



Sociology Backstage

Guidelines

June 2026

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Guidelines of the funding format *Sociology Backstage* *

The funding format ***Sociology Backstage*** is part of the ***Dialogue*** program line. Alongside the ***Recognition*** and ***Growth*** program lines, this constitutes an independent funding area of the Kohli Foundation for Sociology. The goal of the *Dialogue* program line is to strengthen the exchange between sociological research and socio-cultural fields of practice, and to highlight sociology as a core social science discipline in terms of its analytical, theoretical, and empirical strengths.

Sociology Backstage supports special events that facilitate dialogue about sociology as both an organization and a field of practice. The aim is to further develop the discipline and ensure its long-term viability as a core social science.

This includes, for example, events dedicated to the history of sociology, those that facilitate dialogue among various sociological associations, or those that discuss the broader role and responsibility of sociology in society.

Dialogue is not understood here as mere mediation, but explicitly as an interactive space for reflection.

* The German-language text of the "Sociology Backstage Guidelines" ("Sociology Backstage Förderrichtlinien") is binding; the English-language text is merely a translation.

1. Purpose and Scope of the Funding

Through *Sociology Backstage*, the Foundation supports dialogue events that

- examine or further develop sociology as a discipline,
- strengthen its sustainability and social relevance,
- and facilitate constructive exchange among sociological associations.

Funding may be provided for both individual events and limited-time event series.

2. Academic Requirements

A prerequisite for funding is that the project has a clearly recognizable sociological focus:

- The goal and focus of the funded event should be to make a positive contribution to sociology as a core social science discipline.
- Sociology should not merely be included as a supplementary element but must form the core content of the event.
- A clear connection to sociology or the social sciences on the part of the participating institutions and actors, e.g., through their affiliation to professional associations and sociology departments, or proven expertise in science policy and science communication.

3. International Focus and Language

- Both international projects and those based exclusively within Germany are eligible for funding, provided they have broader relevance to sociology as a discipline. This also applies to applications from abroad.
- The preferred language for events is English. Events in other languages are possible in justified exceptional cases and must be explained accordingly in the application

4. Eligibility to apply

Eligible applicants are organizations affiliated with an institution, in particular:

- Universities and non-university research institutions,
- Sociological professional associations,
- Non-profit associations and organizations,
- Institutional collaborations involving multiple partners.

Individuals without institutional affiliation are not eligible to apply.

5. Type and scope of funding

- The guideline amount for the grant is €2,000 per application. The actual amount may be higher or lower.
- The number of projects funded depends on the available budget and the quality of the applications received.
- The foundation provides support exclusively through financial contributions and, where appropriate, by facilitating contacts from its network.
- Any contributions from third parties towards the funding of the event must be disclosed. Double funding for the same project is not permitted.
- All organizational responsibilities rest with the applicants.

6. Eligible and ineligible costs

Financial support is provided through a lump-sum agreement. This is based on the cost estimate provided in the application. The agreed lump sum can be used to cover the following costs:

- project-related material costs,
- travel and accommodation expenses for participants,
- fees for external speakers or mentors,
- costs for organization, documentation, and public relations.

The following are not eligible for funding:

- basic institutional funding,
- ongoing personnel costs of the applicant institution,
- commercial or for-profit projects,
- sponsorship activities.

7. Application Process and Selection Procedure

- Applications may be submitted at any time and will be considered until the annual budget has been exhausted.
- Selection is made by the Board of the Kohli Foundation on the basis of the following criteria:
 - Contribution to professional reflection,
 - Academic quality and alignment with the Dialogue program line,
 - Conceptual clarity and plausibility,
 - Appropriateness of the budget
- There is no legal entitlement to funding.
- Repeated funding for the same applicant is generally possible.

8. Participation of Recipients

Grant recipients agree to:

- to provide a binding guarantee that the grant funds will be used for their intended purpose and to provide evidence of this in the form of a brief factual report, a simple summary of expenditure and a declaration confirming the proper use of the funds.
- allow for an appropriate presentation of the Foundation and its programs and offerings during the event,
- to repay any unused funds.
- to provide the Foundation with proof of charitable status or corporation tax relief upon acceptance of the grant.
- to formally mention the Kohli Foundation for Sociology in all event announcements and materials,
- to allow for an appropriate presentation of the Foundation and its programs and services at the event.

To support public relations efforts, a guide containing logos and informational materials about the foundation will be sent along with the grant approval notice; these materials are to be used.