



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Researcher

Project: Searching for Peace in Iraq

1. BACKGROUND

The Spanish organization NOVA-Center for Social Innovation in cooperation with the Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR) and the Iraqi nonviolence network LAONF are implementing a comprehensive research project on *Searching for Peace in Iraq*.

This project will address 3 core areas of research:

- ▶ **Strategic Conflict Analysis of the Conflict(s) in Iraq:** A comprehensive analysis and presentation of root causes, drivers, and key dynamics in the conflict(s) in Iraq using SCA Methodology
- ▶ **Cumulative Impact and Needs Assessment:** Evaluation and assessment of local, national and international efforts to address the conflict and on-going violence; and
- ▶ **Strategic Peacebuilding Proposals:** developing a series of recommendations and proposals to support peacebuilding efforts

The project is searching for high quality, committed Iraq researchers to be lead members of the international research team under the leadership of the Research Director. The research unit will be composed by 2 international researches (Romania and Spain) and 3 Iraqi researchers from the north, centre and south regions. The project is implemented with the support of the Barcelona Council

2. TASKS AND RESPONSABILITIES

The Iraqi Researcher will work in close co-operation with LAONF representatives in the country and the international research unit in Spain and Romania. Under the direct supervision of the international Research Director and the Project Coordinator of the project “Searching for peace in Iraq” the Researcher will:

- Apply Strategic Conflict Analysis Methodology and in-depth research on the conflict situation and peace-building work in Iraq
- Analyse the data obtained and, the political, economic, media and social environment;
- Produce reliable, regular and focused reports using SCA Methodology;
- Coordinate and organize work agendas, meetings with key actors in the political situation in Iraq (local authorities, international organizations, political parties, religious groups, trade unions, national authorities, key stakeholders, etc)
- Build-up a sustainable working relationship with representatives of LAONF network and civil society organizations working on peace-building in the country;
- Other duties as required and agreed upon for completion of the research

The Researcher will be a respected member of the Research Unit and will play a key role in shaping the quality, content and substance of the project. The Researcher will be expected to contribute actively with analysis and insight, and to ensure high quality research and publications in line with the project.

3. REQUIRED COMPETENCIES & KNOWLEDGE

- In-depth knowledge of the political, economic and social situation in Iraq and conflict causes, dynamics and impacts
- Knowledge of conflict transformation and peace-building work in Iraq
- Ability to work under pressure and meet strict deadlines
- Ability to work in a multicultural and international environment
- Availability to travel throughout their respective region (North, Center or South)
- Strong analytical and writing skills and commitment to high quality research
- A published record on conflict analysis and previous training and professional expertise in peacebuilding and conflict transformation are highly preferable.

4. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS / EXPERIENCE / LANGUAGES

- Graduate Education – MA or PhD. – in political science, international relations, peace and conflict studies, public policy, international human rights or other relevant fields
- At least 2 years experience undertaking researchs on the conflict and peace-building
- Oral and written fluency in English

Desirable:

- Strong Critical Analytical and Research Capacity
- Abilities to synthesize vast amounts of information and present clear, cogent analysis of major trends, dynamics, root causes, and driving factors of the conflict
- Previous experience in research projects and publications
- Possible background in national or international media
- Driving license

5. REMUNERATION

Total research's fees 4000 EUR (part time dedication) for each researcher, plus additional payments for transportations and running costs (stationery, internet connection, communications, print materials, etc). The international trips will be covered by the lead organization, NOVA.

6. DURATION OF CONTRACT

The project lasts **12 months**, from December 1st 2009 until December 2nd 2010.

7. STARTING DATE

December 1st, with a previous training stage in November 2009.

From November 16th to 22nd of 2009, the full research team will be brought together at the location of the Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR). The team will participate in a five-day expert training on *Improving Sustainable Impact and Effectiveness in Peacebuilding and Post-War Recovery Programs and Operations* together with participants from several conflict areas internationally, governments and authorities, UN staff, and national and international agencies and practitioners. The program will provide a framework for collaboration on development of the design and methodology of the research project. Selected researchers must be able to participate in this program.

8. CONTACT and DEADLINE

Interested applicants are encouraged to send their CV, motivational letter and one recommendation letter to NOVA-Center for Social Innovation with the reference 2009/Research Assistant.

Contact person and email: Felip Daza Sierra, (+34) 93 551 32 92, felip@nova.cat

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS IS OCTOBER 14th of 2009