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Social sciences and humanities

Policy Snapshot

Policy-relevant findings from selected EU research projects

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EU policy priority The European Union in the World

Research focus Promoting Peace and Security

Featured projects   EU GRASP, MULTIPART, PRIV-WAR

Research results on:

- the EU's approach to multilateralism
- post-conflict reconstruction
- regulation of private military and security companies

European Commission

European Research Area

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities

Policy Context

The Peace and Security Challenge

In June 2012, European Council President Hermann von Rompuy underscored the importance of peace and security issues for the EU by placing them on the Council's list of working priorities through 2014. Affirming the Council's commitment to address regional conflicts and crisis situations, the president said the body's Members would put their 'weight behind global efforts to achieve peace and stability'. The evidence and analysis highlighted on the following pages provide orientation for these efforts.

Any discussion of foreign, security and defense policy in the European Union must begin with an acknowledgement that decision-making power in this sensitive area lies with the governments of the individual EU Member States. Nonetheless, Intra-European cooperation has increased significantly in recent years, starting with the Council's adoption of the European Security Strategy in 2003. Since then the EU's **Common Foreign and Security Policy** (which includes the Common Security and Defense Policy) has taken shape, gaining further impetus with the launch of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009.

The European Security Strategy identifies three strategic objectives that remain policy-relevant for the EU today: addressing key threats (such as terrorism, regional conflicts and state failure); building security in its neighborhood (including the Middle East); and developing an international order based on effective multilateralism.

During the past decade, fresh challenges have emerged in Europe's peace and security context. As President Rompuy has observed in reference to defence issues, three factors are shaping current developments:

- **a changing strategic environment,**
- **constraints on defence budgets, and**
- **the Lisbon Treaty's explicit call for advances in the Common Security and Defence Policy.**

Moreover, as the EU-GRASP consortium points out, the security landscape has been transformed by the increasing prominence of non-traditional security issues.

Security, defense and foreign policy after the Lisbon Treaty

The Treaty of Lisbon substantially widened the scope of the EU's Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). Since December 2009, activities have been expanded to include joint disarmament operations, the provision of military advice and assistance, and contributions to fighting terrorism. The CSDP now encompasses traditional humanitarian and relief work, peacekeeping and post-conflict stabilization as well as the use of combat forces in crisis management. To date, 24 CSDP operations have taken place on three continents, typically in support of UN or NATO crisis management objectives in the areas of peace- keeping, monitoring and conflict prevention.

Policy-relevant Research Results

From selected SSH projects on peace and security

▶ EU-GRASP - Changing multilateralism: The EU as a global-regional actor in security and peace

Illuminating the EU's role in multilateral security governance, EU-GRASP produced a wealth of salient insights and recommendations.

Particularly valuable are the project's:

- foresight scenarios (projections for 2030)
- a set of collaborative recommendations for EU policymakers, and
- a series of policy briefs on security-related themes.

The project undertook 23 case studies, offering a broad overview of six security issues: regional conflict; terrorism; weapons of mass destruction (WMD) proliferation; energy security and climate change; severe human rights violations; and migration (see table below). Each of the six security issues is addressed in a separate edition of EU-GRASP's highly readable policy brief series.

EU involvement in regional conflicts

The project's policy brief on regional conflict is exemplary. Providing a compact critique of EU regional conflict policies, the brief includes several constructive recommendations.

Examining Europe's influence on various regional conflicts in Africa and the Middle East, the policy brief notes that in a few cases the European Union has played a 'limited and arguably successful role'. However, the EU 'often overestimates its own achievements and impact', the consortium finds. The policy brief's authors argue that **'due to a general lack of genuine conflict analysis, the EU's policies are generally not adapted to the complexity of current regional conflicts'**.

EU-GRASP urges the EU to boost its conflict analysis and learning capacities. More importantly, the researchers warn that 'the EU will never become an important global peace and security actor without improving its institutional machinery'.
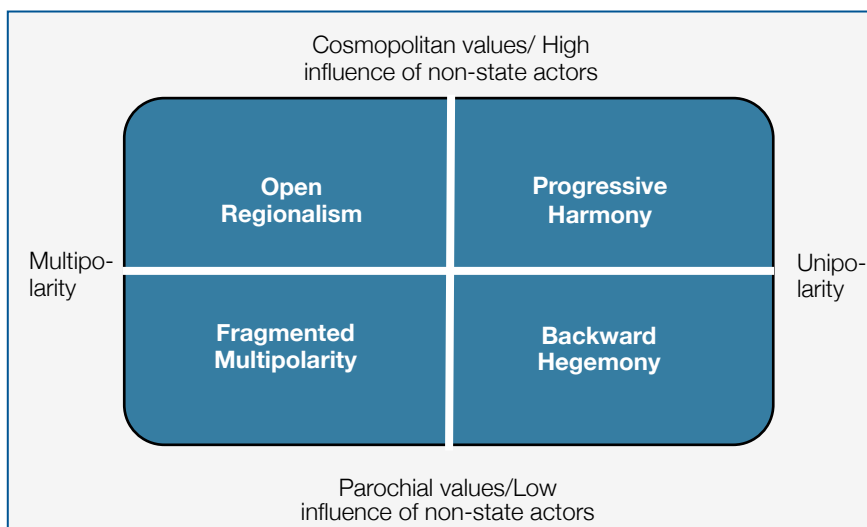
EU-GRASP security issues and case studies

