



# EU-CIVCAP

Improving EU capabilities for peacebuilding

## EDITORIAL

### PERMANENT STRUCTURED COOPERATION (PESCO): A NEW CHANCE FOR EUROPEAN DEFENCE INTEGRATION?

On 13 November 2017, the ministers of defence of 23 EU member states notified the Council and the High Representative about their intention to participate in Permanent Structured Cooperation. (The non-participating member states are Croatia, Denmark, Ireland, Malta, and the United Kingdom.) If all goes according to plan, the Council should within the next three months adopt a decision formally establishing a new form of European defence cooperation also known under the acronym of 'PESCO'. After the Lisbon Treaty has been in force for almost 8 years, the possibility of its article 42 (6) allowing the willing and able member states to take European defence integration to its next level is finally taken up. If successful, this

should lead to increased investments in the defence capabilities, closer multilateral cooperation and increased interoperability through joint projects. Such new initiatives are indispensable for the future credibility of the EU as a crisis manager. Years of budgetary cuts have resulted in military capabilities that fail to comply with current logistical and technological needs. It is therefore not surprising that in several of its civilian and military missions, the EU member states were forced to make use of the military back-up of other international organisations such as NATO or the UN.

Critical readers may wonder how seriously they should take the new PESCO initiative: European defence cooperation has been on the EU agenda since the end of the cold war, but the gap between rhetoric and results has been notoriously big. This time around, however, the chances for progress may be higher than they used to be. A first key factor is the changing international and regional strategic landscape. The emergence of a multipolar world structure, together with the US pivot to Asia and its lukewarm attitude towards NATO, has considerably raised the sense of urgency. Closer to home, rising tensions with Russia and instability in the Middle East have further increased the European awareness that it is high time to take their fate in their own hands. This awareness is also reflected in the emerging debate about the future of the EU, where the shaping of the 'D' of the Common Security and Defence Policy is now a recurring theme.

A second catalyst is of an economic nature. In times of budgetary constraints and increasingly expensive and technologically sophisticated materiel, the current waste of resources through duplication and the lack of interoperability become more and more problematic. Although the EU member states jointly are the second military spender in the world, their capacity to act is limited. Since there is no public support for substantially higher defence budgets, increased cooperation and a division of tasks becomes an attractive option.

A third factor that could further contribute to the success of PESCO is that the participating member states have to commit themselves to concrete and legally binding objectives which will be monitored on a yearly basis. This means that the empty promises of the past will no longer suffice. It is proposed that participating countries will have to produce a yearly report with the risk of receiving a 'yellow card' in case they fail to live up to their commitments. Parallel with PESCO there is also a new initiative for a coordinated annual review of national defence budgets (CARD), to be implemented as of the autumn of 2019, and the establishment of a European Defence Fund that can support multinational projects addressing common shortfalls.

Certainly, PESCO is not the *deus ex machina* that will remove all hurdles for European defence cooperation and give a sudden boost to EU crisis management. It only provides a framework and the key for its success remains in the hands of the national capitals. They are deciding about the pace and the areas of cooperation and responsible for the implementation of the commitments. It helps that both Berlin and Paris are strongly committed to the new

initiative, but this will of course not be enough to guarantee success. Only time will show whether PESCO will be a game changer for the long-awaited more mature European defence role, but in view of the evolving international and domestic circumstances there is some reason to hope that this may be the case.



## Sophie Vanhoonacker

Sophie Vanhoonacker is Chair in European Administrative Governance and Jean Monnet Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Maastricht University.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## DELIVERABLES

**DL 4.2 – Partners in conflict prevention and peacebuilding: How the EU, UN and OSCE exchange civilian capabilities in Kosovo, Mali and Armenia**

Dijkstra, H., E. Mahr, P. Petrov, K. Đokić, P.H. Zartsdahl

Published on 4 September 2017, this report analyses the extent to which the EU and other international organisations exchange civilian resources within target countries for the purpose of conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding. The EU and international organisations, for instance, exchange material resources such as funding, personnel, and even equipment. Yet they can also provide non-material resources to each other, such as political or diplomatic support. To provide evidence of the synergies between the EU and its partners, we conduct a unique study of exchanges of civilian resources on the ground in Kosovo, Mali and Armenia. These are cases where the position of the EU varies from lead actor to important actor to secondary actor.

[READ MORE](#)

## **DL 5.1 – Report on EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Horn of Africa and Western Balkans**

Peen Rodt, A., J. Tvilling, P.H. Zartsdahl, M. Ignatijevic, S. Stojanovic Gajic, S. Simons, K. Abdi, E. Gillette, N. Habbida, J. Berglund and V. Fernandez Arguedas

Published on 30 October 2017, this report appraises the EU's capabilities to execute conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Western Balkans and the Horn of Africa. The Deliverable focuses on capabilities developed under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and whether their application matches up with EU strategies to address security needs on the ground. The purpose of this endeavour is to examine whether the EU's capabilities are appropriate and sufficient to reach its expectations – and those of others – in preventing conflict and building peace in both regions.

