Voices of Researchers: Experiences from a collaborative Project under FP 7

Sumona DasGupta
Independent Researcher and Senior Visiting Fellow,
Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), New Delhi

7th FRAMEWORK PROGRAM

- Cultures of governance and conflict resolution in Europe and India (CORE)
- Collaborative project involving 10 institutions from Europe and India
- 36 months starting January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013

PARTICIPANT INSTITUTIONS

- PRIO (Norway); University of St. Andrews (UK); Berghof Conflict Research (Germany), Institute for International Affairs (Italy); Central European University (Hungary)
- Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Banaras Hindu University (India)
- Calcutta Research Group and Participatory Research in Asia (India)

COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

Major challenge EU country + Non EU (Norway and India)- diverse profiles of institutions, division of work packages (1-7) and resources.Scientific and administrative coordination and management rested with PRIO (the grant holder)and St Andrews.

Scientific coordination (St Andrews) involved planned integration of partners through meetings, conferences etc; consolidation of project collaborators around the overall vision of the project; quality assurance through peer reviews; translating research needs to concrete research goals; communicating research results to end users.

Administrative coordination (PRIO) Synthesizing and harmonizing administration activities between and within partners; ensuring adherence to EU national and international norms and laws on research activities; budgeting; audit and financial oversight.

WORK PACKAGES

Entire project was organized into 7 work packages with person months allotted for each package and financials worked out accordingly.

WP1: Scientific coordination : 26 PM

WP2: Theory and Methodology: 41 PM

WP3: Analysis of Policy: 52 PM

WP4: Thematic analysis: 56 PM

WP5: Case studies: 67 PM

WP6: Assessment of government initiatives: 50 PM

WP7: Dissemination : 16 PM

What was the project about?

AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS OF CONFLICTS AT LOCAL LEVEL

The CORE project aimed at facilitating a reciprocal learning process between EU and Indian actors and contexts by examining the relationship between governance and conflict in selected theatres across India (NE India, JK, Jharkhand and Bihar ++ tribal areas in Orissa and Chhattisgarh) and Europe (Bosnia, Cyprus, Georgia).

Through a process of fieldwork , qualitative analysis and theory development it sought to analyse both the premises and actual operation of governance initiatives on the ground in areas of militarised conflicts.

Budgetary matters

- Requested EU contribution was 2, 366,173 euros
- 618,607 euros: PRIO (administrative coordinator)
- 606,335 euros : St. Andrews (scientific coordinator)

- Indian institutions allocations varied from 97,193 euros to 126, 490 euros
- MCRG and PRIA had higher allocations than any of the universities.

Project Outputs

- Collaborative research papers around specific themes (eg; norms and premises of governance)
- Case and country briefs
- Research articles in peer reviewed journals
- Collaborative book project
- Policy briefs
- Proceedings of meetings and dialogues

Project Spin offs: The New Dialogues

The CORE project had a budget for dissemination . We decided to interpret this creatively to create a context for systematisation of knowledge along the way.

HOW?

Stakeholder dialogues in Ranchi, Bhubaneshwar and Raipur (not part of the original mandate).

Project Spin offs: The new distance course, collaborative book

Course development: This too is not part of the original project mandate but we propose to develop a course building on the new analytical frameworks and field experiences coming out of this project.

Book on the challenges of doing research in conflict areas:

Website entries around Conflict, governance and democratic Dialogue