



INTRODUCTION TO SGP CIRCLES

Purpose

SGP's Geo and Thematic Circles, established by SGP members, provide an avenue for members who share issue or geographic interests to collaborate.

Formation

Members can establish a new Circle by submitting a simple proposal to the SGP Interim Circle Committee through the form provided on the SGP website. SGP supports new groups by assisting in proposal revision, work plan development, start up support and announcing new groups to membership. Any SGP member may join an SGP Circle through the SGP website.

Circles Guidelines and Leadership

Once a Circle has been initiated it should collectively establish the objectives of the Circle. Circles should strive for collaborative and non-hierarchical leadership structures.

For the pilot phase, each Circle will have two co-leaders. Note the following restrictions on leadership:

1. Geo Circle: At least one co-leader must be a native of the country of focus
2. Issue Circle- At least one co-leader must be from the global south.

Meetings and Functions

SGP encourages regular meetings to maintain momentum.

Examples of potential Circle functions:

- Exchange relevant knowledge and resources and host training opportunities
- Establish mentorship opportunities and plan events
- Facilitate collaboration on projects and research, share research methodologies
- Share strategies for dealing with challenges and develop and share advocacy strategies
- Develop new tools and strategies for working within the specific group context

Knowledge Management

Information Storage and Sharing

In developing a means for knowledge management, Circles should consider multiple components: knowledge itself (the data and resources), management of knowledge (the way the knowledge can be stored so that it can be used accurately and efficiently) and the sharing of knowledge (the accessibility of the knowledge).

Reporting and evaluation

At the end of the 6-month period, Circles must reflect on activities and submit a self-reflection on successes and challenges of the group, as detailed in the policy section above.

Budget

During the pilot period, Circles will not receive funding. For the time being, Circles cannot fundraise independently. Circles may eventually have a small operating budget based on membership dues, which can be used to support the operations of the group.