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ENHANCING EU PEACEBUILDING CAPABILITIES



Discussing the EU's Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capabilities in Georgia: Report from the Tbilisi policy roundtable

International Centre on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN) &
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

Colophon

DISCUSSING THE EU'S CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACEBUILDING CAPABILITIES IN GEORGIA: REPORT FROM THE TBILISI POLICY ROUNDTABLE

29 June 2017

Deliverable 5.1: Roundtable report Georgia

International Centre on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN) & Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)



**A Network of People
Building Peace**

Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

The Roundtable report Georgia was produced as part of the project “Whole-of-Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding” (WOSCAP). It summarizes the aims and results of the Policy Roundtable that was organised by ICCN, in partnership with TSU, ESSEC IRENE and GPPAC on 2 June 2017 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The aim of the roundtable was to engage with the EU national representation, local and international security sector representatives, regional organisations, local UN agencies and local stakeholders to discuss the case study conclusions and collect input for recommendations relevant to enhance the EU's capabilities in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

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Context of the WOSCAP Project

The aim of the WOSCAP project is to enhance the capabilities of the EU for implementing conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions through sustainable, comprehensive and innovative civilian means. In order to achieve this goal, different steps have been carried out, among which case studies conducted in Georgia, Ukraine, Mali and Yemen that take an in-depth look at selected EU policies. Based on these case studies, policy recommendation documents have been elaborated, with the aim of converting research findings into policy recommendations for the EU, national and other international actors.

The aim of Tbilisi Policy Roundtable

Several roundtable(s) have been or/are to be organized in order to discuss, validate and finalize produced policy recommendations and gain the participatory bottom-up process(es) in target countries. Participation and inputs from local stakeholders are required to discuss and fine-tune these recommendations that will be presented to the EU during the project's final conference in Brussels on 8 November, 2017.

The Tbilisi Policy Roundtable "Strengthening Conflict Prevention: Recommendations for the EU" took place at the Tbilisi Marriott Hotel Tbilisi in Georgia on 2nd of June, 2017. The Policy Roundtable was organized by the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN), in partnership with Tbilisi State University (TSU) and ESSEC IRENE, implementing partners of the EU-funded WOSCAP project led by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC).

Objectives of the Tbilisi Policy Roundtable were to:

- Discuss the Policy Recommendations Document by bringing together national and international stakeholders to review, complement and adjust Policy Recommendations for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, through an inclusive participation and policy-practice dialogue.
- Organize a free flow dialogue and provide all participants with an opportunity to exchange contrasting views and share experiences from different level stakeholders, from the bottom to the top and vice-versa with the national and international perspectives.

Conducting the Tbilisi Roundtable

In order to get an all-inclusive participation, the organisers have invited high level national (Government and Parliament) and international stakeholders (EU Delegation, EUMM, UNDP, COBERM, EUSR office representative, and diplomatic corps), as well as independent experts, academics and civil society representatives (national and international). Representation was significant taking into account the number (52) and the level of participants at the event.

Aimed at fostering the discussion of the roundtable, the Policy Recommendations Document (alongside with the Case Study on Georgia) has been disseminated among the distinguished invitees from national and international stakeholders. This decision bore its fruits, as it permitted an open discussion focused on policy recommendations.

The ICCN representative opened the roundtable (RT). A general introduction of the Case Study Report on Georgia and Policy Recommendations Document was provided (by TSU and ICCN representatives) to the participants, followed by an explanation of the process and main outputs of presented documents. The round-table was moderated by an ESSEC IRENÉ representative.

The roundtable was conducted according to the agenda that permitted a dynamic, structured debate and guaranteed the participation of all interested parties (see agenda in Annex).



Results of the Roundtable

All the participants outlined the necessity and the importance of the RT and showed their support to the Policy Recommendations that were drafted. The document was positively received by all stakeholders and was evaluated to be a necessary step ahead in elaboration of efficient and productive policies. However several issues were raised and the following feedback was provided.

European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM)

It was noted that EU should continue the engagement on the basis of a 'non-recognition' policy, including the EUMM, the mission that is considered to be a successful tool. Most participants agreed that the Policy Recommendations concerning the EUMM are relevant. First, the mandate of the EUMM should not be restricted, but should rather be expanded (even if that was partially done now that the Mission is extended to two years). The importance of maintaining institutional memory has been underlined, as well as the incentive for work on confidence building. EU representatives also noticed that EU missions should pay more attention to human security in general, including a gender perspective. While civil society coordination meetings are perceived as a good suggestion, participants also expressed the necessity for civil society to be more pro-active.

Geneva International Discussions (GID)

It was noted that GID is a tool that permits dialogue between parties to the conflict, including Russia. However, the participants agreed that more flexibility is needed. Ideas were advanced to open parallel formats to the GID with possibility of participation of CSO's, because the highest level format is distanced from the society and is not considered to be enough and effective. It was highlighted that there is a huge need to foster Georgian Russian dialogue and the Bilateral Dialogue of Special Representatives of Georgia and RF, so called "Abashidze-Karasin format" is to be strengthened.

