

Call for Expressions of Interest

Issuing Organisation	Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF)
Role	In-country Civil Society Partner
Programme	Food and Democracy: From Citizen Voice to Global Governance Reform
Sub-grant value	CHF 9000 (including VAT)
Working Language(s)	English, French
EOI Deadline	31 st August 2026
Questions to	Ayooshee Dookhee: dookhee@kofiannanfoundation.org

1. Overview

The Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF) invites Expressions of Interest from civil society organizations based in Switzerland to become our in-country partner for an innovative 24-month learning project exploring how deliberative democracy can strengthen food governance.

We are seeking an organization with strong roots in Switzerland's food and/or democracy ecosystem – one that understands the landscape, has trusted relationships across sectors, and can help bring together the right mix of civil society actors, policymakers, practitioners, and citizens.

This is a collaborative partnership rather than a service contract. KAF will lead the overall methodology, facilitation and comparative learning process, while the selected organization contributes contextual expertise, convening capacity and strategic judgement throughout the project.

The selected organization will receive a sub-grant of 9000 Swiss francs to support approximately 20 days of staff time over the course of the project.

Why partner with KAF?

This project offers an opportunity to:

- Help shape an emerging field linking food governance and deliberative democracy;
- Collaborate with the Kofi Annan Foundation and international technical partners;
- Contribute to a comparative project across Ireland, France and Switzerland;
- Develop evidence-based insights that will feed into the global food governance discussions; and
- Connect the Swiss experience with international processes, including the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and broader UN food governance discussions.

2. About the Project

In February 2025, KAF's high-level [Commission on Food Security](#) (KAFCS) published its final [report](#) identifying a significant governance gap in the global food system: decisions affecting food systems are often made without meaningful participation from those most affected.

Among its recommendations, the Commission called for testing new democratic approaches that enable more inclusive and representative food governance.

This project responds directly to that recommendation. Working in France, Ireland and Switzerland, the project will explore whether deliberative approaches can strengthen food governance in different political and institutional contexts. Across the three countries, partners will jointly develop evidence on what works, what challenges emerge, and how citizen participation can contribute to more legitimate and accountable food policymaking.

KAF will coordinate the overall methodology alongside a knowledge partner, responsible for research, learning and evaluation.

Each country team will:

- Contribute to a shared baseline assessment;
- Participate in two deliberative workshops;
- Test a common evaluation framework;
- Contribute to cross-country learning and comparative analysis.

3. Why Switzerland

Switzerland brings a unique angle alongside France and Ireland: a tradition of direct democracy that plays out concretely on food-related matters, notably through the initiative “For Food Sovereignty”, put to a national vote in 2018. Switzerland also has concrete experience of large-scale citizen deliberation, notably through the Citizens’ Assembly for a Food Policy (2022).

This citizen mobilization is also reflected in concrete experiments. In 2023, Geneva became the first Swiss canton – and one of the first in Europe – to enshrine the right to food in its constitution. This institutional anchoring is accompanied by grassroots initiatives such as the Caisse Genevoise de L’Alimentation (CALIM).

4. What We Are Looking For

We are looking for an organization that can bridge Switzerland's food and democracy communities.

We recognize that organizations rarely work equally across both fields. We therefore welcome applications from organizations that:

- work primarily on food systems, food sovereignty, agroecology or food policy and have experience with participatory approaches; or
- work primarily on democratic innovation, civic participation or deliberative democracy and have meaningful relationships within Switzerland's food sector.

Above all, we are looking for a trusted partner with the networks, credibility and judgement to help identify the right participants and advise on how deliberative processes can be most effective within the Swiss context.

Applications will be assessed against:

- relevance of organizational mission;
- strength of networks across food and democracy;
- experience facilitating dialogue or participatory processes;
- ability to engage policymakers and public institutions;
- organizational capacity to manage the sub-grant; and
- commitment to collaborative learning across three countries.

5. The Collaboration

The primary value you bring is your understanding the Swiss context. Throughout the project, KAF and the knowledge partner will lead methodology and facilitation. Your role will be to ensure that the process is locally grounded, strategically connected and politically relevant.

