



**GRANTS FOR PhD CANDIDATES / YOUNG RESEARCHERS IN JORDANIAN AND TUNISIAN UNIVERSITIES AWARDED BY THE KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENTIFIC NETWORK, LOCAL 2030 COALITION**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025.**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

The **Knowledge and Scientific Network (KSN)** offers **grants** in favor of **six Jordanian PhD Students and young researchers residing in Jordan and six Tunisian PhD Students and young researchers residing in Tunisia** for the **academic year 2024-2025** to foster culture on SDG localization, to promote innovative and interdisciplinary training and to support institution and capacity building in the countries.

The grants will be based on merits and they will be only available to attend academic training activities and Local Labs implemented by CeSPI ETS, KSN, and Un-Habitat.

**FUNDING PERIOD**

Six grants in Jordan and six grants in Tunisia are awarded for a **period of study of 12 (twelve) months**, from **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, to **October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**.

**ELIGIBILITY**

**Applicants who will meet the following requirements by the deadline of submission (September 10, 2024, 2:00 p.m. C.E.S.T.) may apply for a grant.**

1. Applications must only be submitted by PhD students (preferential status) or young researchers (including post-doc) residing in Jordan and Tunisia holding an **appropriate academic enrolment or attendance status**.
2. Applicants should not be over **40 years old** by the deadline of this call (September 10, 2024).
3. Applicants must be proficient in **English language**, being the courses entirely taught in English.
4. Applicants must have a specific scientific and **research interest**, regardless of the scientific-disciplinary sector, **in SDG localization** and, preferably, in SDG-7 (Affordable and clean energy), SDG-8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG-11 (Sustainable cities

and communities), SDG-13 (Climate action), SDG-14 (Life below water), which are the SDGs prioritized by the strategies of the 4 partner cities of Aqaba and Irbid in Jordan, as well as Kerkennah and Sousse in Tunisia. In particular, jobs and social protection, cultural heritage conservation, urban mobility, waste management, life below water, preservation of coastal archipelagos, sustainable electricity, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are the prioritized topics.

5. Applicants must have a Personal bank account .

Applicants must submit one application EXCLUSIVELY VIA WEB by uploading all the following requested documents **in English**:

- i. CV,
- ii. Master grades with thesis' title (in French or English),
- iii. Motivation letter (which should be no more than 250 words long),
- iv. Abstract of the PhD research project (or proposal) focus and identification of the SDGs of greatest specific relevance which should be no more than 350 words long),
- v. Reference letter written by the PhD program or research or Lab coordinator/supervisor,

sending them by email to the address indicated at the end of the document.

Personal information and documents provided by applicants will be treated respecting the right to privacy.

The upload of the mandatory attachments requested must be made by 2:00 p.m. (CEST) on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, via online procedure.

## SELECTION AND AWARDING OF GRANTS

Applications will be evaluated by an Admission Committee set up by the Local 2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network, CeSPI ETS and UN-Habitat.

Grants will be awarded based on a comparative assessment of applications according to the five entry requirements and criteria related to applicant's profile, research records and relevance as well as gender and disciplinary equity.

The selection procedure based on the documentation will be graded with marks up to 30 points and grades below 18 will be considered not sufficient for admission. Previous research collaboration with the four cities and/or English language certificates will be considered as a bonus.

According to a merit-based ranking list, videocall interviews in English may be possible to complete the selection procedure.

CeSPI ETS and UN-Habitat will publish the list of grantees as well as a list of the best excluded, if any.



Scholarships will be awarded according to a merit-based ranking list, determined by the Admission Committee: Successful applicants will be awarded according to the order of ranking until the number of six available places in Jordan and six available places in Tunisia is filled.

The selection and awarding of grants procedure must be completed by Monday, October 7, 2024.

### **TERMS OF GRANT**

Grantees will receive a **750 USD monthly allowance** on a quarterly basis, which will be paid on their bank account.

The first installment of the grant can be received only after the completion of enrollment and the submission of all the requested documents according to the necessary administrative procedures. CeSPI ETS will begin the disbursement procedures at the end of each quarter. Individual payments will therefore commence after that period.

The last installment of the grant will be paid only upon verification of satisfactory academic and outputs progress.

PhD scholarships may not be combined with any other scholarship, except from those awarded by national or academic institutions to fund the student's PhD research.

### **RIGHTS AND DUTIES**

Grantees will get the status of young scholar of the KSN International Doctoral School on the SDG localization and will be advised and assisted, by members of the KSN, CeSPI ETS and Un-Habitat.

Grantees will be required to attend on time at least 80% of both the online classes (on average, half a day a week) and international workshops (on average, half a day a month), as well as Local Laboratories held in the program (on average, half a day a week), hosted by one of the 4 partner cities of Aqaba and Irbid in Jordan, as well as Kerkennah and Sousse in Tunisia.

Grantees will be required to commit to carrying out action-research activities on priority topics in the best possible way, being proactively engaged in the Local Labs' activities.

Grantees will be also expected to deliver (1) an opinion article, (2) an academic article and (3) a Policy Paper as a result of their action-research activity.

Grantees' rights and duties under their scholarship will be spelled out in the Charter of the PhD and Young Researcher to sign and approved by the PhD program or research or Lab coordinator/supervisor.

At the end of the activities, grantees obtain a certificate of participation, indicating all the activities carried out and the outputs produced.



Please submit the applications with the requested documents, as well as any questions for matters not explicitly mentioned in the present call for applications, to: [cespi@cespi.it](mailto:cespi@cespi.it), with cc [pietro.ceppi@un.org](mailto:pietro.ceppi@un.org).

ROME, 02/08/2024

signed

CeSPI, Director (Legal Representative)

*dott. Daniele Frigeri*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniele Frigeri", written over the typed name.