



# Online Consultation

## Setting the Knowledge Platform's 2017-2018

### Research Agenda

#### Information & Contribution Guidelines

##### Overview

The objective of the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law is to harness the energy and ideas of its community to improve the quality of Security and Rule of Law (SRL) policy and programming, and of people's lives.

With this intent, the Secretariat of the Knowledge Platform develops an annual Research Agenda with themes and questions to prompt policy-relevant research. The research agenda guides the Platform in supporting every dimension of knowledge acquisition: generating new knowledge, sharing existing knowledge, and/or addressing barriers in knowledge uptake. This way, the Platform's research function is calibrated to provide direct support to SRL policymakers and programmers.

##### Setting the research agenda

The need for a more coherent, interactive, and relevant research agenda setting process has been underlined by external reviewers, our consortium partners, and members of the Platform community alike. In order to stimulate learning, the Secretariat deems it important to ensure the network members feel a sense of ownership in developing this agenda, to ensure the knowledge generated will be put to use. To do this, the Secretariat is working to increase the Platform's stakeholders' involvement in setting the research agenda, and thereby also increasing the transparency of this process.

The strategy for setting the research agenda consists of three phases: i) developing research headlines, ii) refining these research headlines into an initial agenda, and iii) finalizing the research agenda.

The first phase coincided with the Secretariat's inception phase (January - April 2017). During this phase a needs assessment and scoping study were carried out, as well as a number of one-on-one consultations with Platform members, consortium partners, and steering group members. The Secretariat used this input during a series of strategy discussions within the team. These processes have led to the establishment of four thematic headlines, published in late April:

1. Preventing Conflict and Sustaining Peace
2. Inequality, Power and Governance
3. Implementing Goal 16 of the SDGs
4. Change and Learning Processes

These headlines define the scope of the [Knowledge Management Fund](#) as well as the **online consultation**: the key sources of input during the second phase (May - July 2017).

### Online Consultation

The aim of the consultation is to collect input from the Platform community on which themes, issues and questions emerge as current priorities. We invite anyone interested in SRL policy and programming to contribute to setting the Platform's research agenda, by providing us with the key research question the agenda should focus on in 2017/2018, drawing on personal expertise and experience.

The question should fall under one of the thematic headlines, and include a brief elaboration of why addressing this particular issue is necessary for improving SRL policy and programming. For example, explain which specific problem the question seeks to address, and who would benefit from prioritizing this issue. Is the issue specifically relevant for a certain geographic area? If so which, and why should this area receive special focus? Does the issue align with or challenge the [priorities](#) of [Dutch SRL programming](#), and how?

If possible, specify whether the question requires primarily:

- New research: Is it a question for which insufficient knowledge or expertise is available?
- Linking existing knowledge and/or actors: Does the question stem from a lack of awareness of and insight in existing knowledge?, or
- Breaking down barriers to learning and change: Does an adequate and well recognized knowledge base exist, but is it still not applied in policy making or program development?

The consultation is open for contributions from June 14<sup>th</sup> - July 21<sup>st</sup>. The Secretariat will analyze all contributions, and describe the emergent trends in a synopsis report. This will inform the Secretariat as it sets the initial research agenda, to be vetted at the Annual Conference. Here, our community will be able to directly participate in defining the final topics.

After the Annual Conference, the Secretariat will develop the annual research agenda proposal. This proposal will be presented to our consortium partners for feedback, and then sent to the steering group for approval. Finally, the agenda will be sent to NWO-WOTRO, which will develop the proposal into a Research Call for Proposals (expected January 2018).