In particular, we will rely on your expertise to advise:

- who should be involved;
- how invitations should be framed;
- which relationships and political dynamics require consideration; and
- how deliberative outputs can most effectively connect with policy processes in Switzerland beyond.

The anticipated commitment is approximately 20 days over 24 months.

Phase	Estimated Days	What this involves
Scoping & baseline (Months 1 – 3)	~5	2-3 coordination calls, review of landscape mapping, input to baseline assessment and evaluation framework
Workshop 1 preparation & delivery (Months 4-6)	~5	Co-design invite list, framing input, attend workshop (1 day), post-workshop debriefs
Cross-country learning workshop (Months ~12)	~3	Online or hybrid, bringing together all three country teams – attend, contribute Swiss perspective
Workshop 2 preparation & delivery	~4	Same as workshop 1 – refined based on learning
Synthesis, review & dissemination	~3	Review policy brief and comparative learnings, support Swiss dissemination

The sub-grant of 9000 Swiss francs is intended to cover this staff time. Logistics costs – venue, catering, participant travel, materials for the two workshops, are covered in a separate budget envelope and will not need to come out of this sub-grant.

In concrete terms, the role involves the following across the three project objectives:

Objective 1 — Connecting deliberations to global governance

Co-organise and participate in an in-country workshop to map Switzerland's deliberative food governance landscape, identify existing evidence, and co-design the Swiss application of the shared evaluation framework. Participate in an online kick-off session connecting the three country teams. Contribute inputs to the baseline assessment of deliberative food processes in Switzerland (co-led by KAF and the knowledge partner) and co-validate findings. Co-organise and participate in a second country-level workshop applying deliberative methodologies.

Objective 2 — Shared accountability framework

Provide country-specific inputs to the design of the accountability framework – mapping how deliberative recommendations travel or stall in the Swiss context. Co-validate the shared evaluation framework as it is developed iteratively. Attend the one-day cross-country learning workshop at the midpoint of the project.

Objective 3 — Comparative evidence and policy translation

Contribute Swiss findings to the cross-country comparative learnings. Review the policy brief developed by KAF and the knowledge partner. Participate in the final hybrid policy convening and support dissemination of findings within your networks, connecting where possible to existing national food policy debates.

6. How to Apply

Expressions of Interest **should not exceed five pages** and should include:

1. Who you are

A brief description of your organization – what you do, who you work with, and where you sit in the Swiss food and democracy landscape. We are interested in your mission, your scale, and why this project fits into your existing work.

2. Your network

Tell us concretely about the networks you could draw from for this project. Who are the food/democracy actors you work with regularly? Where do you have relationships in the deliberative or participatory democracy landscape? What is your existing or plausible route to government or public body engagement on food policy?

3. Your reading of the landscape

How do you think about the challenge of bringing food and democracy civil society actors into the same room? What has your experience been of structured dialogue or

participatory processes – what has worked, what has not? How would you approach engaging government counterparts in a process like this one?

4. Your team

Who would lead this work and what is their relevant experience? Given the nature of the role, we do not expect a dedicated full-time staff member. This can be someone who allocates ~20 days alongside existing responsibilities.

5. Budget

A simple indication of how you would allocate approximately 20 days of staff time across the activities described above, with a day rate and brief justification. Total must not exceed 9000 Swiss francs. Please note workshop logistics are covered in a separate budgeted envelope and should not be included in this sub-grant.

Please also attach:

- Your most recent annual accounts or financial statements; and
- Proof of organizational registration.

Send your expression of interest to hr@kofiannanfoundation.org with the subject line:

“Call for Collaboration – Food and Democracy – Switzerland Partner”

Written questions can be sent to the same address by 15th August 2026. We are happy to have an informal conversation with organizations wishing to learn more before applying. Please reach out to Ayooshee Dookhee at dookhee@kofiannanfoundation.org.

Deadline for submission: 31st August 2026.

Shortlisted organizations will be invited to a 45-minute conversation during September 2026. The successful partner is expected to begin work on **1 October 2026.**