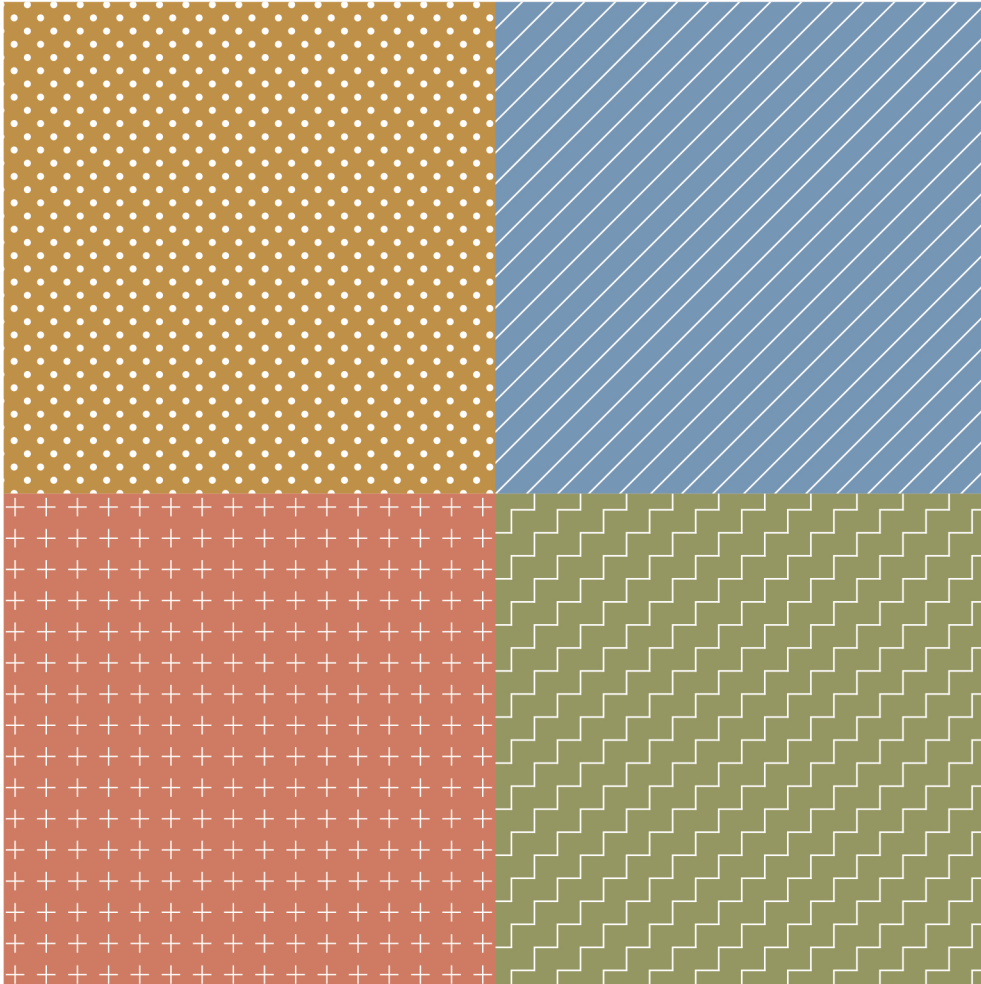


W O S C A P

ENHANCING EU PEACEBUILDING CAPABILITIES



Whole-Of-Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

The Challenge

International peacebuilding interventions face two central challenges. Firstly, the issue of coordination and synergies in the field, due to an increasing range of national, regional and international actors involved in peacebuilding. Secondly, ensuring the relevance and ownership of such interventions to local populations. The EU's ability to address contemporary security challenges is both contingent on context-specific and operational challenges in the field, and subject to its own internal political and policy dynamics. Demands for better EU-wide responses to regional and global conflict trends are at the top of Europe's political agendas, as the costs of dealing with violent conflicts and instability hit home.

Frequent criticisms include the reactive and ad hoc nature of interventions and insufficient anticipation of crises and the perceived gap between the EU's short-term action and its long-term commitment to peacebuilding. Another challenge is derived from an overlap in competences across the different institutions. Also, the legal framework of interventions means that the political dynamics of and amongst Member States equally impact on the EU's ability to address global conflict trends.

These are challenges that are inherent to international peacebuilding interventions that ultimately aim for sustainable results. The WOSCAP project seeks to focus on practical approaches and tools that can enable the EU to take these challenges into account. These range from means of engagement and collaboration between different stakeholder groups; use of innovative tools and methods to facilitate such engagement; strategies that build on local capacities and priorities for conflict prevention; and actions that support capacity enhancement of the EU and its partners in this endeavour.

Project Objectives

Overall objective: to enhance the capabilities of the EU for implementing conflict prevention and peacebuilding interventions through sustainable, comprehensive and innovative civilian means.

