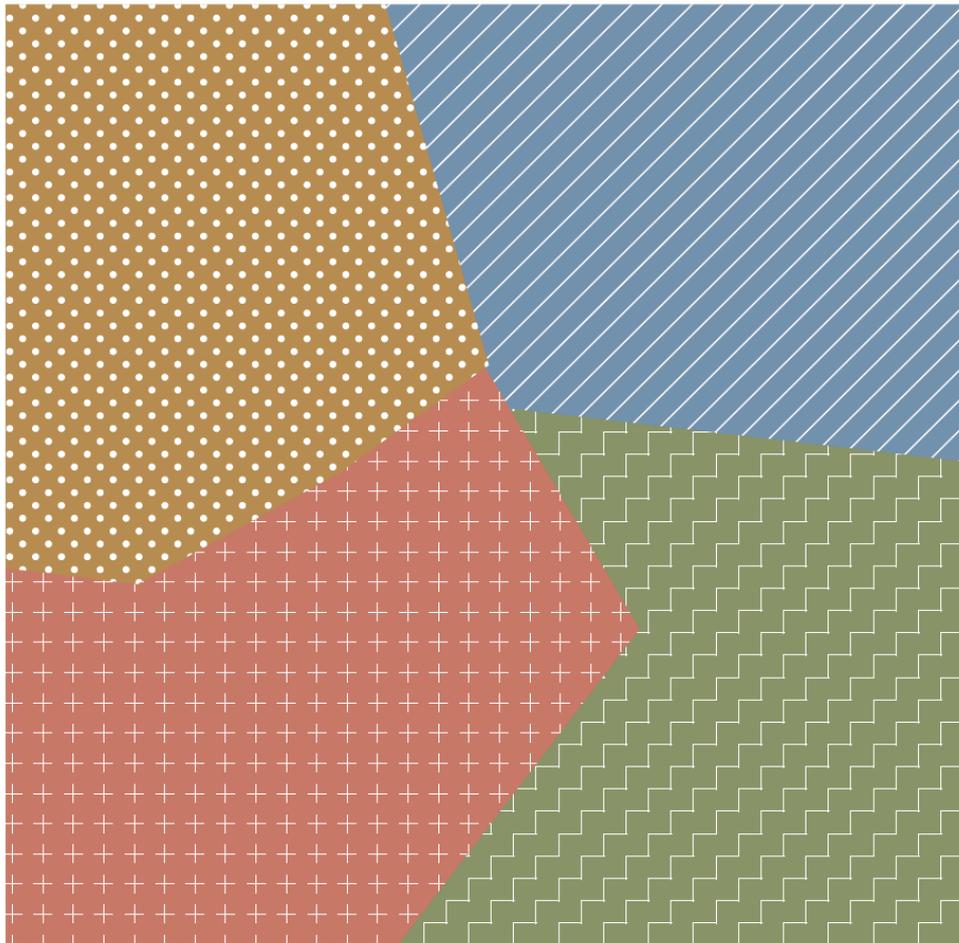


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ENHANCING EU PEACEBUILDING CAPABILITIES



## Joint Final Conference Report of WOSCAP & IECEU Research Projects: “Effectiveness and Inclusivity of EU Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention”

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ESSEC IRENÉ - Institute for Research and Education on Negotiation

\*With the contribution of CEP from the IECEU project

## Colophon

# JOINT FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT OF WOSCAP & IECEU RESEARCH PROJECTS: “EFFECTIVENESS AND INCLUSIVITY OF EU PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION”

30 November 2017

Deliverable 5.11: International Conference

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## Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

This is the report on the outcomes of the Joint Final Conference of WOSCAP & IECEU Research Projects: “Effectiveness and Inclusivity of EU Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention” was produced as part of the project “Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding”, which took place on 8 November 2017 in Brussels. Project partners, academics, policymakers of the EU institutions working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and civil society were present to reflect on and debate the research findings and final policy recommendations of both projects.



This project is funded by the EU's Horizon 2020  
Research and Innovation Programme  
Grant agreement no. 653866

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## List of abbreviations

<b>CSDP</b>	Common Security and Defence Policy
<b>DG DEVCO</b>	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
<b>EEAS</b>	European External Action Service
<b>EUD</b>	European Union Delegation
<b>EUGS</b>	European Union Global Strategy
<b>EUMS</b>	European Union Military Staff
<b>EUSR</b>	European Union Special Representative
<b>FBOs</b>	Faith-based organisations
<b>GPPAC</b>	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
<b>IcSP</b>	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
<b>ICTs</b>	Information and Communications Technologies
<b>MTD</b>	Multi-Track Diplomacy
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-governmental organisations
<b>PRISM</b>	Prevention of conflicts, Rule of law/ SSR, Integrated approach, Stabilisation and Mediation
<b>SSR</b>	Security Sector Reform
<b>UNSC</b>	United Nations Security Council
<b>WPS agenda</b>	Women, Peace and Security Agenda

## Executive summary

On 8 November 2017, IECEU “Improving the Effectiveness of Capabilities in EU Conflict Prevention” and WOSCAP “Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding” organised their final conference together on the following theme: “Effectiveness and Inclusivity of EU Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention”. The purpose of the conference was to bring together all relevant stakeholders and end-users in the field of European Union’s conflict prevention and peacebuilding to present both H2020 projects research results and recommendations as well as to contribute to further debate and improvement in EU’s conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions through sustainable, comprehensive and innovative means.

Five panels have been set-up with interventions of WOSCAP and IECEU representatives and EU policy-makers. These panels focused on the main policy recommendations, with the aim of adopting them and discussing their potential implementation. The main outcomes of the sessions are summarised here.

### The effectiveness of EU CSDP missions

In an increasingly complex world, it is of strategic importance for the EU to be actively engaged in conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding efforts. The political significance of deploying a CSDP operation or mission is in itself great as it shows Europe's international commitment to help crisis situations. There is however also an increasing necessity to demonstrate the effectiveness of EU's in conflict prevention and crisis management tools.

Variability in and between CSDP missions and operations is large, all missions and operations are mixtures of strengths and weaknesses. Strengthening of strategic planning mechanisms for adaptation to changing circumstances is an absolute necessity since decisions at the EU strategic level of planning are determined by political motives and lack of resources. Specifically, mandate creation and incorporation of lessons learned into the planning processes could be strengthened. Support is also needed for on-going development of communication mechanisms, HR processes, civilian-military and civilian-civilian interoperability, standardization, and CSDP specific technologies and programs. EU's most important strengths in crisis management are the ability to work with multiple partners and the expertise of its personnel, however the relationship between the 'politico-strategic' level in Brussels, the Member States and the field-operational level still leaves quite a lot of room for improvement.

### EU capabilities on Multi-Track Diplomacy and inclusivity in EU's Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

The EU institutional capacity-building for inclusive diplomatic engagement is supported by key officials that embody the EU’s mediation capabilities and by internal bodies in charge of coordinating and supporting mediation and dialogue throughout EU institutions. To raise the profile of EU mediation capacity, it is crucial to develop tailored coaching and training for relevant EU staff, and to strengthen coordination at multiple levels. In that sense, the EU also needs to work together with independent organisations that can support the official diplomatic engagement in certain situations. On the specific issue of gender, the EU needs to expand mandates to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of MTD efforts by mainstreaming

gender inclusiveness in all dialogue activities, making more effective use of gender advisors, and ensuring adequate handover processes during staff turnovers.

The issue of inclusivity is at the core of the reflection on EU's conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions. The strategy of inclusion, as well as the choice of actors to be involved is crucial depending on the impact on effectiveness. It has been demonstrated that a more inclusive approach is possible, as the EU has a strong capacity to coordinate with civil society. There are very varied stakeholders with different networks that can have multiplying potential. Among marginalised actors, faith-based actors and the private sector have to be taken into account considering their impact on peace and conflict. There is a need to establish a stakeholder engagement strategy and a sort of guidance for ethical rules.

### How to make the integrated systemic approach workable and operational?

The EU Integrated Approach has been foreseen with the launch of the EU Global Strategy in order to allow the EU to act at all stages of the conflict cycle at different levels of governance. It appears that final inputs from WOSCAP and IECEU projects can feed the concrete implementation and workability of the EU Integrated Approach in terms of strategy, human resources, joint programming, training, evaluation or researches. In particular, the whole of society approach and analysis developed in the frame of the WOSCAP project is one of the ways of enhancing the comprehensiveness and setting the Integrated Approach. In that sense, research projects, such as those implemented in the frame of the Horizon 2020 program, are necessary to evaluate and provide continuous feedback to the EEAS. The Integrated Approach should be about minimizing negative effects coming from competition and maximize positive effects, the added value of cooperation and create incentives.

