



# THINK TANK Lab

A JOINT  
PROJECT BY

DGAP

MERICS  
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SUPPORTED BY

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## THINK TANK SCHOOL 2024

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

#### AT A GLANCE

Program: four thematic training modules, three self-paced project phases, regular peer calls

Duration: six months, from May 14 to November 7, 2024

Location: Berlin, Brussels, and Online

Language: English

Application Deadline: April 7, 2024

Tuition Fee: EUR 1,175 (excl. statutory VAT)

#### ABOUT

The Think Tank School is a **unique training program for early-career professionals** that is specifically tailored to the requirements and demands of the think tank sector.

The six-month program offers fellows the opportunity to take the next step in their careers by developing their skills for **effective think tank work**, expanding their professional network in the **policy and think tank community**, and applying **innovative methods** to an individual research project of their choice.

***“The Think Tank Lab created a rich program that showed us, fellows, in many different ways how to achieve more impact as think tanks and research institutes.”***

– Ana Helena Palermo Kuss, Advisor to the President,  
ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

The Think Tank School is open to think tank professionals who have:

- Research and analysis roles in a think tank or policy-oriented research institute based in Germany; and
- One to five years of professional experience in the sector or other relevant fields.

Career changers are also welcome to participate. We do not impose age restrictions for applicants. The program offers 15 to 18 spots per cohort.

We reserve the right to allocate a limited number of places to think tankers from European organizations. If this applies to you, please get in touch directly.

You can check the profiles and projects of the previous participants [here](#).

## COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK & LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Think Tank School is based on a competency framework that was specifically developed to reflect the variety of skills required to excel as a think tanker in an ever-changing environment.

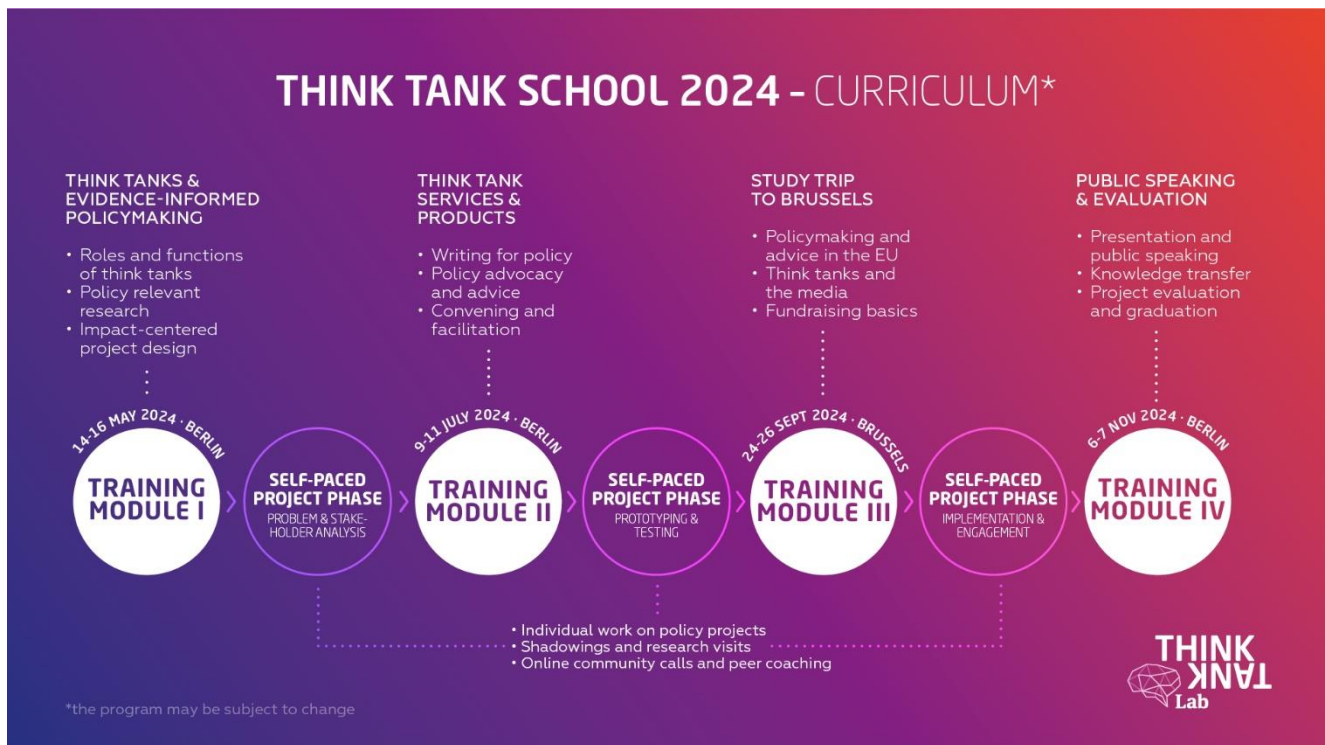


After participating in the Think Tank School, you will be able to:

- Critically reflect and consciously shape your dynamic role as a think tanker;
- Develop and implement innovative and relevant projects that are designed to impact policy;
- Cooperate with peers and stakeholders toward a common policy goal; and
- Provide your organization with impulses for its further development.