1. Sub-objectives:

- Review: To assess past and ongoing conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives of the EU and its partners.
- Reflect: To create an evidence base of best practices and lessons learned, in order to identify capability gaps in current EU and partner engagements, and elaborate options for change and potential improvements in long-term peacebuilding efforts by civilian means.
- Recommend: To complement and adjust existing capacities, policies, and initiatives for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, through an inclusive policy-practice dialogue and the development of policy recommendations.
- Innovate: To make a significant contribution to civilian conflict prevention and peacebuilding, by identifying future research priorities, and enhancing the potential of information and communication technologies.

At a glance

Title: Whole-Of-Society Conflict Prevention And Peacebuilding (WOSCAP)

Instrument: Horizon 2020 - Coordination & Support Action

Topic: Secure Societies, BES-12-14 – Conflict prevention and peacebuilding topic 1: Enhancing the civilian conflict prevention and peace building capabilities of the EU

Grant Number: 653866

Total Cost: EUR 2,018,034.75

EC Contribution: EUR 1,990,114.25

Start Date: 1 June 2015

End date: 30 November 2017

Duration: 30 months

Project Coordinator: Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

Project Web Site: woscap.eu (live in October)

Key Words: conflict prevention, peacebuilding, local ownership, civil-military synergies, coherence, diplomacy, governance, gender, EU policy, Georgia, Mali, Ukraine, Yemen.

Methodology

'Review' will assess past and ongoing conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives of the EU and its partners, focusing on three types of EU interventions: multi-track diplomacy, security sector reform, and governance reform. The assessment will be based on field research in Georgia, Mali, Ukraine and Yemen, and desk reviews looking beyond these countries. 'Reflect' will create a 'community of practice' providing forums for dialogue that will bring together policymakers, civilian and military practitioners, academic experts and beneficiaries of EU interventions. These will validate and apply the evidence base by focusing on cross-cutting themes: local ownership, gender, multi-stakeholder coherence, civil-military synergies and ICTs. 'Recommend' will elaborate the project findings into a tailored set of recommendations and enhance their impact through direct policy engagement and an international dissemination strategy. 'Innovate' will contribute significantly to civilian conflict prevention and peacebuilding by identifying research priorities and tools, and enhancing the potential of ICTs.

Expected Results

1. An assessment of past and potential civilian conflict prevention and peacebuilding capabilities of the EU, validated and supported by stakeholder engagement and a community of practice.

The expected impacts of this are:

- enhancement of the EU capabilities by providing a comprehensive understanding of its interventions and new insights on the EU's performance specifically in multi-track diplomacy, security sector reform and governance reform.
- contribution to addressing context-specific challenges that the EU faces in the case study countries (Georgia, Mali, Ukraine, Yemen) by informing the research agenda of local institutions and relationship building between local civil society, academia and state actors.
- contribution to an increased accountability of EU interventions towards local populations through the engagement of end users and beneficiaries.
- enhancement of the EU's potential for delivering sustainable results, providing an overview of potential capabilities and technologies for civilian conflict prevention that the EU can peruse, as well as an understanding of their strategic and social implications.
- bridging the gap between policy and practice through the establishment of the Community of Practice, by connecting practitioners and policy makers.

2. A tailored set of recommendations on what policy priorities and information and communication technologies are needed for effective civilian conflict prevention functioning in synergy with military efforts, enhanced by policy engagement and an international dissemination strategy.

The expected impacts of this are:

- contribution to improving coherence of EU civilian actions, between multiple actors, across a range of programmes and between civilian and military interventions, facilitated by cross-actor engagement and opinion and knowledge sharing in the community of practice.
- contribution to informing institutional and policy development of the EU and Member States in the area of the European Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and refinements to CFSP Guidelines related to conflict.
- raising awareness and actor mobilisation around next generation conflict challenges and potential solutions in key categories of EU intervention, such as mediation, security sector reform and governance reforms, and also contributing to the public accountability of the EU to its citizens.

- providing benefit to scientific research from improved state of the art knowledge about the civilian means for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, emphasising their practical applicability on the ground and their effects.
- advancing improved research methods, based on the innovative methodological approach to conflict and peacebuilding research, while challenging the premises and presuppositions of traditional methodological frameworks used for conflict/policy analysis.
- innovation based on conceptual and empirical research into the use of ICT for conflict prevention and conflict response, and use of newly identified uses of ICT tools for mediation and peacebuilding, matched by practical recommendations for how to adapt tools to purpose.

Project Partners	
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)	Netherlands
Utrecht University (UU)	Netherlands
Berghof Foundation (BF)	Germany
Escola Cultura de Pau, Barcelona Autonomous University (ECP)	Spain
Institute for Research and Education on Negotiation, ESSEC Business School (IRENE)	France
Institute of World Policy (IWP)	Ukraine
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)	United Kingdom
Political Development Forum (PDF)	Yemen
Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)	Georgia
Université des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques de Bamako (USJPB)	Mali