## Introduction

IECEU “Improving the Effectiveness of Capabilities in EU Conflict Prevention” and WOSCAP “Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding” organised their final conference together on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the Scotland House in Brussels, from 09:00 to 17:30, followed by a reception.

The conference brought together all relevant stakeholders and end-users in the field of European Union’s conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It aimed to present both H2020 projects research results and recommendations as well as to contribute to further debate and improvement in EU’s conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions through sustainable, comprehensive and innovative means.

WOSCAP project focused on three types of existing EU interventions, namely multi-track diplomacy, security sector reform, and governance reform through a combination of desk and field research in Mali, Yemen, Georgia, Ukraine, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Guatemala and Honduras and produced a tailored set of recommendations to improve the EU's civilian means for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

IECEU analysed best practices and lessons learned of eight on-going and past European Union CSDP missions and operations in the Western Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo), Africa (Congo, Libya, South Sudan and Central African Republic), Palestinian Territories as well as Afghanistan with the aim of providing a catalogue of practices, new solutions and approaches for the EU to guarantee long-term stability through conflict prevention and peacebuilding with special focus on pooling and sharing as well as civil-military cooperation.

During the WOSCAP project, the work package 5 devoted to Policy Engagement & Impact led by ESSEC IRENE, aimed both at developing a policy engagement strategy and at converting research findings into actionable policy recommendations. These recommendations entail the policy priorities as well as the information and communication technologies needed for an effective civilian conflict prevention. In compliance with the other work packages, the research findings were designed to contribute to a definition of sustainable and inclusive peacebuilding. This is rooted in the professional and operational view of policy practitioners and those who are on the receiving end of EU policies. A booklet of policy recommendations has been produced and presents the concrete and actionable policy recommendations based on the main findings from the scoping study, case study and best practices reports. These reports are built around three clusters (MTD, SSR and Governance Reform), five cross-cutting themes (local ownership, multi-stakeholder coherence, gender, ICTs and civil-military synergies) and four case studies (Georgia, Mali, Ukraine and Yemen. This cross-over study encompasses the wide range of topics and aspects covered by the WOSCAP project. We have decided to present a whole-of-society reading grid, based on five indicators, and to apply this to two major strategic issues related to EU’s conflict prevention and peacebuilding: multi-track diplomacy (MTD) and Security Sector Reform (SSR). These two priorities, together with the broader new concept of Integrated Approach, have been emphasised within the new EU Global Strategy in 2016. To present and exchange about these policy recommendations during this final conference, ESSEC IRENE has mobilised a network of EU policy-makers – in particular the PRISM division and geographical desks – as well as the stakeholders that are likely to be

affected or concerned by these recommendations. Pre-discussions during preparatory meetings with EU policy-makers took place prior the event.

The common IECEU-WOSCAP conference was organised around five panels, which were composed of project representatives together with members of the European External Action Service (EEAS), academics and representatives from the civil society, and focused on the selected topics currently discussed at the EEAS level and defined as priorities. More than 100 persons attended the conference and actively participated during the questions and answers sessions. A range of policy recommendations have been discussed and adopted, in line with the EU representatives' comments.

## Official opening and objectives of the final conference

*Linda Benraïs*, Adjunct Professor of Comparative Law and Mediation and Director of "Governance and Conflict Resolution" Programs at ESSEC IRENE, opened the Joint Final Conference of WOSCAP & IECEU Research Projects. She reminded that the aim of this conference was to bring together all relevant stakeholders to discuss the improvement of EU policy on conflict prevention and peacebuilding through sustainable, innovative and comprehensive means.

She explained that during the conference, the main objectives behind the research, common results and recommendations will be presented. An important part during the project was dedicated to translate the research findings into actionable and concrete policy recommendations. Throughout the project, policy dialogues have been organised in Paris, Berlin, London, Madrid, and The Hague, bringing together relevant stakeholders. For the WOSCAP & IECEU final conference, the topics have been selected, taking into consideration the priorities within the implementation of the EUGSS. The next step is to implement these recommendations, which has already been done in some of the case studies countries. A booklet with policy recommendations was given to all participants to the conference. She thanked all the WOSCAP partners, especially those working in conflicting situations such as Mr. Ali Saif in Yemen. She also reminded the support of the EU Project Officer Ms. Carla Rocha Gomes, who is responsible for the successful conduct of the two H2020 projects from the European Commission's Research Executive Agency side. Finally, she underlined the great cooperation between the two projects, with the active participation of CEP, Laurea University, GPPAC and ESSEC IRENE teams to make this ambitious final conference possible.

This session was composed of three interventions from representatives of the EEAS, the IECEU and the WOSCAP projects, who were respectively Mr. Stefano Tomat, Head of PRISM Division at the EEAS, Ms. Kirsi Hyttinen, IECEU Project Coordinator from Laurea University, and Ms. Gabriella Vogelaar, WOSCAP Project Coordinator from GPPAC.

*Stefano Tomat* reminded that one of the key points of the EU strategy is conflict prevention, and the EEAS is reflecting on its implementation and temporality. PRISM is the first step of the EUGSS to focus on one single structure of the EU's capacity to address crises. The creation of PRISM has allowed to bring together CSDP, conflict prevention, mediation and EU operation centre and an additional team for stabilization has been created. Moreover, this division was to put PRISM at the top of the organigram of the EEAS. All the different parts of PRISM have been set up according to themes (e.g.: conflict prevention team or stabilization team). The aim of PRISM was to be operational, to analyse conflict and to focus on action on the ground. In order to address a crisis, it is important to synchronize different tools of the EU (European Commission, CSDP, etc.), to bring together all the actors through the Integrated Approach ((DG DEVCO, IcSP, etc.). In order to do so, the EUGS has put the PRISM division on top of the EEAS organigram. Since the creation of PRISM, successful actions include the involvement of the EUDs and Member States, and an early-warning system that also tries to do early-action. When tensions arise, the PRISM division acts from Brussels and discusses with Member States and reaches out to the EUD to assess the needs for specific actions in order to rectify a situation in a country. Moreover, PRISM delivers conflict analysis, incorporating the

overall context and realities, tailor-made for ambassadors, deployed colleagues, the EEAS and the public. Its aim is to enable direct action on the ground. There is also an attempt to develop new tools for the EU to act in time of crises (e.g: mediation, political dialogue, projects implementing agents for the project, CSDP missions) which are now too large to be efficient, therefore it is necessary to devise them for specific missions implemented through the member states.

Stefano Tomat highlighted that external comments are valuable because this shows PRISM how its actions are perceived. It then examines how those recommendations can be implemented in its work and to which extent they are feasible.

*Kirsi Hyttinen* explained that the IECEU project analyses the current trends and challenges of external security. The initiative to implement IECEU came from the feeling of a lack of external assessment and evaluation and the need for a better integration between research and policymaking. This policymaking should be based on evidence, as well as a better information management. The project was interested in how to look for the best practices, took into consideration all the data, established the methods on how to better communicate among researchers. A learning application has been created where all the research discussed during the conference can be found.

There have been many different activities in the past 3 years. It hopes to develop more long-term approaches for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

*Gabriella Vogelaar* underlined that the WOSCAP project adopts a whole-of-society approach to look at the challenges and opportunities of peacebuilding. An important aspect of the project was inclusivity, meaning to bring together a wide range of different stakeholders and adopts a local perspective for a holistic approach. A unique value of the project is a composition of the WOSCAP Consortium. It consists of ten institutional partners from nine different countries: Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Utrecht University, London School of Economics and Political Science, Institute for Research and Education on Negotiation, ESSEC Business School, Berghof Foundation, Escola Cultura de Pau, Institute of World Policy, Political Development Forum, Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, and Université des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques de Bamako. Moreover, GPPAC member institutions from the case study countries supported the project with a wide pool of experienced practitioners: International Centre on Conflict and Negotiation from Georgia, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding in Mali and Association of Middle East Studies from Ukraine.

It aims to fill the knowledge gap through academic research. The objective of the WOSCAP project is to enhance the capabilities of the EU in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, focusing on tools that can serve peacebuilding actions such as multi-track diplomacy, security and governance reforms. The results and policy recommendations derive from exchanges provided with feedback and critical reflection of over 300 stakeholders. The most important and challenging part is now the implementation of these recommendations and to see how to have a real impact in policy and science. This conference is meant to address our common challenges through a discussion and dialogue.

