

Assistance in putting EU foreign policy into action in a policy-driven approach

The Facility on Conflict Analysis, Risk Assessment and Monitoring Frameworks aims to enhance the overall quality and conflict sensitivity of actions



#5
Gender
equality

#10
Reduced
inequalities

#16
Peace, justice
and strong
institutions



Mr. Nikola Petrovic
Project Manager,
EU Framework Contracts
T: +381 6622 1989
M: nipe@niras.com

The Service for Foreign Policy Instruments supports the European Commission in meeting EU foreign and security policy objectives while projecting the EU's interests and image in the world. The Service's main areas of intervention are crisis response, conflict prevention, and peace building. They do things like help countries cope with crises and maintain peace and security, observe elections and prevent trade in conflict diamonds among other actions.

Currently, the Service's work is funded by the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), but this will soon fall under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). A substantial redesign of the EU's framework for financing external activities, NDICI streamlines a number of existing external financing instruments including the IcSP. The provisionally agreed NDICI will consist of three pillars: (1) geographic, (2) thematic (including four different areas, one of which is peace, stability and conflict prevention) and (3) rapid response.

NIRAS has been contracted to manage a new Facility – the Facility on Conflict Analysis, Risk Assessments and Monitoring Frameworks – that aims to improve the overall quality and conflict sensitivity of actions under the NDICI rapid response pillar as well as the peace, stability and conflict prevention component under its thematic pillar.

Improving the overall quality and conflict sensitivity of EU actions

The expected results under this Facility include:

- enhanced overall quality of logical frameworks and monitoring frameworks;
- facilitation of proper use of the existing risk assessment matrix formats;

- ensuring consistently high standard of conflict analysis;
- and ensuring conflict sensitivity of programmable actions.

The NIRAS team will be responsible for providing a quality review and assessment of logical and monitoring frameworks of actions, using conflict sensitive indicators, gender sensitivity and human rights standards, in line with IcSP core indicators.

The experts will also facilitate proper use of the existing risk assessment matrix formats for capacity-building in support of (1) security and development (CBSD) and (2) development and security for development (CBDS) actions and other actions as appropriate. Risk analysis may also be helpful for other security activities such as counter-terrorism.

Another task will be to ensure that the robust action-level conflict analyses meet minimum quality standards. This is important because actions in relation to the fight against terrorism, cyber- and organised crime, cyber security and CBDS actions should draw upon these analyses. They also need to complement the EU conflict analyses carried out in about 60 fragile/conflict-affected countries. These minimum standards might be defined in terms of these analyses being a result of a joint effort, being action-oriented and evidence based, as well as multidimensional, taking into account all the conflict complexities.

Any new conflict analyses should inform multi-country or thematic programmable actions. Consequently, the experts will be involved in the early stages, for a longer period of time and probably more in an advisory manner. It is important that these actions are designed in a conflict-sensitive manner and the FPI staff drafting the programming documents should

Donor

European Commission

Client

Unit 2 of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI.2) / European Commission

Location

Global

Contract value

€546.000

TA value

€534.000

Duration

December 2020–2023



The NDICI's Regulation's provisionally agreed text states that the Commission, through its actions, should aim to generate direct human security benefits for the population, contain relevant good practices to ensure sustainability and accountability in the medium and long term, including effective democratic oversight, and should promote the rule of law, transparency, and established international law principles.

Project scope

+ On an annual basis, the experts are expected to provide assistance with 40 quality reviews and assessments of logical and monitoring frameworks, with proper use of 20 risk assessment matrix formats for CBDS (and other) actions, with development of 25 conflict analyses and 15 conflict sensitivity analyses for multi country or thematic programmable actions.

have a shared understanding of what the key dynamics of conflict are, and that the opportunities for conflict prevention resolution/transformation are identified.

Identifying the best approach for the assignment

During the inception period, the experts had the opportunity to review a series of project documents developed by EU partners and submitted for funding in different conflict contexts. Based on this document review, the experts provided reflections on some of the types of technical weaknesses they are likely to encounter and provide advice on, and highlighted some lessons that might possibly be the subject of a dialogue with the EU and its partners.

Analytical tools and methods, namely a set of assessment grids, have also been designed so that principles of utmost importance for the team of experts and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments can be consistently applied throughout the assignment. These grids are designed to gather data systematically to compare the quality of programme documents but also the type of advice provided. The comparative analysis of these grids at regular intervals throughout the implementation period of this assignment should make it possible to generate useful lessons for all stakeholders on each of the tasks/components.

On an annual basis, the experts are expected to provide assistance with 40 quality reviews and assessments of logical and monitoring frameworks, with proper use of 20 risk assessment matrix formats for CBDS (and other) actions, with development of 25 conflict analyses and 15 conflict sensitivity analyses for multi country or thematic programmable actions.

NIRAS will ensure that the team of experts, the backstopping team, and Service for Foreign Policy Instruments' teams (wherever they are located) have structured access to all deliverables produced, tools for project implementation, documents received for analysis from the beneficiary, as well as administrative documents, through establishment of a document repository via NIRAS Share and use of digital tools facilitating online work, including online document collaboration, meetings and webinars.