Erika Schläppi

Title:	Dr. iur., Attorney-at-law
Nationality:	Swiss
Address:	Ximpulse GmbH
	Klösterlistutz 16
	Postfach 645
	CH-3000 Bern 8
Web:	www.ximpulse.ch
Phone:	+41 31 332 95 60
Email:	es@ximpulse.ch

Areas of Expertise

- Advising on state building, governance, access to justice and international human rights (also subject of prize-winning doctoral thesis), based on general legal education and working experience in international relations and development co-operation
- Implementing standards and ideas for governance, access to justice and human rights in a variety of institutional and cultural contexts
- Assessment of contexts, sector reviews, devising of strategies, project design and evaluation as well as expert support of multilayer reform processes in the fields mentioned
- Training relating to human rights and the human rights based approach in development co-operation
- Gender in governance and international women's rights issues
- Co-operation with international donors and national actors on governance issues (justice sector, NGOs, central and decentralized administration, national human rights mechanisms)
- Rapid analysis of relevant contexts, potentials and challenges, and drafting of strategic and practical conclusions based on academic state of the art
- Communication across different roles and cultural contexts, from grassroots to ministerial level, from non-educated to academic
- Presentation and discussion of complex technical issues in a clear way, targeting different audiences
- Constructive approach in a variety of challenging and conflicting contexts, with different stakeholders from government agencies, the justice system as well as civil society organizations
- First-hand experience working in Europe, Central Asia, South and South East Asia, Africa and Latin America
- Working languages German (mother tongue), English, French and Spanish

Curriculum Vitae

Born in the Bernese Oberland, Switzerland, Erika Schläppi studied law at the University of Bern and gained her diploma as an attorney in 1985. Following her specific interest in political systems, human rights and public law she started her professional career as a research assistant under Prof. Saladin, Professor for Public and International Law at the University of Bern. In 1987 she started work as a legal analyst for the Association for the Prevention of Torture APT (formerly: Swiss Committee Against Torture), an NGO based in Geneva. There she prepared and edited a study mandated by the Council of Europe to design the first steps for implementing the then new European Convention for the Prevention of Torture. From 1989 to 1994 she was a staff lawyer and deputy head of section (1992-1994) in the Human Rights Section of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. She had various responsibilities, particularly the preparation, formulation and implementation of strategies and operational decisions in the context of Swiss human rights policy, at multilateral (UN, Council of Europe, OSCE) as well as bilateral level (interventions and co-operation programmes). She also edited the messages to the Swiss Parliament concerning the ratification of the UN Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

In 1994 Erika Schläppi returned to the University of Bern to prepare her doctorate as a senior research analyst at the Institute of Public Law under Prof. Kälin (1994-2000). Together they prepared and edited a study mandated by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs on implementing Human Rights issues in Swiss Development Co-operation (1994-1996), and a study financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation on Human Rights and Swiss economic assistance. Her doctoral thesis "Human Rights in Development Co-operation" was published in 1998, and was awarded the 1999 Walther Hug Prize for outstanding scientific research.

Using her academic background and her practical governmental and non-governmental experience, she has been working as an independent consultant since 1998, specialising in the field of governance and the rule of law, international human rights (including women's rights), and development co-operation. She provides expert support, advice and training to a variety of stakeholders in different roles, working in different institutional and cultural contexts. This gives her broad practical experience in political analysis, assessment of contexts, development of strategies, designing and planning interventions, implementation processes, review and evaluation of interventions.

Erika Schläppi co-founded the Ximpulse team in 2009 (www.ximpulse.ch). Ximpulse has a core team of three experts working mainly in developing and transition countries, often in conflict or post-conflict situations. We specialize in state organisation, governance, and human rights as well as in designing and facilitating multilayer processes.

Erika Schläppi lives in Bern, Switzerland. She is married with two adolescent sons.

