


# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: JUSTICE MATTERS 2027 SIDE EVENTS

## Justice Matters 2027 | 10–12 May 2027

## 1. Background

Justice is essential to economic prosperity, yet it remains largely overlooked in debates about growth, competitiveness, investment and economic resilience.

As economies face geopolitical uncertainty, slowing growth, deepening inequality and rapid technological change, accessible, effective and people-centred justice is more important than ever. It enables businesses to operate with confidence, resolves disputes before they escalate, protects livelihoods, strengthens trust in institutions and creates the conditions for investment and inclusive growth.

**Justice Matters 2027 advances a bold proposition: justice is economic infrastructure.**

Under the theme *Justice: The Missing Infrastructure*, the conference will bring together leaders from government, the private sector, financial institutions, international institutions, justice sector and civil society to explore how people-centred justice can become a cornerstone of economic policy and business competitiveness.

The conference will showcase evidence, innovations and partnerships that demonstrate how justice contributes to stronger economies, more resilient communities and more inclusive development.

# 2. Call for side-event applications

HiiL invites organisations and partners to submit proposals for side events taking place on **10–11 May 2027 in The Hague**, alongside Justice Matters 2027.

The side events provide a platform for organisations to bring new voices into the conversation, present emerging evidence, showcase practical solutions and build partnerships around the role of justice in economic and social development.

We welcome proposals that move beyond conventional discussions of justice as a legal or institutional concern and demonstrate how justice can help address the economic, political and societal challenges of today.

We are particularly interested in events that connect justice with audiences and agendas that have not traditionally been part of the justice conversation—including business leaders, investors, economic policymakers, financial institutions and innovation ecosystems.

# 3. Suggested themes

Proposals may address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- **Justice and economic growth:** How effective dispute resolution, secure rights, and accessible justice strengthen productivity, entrepreneurship, investment and inclusive growth.
- **Justice and the private sector:** The role of justice in reducing business risks, resolving commercial disputes, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and improving the business environment.
- **Financing justice as infrastructure:** New approaches to financing, investing in and measuring the economic returns of people-centred justice.
- **Justice, technology and AI:** How digital innovation and artificial intelligence can improve access to justice, reduce costs and deliver better outcomes—while managing risks and protecting rights.
- **Justice, security and resilience:** How accessible justice strengthens social cohesion, builds trust, prevents grievances from escalating and contributes to stability.
- **Justice for inclusive economies:** Addressing the everyday justice problems that disproportionately affect women, informal workers, entrepreneurs and marginalised communities.
- **Justice innovation and system transformation:** Practical solutions, new partnerships and scalable models that make justice more accessible, effective and responsive to people's needs.
- **Measuring the impact of justice:** Evidence and approaches for demonstrating how justice contributes to economic performance, institutional trust and sustainable development.

We also welcome original proposals that challenge conventional thinking and introduce new perspectives on justice as a foundation for prosperity.

# 4. What makes a strong proposal?

We are looking for side events that are:

- **Bold and forward-looking:** Advance a clear proposition, challenge established assumptions or introduce a fresh perspective.
- **Evidence-based:** Draw on research, data, practical experience or demonstrable results.
- **Solution-oriented:** Move beyond identifying problems to explore what works and how successful approaches can be scaled.
- **Cross-sectoral:** Bring together perspectives and expertise from different sectors, particularly those not traditionally engaged in justice reform.
- **Action-oriented:** Create opportunities for collaboration, investment, policy change or concrete next steps.

We encourage interactive formats, including policy dialogues, roundtables, demonstrations, practitioner exchanges and discussions between public and private sector leaders. Proposals should identify a clear audience and explain what participants will learn or take away.

# 5. Who can apply?

Applications are welcome from organisations working across rule of law, justice, economic development, business, finance, technology, governance, security and related fields.

Eligible applicants may include civil society organisations, research institutions, universities, government agencies, international organisations, private sector actors, investors, justice innovators and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Joint proposals involving partners from different sectors are particularly encouraged.

# 6. Venue arrangements

Side events may be hosted at the **HiiL office in The Hague or at venues arranged independently by the organising organisations**.

HiiL has a limited number of slots available to host side events at its office. Applicants interested in this option should indicate their preference in the application form, including their preferred date, expected number of participants and any relevant logistical requirements. Requests will be considered as part of the selection process, subject to space and availability. **A request to use the HiiL office does not guarantee a venue slot.**

Organisations are also welcome to propose events at external venues. Organisers choosing this option will be responsible for identifying and securing their venue, covering associated costs and managing their own logistical arrangements.

Applicants should indicate their preferred venue arrangement when submitting their proposal. Venue preferences will be considered alongside the quality, relevance and feasibility of each application.

Selection of a side-event proposal does not automatically guarantee funding, venue provision or logistical support from HiiL.

## 7. What selected applicants can expect

Selected side events will form part of the wider Justice Matters 2027 programme, creating opportunities to connect with conference participants and contribute to a global conversation on justice as economic infrastructure.

HiiL will review proposals for their relevance to the conference theme, the strength of their proposition, the value they offer participants and their potential to generate practical outcomes and new partnerships.

Selected organisers will be contacted regarding next steps, including programme coordination and, where applicable, confirmation of HiiL office availability. Organisers remain responsible for delivering their events and making the necessary arrangements in line with the venue option selected.

## 8. How to apply

Organisations interested in hosting a side event are invited to submit an application outlining:

- The proposed title and central idea.
- The relevance to *Justice: The Missing Infrastructure*.
- The key questions the event will address and the intended participant takeaways.
- The proposed format, target audience and potential speakers or partners.
- The expected outputs, outcomes or opportunities for follow-up.
- The preferred venue arrangement: HiiL office, independently arranged external venue, or either option.

**Application deadline:** 5 December 2026
**Application form:**
**Questions:** justicematters@hiil.org

**Help us make the case for justice as the missing infrastructure of prosperity. Join us in The Hague on 10–12 May 2027 and help shape the conversation at Justice Matters 2027.**

HiiL
Dedicated to people-centred justice