Regional conflict	Terrorism	WMD proliferation	Energy security & climage change	Migration	Severe human rights violations
Israeli-Palestinian regional security complex	Israeli-Palestinian regional security complex	Iran	Central Asia	Lybia	Israeli-Palestinian regional security complex
Great Lakes (DRC)	Egypt	Pakistan-India	China	Transatlantic focus	Darfur/Sudan
Horn of Africa	Turkey	North Korea	Russia	South-East gate	Zimbabwe
Chad-Sudan-Central African Republic	Afghanistan			Mediterranean	Lebanon
	Russia				

Looking ahead: The EU's role in 2030

Applying insights from its extensive case studies and analytical work, EU-GRASP conducted a thought-provoking foresight exercise that projected the consequences of its findings into the future. Carried out with

Under the headings 'Achieving Nirvana' and 'Dance with the Wolves', two sets of recommendations were elaborated - one aimed at fostering open regionalism and the other at deterring backward hegemony.

Global scenarios (inner quadrants) and drivers of security governance - EU-GRASP projections for 2030

Cosmopolitan values/ High
influence of non-state actors

| Multipo-larity | **Open Regionalism** | **Progressive Harmony** | Unipo-larity |
| | **Fragmented Multipolarity** | **Backward Hegemony** | |

Parochial values/Low
influence of non-state actors

Key factors for achieving 'nirvana' (open regionalism)

- Support for democracy and citizens' participation throughout the world

- More inclusion of civil society in the running of the EU's internal and external affairs

- Strengthening of multilateral governance systems.

input from EU policymakers, the foresight exercise looked ahead to the year 2030 and sketched out four possible scenarios based on configurations of various geopolitical factors (see diagram above). The driving factors include societal values, the influence of non-state actors and - most importantly - distribution of power (i.e. unipolar vs. multipolar).

Evaluating the merits of the four scenarios, EU-GRASP found 'open regionalism' to be preferable from an EU perspective (offering the most favourable context for security governance) while 'backward hegemony' was deemed the least desirable scenario.

Joint Recommendations

The consultative strength of EU-funded research on peace and security is manifested in a set of joint recommendations issued by EU-GRASP and two concurrent projects on multilateralism: Mercury and EU4Seas.

The recommendations were adopted by the three SSH research teams at a collaborative conference in Brussels in October 2011.

A condensed summary of the joint project recommendations is provided on the following page:

The EU and multilateralism: Joint research recommendations
1. **The EU must adapt to changing global multilateralism.** Support forms of multilateralism that deliver global public goods and contain rivalries.
2. **Dealing with a multipolar world of regions** Work with other institutional groups of countries that promote multilateral solutions in their regions and on the global scale.
3. **Internal decision-making determines the ability to succeed in Multilateralism** Expend more effort using capabilities of EU institutions and national diplomacies to convince third parties and less time negotiating among Member States.
4. **Single voice, single chair.** Recognize that the EU is more successful in global multilateralism when it has a unified voice.
5. **Multilateralism is a strategic choice which serves EU interest.** Remember that strengthening the multilateral system is sometimes worth the loss of an immediate negotiating goal.
6. **Coherence in values does not confer a higher moral ground.** While seeking to apply uniformly the values of the EU, circumvent the rigidities of an exceedingly institutional approach.
7. **The Union must make space for other organizations in Europe.** Rethink EU policies in order to open some space to wider and narrower forms of multilateralism (OSCE, Council of Europe).
8. **The EU has power, but its fragmentation must be overcome.** Further develop CSDP, including a common mechanism for financing missions and further joint military and civil capabilities.
9. **The EU must look outward and be prepared to listen and to lead.** Avoid the temptation to look exclusively inward during challenging hours of European integration.

▶ Priv-War - Regulating privatisation of 'war': the role of the EU in assuring the compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights

The Priv-War project project investigated impacts of private military and security companies (PMSCs).

Reflecting the EU's commitment to human rights and anticipating increased outsourcing to private military and security companies, Priv-War examined how these PMSCs operate in different regulatory contexts. Significantly, the project found that **'the growth in scope and importance of the private military and security industry in the past decade has challenged the role of the state as the main provider of defence and security functions'** - a development detailed in the first of two books that came out of the project.

The researchers observe that the EU routinely utilises the services of PMSCs to protect its foreign delegations and carry out crisis management missions. Reliance on PMSCs by some other countries, however, has reached massive proportions. The United States, for example, employed 112,000 contractors in Afghanistan in 2010; Priv-War informs us that between 14 and 25 percent of those were armed security contractors.