## PROGRAM AND STRUCTURE

Embark on a transformative journey with our comprehensive learning program.



The program combines different learning formats, prioritizing your professional growth while supporting knowledge transfer to your organization.

### Training Modules in Berlin and Brussels:

Interactive seminars led by experts provide practical knowledge, tools, and key frameworks for innovative and impact-driven think tank work. Translate these concepts into your own environments to foster professional development.

### Policy Projects:

Apply newly acquired tools to a policy problem of your choice. Develop and implement an individual project step by step, with the flexibility to collaborate on joint projects.

### Online Community Calls:

Engage in two community calls per project phase to present project progress and receive peer feedback. Expert webinars offer additional thematic insights.

### Shadowing and Research Visits:

Gain firsthand insights, a behind-the-scenes look at real policy processes, and inspiration in your policy field or work by shadowing key stakeholders or conducting research visits to relevant institutions.

### Peer Learning and Learning Exchanges:

Participate in peer coaching formats to support each other and provide advice on how to implement the policy projects. You are encouraged to establish learning exchanges with fellow participants' organizations.

### Networking Activities:

Connect and exchange ideas with peers, policymakers, funders, and key stakeholders through networking activities and social events.

## WHY PARTICIPATE

**For fellows:** Unlock your potential at the Think Tank School – a unique opportunity to acquire and test new skills within the context of a practical policy project. Get expert guidance, implement innovative projects, and expand your professional network by connecting with peers, policymakers, and think tank stakeholders. Plus, become a member of the [Bosch Alumni Network](#) and [MercatorGlobe](#), joining global alumni communities fostering cross-sectoral exchange and collaboration.

**For organizations:** Enhance your think tank's capabilities through the Think Tank School – systematically train and empower your employees, gain insights into innovative approaches, and expand your network with other think tanks. The School provides a safe space for experimenting with novel project forms and designs while ensuring a seamless knowledge transfer back to your organization.

## EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FELLOWS

Active participation in *all* training modules and community calls is expected of all Think Tank School fellows. In addition, participants are expected to read the course material and work on their individual projects independently. The policy project should be implemented before the final module.

## TUITION FEE

Participation in the Think Tank School is possible for a fee of EUR 1,175 (excl. statutory VAT). A limited number of partial scholarships are available in case of financial needs; please contact us directly if required.

The tuition fee covers:

- All expert lectures, learning activities, networking events, and site visits;
- All online community calls with additional input from experts;
- All learning materials, including project templates, background resources, and a learning journal;
- Lunch and coffee breaks during the in-person trainings and activities;
- Diploma upon completion of the Think Tank School; and
- Access to the Think Tank Lab community and alumni networks.

The fee does not include travel and accommodation to Berlin and Brussels. Participants are responsible for arranging and covering these costs themselves.

## INFORMATION WEBINAR

For interested participants and organizations, an information webinar will take place on **March, 7, 2024**, from **12:00 – 01.00 PM**. To participate, please register [here](#).

***“The Think Tank School's structured approach to addressing policy challenges helped me to recognize underlying systems and engage with key stakeholders. The program supported me in becoming better at my job, enabling me to be a changemaker.”***

– Mauricio Böhl, Researcher, IDOS – German Institute of Development and Sustainability

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for a spot in the Think Tank School 2024, please fill out the [ONLINE APPLICATION FORM](#) and submit all supporting documentation by **April 7, 2024**.

To apply, you must submit ALL of the following:

- A motivation statement (two-minute video or 300-word essay) describing why you would like to participate, and how you will apply what you have learned to your work.
- A description of the policy problem (300-word essay) you would like to work on during the program.
- Details about the stakeholders that you would like to interview and shadow and why you have selected them.
- A letter of support from your organization stating that you will be allowed to participate in all trainings and community calls. It should also describe the type of support you will receive in implementing your policy project (e.g., the ability to publish your analysis on the organization's website, assistance in organizing an event, etc.).
- A short written bio (100 to 150 words) and your resume (two to three pages).

## SELECTION PROCESS

Participants will be selected on the basis of their experience and expertise, their chosen problem, and on how the Think Tank School will support them at this point in their career. The Think Tank Lab team will also take into consideration the background of other participants to ensure a diverse cohort.

The participants of the 2024 cohort will be announced no later than April 17, 2024.

**INTERESTED IN JOINING THIS UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE?  
[APPLY HERE!](#)**

Find more information on [www.thinktanklab.org](http://www.thinktanklab.org)

For further questions, please reach out to [thinktanklab@dgap.org](mailto:thinktanklab@dgap.org)