

Working group Reconstruction Tender
Attn: Pascal Richard and Berlinda Nolles



Dear colleagues of the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law (KSR),

The Steering Group held a meeting on 18 July 2013 to discuss the development in, and of, KSR, and ways to further support the Working Groups, amongst others by using 'Instrument A'. Also the preparation of a first Call for research proposals was discussed in the presence of NWO/WOTRO ('Instrument B'). Just as a reminder:

Instrument A

The secretariat has organizational capacity and a budget to directly support (the organization of) events like workshops and expert meetings relevant to realize the goals of the platform. The budget can also be used to provide for substantive support (short scoping studies, mapping exercises, and the like) in the preparation of the plans and activities of the working groups, if so desired.

Instrument B

Research will be funded on the basis of competition via a tendering procedure. It has been agreed upon with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that NWO-WOTRO Science for Global Development will be responsible for the tendering and granting process and the administration of the research funding.

The role of the Steering Group is to decide on the research agenda of the platform, and to see to it in close cooperation with NWO-WOTRO that the tender procedure will lead to implementation of the agenda. The working groups, especially the three research-oriented working groups, have the mandate to provide the Steering Group with building blocks for this research agenda.

I am happy to share with you the conclusions and decisions taken by the Steering Group. First I will elaborate on the general development of KSR. After that I will describe the decisions taken on the basis of the proposals of your Working Group concerning Instrument A and, if applicable, Instrument B.

General conclusions

It was clearly shown by the plans and proposals presented that all of the Working Groups have worked hard to further develop the ideas, suggestions and proposals that were presented in April this year. The Steering Group wishes to thank you all for your contributions and likes to take the opportunity to express its gratitude to the facilitators who have made considerable contributions to the results that are now on the table.

In general, the plans and proposals are well appreciated. They made it possible for the Steering Group to take positive decisions on a number of Instrument A – proposals, allowing budgets for all Working Groups to develop and implement proposals and to take further concrete actions. These decisions were taken on the basis of a number of criteria that were mentioned to you in earlier communications:

- Scope and relevance of the proposal
- Focus on countries and FCAS; Southern partner perspective
- Multi-disciplinary
- Knowledge dissemination
- Dynamics of the working group (cross-pollination, i.e. are proposals discussed in and supported by the WG)
- Practical usability and/or necessity for the development of the research agenda
- General project quality (f.i. smart goals and realistic planning and budget).

During the general discussion of the Steering Group on the preparation of the first Call for Instrument B proposals it became clear that two working group plans – Employment for Stability and Comprehensive Approach to Human Security – presented a number of very interesting and attractive

research questions which can be the core theme of calls for both strategic and applied research proposals. However, the Steering Group also came to the conclusion that the original plan to issue a Call in September 2013 is not feasible, both for practical and substantive reasons. The Steering Group feels that some additional work needs to be done to further develop these research questions in order to provide the secretariat and NWO/WOTRO with sufficient substantive input to be able to draft the documents for the calls. This takes a bit more time than the six weeks originally foreseen but it is expected that this work can be done before the end of October 2013. Then it is possible to present the first Call, or Calls, on the forthcoming KSR-meeting, which will take place in November this year (date soon to be fixed).

Instrument A proposals

The facilitators developed one common proposal for a combined effort to develop a Southern reference group. The Steering Group is positive about this proposal, although at first sight it does not seem realistic to combine the needs of the Indonesia Working Group with the ones of the other groups. The Steering Group wishes to use the forthcoming meeting of the facilitators, early September, to discuss the proposal and to decide on the approach and budget needed for that.

Your Working Group has presented the following proposals to the Steering Group:

- a. Strategic and operational analysis of the existing database and scoping study
- b. Three multidisciplinary meetings
- c. Meeting on M&E approaches

The Steering Group valued your proposals highly. It proposes to reduce the number of multidisciplinary meetings to two instead of three, and agrees with the other activities proposed.

The Steering Group invites the Working Group to contact the secretariat to:

- Avoid overlap between the proposal a. and the construction of the online database for KSR as a whole;
- Agree to the support needed to prepare and organize the proposed meetings.

Instrument B proposals

The Steering Group likes to remind all partners in KSR that the proposals for the research agenda are judged by using the following criteria:

- Is the topic demand- and problem oriented?
- Is the research formulated in a multidisciplinary way? What is the added value for stakeholders of the research proposed?
- Does it duplicate existing research and knowledge available; does it build on this?
- What demand is there for the proposed research?
- Is the topic relevant for practice and/or policy development with regard to among others the peace building and state building goals as provided in the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States?
- Are the deliverables clear?
- Is it envisaged that the research, and the planned dissemination, will involve cooperation and follow-up with international partners, especially in the South?

The research themes will be established on the basis of the input of the Working Groups. The Calls that will be developed in cooperation with NWO/WOTRO will be open to all.

The Steering Group hopes that its conclusions are agreeable and its decisions clear. If you have any questions or remarks, please contact the secretariat: m.tiessink@kpsrl.org or +31 (0) 70 - 30 28 148. The members of the Steering Group will also be happy to provide further thoughts and explanations when we meet again during the next KSR –meeting.

On behalf of the Steering Group, sincerely yours,

Prof. dr. W. van Genugten
Chair