# Panel 1 – How to enhance the effectiveness of EU CSDP missions and SSR?

## Introduction

The aim of the first panel was to discuss the challenges of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) capability development and find solutions how to enhance effectiveness of the CSDP missions and Security Sector Reform (SSR). IECEU project has clustered the research findings into six capabilities, that all can be further developed into recommendations for policy makers, operational actors and training institutions. The six core capabilities identified were: planning, interoperability, competences, comprehensiveness, technology and operational capacities. The panel participants introduced their findings and work done in the EEAS to respond to the need for enhancing the effectiveness of the EU CSDP missions and SSR. The main questions discussed during the panel were interlinked and touched the biggest challenges in the CSDP capability development and the ways to tackle these issues.

## Intervention of the speakers

*Petteri Taitto*, Principal Scientist at Laurea University, who was chairing the panel presented six core capabilities that were identified within the IECEU project, as well as twelve missions used for field research and as a basis for all the recommendations produced. He stressed the importance of researching various missions, while most of the previous research was based on one specific mission.

*Maria Mekri*, Executive Director of SaferGlobe, explained that variability was found within all the missions, where all of them were a mixture of strengths and weaknesses. She also stressed the importance of ongoing strategic planning, which should be main focus of the process, and emphasized the importance of incorporating lessons learned into the planning process. On the other hand, she argued EU's strengths are in competences (high level of skills developed) and comprehensiveness (ability to work with other organizations).

*Giorgio Porzio*, Head of Division, CMPD, EEAS, presented the complexity of the issue and argued various capabilities have to be used to successfully conclude peacebuilding process. He also stressed the importance of strategic communication and convincing member states what is in it for them. Mr Porzio mentioned that some missions tend to be hurried and are launched too early, while the transition strategies are not agreed upon.

*Anselmo Martin Segovia*, Head of Division, EUMS, stressed that EU went through economic issues, having limited amount of resources and being forced to prioritize. He presented the capability development plan and emphasized the importance of political willingness, where member states at highest level entertain different policies, blocking rapid advancement of initiatives.

*Annemarie Peen-Rodt*, Associate Professor at the Royal Danish Defence College, developed the analytical approach of IECEU in order to be able to compare effectiveness of different missions. According to her, the biggest challenges lay in internal complexity (member

states, instruments, initiatives, headquarters and field offices trying to work together) and external complexity (ever-changing environment). Ms Peen-Rodt argued the EU is improving its internal effectiveness, while external effectiveness should be improved and the impact on the ground should be enhanced. She suggested to focus on timing and sequence of the EU instruments (when is the most effective time to do it and how do we sequence it with other initiatives).

## Main elements of discussions

The CSDP missions and operations are one part of the EU's global preventive engagement. The civilian missions and military operations together with the EU's diplomatic and development activities are the most visible conflict prevention activities. The challenge is that CSDP missions and operations are short-term instruments, and thus are only to pave the road for transition of other longer-term actions.

The first part of the panel touched the challenges of the capability development. As CSDP missions rely on the capabilities of the Member States, it is always challenging to find a balance with political will and actual willingness to contribute resources. The CSDP mission environment and force generation are complex processes and pose therefore a huge learning need for the mission personnel. Member states might have their national agendas that may even be counterproductive for the EU's vision of the pursued end-state in the theatre. As the Member States contribute most of the mission personnel, the rotation is a perpetual challenge as well. It has been identified in the IECEU project that handover is not systematic nor well documented, even though sound guidelines are provided from the operational headquarters. At worst, badly run and frequent handovers lead to severe information gaps and frustration of local actors as their counterparts change after every six months.

## Conclusions and next steps

The panel concluded that there are a number of both deficiencies and good practices in all missions, and thus one cannot be named more successful than another. Even more, every mission is unique and the mission dynamics and environment change over time thus not any mission can be perceived as a static entity. In addition to capability development, the panel also identified such deficits as timely implementation, lack of commitment to long-term approach and not enough surgical and focused mission mandates as some of the key issues hindering the efficiency of CSDP operations. Also, at the moment the EU and its member states are trying to achieve long-term results with only short-term commitment to CSDP missions both in political and financial terms.

It was underlined that resources put to strategic and operational planning contribute to the efficiency of the mission. One part of successful planning is to have the mandate and the desired end-state of the missions defined clearly. With many missions, it is unclear if the desired impact has been pursued in regards of the local level (e.g. positive or negative peace) or of the European Union and its Member States (e.g. refugee flows). It would also be important to be able to revise the initial strategy as the reality of the mission area unravels itself. The same inadequate planning is represented through the absence of clear exit-strategies and

generic mission mandates. However, the more specific mandate would naturally lead to the need of more specialized personnel that might be difficult to respond from the Member States point of view. Although the planning capabilities of the military CSDP missions are still lagging behind, there has been enhanced coordination and cooperation of civilian and military planning in the sphere of CSDP. This in turn, can be perceived as a subtle realization of the EU's integrated approach.

# Panel 2 – How to strengthen EU capabilities on Multi-Track Diplomacy?

## Introduction

The main aim of this panel was to present and discuss lessons learnt and policy recommendations on the WOSCAP thematic cluster “multi-track diplomacy”. A primary emphasis was placed on the role of inclusivity (one of the two key themes of the conference) in EU multi-track diplomacy (MTD), understood as EU peacebuilding engagement through negotiation, mediation and dialogue support, in various stages of conflict (preventive + reactive diplomacy), through coordinated efforts (both internally and externally), and across various levels or ‘Tracks’ of conflict-affected societies. The purpose of the session was to assess to what extent EU MTD efforts matched the inclusive ambitions set in the EU Concept “Concept on strengthening EU mediation and dialogue capacities” (EU Council 2009). This document still serves until today as a benchmark to guide EU actors/missions and funding instruments in the conduct of mediation and dialogue support activities, alone or in cooperation with other agencies. We found it to be highly consistent with the Whole-of-Society approach investigated in the WOSCAP project, for instance thanks to its emphasis on the need for the EU to “be involved in mediation processes at various levels – from the governmental to that of local communities” and pursue “a top-down and a bottom-up approach in parallel tracks, which reinforce and inform each other” (p7).

The panel aimed to review the implementation of this policy guideline on multi-track coordination through the examples of EU mediation capacities in Georgia, and EU promotion of gender mainstreaming in mediation and dialogue activities. A second theme addressed in the panel was concerned with EU institutional capacity-building for inclusive diplomatic engagement, with a specific focus on key officials embodying the EU’s mediation capabilities (such as EU Special Representatives), and internal bodies in charge of coordinating and supporting mediation and dialogue throughout EU institutions (such as PRISM’s Mediation Support Team within EEAS).

## Intervention of the speakers

*Nina Tsikhistavi-Khutsishvili*, Executive Director of the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN) in Tbilisi, Georgia, stressed the relevance of the WOSCAP project recommendations on the need for a more effective and efficient application of horizontal as well as vertical MTD coordination mechanisms, since complementarity and synergy between various mediation and or dialogue processes in Georgia have not sufficiently materialised.

*Ana Villellas*, Researcher at the School for a Culture of Peace, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, opened her remarks with a positive assessment of EU efforts to mainstream UNSC Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, noting the increasing range of institutionalised gender structures within the EU. With the WOSCAP project she identified a

great variety of entry points for inclusive and gender-responsive EU mediation support, and a willingness to make use of a wide range of tools and actors in pursuit of MTD.

*Toivo Klaar*, newly appointed European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia, shared the views of the previous presenters on the importance of promoting further the role of civil society in peace(building) processes, and asserted that the WOSCAP findings on MTD are closely aligned with the priorities set out for his new mandate.

*Olai Voionmaa*, from the PRISM Mediation Support Team (MST), EEAS, focused his intervention on the topic of capacity building for mediation and mediation mainstreaming within the EEAS and the EU at large. He offered some concrete examples of capacity building initiatives by PRISM's MST such as the cooperation with the German Center for Peace Operations (ZIF) to provide individually-tailored coaching on mediation for the EUSR's. Apart from its own distinct mediation efforts, the EU is also increasingly acting in support to other regional organisations, such as the African Union's Peacebuilding Facility, to strengthen their mediation capacity.

*Monique van Es*, Programmes Director at the European Institute of Peace in Brussels, reaffirmed the importance of multi-track diplomacy, noting that Tracks II and III can complement Track I mediation processes, and interlinkages between them is critical to the ownership, effectiveness and sustainability of peace processes. She also positively assessed recent development in terms of mainstreaming MTD within EU policy and strategy, which she referred to as a 'paradigm shift', but remarked that there is some room for improvement with regards to clarity of EU roles, knowledge on mediation by EU staff, and effective application of MTD.

