



Funding Guidelines and Criteria

Siemenpuu – Foundation for Social Movements' Cooperation sr Updated in February 2022

Siemenpuu Foundation aims for a world where biodiversity degradation and climate change have been halted to a sustainable level, while at the same time good life is within everyone's reach by eco-socially sustainable ways of life and livelihoods.

Siemenpuu supports the work of civil society movements in the Global South. Funding is provided for CSOs and NGOs advocating environmental justice, ecological democracy and human rights.

The initiatives funded are mainly identified through thematically and geographically restricted calls for project concept papers. Concept papers are evaluated, after which selected applicants are called to submit a full application. Concept papers and full applications are assessed using these Siemenpuu general funding guidelines and criteria, as well as specific thematic priorities set for each call.

Central to the assessment of the project proposals is the examination related to the applicant organisation. Siemenpuu supports primarily local and grassroots-based organisations and their networks. In addition to the organisation's administrative capacity, the governance principles of the organisation are assessed. Each grantee organisation has to be formally registered, and have a verifiable capacity to manage the grant. Bookkeeping and project auditing are expected to be performed according to national laws and given Siemenpuu guidelines. Women need to be represented in the decision-making positions of the grantee organisation.

Siemenpuu's aim is to support, in particular, movement-based organisations or organisations otherwise close to local communities. The intended project beneficiaries should play a strong role in the programming/planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the activities.

The programming/planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the proposed activities have to adhere to the following **five crosscutting objectives adopted by the Siemenpuu Foundation**:

- Strengthening of biodiversity and communities' diverse life-heritages and cultures which are adapted to live by the regenerating local biodiversity.
- Advancement of climate justice. Strengthening of local communities' climate resilience and development of alternatives to a development model based on fossil energy and overexploitation of natural resources.

- Promotion of systemic change for a fair transition to ecological democracy. In the face of global systemic crises - manifested by climate change and biodiversity loss, shrinking space of civil societies, and growing global inequalities - the underlying systemic factors need to be addressed and alternatives to the current dominant worldviews and practices developed.
- Strengthening of the civil society. Support environmental, indigenous and other human rights-based people's movements and local and indigenous communities, as well as their cooperation locally and globally.
- Advancement of equality and human rights. In particular, address various forms of multiple discrimination and promote the rights of women and the rights of persons with disabilities.

While planning the project activities, the possibilities to advance these objectives and to avoid unintended negative effects concerning them should be assessed. Explicit gender equality and disability inclusion plans will be expected from the grantees, which receive a positive funding decision. Additionally, the project implementing organisations are expected to make sure that the beneficiary communities are involved in the definition, design and implementation of activities, by seeking guidance in the concept of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Special attention is to be paid to the consent of women and girls.

Projects supported by Siemenpuu must include a minimum of 10 % self-financing counted from the Siemenpuu grant. It may consist of cash, voluntary work, and/or donated goods.

The Siemenpuu Ethical Code of Conduct must be followed in all activities funded by, or performed by Siemenpuu.