



EU-CIVCAP

Improving EU capabilities for peacebuilding

Newsletter

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Editorial

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Deliverables completed

- DL 3.1 Report on Technological Shortcomings in Early Warning and Conflict Analysis
- DL 3.2 The EU's Capabilities for Conflict Prevention
- DL 3.6 Workshop on EU Conflict Prevention

Security-development nexus:

Is CBSD the answer?

The EU frequently states that the preservation of peace is an objective of its foreign policy. However, policy trends show an increasingly disproportionate focus on military means to ensure sustainable development and security – among them, the allocation of 3.5 billion euros from the EU budget for a new 'European Defence Fund' in 2021-2027 and a proposal on capacity-building for security and development (CBSD). This proposal would take resources from the EU external cooperation budget to fund Train and Equip (T&E) and defence-related activities in conflict-affected countries.

While supporting an effective, legitimate and accountable security sector could contribute to peace, security and development, there is considerable scepticism in civil society towards CBSD. One could question whether equipping military actors alone inevitably contributes to peace. The diversion of peace and development funding earmarked for (non-military) peacebuilding activities suggests that the impact of T&E may be over-estimated by the EU., and that short-term state stability is being prioritised over long-term human security. This begs the question: who are we trying to keep safe? Putting people's needs at the centre of security policy is critical and requires long-term actions that build trust, a solid judiciary and strong civil society.

It has been argued that T&E/CBSD initiatives cannot contribute to peace on their own and cannot be effective without

careful analysis of the complex risks associated with them. Indeed, these approaches could end up supporting the power dynamics that underpin conflict and insecurity – the exact opposite of their stated objective.

Furthermore, the risks inherent in funding 'strictly non-lethal equipment' require careful consideration: tear gas, surveillance equipment, leg cuffs and plastic bullets can be used for torture, mistreatment and other human rights violations, some of them lethal. They also tend to attract less scrutiny than so-called 'lethal' equipment.

There are certain legal and administrative obstacles to the CBSD proposal becoming reality. Many questions remain open: is it legal for the EU budget to fund the military? Where will the EU draw the funds from and at whose expense? What are the long term implications for the EU support to civilian peacebuilding? Many civil society actors will be following this process closely with these questions in mind.



Nabila Habbida is a Senior Project Officer at EPLO. She follows EPLO's work on conflict prevention, early warning,

mediation support and the European Neighbourhood.

Events

Forthcoming events

16 March 2017: Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Forum 3, Brussels.

18-19 May 2017: Workshop on EU, UN and OSCE capabilities in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, Brussels.

May 2017: EU-CIVCAP panel at EUSA conference, Miami.

Past events

Friday 27 January (full day): Workshop on EU conflict prevention, Brussels.

On 27 January 2017, EPLO hosted a workshop on EU capabilities for conflict prevention and technological shortcomings in early warning and conflict analysis, bringing together experts from the Consortium's associates, external practitioners and researchers. The workshop was an occasion to present and discuss the results of the reports on technological

shortcomings in early warning and conflict analysis (DL 3.1) and the report on EU capacities for conflict prevention (DL 3.2).

In the first session of the workshop, Dr Laura Davis (EPLO) presented the research findings within the report on EU capabilities for conflict prevention (DL 3.2), which focused on how conflict prevention in EU external action is understood and implemented – both as a way of acting in the world and as a set of distinct activities. Dr Davis also shared the main recommendations to EU policy-makers identified in the report, which looked into ways in which the EU could strengthen its capabilities to reduce conflict through its external action. This session was facilitated by Sonya Reines-Djivanides (EPLO) and involved key speakers Chiara Biscaldi (International Crisis Group) and Jan Reinder Rosing (European External Action Service).

In the second session, Denis Bruckert and Jenny Berglund (EU Satellite Center) presented the main findings of the paper on technological shortcomings in early warning and conflict analysis. This session was chaired by Sonya Reines-Djivanides (EPLO).

For a full version of this report, please see: <https://www.eu-civcap.net/2017/01/27/workshop-2-eu-conflict-prevention/>

Nabila Habbida (EPLO)

Event reports published

All reports from previous EU-CIVCAP events have now been published in full online. They are available at: <http://www.eu-civcap.net/category/events/>



First Periodic Review

On 26 January 2017, EU-CIVCAP's Partners underwent the Project's First Periodic Review at the European Commission's Research Executive Agency in Brussels. Through the intensive day-long review, each Work Package Leader presented on the progress made on their WP during the first 12 months of the project (December 2015 to November 2016 inclusive).

