

Position paper The Broker October 2017

Identity

The Foundation for International Development Publications was founded in 2005. Its statutory goal is to improve decisions that impact developing countries. It intended to do so by accessing and publishing independent, trustworthy and authoritative knowledge and information. In 2012 - 2015 *The Broker* converted itself from a magazine published by the foundation into a 'think net' of [experts and authors](#) and an organization of professional '[knowledge brokers](#)'. In recent years The Broker has widened its scope from development policies to European and global politics, because of their increasing interconnectedness.

Vision

We envision 'worlds of knowledge' that can be connected, as the tagline under our logo states. In our view [other](#), new, broader perspectives can make policies more inclusive. That requires forwarding narratives from other-than-usual suspects, innovating discourses and facilitating increased awareness of the interconnectedness of global, regional and local politics.

Mission

The mission of *The Broker* was reconfirmed 28 March 2017 as contributing to inclusive policies. 'Inclusive' combines the values of equality, justice, peace and sustainability in a global perspective. That global perspective includes the interconnectedness of global, regional and local perspectives.

Strategy

The strategy of *The Broker* has become connected with the knowledge policy of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), as formulated in [2011](#), and with the 5 [knowledge platforms](#) for global development that were subsequently launched. *The Broker* is part of the consortia that are funded by the MFA to run the [Food & Business](#) and [INCLUDE](#) knowledge platforms.

The Broker operates in a politicized environment with a volatile knowledge policy, uncertainty of public funding for think tanks and academic knowledge production and controversy and fast changes around discourses in 'our' subject areas. Especially in the subject areas of migration, international security and European unity. Business models around 'knowledge' are inherently and increasingly unstable, because 'knowledge' is increasingly a public good because of internet and the growing speed of communication. Neither can we expect stable public funding as knowledge brokers.

The Broker operates strategically; it navigates in a complex and dynamic environment with a long term vision and mission in mind. We do not do so on the basis of long term planning that is documented every so many years and updated and operationalised in annual plans. *The Broker* has no annual and multi-annual planning & control cycle, because our environment cannot be controlled and our internal modes of operating must stay flexible to cope in that environment. This position paper will however be continuously updated whenever the situation calls for it.

We keep our strategic options open. In the present environment our strategy is to develop ourselves as professional knowledge brokers, strengthening our role as such in the knowledge platforms, while monitoring and exploring the 'need' and 'demand' of the stakeholders of global development policies for knowledge platforms, living analysis, online debate and other knowledge brokering formats that we have developed and participated in.

Priorities

Our first priority for 2017 and 2018, the remaining funding period of the [Food & Business](#) and [INCLUDE](#) knowledge platforms by the MFA, is to strengthen our role as knowledge brokers there, in order to influence Dutch global development policies, including national and European policies with global consequences. We seek to be included in follow-up consortia running those platforms or what grows out of them. We seek to be seen as knowledge brokers and influencers of political agendas, not as communication experts.

Our second priority is to monitor emerging opportunities for building, participating in and facilitating other and more integrated knowledge platforms in the field of global development policies. Those could include knowledge platforms focusing on circular economics, ecological sustainability and nature conservation, knowledge platforms focusing on policies of other ministries than the MFA, knowledge platforms with international or even global funding and outreach and knowledge platforms linking global and national or even local policies.

Our third priority is to actively seek opportunities to run projects for and together with like-minded organisations that employ our knowledge brokering and content expertise that we have built. We will not run projects that compromise our statutory goal, our mission and our fiscal status, partly to be confirmed by the tax authorities, as not-for-profit public benefit organisation.

Our fourth priority is to maintain and develop our website as an attractive and effective platform for publications from others in our [think net](#). That requires initiating and developing new issues and debates, wherever possible in collaboration with like-minded organisations.

Modes of operating

The Broker develops and maintains a culture in which staff members get time and are challenged to take initiative, in addition to their involvement in running knowledge platforms and projects. Management is a shared responsibility of senior and medior staff, with regular team meetings in which all staff members that are not fulltime engaged in knowledge platforms participate.

The Broker cherishes its network of [experts and authors](#). We continue to take time to follow the development of their thoughts, to broadcast these in social media and to offer them the opportunity to engage with each other and publish on our website.

The Broker seeks to be recognised for its professionalism in and through the knowledge platforms that it co-facilitates and the projects that it runs.

Ambition

To be *THE* knowledge brokering organisation in the field of global development.