

Grant for Innovation in Conflict Transformation

“National Dialogues” in Conflict Transformation

This call aims to generate new ideas about how *National Dialogues* provide a distinct approach and a means of political settlement during and after war or political crisis.

Externally mediated peace processes are increasingly being criticised by national actors accusing international mediators of partisanship and illegitimate interference. By contrast National Dialogue processes offer a useful approach to promote national consensus and legitimacy. Having recently gained prominence during the Arab uprisings, National Dialogues hold the promise of serving as a model for achieving durable peace in transitioning societies.

National Dialogues bring together all relevant national stakeholders and actors (state and non-state), based on a broad mandate in order to build a nation-wide consensus with respect to key conflict issues pertaining to state reform and state-building. Ideally serving as common platforms for trust-building, learning, reflection and decision-making they aim to develop a new social contract. Set up as a temporary and a time-bound initiative, they may precede, complement or accompany formal negotiations over, for example, constitutional matters or support the implementation of the latter.

National Dialogues serve to bring in the various and diverging interests of all stakeholders during processes of political transition; can be understood as a kind of “creative space” within which ideas of national unity, reconciliation and peacebuilding can prosper; cannot replace the need for democratic elections and an effective constitution, but can provide a normative and practical framework conducive to building trust and enhancing confidence in the conflict-stricken state.

We invite interested applicants to submit proposals that

- ≡ explore or compare basic conditions, strategies and techniques to encourage nonviolent conflict transformation through National Dialogue settings;
- ≡ seek to strengthen the inclusivity of National Dialogues by increasing the participation of dialogue-sceptical actors and marginalised groups;
- ≡ reflect on practical experience and conceptual ideas regarding the role of third parties (outsiders or insiders) in supporting the design or implementation of National Dialogues through facilitation, capacity-building, technical support, etc.;
- ≡ provide insights on how identity-based (such as inter-ethnic and inter-confessional) settings can serve as integral parts of National Dialogues;
- ≡ shed light on case- and issue-related experiences of how to link National Dialogue formats with sub-national (regional, local) initiatives;
- ≡ compare strengths and weaknesses of different National Dialogue processes and how best to distinguish between the various set-ups.

Submitted proposals may have an analytical focus and should emphasize lessons learned from practice. Proposed projects may also focus on dialogue practice and implementation or help design components useful for strategizing and implementing National Dialogues.

Funding conditions:

- ≡ The earliest starting date for projects submitted for this Call for Applications is 01 January 2015.
- ≡ The maximum project duration is limited to 24 months. Shorter project duration is possible
- ≡ The maximum amount of funding per project is 50,000 EUR. Cost efficiency is appreciated.
- ≡ Matching funds are considered advantageous, though not obligatory.
- ≡ Proposals must fully comply with the aims of the Grant for Innovation in Conflict Transformation and adhere to the formal guidelines as specified on our website (www.berghof-foundation.org).

Initial Applications for this call can be submitted through the Berghof Foundation's online grant application form from **17 February 2014** until **31 March 2014** (12:00 pm Berlin time, UTC+1).

If you have any questions about the application process, please consult our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#). If your question is not answered there, send an email to grants@berghof-foundation.org.