The review itself was complemented by the submission of a detailed technical report explaining the scientific

achievements of the project to date. On 16 February 2017, the REA officially informed EU-CIVCAP that it had achieved satisfactory implementation progress over its first reporting period. EU-CIVCAP would like to thank the EC's Project Officer and External Reviewers for assessing our project, and we also thank our Partners for all of their hard work contributing to this success.

Gilberto Algar-Faria (University of Bristol)



Deliverables

All of our Deliverables are available for download at:

<http://www.eu-civcap.net/portfolio/deliverables/>

DL 3.1 – “Report on Technological Shortcomings in Early Warning and Conflict Analysis”

By: Jenny Berglund and Denis Bruckert (EU Satellite Centre)

This report gives the following recommendations to the EU:

1. Reflect on how new technologies such as ICT and Big Data could be added, in a sustainable manner, to the existing technological tools for early warning and conflict analysis.
2. Update, mainstream and coordinate the various capacities and their use within different services dealing with conflict early warning and conflict analysis, in order to bridge gaps, improve interconnectivity and avoid duplication.
3. Properly familiarise staff involved in the early warning and conflict analysis cycle with the available tools.

4. Assure that technological tools for early warning and conflict analysis are aligned with EU policies on conflict prevention and vice versa.

The full report is available online at: https://eucivcap.files.wordpress.com/2017/02/technological_shortcomings_early_warning_conflict_analysis.pdf [PDF, ~1.5MB]

DL 3.2 – “The EU's Capabilities for Conflict Prevention”

By: Laura Davis, Nabila Habbida and Anna Penfrat (EPLO)

This report gives the following recommendations to the EU:

1. As a first step in strengthening EU capabilities to prevent conflict, EPLO recommends that the EEAS and the Commission jointly clarify in internal documents how the EU promotes conflict prevention as a way of acting in the world, how it can support and be supported by stabilisation, and how specific distinct activities (particularly conflict analysis, early warning and mediation) contribute differently to conflict prevention, and the

differences and synergies between them.

2. Senior management in the EEAS and the European Commission should mainstream conflict prevention as a matter of policy and practice across the EU external action machinery (the DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, DG DEVCO, DG Energy, DG Trade, as well as the EEAS) and prioritise prevention as well as response.
3. The EU's Global Strategy implementation plans should ensure that conflict prevention is prioritised across all the thematic areas identified, not only for the implementation of the section on “an integrated approach to conflict”. It should also be prioritised in the preparation of the action plan on security and defence, the initiative on public diplomacy and other follow-up actions to the Global Strategy. Implementation and action plans should address these concerns directly and clearly identify resources, including institutional expertise and leadership, for preventing conflict as well as responding to it and

addressing the important as well as the urgent.

Senior management in the EEAS and the Commission should ensure that:

4. SECPOL.2 and DEVCO B.7 continue to provide leadership, technical support and expertise within the EEAS, DG DEVCO and across the EU's external action machinery;
5. SECPOL.2 and DEVCO B.7 are adequately resourced in terms of personnel, expertise and access to high-level decision-making so that the EU prevents important conflicts as well as responds to urgent crises;
6. SECPOL.2 and DEVCO B.7 continue to work in innovative partnerships in conflict situations worldwide,

including with civil society organisations and other external expertise;

7. time is available for personnel to generate and implement conflict analysis across the EU's external action, supported by SECPOL.2 and DEVCO B.7;
8. previous EU experiences and lessons identified in conflict zones are captured by an adequate knowledge management system that strengthens the evidence base for future conflict prevention work; and
9. the EU further develops its capacities for preventive diplomacy in situations at risk of escalating

conflict, for example, by reinforcing and tailoring the support provided to EUSRs and heads of delegations in charge of carrying out dialogue in conflict-affected countries (e.g. mediation and analysis training, support staff) and by including conflict expertise in their job descriptions.

The full report is available online at: https://eucivcap.files.wordpress.com/2017/02/eus_capabilities_conflict_prevention.pdf [PDF, ~1MB]

Expert Network

Expert Network and the Expert of the Month

Our Expert Network presently numbers 44 people in total from around the world, all experts in their fields. You can view our Expert Network at: <http://www.eu-civcap.net/about-us/expert-network/>

Expert of the Month blog articles



The current Expert of the Month, Jessica Berns, and independent consultant, wrote on the case for locally led

peacebuilding, which she argues is important because:

1. 'Central to peacebuilding is (re)building trust, engaging in inclusive dialogue, and strengthening social cohesion. These approaches are most powerful when they are designed and driven at the local level, born from the creativity, capacity, and commitment of those local to conflict.'
2. 'Locally led peacebuilding, as part of a broader, holistic strategy becomes even more powerful.'
3. 'Local peacebuilding often costs less than peacebuilding designed from afar and that relies on external experts. While there is little known about the cost effectiveness of peacebuilding approaches overall, initial evidence demonstrates that locally led peacebuilding has the potential to be more cost effective.'