Expert Support and Advice in the Field of Development Co-operation, Relating to Human Rights, Rule of Law and Governance

Selected references (mostly mandated by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation SDC), including:

- Substantial advice on the preparation and edition of the SDC strategic guidelines on human rights (1997/2005), the rule of law (1998/2008), decentralization (2000), conflict prevention (2002), guidelines on governance for the SDC Latin American Section
- Advising SDC's governance division on different fields of activity (2001-2008), particularly on human rights (human rights-based approach), access to justice, and gender (implementation of CEDAW)
- Support of SDC's decentralization and local governance network (2009-2011), developing guidance for implementing governance as a transversal topic and guidance for measuring governance results (2014-2015)
- Support of SDC's Conflict & Human Rights network (2011 – 2014, 2015)
- Support of SDC's network on migration (2012 – 2014) on the human-rights based approach to migration
- Advice on design and implementation of country strategies, multi-annual programs and projects in:
  - Tajikistan (SDC governance strategy 2001, support of rule of law programme 2011-2012, 2015)
  - Niger (human rights and governance perspective to SDC's development co-operation program, 2001/2004)
  - Pakistan (SDC's human rights strategy of 2002, SDC decentralization programme, 2006, governance 2015)
  - Nepal (SDC's governance strategy, 2003);
  - Rwanda (options for SDC to improve access to justice, 2005)
  - Middle East and North Africa (input for planned governance strategy 2006/7); SDC Regional program (support and advice for the domain of "protection", 2011)
  - Serbia (study on judicial training commissioned by the World Bank, 2008)
  - Bosnia (study on potentials for future SDC programme in the justice sector, 2008/09, support for the design of a project supporting prosecutors 2009/10)
  - Albania (study on potentials for future joint SDC/ADC programme on regional development and decentralization, 2008/9, support for the design of the SDC-funded Decentralization and Local Government Project (DLDP), general support in decentralization (2010 -2012, 2013)
  - Ukraine (gender assessment for local governance programme of DESPRO/SKAT, 2010)
  - Morocco (planning of SDC intervention in democratic transition, 2012)
  - Bolivia (planning for SDC intervention in access to justice, 2012)
  - Cambodia (backstopping SDC's interventions in the governance domain, 2014-16)
  - Pakistan (training and support to integrate governance as a transversal theme in SDC's development cooperation programme, 2015)
- Support to the building of a networking and exchange platform for the diaspora of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Switzerland (2014-2015, together with the Ximpulse team)

Independent Evaluations and Reviews on Human Rights, Access to Justice, Decentralization and Governance

Selected programs and projects (mostly in the role of a team leader) in:

- Palestine (SDC human rights programme, 2001)
- Rwanda (governance programme, 2000, decentralization programme, team leader, 2004)
- Pakistan (human rights program, team leader, 2002/3)
- Southern Caucasus (SDC's governance programme, team leader, 2004)
- India (SDC-funded water project, reviewed from a human rights perspective, team leader, 2006; SDC funded access to justice project, team leader, 2007)
- Tajikistan (SDC's access to justice and human rights project, team leader, 2007, 2010)
- Bosnia (evaluation of SDC's governance strategy, team leader 2007)
- Vietnam (SIDA/SDC/Novib project on legal aid, team leader, 2008)
- Mongolia (SDC programme on Human Trafficking, team leader, 2009)
- Albania (Austrian Development Co-operation-funded Equity in Governance Project, team leader, 2010)
- Latin America (desk study on implementing governance in SDC's programmes in Latin America, 2012)
- Bangladesh (study on Horizontal Learning Programme HLP, funded by SDC, on behalf of Ximpulse, with Ursula König, 2013)
- Moldova (SDC programme on water and sanitation, expert on governance and gender)

Collaboration in multiple **training activities and workshops**, particularly

- Annual SDC training on human rights and development, particularly the human rights-based approach (1998-2008, 2012)
- Trainings on governance and the human rights based approach, for SDC Bolivia (2009), SDC Pakistan (2015)
- Design and facilitation of two regional SDC seminars on the role of the State in Latin America (Peru, 2006)
- Design and organisation of study visits for various target groups to Switzerland, relating to governance (together with the Ximpulse team, 2010 - ongoing)

Diverse assignments in the field of **international human rights law and peace building**, mandated by the Human Security Division of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland:

- Study of experiences with and prospects for bilateral Swiss human rights dialogues (2000, with Jörg Künzli)
- Study of Swiss activities supporting intl. human rights observers (2000/01, with Jörg Künzli)
- Study of the internal management of relevant human rights information (2001, with Jörg Künzli)
- Study and advice on the various options for creating a national human rights institution in Switzerland (2003/4, 2007-9, 2010)
- Design and preparation of workshops on issues of "constitutional reform in peace processes" (2005, 2006)

- Study of options for reforming the OSCE human dimension events (2011-12, on behalf of Ximpulse, with Nicole Töpperwien and Ursula König)
- Advice on supporting Chad in its human rights reporting (2012)
- Study on monitoring OSCE human dimension commitments (2013-14)

Studies on the issue of **discrimination of gypsies**, particularly on ILO convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples and its potential impact on Switzerland with regard to gypsies, mandated by the Federal Department of Economics, State secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO (2002), and on possible measures to combat discrimination of gypsies, mandated by the Federal Department of Internal Affairs (2004).