[READ MORE](#)

## **DL 7.3 – Report on priorities for future H2020 security research**

Smith, M.E. and A.E. Juncos

Published on 6 November 2017, this report is intended to offer suggestions about future priorities in the realm of EU security research themes under the Horizon 2020 programme. In this manner, the paper also contributes to a major theme of the Horizon 2020 'Secure Societies' programme: supporting the EU's external security policies through conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities, with a central focus on civilian capabilities. The content is derived from three main sources: findings from the EU-CIVCAP project, findings from related EU research projects under Horizon 2020 in recent years, and academic research on topics associated with security in general and conflict prevention and peacebuilding in particular.

[READ MORE](#)

## **DL 5.2 – Report on the impact of EU engagement in mediation and local-level dialogue initiatives in the Western Balkans**

Plänitz, E. and S. Stojanovic Gajic

Published on 30 November 2017, this report examines the EU's effectiveness in mediation and local level dialogue. Based on a comprehensive framework on mediation success, the EU's role in the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue both at the high level and local level are investigated in this deliverable.

[READ MORE](#)

## **DL 3.3 – Reports on integrating conflict prevention in CSDP, EU trade policy and EU development policy**

Beswick, T., L. Angelini, L. Conti, S. Wander, C. Cogitore, A. Penfrat, B. Moore, N. Habbida

Published on 30 November 2017, these reports examine the ways in which conflict analysis and due diligence are and could be better integrated in civilian CSDP, trade and development policy.

[READ MORE](#)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### SAVE THE DATE

15 January 2018: “ICTs for Peace”, Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Forum, Brussels, in cooperation with PeaceTraining.eu.

The fifth Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Forum under EU-CIVCAP will consider how technology, ICT and big data help reduce the likelihood of conflict and contribute to building sustainable peace.

The public event will be hosted by the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels. For information will be available [here](#) in the coming days.

### SAVE THE DATE

12 September 2018: Final Conference of the EU-CIVCAP project, Brussels.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

14 May 2018: EU-CIVCAP workshop, Bristol.

This workshop will build on Work Package 6. An agenda will be announced in due course.

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **Peacebuilding Forum 4: In reform we trust – improved EU-UN cooperation in preventing and responding to conflicts?**

Held in Brussels on 11 September 2017, ahead of the 72nd General Assembly of the United Nations, this event was devoted to EU-UN cooperation in mustering civilian capabilities for conflict prevention, crisis response, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The United Nations are undergoing momentous institutional reforms, with a renewed focus on conflict prevention, to achieve greater collaboration between the peace, security, development and human rights pillars of the UN system. The European Union, as part of the implementation process of the EU Global Strategy, has revamped its peacebuilding toolbox, namely through the elaboration of an integrated approach to conflicts and crises, and of a strategic approach to resilience in the EU's external action.



As the global security outlook in the EU's neighbourhood still displays immense challenges, and given the limited ability of international actors to address fragility, conflict and violence, are the new tools sufficient to reduce vulnerabilities, grievances, and can they guarantee impact on the ground to prevent and respond to conflicts? How can a reformed EU-UN effectively cooperate with key humanitarian, development and security actors? In addition to addressing these questions, the early findings of an EU-CIVCAP study conducted by a CEPS-IAI-EPLO team led by Dr Giovanni Faleg were presented during the event.

A report can be found [here](#).

## **Research Meets Policy Seminar 2: A year on – implementing the EU Global Strategy**

The second Research Meets Policy Seminar of the EU-CIVCAP project took place on 11 September 2017 under the title: “A year on: implementing the EU Global Strategy”. It was organised and hosted by the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels and more than 20 experts and policymakers attended.

The first part of the seminar, chaired by the University of Bristol, focused on the first year of implementation of the EU Global Strategy, assessing progress on the strategic approach to resilience in the EU's external action. The second part of the seminar, chaired by CEPS, was devoted to an assessment of the role of gender in the implementation of the new framework and in the prevention and response to gender-based violence.



The Research Meets Policy Seminar is a closed-door discussion, by invitation only and under the Chatham House rule, is designed for EU policy-makers and experts to exchange views and identify key research gaps that can feed into EU-CIVCAP's research agenda.

For a full report on the Seminar, click [here](#).



## **Workshop: EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Western Balkans and the Horn of Africa**

A workshop on EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Western Balkans and the Horn of Africa took place on 11 October 2017 as part of the annual [Belgrade Security Forum](#). The BSF, co-organised by three NGOs including the [Belgrade Centre for Security Policy](#), is the largest conference of its kind in South-Eastern Europe, gathering key foreign and security policy actors from the Balkans and beyond. A particular feature of the BSF is its academic event, which takes place on the first day and aims to link the research community with policy practitioners. This year, the academic event was hosted by EU-CIVCAP and gathered more than 140 participants from academia, civil society, international organisations, the diplomatic corps, Serbian officials, and representatives from the private sector.



The workshop opened with a keynote lecture by Professor [Michael E. Smith](#) of the [University of Aberdeen](#), followed by three panels at which four deliverables under EU-CIVCAP's [Work Package 5](#) were presented, alongside other relevant papers analysing the EU's crisis management initiatives. A report of the workshop is available [here](#).

