIZ/SFF works (indicative) as credible think tanks.

Executive and Professional positions: The representative of a think tank must be in an executive leadership position of the organization. Clearly appropriate to the specified objectives and sufficiently senior to be able to act on/implement what has been learned on their return home.

Education and Experience: At least bachelor's degree in social science, economics, development studies, public policy, or relevant field or preferably master's degree in development studies, economics, public policy, social science, or another relevant field. At least 5 years' experience working in think tanks.

Policy Sustainability: Any example of policy sustainability works done as a representative of credible think tanks and policy do tanks.

Language Skills: Good command over written and spoken English.

Aptitudes: Various aptitude/experience as a speaker and/or trainer if participants are to disseminate information and/or conduct train-the-trainer workshops at home.

Training Experience: Some experience in an area related to the training offered.

Commitment after return: Willingness to initiate such opportunity after return for capacity building of the policy think tanks for impactful policy works.

Please send your application to: <https://forms.gle/manEvADjws563EqYA>

Please attach your application with **recent CV, a profile of the think tank you are associated with** (max. 2 page) and **a motivational letter**. Please adhere to following format below:

Curriculum Vitae (CV) – Max 3 Pages

[Include your educational background, professional experience, and any relevant skills or policy achievements]

Think Tank Profile - Max. 2 pages

[Provide a concise overview of your think tank's mission, areas of expertise, and recent policy accomplishments].

Motivational Letter – Max 2 pages

[Focus on explaining why you are a suitable candidate for the program, how it will benefit both you and your organization, and your plans for utilizing the knowledge gained to support think tanks and similar organizations in Nepal].

For more information, visit <https://policylab.ku.edu.np/> or contact KUSOM Policy Lab at policylab@ku.edu.np

Note: This is a funded opportunity. The participants are strongly encouraged to provide commitment in knowledge transfer gained from this course to other think tanks in Nepal.

SCHOOL for THINKTANKERS

BRUSSELS, 28 JANUARY - 3 FEBRUARY 2024

*Each year, the **School for Thinktankers** supports young and experienced thinktankers to develop their skills and prepare for, or strengthen, leadership roles. This document outlines what the School for Thinktankers offers and how you might support it and be part of this initiative.*

What is the School for Thinktankers?

The School for Thinktankers is an intensive one-week programme designed for participants to learn about the many dimensions of working in a think tank and to prepare for, or strengthen, their leadership roles. It is taught by former and current think tank leaders and topic experts. School participants join a community of thinktankers and policy entrepreneurs from around the world.

The School began in 2017, founded by [On Think Tanks](#)¹. The first four years were held in Geneva, co-hosted by [foraus](#) and the [Think Tank Hub](#). In 2021 and 2022, it moved online during the global pandemic. In 2023 as restrictions lifted, the School resumed its in person format and took up a new residence: Brussels!

[Read about previous Schools here](#)

Why it exists?

Many of today's think tank leaders are researchers who have risen through the ranks. But being a think tank leader requires more than just good research skills. The School for Thinktankers covers many dimensions of work in this sector, including governance and management, policy relevant research, communications, fundraising, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and learning. By strengthening these skills in

¹ On Think Tanks builds, nurtures, and supports a global community of people working in, with, and funding think tanks. On Think Tanks is a space to learn, reflect, imagine, connect, and take action. Flagship initiatives include the Open Think Tank Directory, Annual Think Tank State of the sector report, Annual conference among others.

current and future think tank leaders, we aim to build a stronger and more sustainable think tank sector that can help bring about evidence-informed change.

The course is designed to maximise learning and engagement between participants, and between participants and facilitators. We aim to:

- Develop participants' skills and competencies in core think tank areas,
- Prepare participants and strengthen them for think tank leadership roles,
- Create a global community of thinktankers for peer-learning during and after the School,
- Inspire, motivate, and encourage participants to reflect on how they can use what they have learned to support their organisations.
- Offers participants guidance from experienced think tankers and topic experts.

Who can join?

The School is designed for all thinktankers, from early and mid-career to senior/ executive roles. Each year, we welcome about 30 students: researchers, communications and human resources professionals, fundraisers and project managers. We also welcome policy entrepreneurs interested in setting up their own think tanks. [*Previous participants share their experiences at the School.*](#)

New partnership!

The year 2023 marked the new beginning and revamping of the School – after two long years, we were able to meet in person in Brussels and we have embarked on a new partnership with [Bruegel](#), Brussels-based economics think tank. The School edition 2024 will be co-organised and hosted by Bruegel, who will contribute by sharing its established expertise in the sector, its network of policy-related stakeholders and the capacity of its experienced teams. Bruegel will work closely with OTT in promoting the School on its website and social media to increase the outreach and strengthen the impact of the School. Bruegel is an economics think tank based in Brussels, strategically positioned in the heart of European policymaking and with established links to policy makers and other relevant actors, which makes Bruegel a valuable partner of the School.

Request for support

We are looking for partners who can support the School financially and allow us to maintain and keep sustainable the funding model offering reduced participants' fees to applicants. We are looking for funders willing to co-subsidize a portion of the costs of the School.

We have introduced a funding model which is adjusted for participants' diverse economic backgrounds, allowing an inclusive and equal participation. In order to do that, we rely on the support of our philanthropic partners to make this public good available to everyone. By supporting the School for Thinktankers you will contribute to building the think tank sector across the world: through exchange, learning and growth, we create a stronger and more sustainable sector which brings about evidence-informed change.

For more information, contact Andrea Baertl at [OTT \(abaertl@onthinktanks.org\)](mailto:abaertl@onthinktanks.org) or Alma Kurtovic at [Bruegel \(alma.kurtovic@bruegel.org\)](mailto:alma.kurtovic@bruegel.org).

THE SCHOOL FOR THINKTANKERS IN NUMBERS	
	Since 2017, the school for thinktankers has been conducted 8 times.
	The alumni community is now over 220 people from across all continents and over 50 countries.
	More than 25 trainers from institutions such as Chatham House, Brookings, EPC, Carnegie Europe, ODI, BCSP, Bruegel, ECDPM, ForausPeterson Institute for International Economics, CGD, FARO, CIPPEC and many others have a part of the school.

PARTICIPANT QUOTES
“I liked the richness and breadth of content covered as well as the opportunity to network with leaders from across the world.”
(I attended because) “I wanted to learn how to grow a young think tank and have a comprehensive understanding of what is needed to run it properly. I believe I received exactly the type of information I wanted.”
(I liked most the) “illuminating content, really great connections and perspectives from such a diverse group of participants.”

SCHOOL for
THINKTANKERS

On Think Tanks



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A global consultancy
and platform for change