## Main elements of discussions

The EEAS plans to continue to provide capacity-building initiatives through tailored coaching and make it available for EU staff that also have mediation in their portfolio, such as in CSDP missions. It has been remarked that mainstreaming efforts will not suffice to raise the profile of EU mediation capacity. What is required primarily is for EU mediation institutions (such as EUSR teams) to be equipped with sufficient resources and staff to conduct their work efficiently. To further support the EU's role and activities in mediation, more research is needed on how to best engage in dialogue, mediation, and negotiation. In addition, the panel highlighted the role of independent organisations, such as the European Institute for Peace (EIP), in supporting EU official diplomatic engagement by intervening where the EU is not able to do so, due to legal, security or strategic impediments. The discussion was the opportunity to present an example demonstrating how these different tracks of engagement can interact fruitfully, for instance by sharing analysis on local power holders and conflict dynamics: in Yemen, the Berghof Foundation and EIP are complementing and supporting UN Track I efforts.

The focus on multi-track diplomacy in Georgia demonstrated that civil society voices as well as representatives from secessionist territories ought to be included in the Geneva talks, yet they are not involved in any stage of official negotiations. The panellists agree that it is essential to create more synergies between the different tracks of mediation in Georgia, since it would help to improve and promote transparency and broad inclusiveness in policy-making and

in the negotiations. However, regional strategic interests influence the design of Track 1 negotiations, and the main parties to the Geneva talks favour a 'conservative' (i.e. non-inclusive) format. The EU strongly believes in these principles, which are indeed inherent to human rights and democratic values. The EU remains a major supporter of civil society initiatives in Georgia, including in the breakaway regions, even though the situation there is becoming more complex due to physical barriers and difficulties to cross the border. Furthermore, the EU supports parallel dialogue tracks alongside the Geneva peace talks, focusing on technical issues (thus deemed less controversial than the political talks), such as environmental threats and cultural heritage.

The panel also addressed the EU efforts to mainstream UNSC Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Indeed, the gender architecture has enlarged and includes more focal points and advisers specialized in gender issues. However, these efforts are not yet sufficiently reflected in EU mediation capabilities. The EU's operational approach is still fragmented with uneven engagement across dialogue tracks, and some disconnections between these various tracks. External obstacles such as resistance to address gender issues by the conflict parties, but also sometimes the (lead/co-) mediators, can also limit the EU's effectiveness. Changes in the institutional gender architecture and expanded mandates could enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of MTD efforts, by mainstreaming gender inclusiveness in all dialogue activities, making more effective use of gender advisors, and ensuring adequate handover processes during staff turnovers.

## Conclusions and next steps

In conclusion, all panelists either explicitly or tacitly endorsed the recommendations formulated by the WOSCAP project, when it comes to the need for:

- targeted training for relevant EU staff in HQ and in-country to increase their awareness of MTD capabilities and their knowledge of how to use and mobilise them – with a special role assigned to the mediation support team to build EU expertise in inclusive MTD;
- more transparent public communication about the roles and activities of various EU actors in-country in order to increase the visibility of EU MTD efforts;
- EU purposeful mediation/dialogue engagement on multiple levels, by coordinating the various tracks of intervention, through regular information-sharing within EU Delegations, both internally and with local and international partners;
- EU MTD actors (EUSRs, Heads of Delegations, missions/operations with dialogue components in their mandates, EUMS) to engage in early, effective and sustainable consultations with diverse civil society, including diverse women's organisations and local gender experts;
- EU to design mechanisms for connecting civil society consultations with track I formal mediation processes;
- EU actors engaged in dialogue support to have senior Gender Advisors dedicated to inclusive mediation, equipped with adequate human and financial resources.

One should stress, finally, that the participation in the panel of an upcoming EUSR who is currently in the process of designing his new mandate and mission objectives offered a unique chance for the WOSCAP project to have a concrete policy impact on the design and implementation of MTD in one of the project's case study countries, namely Georgia. On this specific case, recommendations highlighted the need for the EU to support and widen dialogue mechanisms between conflicting parties by promoting and increasing the funding available for the involvement of a broader spectrum of civil society actors, and setting up civil society coordination meetings to stimulate and improve networking among donors, and Georgian and international NGOs involved in people-to-people dialogue processes. Regarding that point, it has been noted that the EU is already supporting the Georgian government on capacity building for conflict resolution, but further requests should be initiated by the governments.

# Panel 3 – New approaches and solutions to enhance EU effectiveness in conflict prevention

## Introduction

The third panel searched for new approaches and solutions that could enhance the EU's effectiveness in conflict prevention, assessed the potential of the EU's integrated approach by enhancing civil-military synergies and discussed new approaches in enhancing the effectiveness of EU conflict prevention capabilities. It also noted analysing solely CSDP missions and operations is too CSDP-centric and tried to take into account larger focus of Integrated approach.

Looking from a broader perspective, on one hand there are instruments and tools that are in the framework of European External Action Service and on the other hand there are instruments and tools of European Commission. Panel analysed what could be done in order to bring all those instruments and traditions together.

## Intervention of the speakers

*Tobias Flessenkemper*, Programme Associate, ECDPM, focused his intervention on CIVILEX project – developing operational support platform for EU External Action. Aim of the project was to identify a comprehensive set of requirements and to develop recommendations and a roadmap for a future common Situational Awareness, Information Exchange and Operation Control Platform.

*Mascia Toussaint*, Executive Director, Enquiryra, stated that CSDP is a plug-in into broader EU architecture of conflict prevention. Real integration would need to work on integration of defence, internal vs. external nexus, trade, and development; growing beyond European Global Strategy, which is a good first step, but further steps will be needed.

*Dr. Tedla Desta*, Researcher, Maynooth University, focused on communication part of CSDP missions and operations, arguing that public affairs and public diplomacy are main communication strategies used by CSDP missions.

*Anna-Karin Höggeborg*, Operational Capability Section, Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability, EEAS, based her arguments around three challenges (chain of command, civil-military relations and lessons learned), and three opportunities (EU backing of deployment gives a strong political statement, mission in Ukraine presented as a good example of success and civilian CSDP).

*Jan Reinder Rosing*, Policy Officer, PRISM, EEAS, opened up two main points to be discussed. Firstly, how to raise the political profile of conflict prevention within EU, and secondly how to promote the integrated approach in a way that it benefits conflict prevention?

## Main elements of discussions

Firstly, CIVILEX project presented: a) Analysed communication and information management procedures and technologies in current civilian EU CSDP missions, b) reviewed state-of-the-art of communication and information management technologies and c) provided technical, organizational and institutional recommendations for further research, acquisition and implementation of a future OCP. Several project recommendations were discussed, such as the need to invest in strategy, leadership, unity of vision and in technology, the necessity to examine existing initiatives and make OCP development a joint and unifying effort, to make information management a key growth factor in EEAS mission performance innovation and to support transformation of CSDP civilian missions and EEAS into an organization 2.0.

Points of the discussion touched upon European Global Strategy where EU will pursue greater information sharing, joint reporting, analysis and response planning between member states, embassies, EU delegations, commission services, EU special representatives and CSDP missions.

More research on technologies was suggested, especially the aspect of influence that technology has on war and conflict prevention. Further on, four key areas that EU could look at in order to enhance effectiveness in CSDP missions were presented: standardization (Civil-Military), procurement and financial instruments and coherence between those, training and exercise system (coherence and ownership at EU level), international cooperation.

When it comes to communication part of CSDP mission, the panel presented research findings where two main types of research methods were used: research of social media pages and media presence of CSDP missions and operations (semi-structured interviews with CSDP missions' employees). Findings suggest that despite the fact that almost all CSDP missions and operations are present on social media, the number of followers, shares and likes is minimal. Even when there were reactions to posts, they were by stakeholders, which we can describe as Europeans communicating with Europeans. Findings prove there is very little or almost none communication with local community. It was also argued Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy were main communication strategies used by CSDP missions.

There are several challenges related to communication, firstly because it differs from mission to mission, but also due to the structure of the EEAS, the security and locations, translation, resources for communicating. The main challenge lies in the structural issues within CSDP/EU level (hard to coherently communicate ideas, when there is no common policy regarding communication). In that sense, there should be compromise at policy level regarding common communication strategy.

Regarding these issues, some recommendations have been expressed, based on research, creativity and innovation (mainly based on local context), participation and inclusion of locals into goals and strategies of communication, and perception and effectiveness of strategic communication that should be analysed.

Panel addressed the improvement of EU's conflict prevention, and opened two main dilemmas. First, how to raise the political profile of conflict prevention within EU? It is clear that political will is present since conflict prevention and mediation are EU's priorities in the coming years. It is important to figure out how do we communicate with member states and within the institutions and how do we do it in a way that has an impact on the ground. Two ways of how not to do it were identified: first mainstreaming, and secondly we should not do everything,

everywhere all the time because the EU is overburdened. Tailor-made solutions should be created to those conflicts where we can achieve something.

