

## **ERMES – a new EU facility to support global peace mediation efforts**

*As of the beginning of 2014 the 'European Resources for Mediation Support' (ERMES), funded under the Instrument for Stability, and managed by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments with the political steer of the EEAS Mediation Support Team, provides the EU with a new facility to support global peace mediation efforts.*

As stated in the 2009 Council 'Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities', to complement its role as a lead- or co-mediator, the EU should continue to provide different kinds of mediation support to third party mediation actors engaged in inclusive peace processes at the international, regional or local levels. The aim of ERMES, for which EUR 3 M have been allocated over a period of two years, is to enable the EU to support third parties through quick response engagements as well as longer term capacity-building efforts, including the following types of activities:

- **short-term technical assistance** to peace processes and actors;
- **training and coaching** support to peace process participants;
- **production of short research papers** to guide mediation actors;
- **facilitation, including logistical support, of meetings** linked to third party engagement in mediation, at international, national and local levels; and
- **organisation of seminars and workshops** with the aim of exchanging experience and lessons learnt on mediation.

**The support will be delivered by experts in the area of global peace mediation and dialogue**, combining country/regional conflict analysts with experts in a range of thematic areas related to mediation, such as mediation process design, security issues, transitional justice, constitution-making, power-sharing, gender, natural resources and wealth-sharing, national dialogue and the role of media.

**Third party beneficiaries of ERMES** can be a wide range of mediation actors, such as:

- International and regional organisations,
- All levels of stakeholders in individual or groups of countries, ranging from national ministries and infrastructures for peace to civil society actors and grassroots-level groups.
- International non-governmental organisations engaged in mediation.

**The experts will be provided or mobilised by a consortium** gathering the following leading organisations in the mediation field: Crisis Management Initiative (Finland), the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Switzerland), ACCORD - African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (South Africa), Search for Common Ground (Belgium), International Alert (United Kingdom), steered by the consultancy Transtec.

**ERMES is complementary** to several projects funded under the Instrument for Stability as well as to the services provided by the EU Mediation Support Team in its efforts to build the EU's mediation support capacity and support EU mediation actors.

For further information, please contact the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instrument. Contact point Daniele Senzanonna ([daniele.senzanonna@ec.europa.eu](mailto:daniele.senzanonna@ec.europa.eu)).

***Examples of what ERMES could cover:***

- *In a conflict country X, the EU wishes to step up its support of an ongoing or planned mediation process. → In close consultation with relevant EU actors (EEAS Geographic Division, Delegation, Commission services, EUSR etc.), ERMES could deploy a technical expert on constitution-building or even a mediator for the mediation team, commission a study on lessons learned from previous peace processes in the country, provide technical assistance to the national peace center and fully organise a meeting of grassroots-level women activists to coordinate their input into the mediation process.*
- *The EU is in the process of strengthening its partnership with regional organisation Y and is looking to focus on more political issues → ERMES could fully plan, implement and provide follow-up to a set of workshops and trainings on mediation and preventive diplomacy both for the organisation's staff and for its member states' officials.*