

**Faculty of Social Sciences
Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)**

Request for an offer for a study – “Measurement of Human Rights Violations”

The Institute for Development and Peace (INEF) intends to commission an external study that deals with the measurement of human rights violations.

At the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF), University of Duisburg-Essen, we are engaged in research on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Thereby, the development and advancement of instruments to fulfill corporate human rights due diligence is one major concern. In this context and also due to corporations' growing demands for human rights risk assessments, INEF wants to better understand chances and challenges in the context of measuring human rights violations.

Already in the 1980s and 1990s, a group of researchers had developed a multidimensional approach to the measurement of human rights violations, suggesting “severity”, “frequency” and “range” as the three adequate dimensions of relevance in this respect (Lopez /Stohl 1992; Stohl et al. 1986). Also other researchers emphasized the need not to restrict the measurement of human rights violations to frequency (Berg-Schloesser 2000; McCormick/Mitchell 1997; Mitchell/McCormick 1988; Spierer 1990).

Due to the increasing emphasis for considering human rights performance of states and the private sector in the context of the global economy, the demand for human rights risk assessments which are easy and fast to handle (at best quantitative) is growing. This asks for a better understanding of challenges referring to the measurement of human rights. Therefore, INEF intends to commission a study that deals with the measurement of human rights violations. Thereby the aim is to better understand how one should best measure human rights violations.

The study shall contain the following aspects:

- 1) Stock taking of the available (newer) literature which deals with the topic
- 2) Have researchers recently been working on this topic? Who? What are their proposals?
- 3) How is the approach of Stohl et al. (severity; frequency; range) to be evaluated from a methodological point of view? (How) does it conform to human rights principles?
- 4) Can risk assessments from other scientific fields be applied to human rights risk assessments (i.e. re-insurance)? How should this be done?
- 5) It is expected that the study also comes up with an own suggestion how to best measure human rights violations.

We expect from applicants:

- A successfully completed master's degree or equivalent with a focus on human rights (i.e. international law, international relations, political sciences)

- Expert knowledge in statistics, qualitative and quantitative research methods and professional experience in relevant research projects
- Experience with the measurement of human rights/ human rights violations is an asset
- Very good English language skills are essential

We regret that the study has to be finalized very short-dated.

Begin of the study: **As soon as possible**

Hand in date for the final draft: **December 31st 2014 at the latest.**

We gladly accept your offer, which includes your remuneration expectations, the estimated length of your study, your CV, and your documentation of reference projects.

For further information, please contact marius.labahn@inef.uni-due.de

Closing date for the submission of applications is 12 October 2014. In case that you/ your organization are interested in conducting the study, please send your **application via mail** to marius.labahn@inef.uni-due.de.