

INSTITUTE FOR WAR & PEACE REPORTING



Stichting IWPR-The Netherlands

Policy Plan 2013-2014

(updated July 2013)

IWPR Principles

The Stichting Institute for War and Peace Reporting - The Netherlands (IWPR-NL) in The Netherlands has been established in 2007 by IWPR with the aim to facilitate journalists to report in their homeland on matters such as war, peace, justice and tribunals in The Hague and elsewhere. The Netherlands foundation is part of the IWPR network that includes other IWPR branches in the UK and the USA.

Mission

IWPR's core mission is rooting professional journalism skills deeply within individuals and within societies.

Objectives

The objectives of IWPR-NL are as follows:

1. The advancement of education and training in public-interest journalism and in the causes, conduct, effects and resolution of international, ethnic and group conflict and civil war for the public benefit, especially of the courts having their seats in The Hague.
2. The provision of an international platform for local journalism, and training, analysis and direct support to strengthen independent media and other democratic voices in crisis zones.

Current situation

Today, IWPR's office in The Hague has training and multimedia reporting activities in 7 countries - DRC, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Bosnia and Serbia - where it has established journalist networks. With its radio and print reports it serves public audiences in the region and internationally. Hague based reporting is linked to the region and serves special interest groups in The Hague and internationally.

IWPR-NL has specialized itself in reporting on international criminal and transitional justice. It has also produced training materials on the subject and its high standard quality reporting on ICTY and ICC is well-known among an educated audience such as lawyers, researchers, academia and policymakers. At the same time, general audiences in Africa and in the Balkans receive information produced by IWPR's local journalists around rule of law and accountability in local languages and simple and digestible formats.

The use of social media channels to complement the traditional reporting is increasingly opening up new possibilities. So far, initial efforts have led to an increase in audiences and more exposure for both IWPR as an organization and individual journalists.

IWPR-NL receives financial support from governmental (93% of income in 2011) and nongovernmental (7% of income in 2011). Governmental donors supporting the activities by IWPR-NL are, among other, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs The Netherlands, the Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Commission. There has been one private donation that provided funds recently.

2013 -2014 Outlook

While the reporting on the court trials in relation to ICC and ICTY situation countries remains a key component of the work by IWPR-NL, its justice programme has advanced and evolved into a broader programme with more specialized multimedia skills building and production efforts around justice and accountability with a particular focus on localized issues in the targeted countries.

In the current justice programming there is now a high degree of legal awareness that includes rule of law, transitional justice, gender justice and standards of human rights. The objective in 2013 and 2014 for the IWPR programmatically is to take steps to serve as a justice news agency, mirroring The Hague's perception as the world centre for international law, peace and justice.

The focus of such activities and projects will be on doing more in The Hague and by leaving a legacy going forward through connections to other developmental sectors such as education and rule of law. The international justice reporting in The Hague has set the stage for IWPR to explore additional opportunities to attract donor support for reporting on related issues such as natural resources, health issues and corporate social responsibility as a means to enhance accountability and good governance locally.

At the same time, with the contentious Kenyan cases presented at the ICC as well as the Gbagbo case, IWPR can anticipate an increased attention on the ICC and Hague based international criminal justice developments. The access to these developments around international justice will require a flexible thematical approach to IWPR's work in justice reporting instead of the current geographical one. This is possible if the reporting is tied to other educational initiatives such a traineeship programme and academic curriculum development. The positive steps on partnership development have already led to strong relationships with the Justice Tribune foundation, International Institute of Social Studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam, Radio Netherlands Worldwide and the Global Salzburg Seminar. They exposed new opportunities and are increasingly likely to lead to other revenue incomes (e.g. training fees).

In another development, IWPR-NL has been selected to be the beneficiary of a Gala event organized as part of the 100 Peace Palace celebrations in September 2013. The donations will go into a new scholarship fund for training young journalism students in justice and rule of law reporting. Through the endorsement by the City of The Hague, the fund will carry the name: The Hague Fund for Justice and Peace Reporting.

Fundraising

Until now, IWPR-NL foundation relied on project funding to cover all its costs. Low overhead and no PR ensured that costs remain minimum with all expenses of the foundation to support its actual mission. Such an approach makes the foundation more vulnerable.

IWPR-NL will explore the above mentioned opportunities and develop a suite of programmes to obtain a wider base of funding in line with IWPR's stated objectives as a matter of urgency. It can capitalize on the current attention by the city and the educational initiatives, i.e. summer course for students young journalists, it is developing with partners. The establishment of the scholarship fund and subsequently the investment in educational programming coupled with media productions is anticipated to result in more exposure, a wider audience, and a stronger footing in The Hague.

There is also a need to look at the foundation separately from the justice programme activities. An expansion of the Board of Trustees with Dutch board members is necessary. The foundation is to serve as a fundraising organization in the Netherlands and attain the CBF-Keur accreditation in 2014.

Sources of income	2011	New 2014 target
Governmental subsidies	93%	75%
Nongovernmental support and private donations	7%	18%
Other revenue such as trainings and materials	0%	7%

Capital management

The capital of the foundation consist of subsidies, donations and other revenue from capacity development services. In the event that the foundation has received funds which will not be used on a short term, these funds will be deposited on an interest bearing account keeping into account the lowest possible risk. The foundation will also aim to have access to the funds at all times. The capital is recorded in the accounting system and reported on to the Board of Trustees at the end of the fiscal year.

The governing body is the Board of Trustees, which comprises of personalities in the fields of media, business and academia. In general, the number of trustees should at least be three. The organizational statutes lists the responsibilities and governance structure. An expansion of the Board of Trustees with Dutch board members is anticipated in 2014.

Capital expenditure

The sources of income over 2013 and 2104 will be used to achieve the following two objectives: a. Media capacity development and empowerment and b. Access to information and freedom of expression. The expenditure division will gradually shift from 40-60 percent towards an equal 50-50 percent.

Objective	Expenditure 2011	Expenditure 2014
Media capacity and empowerment	41%	50%
Access to information and freedom of expression	59%	50%

The received capital will be spent according to the budget and activity plan of the corresponding project. The expenditures and corresponding income will be recorded per project in the accounting system and reported to the Board of Trustees at the end of the fiscal year. During the course of a project the foundation reports on the expenditure and income as part of the funder and/or donor requirements. Project audits are part of the reporting to the donor.