The second dilemma is about how to promote integrated approach in a way it benefits conflict prevention. Further on, three challenges were identified:

- Chain of command (we have two chains of command, 28 member states vs Commission);
- Civil-military synergy (especially the question of finances, CSDP is financed differently, restrains on what we can achieve on the ground);
- Lessons learned (turnover of staff in missions is quite high, to enable institution learning is a huge challenge).

## Conclusions and next steps

Three main points were stressed within the concluding remarks. Firstly, panellists agreed EU conflict prevention is currently at its highest point, and appropriate measures should be taken in order not to lose the momentum. Secondly, it was argued that CSDP should be seen as a plug-in into broader arena of the Integrated Approach. And thirdly, overall setting of EU institutions should be taken into account when successfully conducting conflict prevention measures. CSDP missions and operations always come to the already existing scenario of EU engagement in the field, after other mediation processes have started, while they also leave, without necessarily leaving the environment fully functioning. That is why it is important these projects take into account phasing in and phasing out process.

# Panel 4 – Inclusivity and local ownership in EU's conflict prevention and peacebuilding

## Introduction

The aim of this panel was to discuss lessons learned and policy recommendations based on research findings, with a particular emphasis on inclusivity and local ownership in the EU's conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions. When talking about inclusion several questions are raised on who to include, what kind of inclusion and who will be excluded and how this will affect the effectiveness. Indeed, in some cases more inclusion or bottom-up approaches will not enhance the effectiveness. It is also important to note that the local actors involved in the process stay after the agreement is signed. The panel tries to demonstrate that a more inclusive approach is possible and that there is room for improvement as one of the key findings is that the EU has a strong capacity to coordinate with civil society.

The panel aimed to review the cases of inclusivity and local ownership with a focus on two specific cases: Mali and Kosovo. A second theme addressed in the panel was about the inclusion of marginalized actors in peace processes, such as faith groups and the private sector.

## Intervention of speakers

*Chris van Borgh*, Assistant Professor at Utrecht University, explained that the research conducted through the WOSCAP project confirms that more inclusive approaches of the EU in conflict prevention and peacebuilding will lead to a better, more successful intervention. Nevertheless, inclusivity requires analysis, in order to cooperate in a positive way with some range of local stakeholders and authorities. It is important to have a systematic analysis and to ask questions about change. Who is a change agent? Are the actors we are supposed to cooperate with change agents?

*Moussa Djiré*, Rector of Université des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques de Bamako, Mali, presented the EU intervention in Mali. The aim of the EU was to support Mali and provide expertise, provide strategic advice and train internal security forces as well as to assist Malian state and modernize its security forces and respond effectively to the protection of the Malian population. Despite global positive results, some issues linked with inclusivity have been raised regarding the differences of qualification and skills of the trainers, linguistic barriers and lack of EU's visibility.

*Mary Martin*, Senior Research Fellow, Department of International Relations, London School of Economics, explained that local ownership, which is one of the pillar of the WOSCAP project, is marginalised in the conversations on peacebuilding and conflict prevention. She examined how this kind of approach could address some practical and ethical barriers. She focused on two groups: faith-based actors and private sector, which are playing very social and political role at local level

*Rok Zupančič*, Marie Curie Research Fellow & Assistant Professor at the University of Graz & University of Ljubljana, presented some issues raised when trying to approach local

ownership. He addressed the issues of methodology, use of EU vocabulary, the identity of the locals the EU wants to work with, the temporality of EU engagement.

## Main elements of discussion

Inclusivity in peacebuilding depends on different factors and the context of each case, be it the government, civil society organizations (mostly NGOs). There are many cases when it is difficult to include a broader range of stakeholders. There also should be an interest from the state to involve local stakeholders. The relationship between the EU and local government can be quite complex. It depends on the agenda, whether the local governments have agreed on what kinds of changes are needed. In other cases, national elites did not have the interest to propose a reform programme (in this case we cannot do anything). Depending on the situation, the EU can take a more retrieved or a more proactive stance. On the specific case of Mali, different training programmes have been set up for special intervention groups, the military and strengthening the capacities of security forces and civil society. Several programmes also focused on governance reform to support inclusivity. Those programmes have global positive results, with some shortcomings in terms of local ownership and use of local expertise. Nevertheless, several issues linked with inclusivity need to be addresses, such as linguistic barriers and difference in skills of the trainees that undermine the efforts made.

As for civil society, the EU works with a relatively small number of actors, which are mostly urban NGOs. We see a number of interesting cases when the EU has actually involved many representatives of the civil society (Yemen). But in other cases (Kosovo and Serbia) there were no local stakeholders. Moreover, the local actors that are acting against the EU are marginalised by the EU and by the local actors working with the EU. This raises the question of what this could mean for the locals to be engaged in the EU initiative. It is also important to note that some other actors, such as the private sector and faith-based organisations, are not homogenous.

## Conclusions and next steps

Inclusivity and local ownership are difficult to address due to the variety of nature and connections of the different local stakeholders. They are very varied and connect with a wide range of networks and with a multiplying potential. However, it is necessary to take into consideration the importance of changes and shifts, between local actors and the emergence of owners in the course of the interventions. Therefore, policies that follow pre-set mandates create tensions and compromise of local ownership. The whole-of-society (WOS) approach addresses these shortcomings by creating a link between engagement with local society and positive complexity as well as inclusivity, relationships and complementary practices. All these components need to be addressed in peacekeeping. However, the 'WOS' approach is not implying more actors but is being aware of who the relevant actors are and what they add to policymaking. It tries to find crossing points for inclusivity. Policies at local level need a comprehensive approach and a stakeholder engagement strategy. The question is how to bring those actors together and assess the policies that exist outside the existing peacebuilding policies.

There is a need to establish a stakeholder engagement strategy to know how to bring these actors that are marginalised, such as faith groups and private sector. An option could be to bring them in policies outside the peacebuilding sphere, because they are often already there but just not connected. Nevertheless, the inclusion of such actors is usually a conflict of interest issue. There should be established some sort of guidance for these ethical rules. In that sense, learning has to be a systematic and integrated part of the process. But the question remains on who has to be involved in this learning process. There is a need to build more learning dialogue in all approaches, and to make a distinction between situations and settings. The EU should not just look at the conflict from one perspective.

# Panel 5 – Conclusions: How to make the integrated systemic approach workable and operational?

## Introduction

This session aimed at reflecting on the current development of the EU Integrated Approach, to see how final inputs from WOSCAP and IECEU projects could feed its concrete implementation and workability (strategy, human resources, joint programming, training, evaluation, researches etc.). The emphasis was placed on the work that has been done within the frame of the H2020 projects for guiding in the field of peacebuilding, with a focus on the need to enhance political attention and work together in a coherent way to be effective.

The panel participants introduced their findings and work done regarding the objectives and priorities of the EU Integrated Approach, as well as the resources and strategies at its disposal.

## Intervention of the speakers

*René Van Nes*, Deputy Head of PRISM Division at the EEAS, who was chairing the panel, reminded that there is more attention than ever before to the conflict prevention, which is emphasized by the EU Global Strategy and prioritization by the Secretary-General of the EEAS. The aim is to raise the political profile of conflict prevention and mainstream conflict sensitivity within the EU. In preventing conflicts the EU aims to work through an Integrated Approach. This means that the EU aims for a coherent response bringing together the various tools and (local) actors to increase impact on the ground. Within EEAS, PRISM has been created early 2017 to work on issues pertaining to the full conflict cycle and to promote the Integrated Approach.

*Sonya Reines-Djivanides*, Executive Director of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, explained that the Integrated Approach is a good opportunity to improve specific activities in the field of conflict prevention (such as preventive diplomacies, electoral sensitivity, mediation, dialogue) and to make EU action conflict sensitive. There is a need to identify and evaluate the impact of the EU's intervention and funding, and the outcomes of other different aspects such as migration policies and investments to see how these actions are conflict dynamics. Moreover, there is a need to create Civil Society Focal Points in political and civil society sections and assess the political interests of Member States for the implementation of the Integrated Approach.

*Thierry Tardy*, Senior analyst at the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), explained that over the last few years, there has been an institutionalization and formalization of the CSDP approach, leading to comparative advantages for integration and coordination between civilian and military actors. For the EU, the Integrated Approach is an institutional endeavour and is fundamentally meant to integrate and coordinate EU actors. The Integrated Approach should be about minimizing negative effects coming from competition and

maximize positive effects, the added value of cooperation and create incentives. Moreover, it should not be only about the coordination within the EU but also with other actors (e.g.: UN).