The Joint EU-UNDP Programme Confidence Building Early Response Mechanism (COBERM)

It was noted that COBERM is an interesting example of cooperation between EU-UN, however more integration between UN and EU was considered to be desirable and other spheres should be explored that can foster peace building and conflict resolution.

It was highlighted that there is a significant need to foster Georgian-Russian dialogue. The proposition was to establish track-two and track-three dialogues, and for international institutions to maintain it financially.

The strengthening of the role of women in peace processes, as well as the importance of cooperation with the wide range of stakeholders, including the government, civil society actors and the private sector, was reminded by the participants.

General Comments

Participants underlined the necessity to regularly organize similar debates among the CSO's, the Georgian Government and International Stakeholders. It was equally noted that the Georgian Government should take the lead to organize and support the dialogue with CS and involve them in conflict resolution and peacebuilding policy elaboration processes.

Participants emphasized the importance of the EU and all other international stakeholders from the OSCE to the UN, in the areas of peacebuilding in Georgia. However, it

was noted that more resources should be pooled by EU and other donors, otherwise it will be difficult to achieve a sustainable peace process. Less conservative approaches and more creative and courageous steps (both by international and national stakeholders) should be undertaken while continuing to work on economic connectivity, trade, education, free movement and other issues.

Participants noted that Abkhazia and South Ossetia are in an information vacuum. In order to deliver alternative information to those regions, funds should be allocated to sustainably support new media platforms and projects like online media.

It was equally suggested during the discussion that the strengthening of economic connectivity with breakaway regions of Georgia is to be prioritized under AA DCFTA. The economic cooperation using the tools available to the EU can promote reconciliation, trust and peacebuilding between the divided societies.



Next Steps

The next step is to fine-tune the Policy Recommendations Document taking into account the ideas, comments and suggestions made by participants during the Tbilisi RT. As it was already mentioned in the report, the document was positively perceived by the various stakeholders involved, and the efforts undertaken under the WOSCAP project were welcomed and encouraged.

List of Annexed documents

Annex 1: The Agenda of the Tbilisi Roundtable

The List of Participants is only available upon request.

This Report was prepared by ICCN, with contributions by the WOSCAP Project team, GPPAC and ESSEC IRENE.

Annex 1: The Agenda of the Tbilisi Roundtable

Strengthening Conflict Prevention: Recommendations for the EU - Policy Roundtable Georgia

Agenda

2 June 2017, the Tbilisi Marriott Hotel Tbilisi, Georgia

9:30 – 10:00	Registration of Participants with Warming Coffee
10:00 – 10:25	Welcoming Speeches:
	Ms. Nina Tsikhistavi-Khutsishvili, Director, ICCN
	H.E. Janos HERMAN, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia Ms. Gabriella Vogelaar, WOSCAP Project Manager, GPPAC Dr. Tariel Sikharulidze, Governance and Conflict Resolution Program, ESSEC IRENÉ Dr. George Sharvashidze, Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
10:25 – 10:45	Presentation of The Case Study Report on Georgia “The EU's Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Interventions in Georgia” by Dr. Nana Macharashvili, Director of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University Center for Interdisciplinary Programmes and Research Development
10:45 – 11:00	Presentation of Policy Recommendations Document by Ms. Nina Tsikhistavi-Khutsishvili, ICCN
11:00 – 11:50	National Stakeholders’ Perspectives on Policy Recommendations
	Ms. Ketevan Tsikhelashvili, State Minister for Reconciliation and Civil Equality of Georgia
	Mr. Victor Dolidze, State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-

	Atlantic Integration
	Mr. Vakhtang Kolbaia, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia
	Mr. Sergi Kapanadze, Vice Speaker, Parliament of Georgia (tbc)
	Mr. Gedevan Popkhadze, Chairman, Temporary Commission on Territorial Integrity, Parliament of Georgia (tbc)
	Mr. Alexander Russetski, Helsinki Assembly of Georgia
	Mr. Kakhaber Gogolashvili, GFSIS (tbc)
11:50 – 12:05	Coffee Break
	International Stakeholders' Perspectives on Policy Recommendations
12:05 – 12:35	H.E. Janos HERMAN, Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia EUD
	H.E. Ambassador Kęstutis Jankauskas, Head of EU Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM), (tbc)
	H.E. UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia Niels Scott, UN Resident Coordinator , (UNDP)
	Ms. Gabriella Vogelaar, WOSCAP Project Manager, GPPAC
12:30 – 13:50	Discussion Session: Moderated by Dr. Tariel Sikharulidze, Governance and Conflict Resolution Program, ESSEC IRENÉ
13:45 – 14:00	Summing up the Roundtable Discussion Dr. Tariel Sikharulidze, Governance and Conflict Resolution Program, ESSEC IRENÉ Ms. Nina Tsikhistavi-Khutsishvili, Director, ICCN
14:00 – 15:30	Lunch



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