



THANK YOU, AND GOODBYE (FOR NOW)

As the EU-CIVCAP project comes to an end on 30 November 2018, this will be our final newsletter. This presents us with an opportunity to look back on the project and reflect on its progress. We are especially proud of the excellent research we have produced during the past three years. In particular, we feel encouraged (and heartened) by the level of engagement our findings have received from a variety of stakeholders, from EU and national policy-makers to civil society and the wider public. On behalf of all of the project's partner institutions, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the project's success by giving their time during interviews, participating in our events or providing further feedback. This is of course only the beginning. We believe that the EU is and will remain committed to building sustainable peace and responding to conflicts, especially within its neighbourhood. Therefore, the findings and policy recommendations of this project will be highly valuable in the years to come in the context of the implementation of the EU Global Strategy, the renewed focus on conflict prevention at the EU level and the development of civilian capabilities as part of a Civilian CSDP Compact.

EDITORIAL

TOWARD AN INTEGRATED APPROACH: REALISTIC AMBITION OR WISHFUL THINKING?

The EU's steady growth as a security actor since the late 1990s is one of the most prominent recent developments in European integration. Indeed, a generation ago many commentators doubted whether the EU would have the capacity to deploy military and police forces, as well as civilian experts, to various hotspots around the globe. However, a closer examination of this capacity, as well as the various missed opportunities for the EU to act, demonstrates there is still much room for improvement in this domain. Equally importantly, the EU's actual deployments for conflict resolution and peacebuilding over the past 15 years reveal that the EU clearly favours civilian instruments over military ones, and that it is increasingly attempting to build local capacities for conflict-related tasks in host countries rather than directly take on those challenges itself. These facts helped to inspire the EU-CIVCAP investigation, and related EU research projects.

Despite these problems, it does seem clear that the EU has a unique role to play in security affairs in general; in addition, current trends in regional and global politics means that the EU is certain to remain involved in the specific realm of conflict prevention and peacebuilding for the foreseeable future. These facts beg the question of the EU's actual value-added in international security affairs, relative to other multilateral actors (like the UN or NATO) or to ad hoc coalitions of European states. The EU's current answer to this

question, of course, is the integrated approach, which attempts to: 1) draw upon all EU instruments, in the short/medium/long term; 2) to be more proactive regarding the anticipation/prevention of conflict (i.e., early warning); and 3) to remain more involved in their aftermath (i.e., local ownership/capacity-building). The integrated approach in turn builds upon the EU's comprehensive approach of just a few years ago, which in turn builds upon earlier conceptions of a 'whole of the EU' approach to foreign/security policy (such as coherence and consistency).

Several EU-CIVCAP deliverables directly address the advent of the EU's integrated approach, and many others touch upon one or more of the four major cross-cutting issues (warning-response gap; short-long term approaches; local ownership; civil-military coordination) that give more practical substance to such an approach. One major success story here involves the EU's comprehensive and (mostly) integrated efforts to cope with maritime security and the threat of piracy off the Horn of Africa and beyond, beginning with EUNAVFOR Somalia. This overall effort, including several follow-on missions, involved civilian and military capacities, on land and sea, with public and private actors, with local partners in host countries, and with other international actors like the UN. It also addressed shorter-term security concerns as well as longer-term humanitarian aid delivery and security sector reform efforts in Somalia and elsewhere. Some EU security actions in the Balkans also reflect aspects of the integrated approach to CPP, but these are not nearly as developed as those regarding EUNAVFOR Somalia.

Unfortunately, then, EUNAVFOR still remains an outlier or exception regarding the actual implementation of the integrated approach. The EU's difficulties to make such an approach the norm – rather than a rare exception – also make it seem as if the EU is not a proactive strategic actor capable of shaping events, but rather merely a reactive supporting player that offers a token or modest contribution in certain host countries before moving on to the next crisis. The EU therefore must not just be more coherent, comprehensive, integrated, proactive, and strategic but also far more realistic in terms of what it can achieve and why it is attempting to achieve it. One major step in this direction would be a much greater focus on regional/neighbourhood problems rather than the pursuit of some form of global 'strategic autonomy', which is likely to be even more elusive than a truly integrated approach. In addition, although the EU has made significant advances in the conflict prevention and peacebuilding domain, and has built upon this experience through the creation of a policy-relevant knowledge base about conflict and crisis management (i.e., lessons and best practices), it still rarely manages to meet the ongoing demand for decisive security assistance actions, especially on its borders. This is not for a lack of resources; the EU, along with its member states, possesses the human capital, knowledge base, institutional infrastructure, and material/technological tools to act like other major powers in many areas of conflict management and peacebuilding, yet it still falls short as indicated by the lessons derived from recent practice summarised in various EU-CIVCAP outputs.