## Final conference: IECEU and WOSCAP

On 8 November 2017, IECEU and WOSCAP held their Final Conference in Brussels. At this event, Gilberto Algar-Faria (EU-CIVCAP Project Officer) delivered a three-minute pitch to stakeholders and other members of the conference, explaining succinctly EU-CIVCAP's achievements to date, the product it has produced (“a one-stop shop for EU peacebuilding”) and the way forward for EU-CIVCAP's work once the project concludes at the end of 2018. Gilberto received training for this pitch from the META Group as part of the European Commission's Common Exploitation Booster programme.

## EXPERT NETWORK

Our Expert Network presently numbers 45 people in total from around the world, all experts in their fields. You can consult their profiles [here](#).

# EXPERT OF THE MONTH: NOVEMBER



## Zahbia Yousouf

Zahbia Yousouf is Senior Advisor at Conciliation Resources, which she joined in 2012. She is editor of the Accord Insight publication, and leads on a range of projects under a DFID-funded research programme, Towards open and inclusive political settlements, led by the University of Edinburgh. Zahbia's recent publications include: Accord Insight 2, Local engagement with armed groups: in the midst of violence (Conciliation Resources, 2015).

Before joining Conciliation Resources she taught at SOAS University and Kings College London, on conflict and development issues. She has also worked at INCORE at the University of Ulster, and the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW), Berlin. She completed a PhD in Comparative Peace Processes, looking at Northern Ireland, Israel/Palestine and Kashmir, in 2010 from the Department of War Studies, Kings College London.

In November, she wrote our Expert of the Month blog under the title, "Peacebuilding: a view from the margins".

[READ MORE](#)

## EXPERT OF THE MONTH: OCTOBER



### Tobias Pietz

Tobias Pietz is Deputy Head of the Analysis Division at the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) in Berlin. At ZIF, his main areas of work are currently CSDP missions, peacekeeping partnerships and the recent reviews of peace operations and peacebuilding at the UN. He initiated and facilitated the multi-stakeholder [EU-UN Partnerships in Crisis Management and Peace Operations Initiative](#) under the 2014 Italian Presidency of the EU Council. He started his career at the Gender Bureau of the International Labour Organization (ILO) before working at the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) as a Senior Researcher from 2003 to 2006, focusing on DDR, SSR and Small Arms Control. More about ZIF [here](#).

In October, he wrote our Expert of the Month blog under the title, “EU Crisis Management in Transition”.

[READ MORE](#)

## EXPERT OF THE MONTH: SEPTEMBER

Sofya Shahab



Sofya Shahab is a PhD candidate at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation. Sofya is currently undertaking anthropological research into transmissions of violence and is exploring how the destruction of cultural property in Iraq and Syria by the Islamic State resonates across time and space to impact upon the lived experiences of targeted populations.

Sofya previously worked across the humanitarian and development sectors in Afghanistan, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. She has an MSc in Social and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Oxford, where she investigated the destruction of cultural heritage in conflict affected contexts as a part of the ritual process.

In September, she wrote our Expert of the Month blog under the title, “Women’s rights in Afghanistan: one step forward, two steps back?”.

[READ MORE](#)

**CATALOGUE OF LESSONS  
IDENTIFIED**

The Catalogue of Lessons Identified now has 15 lessons available online. This is a living document that is being updated throughout the project.

[READ MORE](#)

## IN OTHER NEWS

PeaceCapacity, an impact project funded by the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account and informed by EU-CIVCAP's research, ran its first of three workshops on inclusivity in peace processes in October 2017. The first workshop ran in Prishtina, Kosovo, and focused on the inclusion of those generally excluded from negotiations due to their ethnicity, gender identity, and/or sexual orientation. Testimonials from this workshop, and more information about the PeaceCapacity project generally, can be found at: <https://peacecapacity.net/>

For more on the project, consult its social media accounts via the buttons below. To get in touch, write to [peace-capacity@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:peace-capacity@bristol.ac.uk).

[WEBSITE](#)

[TWITTER](#)

[FACEBOOK](#)

On September 20, Hylke Dijkstra, Ewa Mahr, Petar Petrov, Katarina Đokić and Peter Horne Zartsdahl wrote a blog post about their Deliverable 4.2, "Beyond ad hoc cooperation: How the EU, UN and OSCE can better address conflict."



[READ MORE](#)

You can access EU-CIVCAP social media by clicking the buttons below.

[WEBSITE](#)

[TWITTER](#)

[FACEBOOK](#)

## PARTNERS

Belgrade  
Centre for  
Security  
Policy



CENTRE FOR  
EUROPEAN  
POLICY  
STUDIES



**CONCILIATION  
RESOURCES**  
working together for peace



EPLO  
European Peacebuilding Liaison Office



 Maastricht University

1495  
 UNIVERSITY  
OF ABERDEEN



ROYAL DANISH DEFENCE COLLEGE

 University of  
BRISTOL

 TRANSPARENCY  
SOLUTIONS



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 653227.

The content reflects only the authors' views, and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