Various **lectures on human rights, access to justice and governance** issues in post-graduate courses at the Universities of Bern, Fribourg, and Geneva and at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich.

Selected Assignments on Women's Rights and Gender

- Production of the first, second/third, and fourth/fifth reports and the interim report of Switzerland to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), mandated by the Swiss Federal Department of Internal Affairs and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (1999-2001, 2005-2008, 2011, 2012, 2013-2014)
- Study on women's rights and human rights, mandated by the Federal Commission on Women's Issues of Switzerland (2006/7)
- Advice to SDC's governance division's gender desk on the implementation of CEDAW (2005/2006)
- Evaluation of a gender and governance project ("Equity in governance", funded by Austrian Development Cooperation) in Albania, 2010
- Gender assessment of DESPRO decentralization programme and advice on how better to integrate gender (Ukraine 2010)
- Design and organisation of a workshop for lawyers, elaboration of a tool for legal practitioners to use CEDAW in practice, on behalf of the Federal Commission on Women's Issues of Switzerland (team leader, 2010, 2011-12)
- Review SDC programme on water and sanitation, with regard to governance and gender (Moldova, 2014)
- Review SDC programme on prevention of domestic violence (Tajikistan, 2015)

Higher Education

Dr. iuris, University of Bern, Switzerland, 1998
Doctoral thesis "Human Rights in Bilateral Development Co-operation: Opportunities and Risks from an International Law Perspective" was awarded the 1999 Walther Hug Prize for outstanding legal research.

Attorney-at-Law (Rechtsanwältin), University of Bern/Bernese High Court, 1985
General legal education (civil, criminal and public law), including practical training in courts and law firm

Publications

- Erika Schläppi, "Human Rights in Bilateral Development Co-operation: prospects and limits from an international law perspective", doctoral thesis (in German), Nomos (Baden-Baden, Germany) 1998 (390 p)
- Erika Schläppi/Walter Kälin, "Human Rights and Development: Criteria for the Integration of Human Rights into Development Co-operation" (in German), Bern (Switzerland) 1996, mandated by SDC, not published
- Christina Hausammann/Erika Schläppi, "Human Rights and Women's Rights: the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women CEDAW and its meaning for Switzerland" (in German), Allgemeine Juristische Praxis 4/1995, pp 32-46
- Elisabeth Diethelm/Erika Schläppi, "The Legal Basis for Development Co-operation in Switzerland" (in German), in: Heinrich Koller/Georg Müller/René Rhinow/Ulrich Zimmerli (eds.), Handbuch des Bundesverwaltungsrechts, vol. 15 (Aussenwirtschaftsrecht), Basel (Verlag Helbing und Lichtenhahn) 1999 (70 p)
- Walter Kälin/Erika Schläppi, "Swiss Economic Assistance and International Human Rights: Conflicts and Convergences from an International Law Perspective" (in German), Synthesis Paper, National Science Foundation (Bern) 2000 (30 p)
- Erika Schläppi/Walter Kälin, "Swiss Economic Assistance and Human Rights Policy: Conflicts and Convergences" (in German), Zürich/Chur (Rüegger) 2001
- Erika Schläppi, "Governance: a new perspective of political and legal structures in developing countries" (in German), in: Kohler/Marti (ed.), Konturen der neuen Welt(un)ordnung, Berlin (de Gruyter) 2003 (30 p)
- Erika Schläppi, "Women's rights and human rights: how can the Swiss equality politics make better use of international momentum?" (in German), in: Eidgenössische Kommission für Frauenfragen (ed.), Frauenfragen 2007/2.
- Erika Schläppi/Jeanne DuBois, "Overcoming discrimination against women in family law: approaches and possibilities" (in German), FamPra,ch 2012/3, pp 601-626
- Erika Schläppi/Judith Wyttenbach/Silvia Ulrich (Hrsg.), Kommentar zum Übereinkommen der Vereinten Nationen zur Beseitigung jeder Form von Diskriminierung der Frau, Bern 2015.