*Linda Benraïs*, Adjunct Professor of Comparative Law and Mediation and Director of "Governance and Conflict Resolution" Program at ESSEC IRENE, focused on the challenge of coherence between multi-stakeholders. She insisted on the fact that the Integrated Approach is a process and requires a multidimensional approach and that political cooperation with member states should be enhanced. She mentioned the need to share between partners in order to understand each other better, know how to change the middleman, the view and how to ask the right questions. Therefore, internal reflection on how to concretely implement these recommendations and draft this concept to make it workable and share it with others is needed.

*Ivana Bostjancic Pulko*, Project Manager and researcher at CEP, insisted on the lack of inputs from the Member States regarding CSDP, whereas they are the actors of this overall process. CSDP are political missions, and large part of the research conducted within the IECEU project was focused on the operational part but not on the strategic part of the Member States. This means however that the communication might be a problem since not a lot of people will read these political reports and thus there is a very limited spread of knowledge. She mentioned the need to have more concrete mandates in this field to be more efficient, together with creating of a clear strategy and benchmarks.

## Main elements of discussions

For the past ten years, EU initiatives have demonstrated the real potential of the EU to distinguish itself as a global peace actor. The panellists agree that despite tools and resources not yet consequently applied, and assumptions around not explicit conflict prevention mandates, the EU actions automatically contributes to conflict prevention and sustainable peace. To go further, the Integrated Approach developed in the frame of the new EU Global Strategy, is defined as a multi-dimensional approach that uses all available policies and instruments, acting at local, regional and national level, engaging all key players acting in the conflicts. The launch of this strategy has implied the birth of PRISM, which officially exists since January 2017, and which tends to act as facilitator of the Integrated Approach, with the aim of bringing people together. Actually, the Integrated Approach is about coordinating actors with different specificities, facing the inherent problem of integrating different actors which leads to tensions between them. Nevertheless, the panellists reminded that in terms of coordination, a lot has been achieved over the last few years, especially as regards CSDP missions, Member States and EUDs. Nevertheless, research highlights a challenge regarding intra-EU coherence that should be addressed by the new strategy.

The panellists also insisted on the importance of making sure that what the EU does will not render what it is doing even worse with its activities and financing. In that regard, it is crucial to assess the intentions, political support, expertise and resources (HR) in terms of Integrated Approach. In this sense, the opportunity PRISM presents is interesting in order to tutor and assess how it creates a change. It is crucial to ask how we can make sure that, when a policy recommendation is adopted, it is going to change something concretely and how to make sure that the methodology is used by everyone. Therefore, internal reflection on how to

concretely implement these recommendations and draft this concept to make it workable and share it with others is needed.

## Conclusions and next steps

The panel concluded that there are still procedures to be established regarding the implementation of the Integrated Approach, and the EEAS is therefore looking forward to the recommendations and suggestions.

It was underlined that initial progress on promoting EU internal coherence looks promising but there are further suggestions to strengthen it. In that regard, it would be important to coordinate effectively with the Member States that are key actors in various processes, such as CSDP missions. The panellists suggested to invite on a regular basis them to participate to multi-stakeholders' consultations and conferences. Coordination is also consistent with the definition of clearer mandates that should ensure the implementation of an effective strategy.

More generally, the panel identified that the Whole of society methodology developed throughout the WOSCAP project is one of the ways of enhancing the comprehensiveness and setting the Integrated Approach through strategic planning, protocols and mechanisms, managing human resources, joint analysis, training and evaluations, which could be developed in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United Nations.

The implementation of the Integrated Approach also requires an assessment of the means and resources at the EU's disposal, and the establishment of processes of evaluation of the impacts and outcomes of its interventions. The panellists commonly agreed on the importance of the research projects in conflict prevention and peace building, such as those implemented in the frame of the Horizon 2020 research and innovation program, in order to evaluate EU external action and provide a feedback on a regular basis to EEAS in order to improve the system.

# What's next? Capitalizing on our results

## Introduction

Towards the end of the conference, five Horizon 2020-funded projects: *Improving the Effectiveness of Capabilities in EU Conflict Prevention*; *Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding*; *Preventing and responding to conflict: developing EU CIVILIAN CAPabilities for a sustainable peace*; *Gaming for Peace*; and *Strengthening the Capabilities and Training Curricula for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Personnel with ICT-based Collaboration and Knowledge Approaches* presented their results and showed how these results can be exploitable and sustainable in the future.

This session was chaired by Mr. Andrea di Anselmo, META consultancy, who also prepared the presenters in a workshop on the previous day. It is a part of a service that was offered by the European Commission, a so-called “Common Exploitation Booster” Brokerage and Pitching Event, which used a LEAN Canvas business model to help the presenters to prepare a pitch in an effective and clear way. This format is aimed at identifying the end-users or customers and to determine the costs associated with that. The five pitches were presented by a representative from each consortium, who were given three minutes.

The objective was to explain how the WOSCAP and IECEU projects and other related H2020 projects ensured the sustainability of the results due to the investment that the EU made in social research projects which should generate impacts and changes in the community, and beyond the end of the projects.

## Speakers

- Ms. Róisín Smith is Research Fellow with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention, Maynooth University, Ireland.
- Ms. Kirsi Hyttinen, IECEU Project Coordinator from Laurea University.
- Ms. Gabriëlla Vogelaar is WOSCAP Project Coordinator and Regional Coordinator for GPPAC Europe.
- Mr. Gilberto Algar-Faria is Project Officer and Senior Research Associate for EU-CIVCAP at the University of Bristol.
- Ms. Carmen Munteanu, Research Manager, Synyo.

## WOSCAP Project Pitch

Regarding the WOSCAP project, Gabriëlla Vogelaar presented the difficulties of the missions that are insufficiently tailored to context and to involve local actors, therefore limiting the chances of achieving sustainable results. The inclusivity of the relevant local stakeholders is key for the success and sustainability of the results of any project. Local ownership should be promoted through the development of partnerships gathering all the relevant stakeholders

(from the state actors to the non-state actors, including universities and other researchers etc.) taking into consideration the continuum of the conflict cycle. The WOSCAP project, focused on a Whole of society approach, demonstrated the added value of applying the WOS methodology devoted to local ownership in conflict prevention and peace building. It was also applied internally as a basis for the project's partnerships to close the gap between academia and practice, and work in partnership with institutions based in conflict-affected countries outside of the EU that bring in a unique perspective and have key roles. We believe this is one of the key factors at the origin of the success of the WOSCAP research project. We offer such kind of partnerships and invite experts present to join us in implementing the policy recommendations in this way, to ensure effective follow-ups. The WOSCAP partners believe that the innovative, reflexive and actionable societal approach can contribute to enhance the sustainability of the EU external action on the ground.

## Wrap-up and closing of the conference

To close the conference, Georg Frerks presented a list of pertinent issues to remember resulting from the conference:

- It is very difficult to establish contacts in the areas of conflict and catastrophe, because of the immense complexity, ever changing, political challenges. There are different perspectives and interests behind those realities. It is difficult in terms of action but also in terms of knowledge and analysis, with constant need for updates. This assumption is broadly shared and analysed by the participants.
- There is a need for strategic planning. We have identified some improvements and good news in this area, but eurocentrism remains a problem.
- Regarding the development of the peacebuilding architecture in the institutions, there are a number of important innovations in that field in the European Union. The EEAS is one of them, with the creation of PRISM which constitutes a significant step forwards. In the military field, several initiatives have been mentioned. At the same time there was a certain number of institutional disconnects. Still further work needs to be done at the pragmatic level and regarding lesson learning.
- There are reflections about the tools, interventions and concepts that we need. The Integrated approach is one of them, as well as the Whole of Society approach. The question remains about where it starts and ends. We learnt a lot about those concepts, and they can steer us in the good direction, but we need to stay critical. We also learnt about the value of in-depth case studies, which are key tools to know what is going on, what is positive or not. It constitutes useful material to improve actions, and to select areas of interventions.
- We need to address the issue of effectiveness and impact. Nowadays, there is the need to show the two. In these particular fields it is highly difficult. Whose effectiveness are we talking about? Are we talking about the EU itself, or about people on the ground that experience reality? How do we reconcile those two perspectives?

We have identified strengths and weaknesses, but also progressing developments. We need to invest in critical research, continuous monitoring, and evidence-based policies. All the work shown today needs to be accompanied by policy implementation. And finally, the conference itself was an example of cooperation of different partners.