She concludes: 'We need to build peace community-by-community, nation-by-

nation. To communities living amidst conflict, sustainable peace matters.'

Read more at: <http://www.eu-civcap.net/2016/12/01/the-case-for-locally-led-peacebuilding/>

January 2017: Roskilde University PhD Fellow Anne Ingemann Johansen published an article entitled: 'Sophia as a Showcase for the Bridging of External and Internal Security?' In this article, she



argues: 'In a globalised world, few security issues can be addressed by a single actor or through the use of a single

instrument. Instead, they tend to simultaneously touch upon multiple policy domains forcing us to critically reflect upon how the actions of one actor or instrument might relate to, affect, or interfere with those of another. In this way, they challenge traditional distinctions between external and internal security as well as the military and civilian domain.’ Read more at: <http://www.eu-civcap.net/2017/01/01/sophia-as-a-showcase-for-the-bridging-of-external-and-internal-security/>

February 2017: Cedric de Coning, a Senior Research Fellow with the Peace and Conflict Research Group at NUPI and a Senior Advisor on Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding for ACCORD (and the current Expert of the Month), analyses UN peacekeeping under the leadership of the new Secretary-General, António Guterres. De Coning concludes: ‘Secretary-General Guterres will need to balance the pressure to reduce costs with a credible plan for right-sizing and refocussing UN peacekeeping. He would have to be cautious to do so without

leaving the civilians the UN is mandated to protect exposed to greater risk. If one



of the countries in which the UN decides to close-down or scale-down a peacekeeping mission relapses into violent conflict, it will be a serious setback not just for the people and country concerned, but also for Guterres’ new focus on preventing conflict and sustaining peace.’ Read more at: <http://www.eu-civcap.net/2017/02/01/un-peacekeeping-under-new-leadership/>

Christoph Meyer, Professor of European & International Politics at King’s College London, wrote a policy brief (with Eva

Michaels) on using open source intelligence for conflict prevention and management. The policy brief discusses both the value that can be gained from the monitoring and assessment of open sources as well as the challenges of deriving targeted and reliable Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) for a better understanding of and response to violent conflict. Drawing on insights from different work packages of the INFOCORE project, special emphasis is placed on an evaluation of the utility of media and NGO contents regarding the conflicts in Syria, Burundi and Macedonia. This brief presents an effort to identify strategies for a better understanding and exploitation of conflict-related overt content across different types of media which can improve the quality of intelligence assessments and policy responses. It is available here:

<http://www.infocore.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/D4.3 Policy-Brief-OSINT.pdf>



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Our Experts are listed alphabetically by first name. Please scroll down or, alternatively, use the Search function on this page.



Alexander Mattelaer



Alice Panepinto

Alice Panepinto is a Research



Anand Menon

Anand Menon is Professor of

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New website

The new EU-CIVCAP website (<http://www.eu-civcap.net/>) is now up

and running. The new version offers a cleaner design and better functionality.

Some of the features of the website are referred to throughout this newsletter.



Catalogue of Lessons Identified

The Catalogue of Lessons Identified has been updated, and **its first five lessons are now available online.** is a living

document which is continually updated throughout the project. The database is presently being updated with lessons

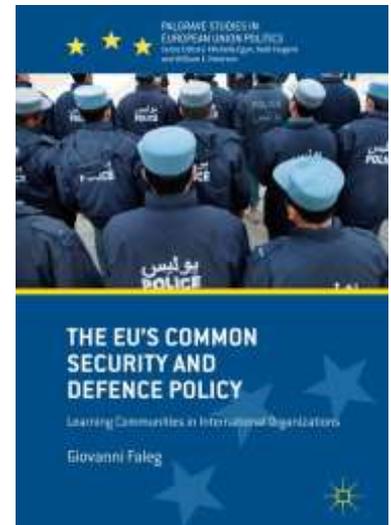
identified throughout the latter half of 2016. It can be accessed at: <https://eu-civcap.net/lessons/>



New book

Palgrave Macmillan published Giovanni Faleg's *The EU's Common Security and Defence Policy: Learning Communities in International Organizations* as part of its series

Palgrave Studies in European Union Politics. For more information: <https://www.palgrave.com/de/book/9783319413051>



New team member

New team member: Jenny Berglund (EU Satellite Centre)



Contact us

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EU-CIVCAP Partners (please click a logo for access to the Partner's website):



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