

Völkerverständigung Europa und seine
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Von

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Stuttgart
12.05.2017

Empfänger

Zur Kenntnis

Call for proposals

Terms of References

Study of civil society in Eastern African border regions

Context and background

Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. In its charitable work, it addresses social issues at an early stage and develops exemplary solutions. To this purpose, it develops and implements its own projects. Additionally, it supports third-party initiatives that have similar goals.

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is active in the areas of health, science, society, education, and international relations.

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is committed to upholding the values and example of its founder Robert Bosch and continuing his philanthropic work. With more than 50 years' experience, the Foundation has extensive knowledge, the qualifications for developing solutions, and a comprehensive network of partners, experts, and practitioners.

The Foundation holds about a 92 percent stake in Robert Bosch GmbH and finances its operations from the dividends it receives from this holding. Since it was established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung has invested more than 1.4 billion euros in charitable work.

International relations – Regional Africa Strategy

The department for international relations aims to promote international understanding between people of different countries, nations, regions and within countries. The Regional Africa strategy aims at promoting social cohesion and understanding among East Africans, and it intends to contribute to more differentiated perceptions that Africans and Europeans have of each other.

International civic cooperation

In the spirit of Robert Bosch, networking and collaboration between civil societies across national borders is an important matter to us. With our projects, we want to contribute to the generation and dissemination of new ideas and impetus in the international dialog and therefore the strengthening of civic involvement even beyond borders.

In particular, we motivate and empower young people to realize their own project ideas and to become actively involved in shaping society, thereby taking on social responsibility.

Furthermore, we support the exchange between players from various sectors in order to enable, in addition to international dialog, the dialog across different sectors, thereby contributing to a sustainably anchored civil society in our target regions.

In East Africa, international civic cooperation aims at social cohesion. Objectives include:

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- Inclusive forms and processes of creating understanding and of decision-making between different societal groups are locally and internationally visible: solutions are based on equitable dialogue between generations, men and women, grassroots and elites, different ethnic and religious groups
- Integer personalities, change makers and unifying figures impact their societies as role models
- An inclusive cooperating culture exists and develops without external support on a long-term perspective
- Decision making processes are based on accurate and updated data / information
- Members of different cultures and social groups are guided in their decisions by an understanding of others

Overall scope of the survey

To conduct

- a) A mapping of the local civil society (hard to reach changemakers) in one or two border regions in East Africa and
- b) A feasibility study for a pilot project on cross-border civil society networks in these regions.

The aim is to identify characteristics and resources of a “civil society of proximity” focusing on informal social spaces and on broadening the definition of civil society.

In the first part of this study, the focus is on individual personalities as proposed by their communities. These personalities are those perceived as unifying trustworthy connectors and change makers. We would like to make visible positive examples and role models, existing resources as well as both local problems and solutions. Another aspect is the group dynamics leading to the identification of such actors – who does the community allow to become such a personality? A third aspect is the social capital, emancipatory practices and the different contexts that provide the context for these civil society actors. This will include findings of specific characteristics of the analysed border regions including perceptions people have of borders and of the people living on the other side.

The feasibility study will identify practical preconditions for a possible project – existing cross-border connections, practicalities of border-crossing, as well as to understand if an interest exists on behalf of civil society groups and / or individuals / communities in becoming part of a pilot project. This includes the question if the political environment is conducive to such a project.

Specific objectives

- Choose two border regions between East African countries, choose areas in these regions that are suitable for conducting research on this subject.
- Carefully prepare the ground for and accompany the field work by establishing good working relations with local leaders and the population in the research area.
- Identify characteristics of a civil society of proximity.
- If appropriate: broaden the definition of civil society
- Identify integer trustworthy personalities, their motivation, identity, activities, networks and resources and actively involve the communities and local leaders in finding these people
- Gain a better understanding of the different local, legal, political, economic and cultural contexts that shape civil society in their specific regions on both sides of the border.

