

## **Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations (PELP) Terms of Reference and Operating Framework**

### **Purpose**

It is the purpose of the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations (PELP) to serve as a forum wherein key nations invested in the delivery of e-learning on peace operations may provide input and share ideas on how e-learning should best be provided to the peace operations community. PELP is an informal partnership which will provide recommendations on behalf of this community.

### **Background**

The Cruz Report, A4P, the HIPPO Report, the Recommendations of the C-34, and other current studies and papers all call for increased capacity and standardization in the training of UN peacekeepers. Training is a national responsibility, with each T/PCC training its own personnel, usually at a designated national peacekeeping training centre. There is no central UN-provided programme of e-learning on peacekeeping, the de facto e-learning programme widely used by the peacekeeping community is provided and maintained by the Peace Operations Training Institute. POTI is an international not-for-profit NGO based in the United States and governed by an international Board of Directors according to a set of bylaws.

POTI provides over 100,000 enrolments annually in a full curriculum offered in English, French, and Spanish. Many national peacekeeping and police training centres blend POTI e-learning into their classroom training programmes. POTI e-learning is available to all military personnel, police, and civilians serving on all UN, AU, and hybrid missions. POTI e-learning is also provided directly to individuals. POTI is funded by voluntary contributions from ministries of foreign affairs and ministries of defence of member states of the United Nations.

### **Mandate**

The member states who have invested in the delivery of e-learning have formed the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations with a mandate to ensure the needs of the community are met with e-learning that is standard, common, reflects UN policy and documents, and is provided universally free and as a gratis contribution to all.

### **Membership in PELP**

Any institutional member of the peacekeeping community who are users or potential users of e-learning can be a member of PELP. This includes all T/PCCs, all national peacekeeping and police training centres, and International Organizations. Membership or participation in PELP brings with it no financial responsibility or obligation.

### **The PELP Advisory Board**

PELP will be guided by an Advisory Board which will provide political advocacy, funding advocacy, as well as recommendations on strategy, pedagogy, and policy pertaining to e-learning on peacekeeping. Every effort will be made for decisions of the PELP Advisory Board to be made by consensus. However, if there is an important decision that must be made and a consensus cannot be reached, the decision will be made by simple majority of the members. The PELP Advisory Board will meet in January and July each year with a rotating chairmanship. It will be the responsibility of POTI to serve as the secretariat and record minutes of PELP Advisory Board meetings. In addition to the two meetings, there will be interim reports provided by POTI in April and October to update Advisory Board members.

### **Membership of the PELP Advisory Board**

The PELP Advisory Board will consist of

- Funders: Representatives of the member states who commit to and invest in the delivery of e-learning through POTI will have membership on the PELP Advisory Board for the calendar year during which the support was provided, plus three calendar years to follow.
- POTI: The Board Members and the Executive Director of POTI shall also be ex officio members of the PELP Advisory Board.
- Any invitees thought helpful by the PELP Advisory Board, such as ITS/DPO, to provide subject matter expertise. Individuals attending in this capacity do not have voting rights and are not considered members of the Advisory Board.

### **Input from Beneficiaries of E-learning on Peacekeeping to Measure Effectiveness**

POTI, as the secretariat of PELP, shall conduct an ongoing and active programme of engagement with beneficiaries of e-learning to ensure that the e-learning programmes are properly serving the needs of the peacekeeping training community. This shall include inter alia surveys, questionnaires, focus groups, face-to-face meetings and visits, and other forms of feedback from national training centres, ministries of defence, ministries of foreign affairs, peacekeeping missions, the UN Department of Peace Operations, and other individual and institutional members of the peacekeeping community. In addition, POTI will lead a discussion group at IAPTC and other regional peacekeeping training meetings to solicit additional feedback and recommendations. POTI shall submit to the PELP Advisory Board a report summarizing input from beneficiaries prior to the July meeting of the Board each year. That report shall include data gathered during the previous calendar year.

### **Responsibility of Members of the PELP Advisory Board**

Members of the PELP Advisory Board will normally be found from the member states' missions to UN HQ New York. It will be their responsibility to remain informed about the e-learning needs of the peace operations community, to attend meetings of the Advisory Board, and to provide input and oversight as needed. It is also expected that they will act as advocates for e-learning amongst their colleagues in the peace operations community.

It is recognized that national ministries may experience year-to-year revisions of priorities as determined by their national budgets. These annual revisions may include changing priorities and variability in levels of funding available to support initiatives such as e-learning on peacekeeping. Therefore, funding nations are under no obligation to continue funding e-learning on peacekeeping past the year or period of their initial support. Funding nations are only asked to make their best effort to continue their voluntary support each year given the importance of resource continuity.

### **Relationship with the POTI Board of Directors**

POTI will remain an independent not-for-profit organization governed by its Board of Directors and responsible for its own fundraising and finances. The POTI Board of Directors, not the PELP Advisory Board, has the ultimate responsibility for the management of POTI. The POTI Board of Directors will continue to operate in accordance with its own bylaws but with the clear objective of implementing the recommendations of the PELP Advisory Board in support of e-learning for peace operations.