



# ERMES

EUROPEAN RESOURCES FOR MEDIATION SUPPORT

## The EU mechanism to support global peace mediation efforts

European Resources for Mediation Support (ERMES) enables the EU to provide assistance to conflict parties, third party mediators and groups participating in inclusive peace processes, in the context of local, national or international armed conflicts, or for preventive diplomacy purposes. It does so through **short-term operational support, technical assistance and capacity-building**. ERMES complements the EU's own diverse roles as a mediator, and political and financial supporter of others' mediation efforts.

The third phase of ERMES is implemented by a consortium of leading specialized not for profit and international organisations and institutes: the European Forum for International Mediation and Dialogue – MediateUr (Belgium), Interpeace (Switzerland), the European Centre for Electoral Support – ECES (Belgium), Fondation Hironnelle (Switzerland) and the Institute of Research and Education on Negotiation – ESSEC-IRENE (France). The consortium is led by the College of Europe (Belgium).

**The programme is funded and managed by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), with the political steer of the EEAS Mediation Support Team.**

### ERMES can provide:

- Short-term technical assistance to peace processes and actors
- Production of research papers to guide mediation actors
- Training and coaching to peace process participants
- Meetings and workshops facilitation, including logistical support, linked to peace processes

### In support to:

- Conflict parties
- International and regional organisations, as well as governments acting as mediators
- Institutions and organisations mandated to support peace and reconciliation efforts (ex. Peace secretariats)
- Third parties to peace processes, such as NGOs, civil society actors and community-level groups

## Examples of past ERMES services

### SYRIA

ERMES organised several workshops to help develop the skills and the cohesion of moderate Syrian opposition groups, with particular focus on conflict analysis, strategy development, negotiation approaches, and strategic communications, to strengthen their capacity to table proposals and respond to Government positions in the Geneva peace negotiations.

### YEMEN

In support of UN-led peace mediation efforts, ERMES organised a track II workshop in Belgium bringing together 30 political, civil society and tribal leaders from Yemen, and support international observers. By facilitating this event, a first of its kind in the current context of Yemen conflict, ERMES proved able to provide politically-sensitive support in a difficult operational environment.

### MOZAMBIQUE

In a context of political conflict aggravated by an acute economic crisis, the EU Delegation facilitated initial talks between the Government and the opposition. The process regained momentum thanks to the involvement of two high-level experts provided by ERMES, who had participated also in the 1992 peace process.

### REGIONAL/ASIA

As part of its partnership with ASEAN, the EU mobilised ERMES to organise two workshops in mediation and preventive diplomacy targeting senior and medium level government representatives of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

## EU Delegations can request ERMES support

Requests for specific support through ERMES can be triggered by any EU foreign policy actor or mechanism, including Delegations, EEAS/DEVCO geographic and thematic divisions, EUSRs and Envoys, as well as Crisis Platforms.

As ERMES is funded under **the IcSP, the mobilisation of the service is subject to the principle of subsidiarity**, i.e. ERMES shall therefore not be used to respond to needs which could in principle be addressed under other, mainstream geographic or thematic cooperation instruments. Requests will be treated on a first-come-first-served basis, assessing their cost effectiveness and potential impact.

### For further information please consult

- FPI.2 - contact point Ms Barbara Einhäuser (Barbara.EINHAUSER@ec.europa.eu)
- EEAS Mediation Support Team - contact point Mr Olai Voionmaa (Olai.VOIONMAA@eeas.europa.eu)