



EDITORIAL

PEACE SHOULD BE AT THE HEART OF THE NEXT MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

On 2 May, the European Commission published its [overall proposal](#) for the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. According to the Commission's proposal, current Heading 4 (Global Europe) would be renamed Heading 6 (Neighbourhood & the World) and the European Development Fund (EDF), which is currently off-budget, would be integrated into it. In addition, there would be a European Defence Fund (€ 13 billion) under Heading 3 and an off-budget European Peace Facility intended to "close the current gap in the EU's ability to conduct Common Security and Defence Policy missions and to provide military and defence assistance to relevant third countries, international and regional organisations" (€10.5 billion).

The Commission's proposal does not maintain the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) as a separate instrument. However, a new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI, €89.5 billion) would include, inter alia, a pillar (Reaching Common Goals) addressing 'Stability and Peace' and 'Democracy & Human Rights / Civil Society in Development'. It would also include a 'Rapid Response' pillar as a "quick response capacity for crisis management and conflict prevention, resilience building, including linking relief, rehabilitation and development, and short term foreign policy reaction". According to the [annex to the proposal](#) (p. 82), the rapid response pillar would succeed the IcSP's Article 3 ('Assistance in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis to prevent conflicts'), including Article 3a ('Capacity building of military actors in support of development and security for development').

As more details emerge about the pillars' contents and architecture, particular attention will need to be paid to the funding allocated to, and the scope of, the 'Stability and Peace' component of the 'Reaching Common Goals' pillar in the NDICI. The case for peacebuilding and conflict prevention has never been clearer than in the current global context. The reasons to put peace at the heart of the next MFF are multiple.

Fundamentally, if peace is not the objective, it will not be an outcome. Stimulating peaceful

dynamics will happen by design, not by accident, which means that all EU instruments must have sustainable peace as an explicit objective. Only significant, integrated and sustained efforts to support non-violent, peace initiatives will have the power to disrupt and counter negative trajectories, and ultimately to build sustainable peace.

What does this entail? In its 2016 EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy, the EU recognised the decentralised, transnational and complex reality of 21st century conflicts. To match it, EU decision-makers need to put in place the right resources, expertise and networks (i.e., more diverse and bottom-up support to prevention and peacebuilding initiatives). In particular, the dynamic nature of conflicts means that the EU must maintain a IcSP-style capacity to be simultaneously flexible, creative, adaptable and diverse in the face of conflict. This will require it to ensure that the key role of inclusive civil society in building peace is protected and further supported.

Overall, even from a purely pragmatic point of view, it is clear that there is nothing naïve or idealistic about investing seriously in peacebuilding and conflict prevention. The evidence shows that these approaches are necessary for achieving sustainable peace as opposed to the temporary absence of violence. Given the current pressures on the EU's resources, decision-makers must resist the temptation to co-opt them in favour of short-term, top-down, 'hard security' approaches. Putting peace at the heart of the MFF will allow the EU to respond to today's crises more effectively and efficiently, and it will allow it to break the cycles of violence which require ever more resources to address. It is the right and intelligent thing to do.



Lorenzo Angelini

Lorenzo Angelini is a Policy Officer at the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO). He coordinates EPLO's work on peace, development and security, and follows EU policy developments related to peacebuilding and conflict prevention in Africa.

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DELIVERABLES

DL 3.4 – “Kissing the frog: Gender equality in EU conflict prevention and other fairy tales”

Laura Davis, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

This report draws on feminist analysis of EU foreign policy to critically assess EU commitments to gender equality and to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in EU conflict prevention policy, and the dominant assumptions underpinning EU conflict prevention and offers recommendations for how the EU can improve its conflict prevention interventions by integrating gender equality throughout its foreign policy.

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DL 4.3 – “Report on EU comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and peacebuilding”

Giovanni Faleg, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), with contributions from Nicoletta Pirozzi and Bernardo Venturi, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), and Nabila Habbida, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

This report appraises the evolution of the EU’s comprehensive approach into the integrated approach, in comparison with three other international organisations: the UN, NATO and the OSCE. The report makes a set of recommendations to improve the coherence and impact of EU’s integrated responses at the strategic and operational levels.

