

Proposal of Research Assistantship

MSc in Economics and Development, Università degli Studi di Firenze

SECTION 1 – KEY INFO

Research Project Title	Relevance of Inner Development Goals (IDGs) for Peace Mediators
Proposing professor	Giovanni Scotto, giovanni.scotto@unifi.it
Workload	150 hours, to be recognized as B004980 Tirocinio (6 ECTS).
Time period	February – May 2026. Interested students are encouraged to contact me as soon as possible, since a training opportunity on IDGs is available in January-February.
Working place	<input type="checkbox"/> At the Dipartimento di Scienze per l'Economia e l'Impresa <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remote <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____

SECTION 2 – BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT

Inner Development Goals (IDGs) offer a new approach to rethink development and societal transformation from the point of view of personal, subjective change.

The IDG discourse is relevant for peace mediation, because attitude and character of the persons involved strongly influence process decisions, relationship building and ultimately outcome of mediation process.

IDGs may be particularly useful in rethinking training for peace mediation, in that they offer a vocabulary for identifying, training and cultivating specific inner skills.

As a starting point, relevance of IDGs as they have been articulated so far for the community of practice of peace mediators should be assessed and analyzed. Participating mediators will be asked to rank the 25 skills identified in the current iteration of the IDG framework according to the relevance for the mediators work.

During research, one or more online focus groups will be organized with Italian peace mediators.

SECTION 3 – DETAILS ABOUT THE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

Objectives

After the research assistantship, the student will be able to:

- Acquire practice in empirical qualitative research

- Gain first-hand knowledge of the community of practice of Italian / European peace mediators
- Understand specific aspects of peace mediation processes related to attitudes and communicative strategies of mediators
- Understand skills and attitudes relevant for peace mediation and, in general, humanitarian and development work in conflict settings

Main Tasks for the Research Assistant

Desk review of key documents on Inner Development Goals and their relationship with theory and practice of peace mediation. Support in organizing an online survey and conducting one or more online focus groups. Most of the activities would be home-based, there is possibility to use office space.

Tools and Methodologies

- **Software/Programming Languages:** google modules, Google Meet platform
- **Methodologies:** [focus group interviews, qualitative research methods]

Tentative Schedule of the Student's Work

- Stage 1 (Month 1): Literature review and bibliography on Inner Development Goals ; set up of 1 focus group, identification and contact of participants.
- Stage 2 (Months 2-3): Preparation and implementation of Focus group; Analyzing results .
- Stage 3 (Month 4): Writing of a report about the results of stage 3, presentation in seminars, training courses. .

SECTION 4 – SKILLS AND REQUIREMENTS

Application Requirements

- **Essential Requirements:**

Having attended my International Conflict Transformation course or similar courses at other universities; interest in the topics of peace mediation, experiential education, inner development; knowledge of Google Forms or similar software.

English

- **Preferential Requirements:**

Knowledge of Italian and/or German would be an asset

Date: 17.01.2026

Signature of the proposing professor: Giovanni Scotto

SECTION 5 – THE STUDENT

Student's name and surname: _____

Immatriculation number: _____

Email address at Unifi: _____

Curriculum in the MSc Economics and Development: Economics / Development Economics

SECTION 6 – DUTIES OF THE PROFESSOR, DUTIES OF THE STUDENT, ECTS RECOGNITION

The detailed schedule of the student's activities will be determined jointly by the professor and the student, taking into account the student's other courses in the MSc Economics and Development.

The professor will be available to guide the student and provide the materials and support which are necessary for the research assistantship. The professor will monitor the student's progress, will provide constructive feedback, and will prepare a final evaluation of the student's work.

Before the research assistantship begins, the student will follow the online course HS Workers' General Training – 2026 available at <https://formstudelearning.unifi.it/course/index.php?categoryid=2>, pass the exam for this course and will send to the professor proof of having passed the exam. The student will then diligently perform the activities the research assistantship requires, will meet deadlines, will treat the data and information related to his / her activities as confidential, will fill a logbook of his / her activities and will prepare a final report about her / his research assistantship.

In order to earn 6 ECTS as B004980 Tirocinio, the student will send the following documents to english.msc@economia.unifi.it:

- logbook of his / her activities which certifies at least 150 hours of work in the research project (signed by the professor);
- a report about his / her research assistantship;
- answers to a questionnaire about his / her research assistantship;

The professor will send to english.msc@economia.unifi.it a final evaluation of the student's work.

The above is consistent with the "Regolamento per la disciplina delle attività formative interne come assistente alla ricerca del corso di laurea magistrale in Economics and Development". The professor and the student have read such a document and accept its content.

Date: _____

Professor's signature: _____

Student's signature: _____