## Annex 1 – Press release Recap of the Final Joint Conference of WOSCAP & IECEU

On November 8th, over a hundred participants attended the final joint conference of two Horizon 2020 research projects, WOSCAP & IECEU, at the Scotland House in Brussels. Both projects developed a catalogue of best practices, lessons learnt and recommendations to improve the EU's conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions.

**WOSCAP** specifically focused on three types of existing EU interventions, namely multi-track diplomacy, security sector reform, and governance reform, whereas **IECEU** analysed the effectiveness of ten on-going and past European Union civilian missions and military operations.



The conference was organised around five panels, which were composed of project representatives together with members of the European External Action Service (EEAS). The conference was opened by Prof.Dr. Linda Benrais, ESSEC IRENE and both project coordinators, Gabriella Vogelaar Project Coordinator of WOSCAP, GPPAC and Kirsi Hyttinen, the Project Coordinator of IECEU, Laurea University presented objectives, methodology and main highlights of research of the last two and a half years.

The main introductory speaker, Mr Stefano Tomat, Head of Division of PRISM (Prevention of conflicts, Rule of law/ SSR, Integrated approach, Stabilisation and Mediation), of the EEAS highlighted the importance of research projects, which clearly show where the mandate of EEAS should lead to. He also mentioned PRISM that has been put on top of the EEAS organigram, where the aim is to join all various capacities, such as CSDP, conflict prevention and others under one roof.



Panel 1 on **How to enhance the effectiveness of EU CSDP missions** was chaired by *Petteri Taitto*, *Principal Scientist, Laurea University*, who presented six core capabilities that were identified within the IECEU project, as well as ten missions used for field research on the basis of which the IECEU recommendations were produced.

*Maria Mekri*, *Executive Director, SaferGlobe*, explained that a mixture of strengths and weaknesses was found within all missions that were subject of IECEU research. She stressed the importance of ongoing strategic planning, as well as incorporating lessons learned into the planning process. *Giorgio Porzio*, *Head of Division, Concepts and Capabilities, CMPD, EEAS*, stressed the fact that different member states have different interests and Ministries of Foreign Affairs many times do not see 'what is CSDP' for them, whereas the Ministries of Defence seem to possess a better understanding. He explained that civilian missions became much more complex and the importance of strategic communication involves also 'explaining it to our own political partners'. *Anselmo Martin Segovia*, *Head of Division, Exercises, Training, Analysis, EUMS, EEAS* stressed the importance of presenting the shortfalls to member states and mentioned that it seems NATO is better at identifying what they need and assigning tasks to the member states. *Annemarie Peen-Rodt*, *Associate Professor, Royal Danish Defence College*, argued that the biggest challenges of CSDP missions lay in its internal complexity; namely member states using different instruments and then trying to work together with field offices as well as external complexity, the ever-changing environment.



Panel 2 on **How to strengthen EU capabilities on Multi-Track Diplomacy** discussed lessons learnt and policy recommendations based on research findings from Georgia, Ukraine, Mali and Yemen, with particular emphasis on multi-track coordination in EU mediation and dialogue support, as well as institutional capacity-building for inclusive diplomatic engagement (including EU gender architectures). The panel was chaired by *Dr. Véronique Dudouet, Programme Director, Berghof Foundation*.

*Nina Tsikhistavi-Khutsishvili, Executive Director, International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN), Tbilisi, Georgia* stressed that because of involvement of many different stakeholders, a lot of hope was placed on the WOSCAP programme to influence policy-making with special emphasis on the participation of civil society, which is not involved in any negotiations, preparation and discussions. *Ana Vilellas, Researcher, School for a Culture of Peace, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* explained that when formal participatory mechanisms are not in place, the EU should push for better connected outcome tracking. The EU has in her opinion enlarged its gender architecture throughout the years and communities of practice have been created. However, this gender aspect is sometimes overlooked internally. *Olai Voionmaa, Policy Officer, Mediation Support Team, PRISM, EEAS* confirmed that capacity building is important for EEAS in mediation supporting activities since the organised individual coaching seminars (for heads of missions and EUSRs) provide tips and skills on how to make peace processes more inclusive and are also very good opportunities to think through what the EU Global Strategy is. *Toivo Klaar, European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia* furthermore confirmed that the WOSCAP project provides new impetus for his team's work. There should be more coordination between the three tracks and wider participation of conflict-afflicted people in peace process. *Monique van Es, Programmes Director, European Institute of Peace*, confirmed that with broadening the inclusion the sustainability of peace processes are encouraged. The more people that are included, the more change will be witnessed on the ground. She believes that more MTD bodies among EU institutions would enhance awareness, mainstreaming and collaboration between the different tracks but also having clarity on roles, assignment of roles and coordination would be beneficial.



Panel 3 on **New approaches and solutions to enhance EU effectiveness in conflict prevention** assessed the potential of the EU's integrated approach by enhancing civil-military synergies. It also discusses new approaches in enhancing the effectiveness of EU conflict prevention capabilities. The panel was chaired by *Dr. Arnold Kammel, Director, AIES*.

*Anna-Karin Häggeborg, Operational Capability Section, Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability, EEAS* presented CPCC's view on the topic. *Mascia Toussaint, Executive Director, Enquiry* emphasized that more research is needed on how technology impacts CSDP and the following key areas should be improved: standardization of needs, training, exercise and international co-operation. *Tobias Flessenkemper, Programme Associate, ECDPM* listed concrete recommendations for the development of a future Situational Awareness, Information Exchange and Operation Control Platform (OCP) in EU civilian CSDP missions, those are segmented on the institutional, organisational and technical level. *Jan Reinder Rosing, Policy Officer, PRISM, EEAS* believes that EU institutions and CSDP missions are overburdened, what is needed are tailor-made solutions on how to improve conflict prevention. *Dr. Tedla Desta, Researcher, Maynooth University* spoke about strategic communication, which is becoming one of the key branches and programmes of contemporary organisations and governments. Most of the missions and operations are present on most social media platforms but they often garner very small number of likes, comments, shares, replies or interactions from their targeted audiences. Features of echo-chamber are also observed.



Panel 4 on **Inclusivity and Local Ownership in EU's Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding** discussed lessons learnt and policy recommendations based on research findings, with particular emphasis on inclusivity and local ownership in the EU's conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions. The panel was chaired by *Prof. dr. ir. Georg Frerks, Utrecht University*.

*Dr. Chris van Borgh, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University*, argued that there is a lack of guidelines to identify stakeholders for the missions. He believes that there is a lot of room for improvement in the field of local ownership and inclusivity and that the EU has strong capacity to coordinate with the local government, rather good with civil society, while it has little capacity to do so with the non-state actors. *Pr. dr. Moussa Djiré, Rector, Université des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques de Bamako, Mali*, focused his presentation on EUCAP, established in 2014 to provide strategic advice and training in order to support reform in security sector and to modernise the security sector. *Dr. Mary Martin, Senior Research Fellow, Department of International Relations, London School of Economics*, argued that the field of local ownership is a big normative challenge within the EU, where also the largest room for improvement lies. She also presented the triangular approach between inclusivity, relationships and complementary practices, where the whole of society approach found crossing points. *Dr. Rok Zupančič, Marie Curie Research Fellow & Assistant Professor, University of Graz & University of Ljubljana*, questioned the quality of research results that are gathered by interviewing local staff, who are nowadays cautious to share information and thoughts, while local interviewees are usually also in favour of the EU since they are being employed by it.



Panel 5 on **How to make the integrated systemic approach workable and operational?** aimed at reflecting on the current development of the EU Integrated Approach, to see how final inputs from WOSCAP and IECEU projects could feed into its concrete implementation and workability. It was chaired by Mr. René Van NES, Deputy Head of Division, PRISM, EEAS, who stressed that 'coordination requires a mandate to coordinate'.

Prof. dr. Linda Benraïš, Programme Director, ESSEC IRENE mentioned that the Integrated Approach is a process and requires a multidimensional approach and that political cooperation with member states should be enhanced. Dr. Thierry Tardy, Senior analyst, ISS mentioned that EU missions are likely to change focus in third countries in the future with more focus on migration and terrorism since CSDP should include more activities to secure the EU citizens, which derives from EU Global Strategy. Added value of cooperation and coordination must be known to get actors to work together, since the Integrated Approach requires coordination from different initiatives and actors. Ivana Bostjancic Pulko, Project Manager and researcher, CEP stressed the importance of involving member states in these debates on the effectiveness of CSDP and the Integrated Approach, since they seem to be largely missing in them. Member states are the main actors in shaping policies and adopting the recommendations of both research projects. Debate on the level of member states should be given an additional boost since the member states' commitment is the main contributor to the effectiveness of CSDP missions. For the moment, it seems that CSDP missions are positioned quite low on the political agendas of the member states. Ms. Sonya Reines – Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO stressed that CSDP is not a solution to everything and highlighted the importance of other tools available as part of the Integrated Approach.