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DL 5.3 – “Report on Civil-Military Synergies on the Ground”

Peter Horne Zartsdahl, Roskilde University (RUC), and Katarina Đokić, Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP)

This report examines civil-military synergies during the execution of crisis management operations within CSDP. The report approaches the concept of civil-military synergy as a practical approach to cost-reduction and as a more desirable impact-increasing measure.

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DL 6.2 – “International capacity building in the Western Balkans and the Horn of Africa: Lessons on coherence and coordination”

Gilberto Algar-Faria, Ana E. Juncos, Timothy Edmunds (University of Bristol), Sonja Stojanović Gajić, Katarina Đokić (BCSP), Erik Plänitz, Khadir Abdi, Savannah Simons (Transparency Solutions)

This report examines the coherence and coordination among international actors (including the EU), and between international and local actors. Drawing on five case study areas (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa, Kosovo, and Serbia), this report offers lessons for more effective capacity building.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

12 September 2018: Final EU-CIVCAP policy conference, Brussels

The final conference of the EU-CIVCAP project will serve as a platform for the Work Packages to present their research and its policy implications to an audience of policy-makers and practitioners, notably highlighting lessons identified from past and current approaches. More information, including the first confirmed speakers, will be made available on our website in the coming weeks.

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SAVE THE DATE

25 June 2018: “Lessons identified by the EU-CIVCAP project”, Research Meets Policy Seminar, Brussels.

The final Research Meets Policy Seminar will take place at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels on 25 June 2018. Michael E. Smith will present policy-relevant findings of the EU-CIVCAP research to policy-makers and practitioners, with a focus on the 25 lessons identified.

The Research Meets Policy seminar is a closed-door discussion, by invitation only (up to 30 participants) and is designed for EU policy-makers and experts to exchange views and identify key research gaps that can feed into the EU-CIVCAP research agenda.

PAST EVENTS

Workshop 5 – “The EU and local capacity building”

A workshop on the EU and local capacity building took place on 14 May 2018 in Bristol, UK. The event was attended by participants from the academic community, civil society, international organisations and representatives from the private sector. The workshop opened with an introduction to the University of Bristol’s Global Insecurities Centre from Prof Timothy Edmunds, followed by an overview of the EU-CIVCAP project delivered by Ana E. Juncos. These welcome talks were followed by two panels, at which the final or preliminary findings of three deliverables (DLs 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3), focusing on different aspects of capacity building under Work Package 6, were presented and discussed.

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Peacebuilding Forum 6 – “The EU’s foreign policy and commitment to gender, peace and security”

Held on 22 May in Brussels, this roundtable, the last Peacebuilding Forum under the EU-CIVCAP project, critically assessed EU commitments to equality and to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in EU conflict prevention policy. Based on an in-depth report produced under EU-CIVCAP that presents a feminist analysis of EU foreign policy, Dr. Laura Davis examined the dominant assumptions underpinning EU conflict prevention and highlighted shortfalls with the EU's understanding of gender (e.g., its reduction to "women and girls") and the limitations of integrating gender equality into the design of conflict prevention policies. The roundtable also sought to draw out the implications of this analysis for policymaking and academic research and was primarily aimed at policymakers, researchers and practitioners. A full report will be available in the coming days at the link below.

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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: APRIL



Oliver Walton

Oliver Walton is a Lecturer in International Development at the University of Bath, specialising in NGO politics, conflict and peacebuilding. He is currently a co-investigator in an ESRC-funded project 'Borderlands, brokers and peacebuilding in Nepal and Sri Lanka: war to peace transitions viewed from the margins'. The project explores how different kinds of borderland regions produce varied institutional arrangements and brokering relations, and examines how these different dynamics shape the patterns of post-war stabilisation and reconstruction.

In April, he wrote our Expert of the Month blog under the title, "Local elections in Nepal and Sri Lanka: empowering or undermining the margins?".

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CATALOGUE OF LESSONS IDENTIFIED

The Catalogue of Lessons Identified has been updated, with 25 lessons now available online. This is a living document that is being updated throughout the project.

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IN OTHER NEWS

Michael E. Smith, member of our Expert Network, was a speaker at the State of the Union conference in Florence on 10-12 May. The conference was attended by a number of high-profile policy-makers and was under the heading "Solidarity in Europe." For more information, click below.

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