How are applications reviewed and grant decisions made in Kone Foundation’s general grant call?

Every year, we receive around 6,000 applications in the annual grant call in September. The applications are evaluated by about 50 peer reviewers. New peer reviewers are assigned each year in order to guarantee a diversity of perspectives and to make sure there is rotation in this position of power. The applications are evaluated independently in an online system. Reviewers of applications that combine work in different fields can discuss the applications anonymously with one another.

After receiving the applications, the reviewers ensure no one of the applicants are friends or colleagues, nor in their immediate circles. If there are conflicts of interest, the applications in question will be transferred to another reviewer.

We do not publish the names of the reviewers. The way, are criticism of the grant decisions is directed towards the Foundation rather than individual reviewers.

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When considering reviewer candidates, the Foundation emphasises expertise, breadth of knowledge, and diversity. The Foundation board makes the final reviewer selections. Selections are based on suggestions by the board, Foundation staff, and peer reviewers from previous rounds. In addition, anyone can propose a peer reviewer. The candidates decide if they want to accept the role.

Peer reviewers receive comprehensive instructions before they evaluate the applications. All applications are handled confidentially. Persons involved in processing and evaluating the applications do not publicly discuss any information relating to applicants.

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The Foundation selects peer reviewers in the fields supported by the Foundation to become peer reviewers. When considering reviewer candidates, the Foundation emphasises expertise, breadth of knowledge, and diversity. The Foundation board makes the final reviewer selections. Selections are based on suggestions by the board, Foundation staff, and peer reviewers from previous rounds. In addition, anyone can propose a peer reviewer. The candidates decide if they want to accept the role. Peer reviewers are compensated for their work.

The list of new grants, including project summaries and working group members, will be published on our website in early December.