Hopefully, by drawing on the findings of EU-CIVCAP and of related EU projects, future EU investigations and related institutional reforms will further empower Europe in terms of choosing its strategic priorities, streamlining its decision-making procedures, and resourcing its foreign security missions adequately and quickly, whether in the civilian or military spheres. In today's world there is unfortunately no shortage of opportunities for the EU to get more involved in conflict resolution and crisis management; the only question is whether the EU can find the political will and develop the leadership capacities – in Brussels and among its member states – to make the reforms suggested by the several research projects it has funded in this domain.



Michael E. Smith

Michael E. Smith is Professor of International Relations at the University of Aberdeen.

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FINAL CONFERENCE

Three years of research on EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding

This month will see the completion of EU-CIVCAP, a three-year project funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme that aimed to assess the EU's capabilities in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The project's 12 consortium partners conducted field research in the Western Balkans and the Horn of Africa in order to analyse where and why the European Union succeeds and where and why it fails in seeking to prevent or manage conflict and build peace, with any eye to providing empirical grounding for policy-making at EU and Member State level. EU-CIVCAP offers a comprehensive, comparative and multidisciplinary analysis that helps identify existing shortfalls as well as lessons identified and best practices. During its lifetime, from December 2015 to November 2018, EU-CIVCAP undertook well over 200 interviews, involved 49 experts, produced 55 deliverables, published 47 blog posts and op-eds, and held 16 events.

The project's 30 lessons identified are available in an online catalogue that was continuously updated throughout the project's lifetime and is accessible here. A report on best practices was published ahead of the final conference, held at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels on 12 September 2018 (see below).

Both the best practices report and the catalogue of lessons identified were developed and managed by Professor Michael E. Smith from the University of Aberdeen, who provided guidance on themes that cut across the project's Work Packages. At the final conference, Professor Smith pointed out that EU action on conflict prevention and peacebuilding was hampered by different approaches to learning and a failure to follow its own rules and procedures. Nobody owns learning as a centre of activity. Since learning is supposed to lead to institutional, legal and political reform to help the EU become a better foreign policy actor, failure to learn is a barrier to a more effective peace and conflict policy. Action often reflects what the EU wants to do rather than what local dynamics demand.

Under the broad heading of implementation of the European Union Global Strategy, a number of policy recommendations were made by EU-CIVCAP,

some more concrete and technical in nature, while others point towards structural reforms that could be considered in this area, including streamlining the decision-making process, bridging the civilian-military gap, exploiting policy synergies between security and development/humanitarian aid policies and making the integrated approach a reality. The relative novelty and fluidity of many of the EU's approaches to conflict prevention and peacebuilding appears to present an opportunity to shape policy.

Comments by EU officials during the Conference suggested that the focus of EU-CIVCAP remains largely relevant from a policy perspective (focus on increasing civilian capabilities, prioritisation of prevention, implementing the integrated approach, capacity-building and resilience). Final recommendations were articulated in line with these priorities. Many of these remain just recommendations for the time being: obstacles remain, not least in terms of political will and resources. There were also several issues that will require follow-up either in terms of research or at the policy level. This most importantly concerns the securitisation of migration and implementation of the Civilian CSDP Compact.

Throughout the project, CEPS was tasked with ensuring that the important research undertaken by the consortium partners would reach relevant stakeholders, especially in Brussels: national diplomats, EU officials, practitioners, civil society representatives, and other researchers. These efforts culminated in the final conference, held at CEPS in September under the title "Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding: Lessons for the EU". The conference served to showcase the key lessons and best practices identified and to discuss the relevance of its main findings for policy-makers and practitioners in EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding. There was an animated debate among the more than 100 participants on the EU's civilian capabilities for external conflict prevention and peacebuilding, in three panels that focused on conflict prevention and closing the gap between early warning and response; on implementation of the EU's Integrated Approach; and on building inclusive and resilient peace. A final panel sought to chart the way ahead for EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding, synthesizing research findings from the entire project.

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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: NOVEMBER



Joanne McEvoy

Joanne McEvoy is Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. Her research interests lie in post-conflict institutional design, particularly the capacity of power-sharing to promote sustainable peace and democracy in deeply divided societies. She has a wider research interest in the role of international organisations in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Originally from Northern Ireland, she has a PhD from Queen's University Belfast and was a Sawyer Mellon Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Penn Program in Ethnic Conflict, University of Pennsylvania before joining Aberdeen in 2008. She is presently working on a research grant funded by the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council (with Dr Allison McCulloch, Brandon University) on the role of external actors in promoting and maintaining power sharing in deeply divided, conflict-affected societies. Joanne has published several books on post-conflict power sharing: *Power-Sharing Executives: Governing in Bosnia, Macedonia, and Northern Ireland* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015), *Power Sharing in Deeply Divided Places* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013, co-edited with Brendan O'Leary) and on minority rights: *The European Minority Rights Regime* (Palgrave, 2012, co-authored with David Galbreath). She has published articles on post-conflict power sharing (*Cooperation and Conflict, Democratization, Government and Opposition, Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*) and on minority rights in Europe (*Ethnopolitics, Journal of European Integration, Security Dialogue*).

