

Transfer Profile



In the context of the
INEF-Research Programme
Oct. 2018 – Sep. 2021

Profile of the Research-Practice Transfer of the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), 2018-2021

Transferring research results into practice is an important feature of INEF and encompasses a broad portfolio: policy advice; academic support of policy advice; creating networks and multi-stakeholder exchange; brokering information as well as contextualizing political and social developments in the media and via formats, which aim at a broader public such as “[Global Trends. Analysis](#)” and “[Peace Report](#)” (“Friedensgutachten”) – a collaborative project of the four leading peace research institutes in Germany. A significant part of these transfer activities occurs within the framework of institutionalized cooperation with actors active in the policy-related or policy-advisory field. In the following pages, we will briefly elaborate on this and the respective formats of transfer. Afterwards we sketch out the portfolio of concrete transfer outputs and the respective activities.

Institutionalized Transfer Partnerships

There are three different contexts, in which INEF shares institutionalized partnerships regarding the transfer between research and practice:

- Firstly, since INEF’s foundation in 1990 the institute cooperates with the [Development and Peace Foundation](#) (Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden, **sef:**). The foundation’s work focuses particularly on an exchange with decision makers in politics, administration and civil society. Moreover, sef: makes up to date research accessible to a broader public by publishing, for instance, the series “Global Trends. Analysis”, which is jointly edited by sef: and INEF.
- A second transfer platform, also based on a cooperation agreement, is the [Working Group on Peace and Development](#) (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Frieden und Entwicklung, **FriEnt**). FriEnt is an association of state and non-state organizations, with INEF being the only academic member in conjunction with the [German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management](#) (Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung, PZK), a network of individuals and non-governmental organizations promoting peaceful conflict management. FriEnt aims at pooling capacities, facilitating networking and collaboration as well as contributing to conflict-sensitive development cooperation.
- Thirdly, INEF is one of the currently four institutes that publish the “[Peace Report](#)” (“Friedensgutachten”), which is an enduring collaboration since 2002. The “Peace Report” is the eminent policy-oriented publication of German peace and conflict research published annually.

Portfolio of Transfer Outputs

The spectrum of transfer outputs comprises

- policy advice in a more narrow sense and
- shaping discursive spaces and institutional frameworks for the exchange and networking between (state and non-state) actor groups,
- as well as brokering information for the purpose of political education, and contextualizing political and social developments in the media and via transfer formats, which aim at a broader public.

In various ways, INEF is directly active in the field of **policy advice**:

- (1) INEF works via pertinent advisory boards, particularly via the “VN-politischer Beirat”, an advisory council on the United Nations of the German Federal Foreign Office (Tobias Debiel). Moreover, Jochen Hippler, in particular, provides continuous policy advice to high-level political actors up to the level of ministers (German Federal Office for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ), sometimes based on project evaluations, from which “lessons learned” for the conception and implementation of political programs and their future design are drawn.
- (2) Selected, application-oriented research projects commissioned by Federal or State Ministries usually have a consultancy component that is development policy and/or human rights focused, such as the current project “Ways out of extreme poverty, vulnerability and food insecurity“, which is funded by the German Federal Office for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
- (3) Translating the respective research results in a manner suitable for the political realm is, for instance, the aim of the presentation of the “Peace Report” in Berlin. This event-driven form of communication directly reaches political decision-makers in parliament and government.

Next to these activities, directly aimed at policy advice, INEF helps creating **discursive spaces, networks and multi-stakeholder exchanges**, for instance through appropriate formats with the sef:. So far, the most complex and most institutionalized project of network creation, multi-stakeholder exchange and transfer, is the Working Group on Peace and Development (FriEnt). At INEF, Cornelia Ulbert, as a member of the FriEnt steering committee and Angelika Spelten as INEF team member at FriEnt contribute to shaping the work of the working group.

In addition to the above mentioned publication series, **brokering information** and particularly **contextualizing** political and social developments scientifically takes places on various levels of communication and through different formats. Consequently, application-oriented research projects, such as the current project „ Ways out of extreme poverty, vulnerability and food insecurity“, which is funded by the BMZ, are accompanied by their own project publication series, in which research results are presented in a practice-oriented manner. In the media, INEF is particularly visible through Jochen Hippler with respect to questions of violent conflicts, terrorism, conflict transformation and peace processes in the Middle East as well as in Afghanistan/Pakistan.

Transfer activities

Practical transfer activities by INEF comprise

- Preparing and communicating application-oriented research results in a manner that suits the respective audience through own publication series, via direct exchange between research and practice as well as through public relations,
- developing research questions and implementing projects through direct involvement of practitioners and
- a capacity-building element for internal advanced-training purposes.

The **preparation and communication of application-oriented research results** in a manner that suits the respective audience is the focus of all transfer activities. Here, the emphasis traditionally lies on written communication. Apart from the publication series “GLOBAL TRENDS. ANALYSIS“, “Peace Report“ and “INEF Report“, vital instruments are in particular the project-related publications series “AVE Studies“ and the “AVE Good Practice“ series.

When conducting transfer via publications, the possibility of obtaining feedback from readers is, based on experience, very limited. Therefore, it is rather difficult to assess the impact of specific publications. Consequently, in a direct reciprocal exchange between researchers and practitioners – for instance by way of a workshop – it is easier to assess which and what form of research results are more likely to be ‘high in demand’. In addition, one can test and adjust one’s own assumptions regarding the ‘usability’ and ‘communicability’ of research contents and results. Furthermore, critical feedback and content-related inputs from practitioners and politicians can feed back into INEF’s research. Due to its institutionalized exchange relations, INEF can contribute to consolidating and communicating the particular state of the art in practice and research regarding particular questions of transfer. From a thematic point of view, this is the case for the topic of “methods of research transfer”.

A further element of the transfer of research results are different forms and formats of public relations activities. For capacity reasons, such activities are rather limited at INEF (newsletter jointly edited with the sef.; website (German/English), press releases, media interviews, annual report, “INEF Einblicke/Insights” at larger intervals).

An important aspect of research transfer is the **development of research questions via the direct involvement of practitioners**. This does not refer to one-dimensional acceptance of research questions by potential contractors with respect to application-oriented projects. It is rather about systematically using the potential for exchange, which comes with application-oriented projects (proximity to departments, implementing agencies and/or non-governmental organizations.), in order to take reciprocal needs and evaluations or the expertise, which exists on all sides, continuously into consideration throughout the project cycle.

As far as a **capacity-building element** is concerned, scientific insights and experiences which have been accumulated at INEF are currently translated into formats and activities, which so far aim at the advanced training of INEF staff members and associates (including INEF Fellows). This also includes courses by external trainers,

such as a media training, and different forms of “in-house-activities”, for which INEF staff members reflect upon their transfer experiences and share those with colleagues.

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