In general, the project found information on the private military and security industry to be 'scattered, contradictory and inconclusive, indicating a lack of transparency' - particularly in cases where concerns arise about possible human rights violations.

Regulation of PMSCs

To get a clearer picture of the regulatory environment for PMSCs, Priv-War compared legislation affecting them in specific EU Member States and the EU as a whole. The findings were augmented with analysis of counterpart regulatory frameworks in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Israel, Russia, South Africa and the US.

Identifying significant disparities between the regulatory approaches of the different Member States, the Priv-War consortium concluded that regulation at European Union level is both necessary and appropriate. **'At the EU level', it was noted, 'there is no specific regulation with respect to PMSC's and their services'.**

Offering Europe guidance for joint regulation of PMSCs, the project produced a set of 13 concrete recommendations for EU regulatory action (the text of which is attached to the project's final conference report). Each proposal is presented with a clearly stated aim and a description of the rationale behind it.

Impact on the EU's common security and defence policy

Priv-War's recommendations are echoed in in a May 2011 European Parliamentary Resolution dedicated to developing a common security and defence policy (Resolution 2010/2299(INI)). The document acknowledges that 'adoption of EU regulatory measures, including comprehensive normative system for the establishment, registra-tion, licensing,monitoring and reporting on violations of applicable law by private military and security (PMS) companies - both at internal and external level -, is necessary'.

▶ MULTIPART - Multi-stakeholder partnerships in post-conflict reconstruction: the role of the European Union

The MULTIPART project investigated whether, how, and under what conditions multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) can positively impact human security.

Seeking to help the European Union enhance its cooperative role in conflict prevention and resolution, MULTIPART conducted twelve case studies of MSPs (seven with EU involvement) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

MULTIPART's working definition of multi-stakeholder partnerships required involvement of at least three different types of actors (such as public, private, civic or donor entities). The definition demanded participation of at least one public sector actor. The groupings had to have 'a specific interest in the outcome of the partnership and demonstrate some degree of ownership to address a particular situation'.

The case studies demonstrated that MSPs can significantly contribute to the effectiveness of post-conflict reconstruction programmes, 'including for human security and peace-building'. The research also showed, however, that MSPs often fail to fulfil their potential.

Underperforming MSPs

Two factors that contribute to underperformance of MSPs
A lack of engagement and care by international agencies, including the EU Agencies initiate MSPs without sufficient resources to achieve sustainable outcomes.
The wrong type of engagement of the partners for the goal of the MSP e.g. Direct involvement of external stakeholders when indirect involvement might be more effective.

The project points out that the EU lacks a clear guide and overarching policy frame - work for concepts (or principles) such as 'partners', 'partnerships' and 'local ownership' in the context of promoting human security and peace building. The MULTIPART researchers suggest they have 'filled a void' in this area by providing empirically-based analyses of the potential of MSPs to contribute to human security and peace building.

The consortium underlined the policy relevance of its work by publishing a set of EU-specific recommendations.

SSH research projects highlighted in this snapshot

The following research projects provided key content for this document. All of these projects were developed within the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) under the theme Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities.

Project	Title	Start Date	End Date	Website
EU GRASP	Changing multilateralism: the EU as a global-regional actor in security and peace	01.02.2009	30.01.2012	www.eugrasp.eu
MULTIPART	Multi-stakeholder partnerships in post-conflict reconstruction: the role of the European Union	01.03.2008	28.02.2011	www.multi-part.eu
PRIV-WAR	Regulating privatisation of 'war': the role of the EU in assuring the compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights	01.02.2008	31.01.2011	www.priv-war.eu

Related FP7 research projects

CORE	The role of Governance in the Resolution of Socioeconomic and Political Conflict in India and Europe	01.01.2011	31.12.2013	www.projectcore.eu
DOMAC	Impact of international criminal procedures on domestic criminal procedures in mass atrocity cases	01.02.2008	31.01.2011	www.domac.is

About FLASH-IT

FLASH-IT is a European Union dissemination project offering enhanced access to research findings in Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH).

Part of a broader effort to consolidate knowledge resources within the European Research Area, FLASH-IT aims to help bridge the communications gap between Europe's research and policymaking communities.

Using a custom-built IT interface, FLASH-IT provides consolidated results from EU-funded SSH research projects that are thematically linked to the Europe 2020 priorities of smart growth, sustainable growth, inclusive growth and economic governance.

FLASH-IT focuses on five distinctive yet mutually reinforcing priorities, corresponding to those of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the societal challenges addressed by Europe's 'Horizon 2020' research programme.

SMART GROWTH

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE WORLD

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

LOOKING AHEAD ON SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

FLASH-IT strives to accommodate the interests of a broad range of stakeholders – public bodies, researchers, corporations and civil society organisations – and is particularly geared toward serving the needs of evidence-based policymaking initiatives.