The conference ended with a pitching session **What's next? Capitalizing on our results** where five H2020 research projects presented their results and how can they be exploitable and sustainable in the future. Those projects were *IECEU* - Improving the Effectiveness of Capabilities in EU Conflict Prevention, *WOSCAP* - Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, *EU-CIVCAP* - Preventing and responding to conflict: developing EU CIVilian CAPabilities for a sustainable peace, *GAP* - Gaming for Peace and *PeaceTraining.eu* - Strengthening the Capabilities and Training Curricula for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Personnel.



At the **Wrap-up and closing of the conference** *Prof. dr. ir. Georg Frerks, Utrecht University* mentioned: *'We need to invest, and have to continue doing that, in critical research, continuous monitoring and evidence based policies. What all this work that we have been presenting today shows us, is that that type of critical attitude needs to accompany policy implementation.'*

## Annex 2 – Agenda of the final conference



### Joint Final Conference of WOSCAP & IECEU Research Projects

Effectiveness and Inclusivity of EU Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention

Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Venue: Scotland House, Rond-Point Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

#### **Background:**

IECEU “Improving the Effectiveness of Capabilities in EU Conflict Prevention” and WOSCAP “Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding” are organising their final conference together with the purpose of bringing together all relevant stakeholders and end-users in the field of European Union’s conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The conference will aim to present both H2020 projects research results and recommendations as well as to contribute to further debate and improvement in EU’s conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions through sustainable, comprehensive and innovative means.

**WOSCAP** project focused on three types of existing EU interventions, namely multi-track diplomacy, security sector reform, and governance reform through a combination of desk and field research in Mali, Yemen, Georgia, Ukraine, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Guatemala and Honduras and produced a tailored set of recommendations to improve the EU's civilian means for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

**IECEU** analysed best practices and lessons learned of eight on-going and past European Union CSDP missions and operations in the Western Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo), Africa (Congo, Libya, South Sudan and Central African Republic), Palestinian Territories as well as Afghanistan with the aim of providing a catalogue of practices, new solutions and approaches for the EU to guarantee long-term stability through conflict prevention and peacebuilding with special focus on pooling and sharing as well as civil-military cooperation.

## Programme

Effectiveness and Inclusivity of EU Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention		
9.00 – 9.30	Welcoming coffee and registration of participants	
9.30 – 10.00	Official opening and objectives of the final research conference:	<p>This session will introduce the two H2020 projects on conflict prevention and peace building, objectives and methodology.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Mr. Stefano Tomat, Head of Division, PRISM, EEAS</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Ms. Kirsi Hyttinen, Project Coordinator IECEU, Laurea University</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Ms. Gabriella Vogelaar MA, Project Coordinator WOSCAP, GPPAC</i></li> </ul> <p>Chair: <i>Prof. dr. Linda Benraïš, Director of Irene Programmes "Governance and Conflict Resolution", ESSEC Business School</i></p>
10.00 – 11.15	Panel 1 – How to enhance the effectiveness of EU CSDP missions and SSR?	<p>This session discusses both on the challenges of capability development, and how to enhance effectiveness of the CSDP Missions and operations. Both topics are covered from the research and concept development perspectives. Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Ms. Maria Mekri, Executive Director, SaferGlobe</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Mr. Giorgio Porzio, Head of Division, Concepts and Capabilities, CMPD, EEAS</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Mr. Anselmo Martin Segovia, Head of Division, Exercises, Training, Analysis, EUMS</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Ms. Annemarie Peen-Rodt, Associate Professor, Royal Danish Defence College</i></li> </ul> <p>Chair: <i>Mr. Petteri Taitto, Principal Scientist, Laurea University</i></p>
11.15 – 11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 – 12.30	Panel 2 – How to strengthen EU capabilities on Multi-Track Diplomacy?	<p>This session will discuss lessons learnt and policy recommendations based on research findings from Georgia, Ukraine, Mali and Yemen, with particular emphasis on multi-track coordination in EU mediation and dialogue support, and institutional capacity-building for inclusive diplomatic engagement (including EU gender architectures).</p> <p>Speakers:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms. Nina Tsikhistavi-Khutsishvili, Executive Director, International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN), Tbilisi, Georgia</li> <li>▪ Ms. Ana Vilellas, Researcher, School for a Culture of Peace, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona</li> <li>▪ Mr. Olai Voionmaa, Policy Officer, Mediation Support Team, PRISM, EEAS</li> <li>▪ Mr. Toivo Klaar, European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia</li> <li>▪ Ms. Monique van Es, Programmes Director, European Institute of Peace,</li> </ul> <p>Chair: Dr. Véronique Dudouet, Programme Director, Berghof Foundation</p>
12.30 – 13.30	Buffet lunch	
13.30 – 14.15	<b>Panel 3 – New approaches and solutions to enhance EU effectiveness in conflict prevention</b>	<p>This panel assesses the potential of the EU's integrated approach by enhancing civil-military synergies. It also discusses new approaches in order to enhancing the effectiveness of EU conflict prevention capabilities.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms. Anna-Karin Höggeborg, Operational Capability Section, Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability, EEAS</li> <li>▪ Ms. Mascia Toussaint, Executive Director, Enquirya</li> <li>▪ Mr. Tobias Flessenkemper, Programme Associate, ECDPM</li> <li>▪ Mr. Jan Reinder Rosing, Policy Officer, PRISM, EEAS</li> <li>▪ Dr. Tedla Desta, Researcher, Maynooth University</li> </ul> <p>Chair: Dr. Arnold Kammel, Director, AIES</p>
14.15 – 14.30	Coffee break	
14.30 – 15.30	<b>Panel 4 – Inclusivity and Local Ownership in EU's Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding</b>	<p>This panel will discuss lessons learnt and policy recommendations based on research findings, with particular emphasis on inclusivity and local ownership in EU's conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr. Chris van Borgh, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University</li> <li>▪ Pr. dr. Moussa Djiré, Vice-rector, Université des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques de Bamako, Mali</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Dr. Mary Martin, Senior Research Fellow, Department of International Relations, London School of Economics</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Dr. Rok Zupančič, Marie Curie Research Fellow &amp; Assistant Professor, University of Graz &amp; University of Ljubljana</i></li> <li>▪ <i>DG DEVCO Representative, tbc</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Chair: Prof. dr. ir. Georg Frerks, Utrecht University</i></p>
15.30 – 16.30	<b>Panel 5 – Conclusions: How to make the integrated systemic approach workable and operational?</b>	<p>This session aims at reflecting on the current development of the EU Integrated approach, to see how final inputs from WOSCAP and IECEU projects could feed its concrete implementation and workability (strategy, human resources, joint programming, training, evaluation, researches etc).</p> <p>Moderated by WOSCAP representatives:</p> <p>The session will be followed by the adoption of recommendations:</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Ms. Ivana Bostjancic Pulko, Project Manager and researcher, CEP</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Dr. Thierry Tardy, Senior analyst, ISS</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Ms. Sonya Reines – Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Prof. dir. Linda Benraïs, Programme Director, ESSEC IRENE</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Chair: Mr. René Van NES, Deputy Head of Division, PRISM, EEAS</i></p>
16.30 – 16.45	Coffee break	
16.45 – 17.15	<b>What's next? Capitalizing on our results</b>	<p>5 projects present their results and to show how their results can be exploitable and sustainable in the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>IECEU - Improving the Effectiveness of Capabilities in EU Conflict Prevention: Ms. Kirsi Hyttinen, Project Coordinator IECEU, Laurea University</i></li> <li>▪ <i>WOSCAP - Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Ms. Gabriella Vogelaar MA, Project Manager WOSCAP, GPPAC</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <i>EU-CIVCAP - Preventing and responding to conflict: developing EU CIVILIAN CAPabilities for a sustainable peace: Mr.</i></li> </ul>

		<p><i>Gilberto Algar-Faria, Senior Research Associate, University of Bristol</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GAP - Gaming for Peace: TBC</li> <li>▪ PeaceTraining.eu - Strengthening the Capabilities and Training Curricula for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Personnel with ICT-based Collaboration and Knowledge Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Ms. Carmen Munteanu, Research Manager, Synyo</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Chair: <i>Mr. Andrea di Anselm, Vice-President, META</i></p>
17.15 – 17.30	Wrap-up and closing of the conference	Speaker: <i>Prof. dr. ir. Georg Frerks, Utrecht University</i>
17.30 – 18.30	Reception	