

CPS Cluster Meeting, 15 December 2022

Updates from around the institute

Operations

- Reminder to make sure that all invoices from vendors are sent before the due date.
- The Maconomy reporting routine for project hours will be updated next year. More information to come.
- A new colleague will be joining the operations team in January.

Outreach

- As plans are being made for next year, please give outreach notice. For events, contact Martina with Stephanie in copy.

Peace and Development

- The Environment of Peace report will be released on 19 December.

Arms and Disarmament

- The Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme received news on funding from Nordforsk for two exploratory workshops on the topic of WMD understandings, governance and technology.
- The Emerging Technology team will receive EU Council funding for a three-year project on responsible innovation and AI for peace and security.
- Mark Bromley will be relocating from Sweden for 1,5 years but will be working for SIPRI at reduced capacity. Giovanna Maletta will serve as acting Programme Director.

Director's Office

- The Strategic Grant report is being finalized.
- The fika list for the first half of next year has been shared and can be found on the intranet.
- Monday morning meetings will be moved to the kitchen. More information will be shared in early January.

Updates from the teams

Peace Operations & Conflict Management

- Gretchen published the paper titled 'Considering the Future of Gender and Peace Operations: Strategic Debates and Operational Challenges', which will underpin the gender and peace operations research stream.
- Work is ongoing for the ELSIE initiative proposal on women personnel in multilateral peace operations.
- The programme generally has a good outlook for funding next year, but there is a potential gap in the early part of the year.

China and Asia security

- The team published and hosted several events towards the end of the year.

- In 2023, the team will focus on:
 - Climate security and Afghanistan
 - US-China decoupling in high-tech sectors (initiated by the Future Fund; will continue to search for funders to support the research)
 - Cybersecurity project (Fei with Lora/A&D)
 - Maritime grey-zone activities - perspectives and responses from Southeast Asia (Pending outcome of grant proposal to Australian Department of Defence)
 - Climate Security Postures in the Indo-Pacific (Pending outcome of grant proposal to Australian Department of Defence)
 - Exploring collaborative research ideas within the cluster on China-Middle East/MENA and China's role in Security Sector Reform in Africa

Sahel & West Africa

- The Recap project continues, which is based on a network of national, regional and international organizations working on peacebuilding and prevention of extremism in 18 West-African countries. This year was dedicated to exploring potential organizations and the establishment of various committees. The project will be officially launched on 1 February 2023.
- For the Just Future project, the second round of surveys in Mali and Niger has been completed. A paper on the perceptions of the national forces will be published.
- For the project on Humanitarian Protection in the Liptako-Gourma region, the team organized four events in Dakar, Niamey, Bamako and Ouagadougou. A paper on the methodology was published. The partners are working on their own publication within the project.
- The Centre Mali final report is in the making. It will present the work of four years of surveys, qualitative interviews and research. The report will be presented in Bamako, if possible.
- Two new research projects will be started in January – one on transhumance in Niger, Burkina Faso, Togo and Benin, and one on gold mining in the western part of Mali.

Middle East & North Africa

- The team has been active in external representation and have presented in-person and online at multiple conferences in Brussels, the US, Lebanon, UAE, Jordan, and more.
- As part of the programme strategy, the team is working on the visibility of the MENA programme via networking.
- Within the framework of the MENA dialogue initiative, there will be a workshop in March, accompanied by research.
- For funding in the coming year, there are ongoing projects, but the team will apply for more. One proposal focuses on desecularization from grass root-level in Lebanon. Another one will be submitted to USIP for work on the link between climate change, environment, and conflict and how they shape each other in the Iraq context.
- A strategic orientation and proposal will be developed for the programme, and is meant to lead the work of the team in the coming years.

Funding in 2023 and beyond

- The current situation relating to the delayed decision the Swedish MFA on the Strategic Grant, and the new security situation calls for creative approaches to fundraising and diversification of funders.
- At institute level, multi-year funding will be explored further.
- For the cluster, we will prepare a storyline combining elements of different programmes, which also would allow programmes to be more linked. In recent cluster discussions, the focus on the local level for some programmes, and on the strategic and geopolitical level for others often came up. Luc will prepare a note for the cluster, with focus on connecting the social contract with the geopolitical level, that can serve an elevator pitch for the cluster.
- For the regional programmes it could be an opportunity to collaborate with the Military Expenditure and Arms Transfers Programme, as it can link to the geopolitical level.
- How can SIPRI better coordinate internal communication on fundraising and contacts? We can systematize and monitor how we keep track of the different funding opportunities, including increased capacity staff-wise. The elevator pitch will also assist the Chair and Director in representing the cluster externally. Early 2023, we are hoping to have a cluster away day, potentially with Dan attending, and in addition set up meetings with programmes individually.
- Using visits to Sweden as an opportunity for visibility – some direct opportunities mentioned were:
 - o In connection to the Swedish EU presidency next year, on 1-3 March 2023, 27 foreign ministers and as many defence ministers will visit Sweden.
 - o We have good contacts with Indonesian Embassy in Stockholm, which can be an opportunity with Indonesia is chairing ASEAN in 2024.
 - o On 16 June 2023, the Political and Security Committee is a Committee of the Council of the European Union will be visiting Stockholm, and ambassadors have asked to be briefed by SIPRI.
- How can SIPRI be sufficiently visible to funders? There are cases where relevant Call for Proposals are missed or came to our attention too late, which could be due to how we monitor and scope for opportunities, and whether we are thought of as potential partners in projects. We are potentially not visible to the funders that haven't worked with us before. So we need to work on that. We also need to invest more in the visibility that can be created after a project has ended. The planning for presenting the findings of research should be thought through before the project starts and ideally be part of the project budget.
- Need for new coordination around project proposals. If we don't get the/get a smaller strategic grant, we can expect many project proposals to be processed in the coming months. Which implies extra work for Operations.
- The in-house knowledge of Results-based Management can be expanded. Currently Fred and Nikos are resources for this, but with limited time to follow up on all requests for support.
- There is often lack of funds directed to dissemination. A more targeted type of dissemination can be set aside budget. What type of publications are most relevant for

the donors? What can be disseminated most easily in the research community? Writing content for outlets beyond SIPRI is another opportunity for raising visibility.