

POLICY AND STRATEGY THE BROKER 2019–2023

This document outlines the identity and strategy of The Broker. It presents:

- Who we are
- What we do
- How we do this
- For whom we do this
- Our goals

1. Who are we?

We are...

- Knowledge broker in the field of international development
- Idealistic service provider committed to achieving inclusive societies
- Project organizer
- Independent connector
- Young, multidisciplinary team

The Broker is an independent knowledge broker in the field of international development. We enable organizations and individuals to make informed decisions on local, national and international levels. We have a broad understanding of the concept of development, which, in our view, involves processes of structural political, economic and societal change. As such, we do not focus on developing countries, but on developing localities all over the world. We are an idealistic project organization and service provider committed to achieving inclusive global development. Our focus is on three interconnected themes: 1) economic and political inclusion, 2) human security, and 3) ecological sustainability. We operate independently of political institutions and are connectors of knowledge fields and actors. Our young, multidisciplinary team is constantly working to sharpen our knowledge brokering means and methods.

2. What do we do?

We facilitate processes of...

- Knowledge co-creation
 - Knowledge sharing
 - Knowledge use
- ...for the purpose of promoting policies & strategies for inclusive and sustainable societies.

A wealth of knowledge related to achieving inclusive and sustainable political systems and economies already exists. The challenge is to make this knowledge useable for policymakers and practitioners. As established knowledge brokers, we aim to connect different 'worlds of knowledge'. We ensure that actors use the full diversity of knowledge, by making it accessible and putting it into context, thereby also tapping into alternative knowledge systems. We build linkages between stakeholders and help research get to *where* it is needed *when* it is needed – all to make policies in international development more inclusive, sustainable and evidence-based. We link these actors' knowledge questions to knowledge supply by

facilitating processes of knowledge (co-)creation, sharing and use. In this way we enrich, deepen and broaden policy issues.

- **Knowledge co-creation** is the process of integrating the know-how, expertise and knowledge needs of different actors – such as researchers, project implementers and the end-users of knowledge – in different countries and at different geographic levels (local, regional, national and international) in the design and implementation of knowledge generating projects (academic and non-academic).
- **Knowledge sharing** is the process of disseminating academic and non-academic knowledge products to wider audiences, thereby critically assessing and mutually questioning different sources of information.
- **Knowledge use** is the process of research uptake, through the facilitation of learning trajectories and by the translation of knowledge outputs into instruments for inclusive policies and strategies.

3. How do we do this?

We connect different fields of knowledge and actors by...

- Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues (online and offline)
- Synthesizing different sources of knowledge
- Providing stakeholder mapping and context analysis
- Conducting interviews with knowledge holders
- Developing and participating in knowledge platforms/centres
- Developing a wide range of knowledge products
- Translating knowledge outputs into instruments for inclusive policies and strategies

Independent knowledge is crucial for achieving a more inclusive and sustainable political and economic system. While there is a wealth of (scientific) knowledge that is relevant for achieving this, too often this knowledge does not reach policymakers and practitioners. We fill this gap by connecting different fields of knowledge and actors. We facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues, both on and offline. We synthesize various sources of knowledge, conduct context analyses and interview relevant knowledge holders. We develop and participate in knowledge platforms and centres of expertise. From these activities, we produce a wide range of knowledge products, such as policy briefs, conference reports, synthesis reports, infographics and fact sheets.

For an overview of our services, please visit our [services page](#).

4. For whom do we do this?

We connect...

- Government agencies
- Knowledge institutions
- Civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Private sector (companies and entrepreneurs)

Our network of stakeholders and funders consists of four pillars: government agencies, knowledge institutions, CSOs, and the private sector at the international, national, regional and local levels. What we offer actors and organizations in each pillar is different.

Government agencies

For government policies to be effective, it is crucial that they are based on knowledge about what works (and where). Especially when it comes to international development policies for which domestic support is volatile. Ensuring that tax money is spent well and enhancing policy impact requires the better use of knowledge. The Broker assists government agencies in this process by 'brokering' knowledge for the formulation and implementation of policies. We ensure that policy-makers, as 'end-users', are involved in the design and implementation of research projects (co-creation); we 'plug in' information at the right time, well packaged, and for the right actors (knowledge sharing); and we assist government agencies to become learning organizations by translating knowledge outputs in policy instruments (knowledge use).

Knowledge institutions

It is increasingly important for knowledge institutions to showcase the societal relevance of research findings. Yet, academics and policymakers do not always speak the same language, and sharing academic outputs with wider audiences takes time, which researchers often do not have. The Broker plays a role here by 'brokering' research outputs, thereby facilitating processes of knowledge co-creation (i.e. including the end-users of research outputs in research design, thereby guaranteeing policy/societal relevance), knowledge dissemination and uptake. We also offer our networking expertise, by assisting knowledge institutions in forming interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder consortia and including unusual actors, which are increasingly prerequisites for obtaining research funds.

Civil society organizations

Due to the global shrinking of civic space, CSOs increasingly need to prioritize activities and to specialize in service delivery. To enhance the impact and effectiveness of their projects, it is important that policies and projects are based on evidence and rooted in the local context. Yet, the actors working in CSOs often lack the time to do so, or they are experts within a certain field, lacking the ability to put knowledge into a broader context. The Broker plays a role here by 'brokering' knowledge to inform the policies and projects of CSOs, thereby ensuring that end-users are involved in the set-up and implementation of projects (co-creation), assisting CSOs in their knowledge demands (knowledge sharing), and making sure that the knowledge of CSOs is included in policies and projects (knowledge use).

Private sector: Companies and entrepreneurs

Companies are increasingly pressured (and also willing) to incorporate policies and strategies to enhance corporate social responsibility. At the same time, they seek to increase returns on investment. It is, therefore, crucial that they understand the context in which they wish to operate and invest. The Broker plays a role in analysing such contexts, capable of providing companies with knowledge about inclusive strategies that work and in which contexts (knowledge sharing and use), ensuring that companies are included in the design and implementation of policies and projects, not only as investors, but as end-users and knowledge-holders (knowledge co-creation), and linking them to relevant actors to cooperate with, such as governments agencies, knowledge institutions and CSOs.

For an overview of our partners, please visit our [project page](#).

5. What are our goals?

Long-term...

- To bring about more inclusive and sustainable policies and strategies through knowledge brokering

- To be recognized by our stakeholder as *the* knowledge broker in the field of international development

Ultimately, we strive for a world that is more inclusive, sustainable and fair, and our work stems from a profound believe that a basic condition for achieving such a world is having knowledge about who is included and excluded in politics and the economy.

Short-term...

- To constantly develop and sharpen our knowledge brokering methods and presentation skills
- To grow as an organization and offer career prospects for our staff
- To enhance diversity in clients, stakeholders and regions

To achieve our long-term goals, in the short term we aim to be a learning organization by constantly developing and sharpening our knowledge brokering methods and presentation skills. We seek to grow as an organization so that we are able to offer career prospects for our staff.