- Analysis of perceptions of the border as a dividing line (or not) between those on the other side and of what divides people and what connects (“the border” as an empirical and symbolic value in peoples’ lives).
- Gain a better understanding of resources that create autonomy and those that create dependency. If possible, identify local innovative forms of solutions and of civic engagement in general.
- Analysis of cross-border connections as well as practicalities needed for cross-border exchange visits.
- Better understand needs of existing change makers and their networks/organizations especially in regard to autonomy and sustainability, also in relation and collaboration with government and economic actors.
- Receive recommendations as to the possible implementation of a pilot project (see more information below).

Research methodology

- Desk research: Theories on trust, civic norms and networks and new definitions of civil society (informal social spaces, movements etc.), as well as on innovative emancipatory practices of disadvantaged groups and on the local context, if available could be taken into account.
- Data collection should be based on a mix of methods, including innovative methods that actively involve citizens and communities in identifying these integer personalities in order to work with them during research (f.i. action research or others).

Proposed time line

May 15	Application process starts
May 31	Deadline for submitting proposals
06 June	Selection interviews
12 June	Signing of consultancy contract
15-30 June	Project start
	Preliminary preparatory conversations with RBS – specification of work plan
	Field work
	Report writing
04 August	Submission of final draft report
14 August	Roundtable workshop for discussion and publication of results

Expected deliverables

- A detailed research report outlining the following: the scope, objectives and background of the study; detailed description of research methodology including critical self-reflection of used methods; results of each section mentioned below; a graphic representation of at least some of the stakeholder maps where appropriate, recommendations for the implications of findings for a pilot project; list of interviewed persons, used literature, raw data such as transcripts / notes of interviews;
 - An in-depth description of individual personalities and their civic engagement – integer, trustworthy, integrating change makers, who are known by everyone.
 - With what kind of resources do they work, what kind of solutions do they find, why are they trusted, what activities do they engage in?
 - How do they work and in what kind of structures or what kind of structures do they create for themselves to work in? Formal / informal?
 - Which lessons could they share and what are their dreams and aspirations?
 - How do they relate to local and capital city political processes and organizations? Which political space do they create to collaborate with them?

- Mapping of emancipatory practices, social capital, networks, institutions and activities that are not directly linked to the personalities but that contribute to shaping civil society in the region.
- Mapping of contacts with / involvement with saving groups, donors, and civil society organizations in the capital city or in the next larger city, mines, companies, foundations.
- An analysis of the political, socio-economic and cultural context: How can the context be characterized? Have there been any changes that impacted civil society in recent years?
- An analysis of practicalities concerning a possible future pilot project in the region:
 - What is the local government's attitude toward international projects in the region?
 - Are there any legal barriers concerning cross-border exchange visits (availability of border passes, necessity of passports, where are they obtained, costs...)?
 - Do cross-border contacts (historical or current) exist between citizens in that area and for what motivation/purpose?
 - What is the infrastructure like in the region – busses, roads, distances, costs?
 - Capacity building and alternative ways of income generation – what kind of experience have change makers made in the past and what attitude do they have towards these solutions?

Selection criteria

- The successful research partner will have a solid track record on the criteria below, with examples of evidence for each.
- A solid track record in all aspects of research methodology (design, sampling, analysis, report writing etc.), mapping exercises, and preferably alternative research methods such as action research or others
- Evidence of successful international research collaborations preferably with mixed teams from East Africa and / or from East Africa and a country from outside Africa
- Creativity and flexibility in regards to approaches to meet objectives;
- Excellent facilitation and communication skills, familiarity with the local culture; professional command of English; knowledge of Swahili and/or other local languages will be a plus
- Evidence of successful research collaboration with civil society actors, local administrators, as well as with the rural population in an East African country

Application process and timeline

We invite interested organizations/consultants to submit the following application documents:

- Expression of interest addressing above outlined selection criteria,
- Technical proposal for the consultancy, including description of work, methodologies and communication means for research and suggested time schedule for the study
- Financial offer: budget, including salary, international travel, field expenses and workshops facilitation
- CV
- Work example (previous, similar work) and updated contact details of one reference person
- Please send the above documents to the following person: Karoline Caesar: Karoline.caesar@bosch-stiftung.de
- Feel free to contact us for any clarification question.

The deadline for applying is 31 May 2017