In November, she wrote our Expert of the Month blog under the title, "Post-Election Troubles in Bosnia: What Role for the EU?"

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EXPERT OF THE MONTH: OCTOBER



Jessie Hronesova

Jessie Hronešová currently manages the project portfolio for the Western Balkans for the London-based international development consultancy Aktis Strategy, with a special focus on radicalization, independent media and strategic communications. Jessie has an ample experience with working in international development especially in the Balkans: she previously worked at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network in Sarajevo and Belgrade. In her research and doctoral work she has mostly focused on reparations, community-building and transitional justice in the former Yugoslavia from the perspective of victim and veteran associations. She authored several studies on identity politics (including Post-War Ethno-National Identities of Young People in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2012) and retributive transitional justice in several academic journals. Prior to her doctoral studies, Jessie also conducted research into Euroscepticism and European identities for the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague.

In October, she wrote our Expert of the Month blog under the title, “Donor Coordination Still Lagging Behind”.

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EXPERT OF THE MONTH: SEPTEMBER



Craig Oliphant

Craig Oliphant is a Senior Adviser in the NGO sector, at the London-based Peaceful Change Initiative (PCI). He was previously Europe/Central Asia adviser at the NGO Saferworld (2011-2015). Until the end of 2010 his career was in the British diplomatic service and he was Head of the Eastern Research Group at the FCO, dealing with Russia and Eastern Europe, and with a particular focus on protracted conflicts in the Caucasus. Other posts held at NATO and the OSCE in the 1990s – in Brussels and The Hague, at the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, respectively – and at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich in the 1980s. He was awarded the OBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours in June 2011. From 2014-2018 he was a member of the Council of Europe’s Advisory Committee on the FCNM (Framework Convention on National Minorities), including two years from 2016 as Vice President of the Committee. Craig is also a Senior Adviser at the Foreign Policy Centre in London. Married with two daughters, he holds an MA(Hons.) in Modern Languages from the University of St Andrews.

In September, he wrote our Expert of the Month blog under the title, “Armenia – further changes and challenges ahead”.

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CATALOGUE OF LESSONS IDENTIFIED

The complete Catalogue of Lessons Identified is now available, with the final Lessons (31-34) from Michael E. Smith having been published online. You can view them via the link below. DL 7.1, which will be the PDF/paper form of the Catalogue, is currently being professionally designed, and will be available by the end of November.

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FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

A report with final policy recommendations that emerged from the project has been published as is available through the link below.

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BEST PRACTICES REPORT

The report “Best Practices in EU Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding”, whose lead author is Michael E. Smith, has now been published as is available at the link below.

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GLOBAL AFFAIRS SPECIAL ISSUE

All articles of the Special Issue of the journal Global Affairs have now been published and can be accessed via the link below.

- Ana E. Juncos & Steven Blockmans (2018): The EU's role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding: four key challenges, Global Affairs, DOI: 10.1080/23340460.2018.1502619
- Nicoletta Pirozzi, Bernardo Venturi and Alessandro Marrone (2018) EU Member States' capabilities in conflict prevention and peacebuilding: personnel and technology, Global Affairs, doi: 10.1080/23340460.2018.1538706
- Laura Davis (2018) Betwixt and between: conceptual and practical challenges of preventing violent conflict through EU external action, Global Affairs, DOI: 10.1080/23340460.2018.1535835
- Giovanni Faleg (2018) The EU: from comprehensive to integrated approach, Global Affairs, DOI: 10.1080/23340460.2018.1492877
- Hylke Dijkstra, Ewa Mahr, Petar Petrov, Katarina Đokić & Peter Horne Zartsdahl (2018) The EU's partners in crisis response and peacebuilding: complementarities and synergies with the UN and OSCE, Global Affairs, DOI: 10.1080/23340460.2018.1530572
- Peter Horne Zartsdahl (2018) Civil–military synergies in EU crisis response and peacebuilding: a framework for analysis, Global Affairs, DOI: 10.1080/23340460.2018.1532769
- Timothy Edmunds, Ana E. Juncos & Gilberto Algar-Faria (2018): EU local capacity building: ownership, complexity and agency, Global Affairs, DOI: 10.1080/23340460.2018.1528878
- Michael E. Smith (2018) Learning in European Union peacebuilding: rhetoric and reality, Global Affairs, DOI: 10.1080/23340460.2018.1500427

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DELIVERABLES

During this period, we completed three deliverables: DL 2.5 - Dual use technologies and civilian capabilities: Beyond pooling and sharing; DL 3.5 - Report on the EU's support to the conflict prevention work of other actors; and DL 6.3 - Report on best practices in EU local capacity building. All our deliverables are available on our website, by clicking the button below.

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IN OTHER NEWS

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

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