Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

The 2015 Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy:
Civil society perspectives on the implementation of the security dimension

Tuesday 31 January 2017

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND REFLECTIONS

This document is a compilation of the key recommendations and reflections made by participants in the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) Policy meeting entitled 'The 2015 Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy: Civil Society perspectives on the implementation of the security dimension' which took place on Tuesday 31 January 2017 in Brussels. (The following recommendations and reflections were made by individual participants during the meeting. The views expressed may not be attributed to any participating individual or institution nor do they necessarily represent the views of all of the meeting participants, the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) and its member organisations, or the co-organisers.)

The meeting took place under the Chatham House rule.

I. Security Sector Reform (SSR) with a specific focus on community security
- Take into account transnational issues that impact instability, which is context specific, at local and national levels.
- Recognise the behaviour of security forces as a potential driver of violence.
- Ensure that people's sense of safety and security is at the heart of SSR interventions.
- Integrate conflict sensitivity as well as people-centred approaches focused on human security in all aspects of programming, from design to implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Ensure that interventions combine both state/national-level institutional and community security approaches in order to integrate inputs from areas of intervention, and to ensure accountability towards communities.
- Coordinate inter-ministerial, donor and civil society groups and fora to foster coherent SSR interventions.
- Ensure that conflict and resilience analysis contribute to the EU's strategy and interventions.
- Set up community security structures based on rigorous mapping of drivers and actors within communities.
- Support mainstreaming civil society and community involvement in SSR interventions so that they can engage with authorities and with security providers. This is especially important in the context of shrinking spaces for civil society.
- Recognise that it takes time to change the attitudes of communities and of security providers, and seek to find inclusive solutions that make a genuine contribution to community security.
- Develop accountability tools and mechanism that do not reinforce conflict dynamics.
- Focus on parliamentary support to further develop SSR strategies and interventions, and to open civil society spaces.
- Explore possibilities for civil society to provide inputs into policy discussions on Capacity Building in support of Security and Development (CBSD).
- Use EU Delegations' (EUDs) presence to facilitate information gathering from civil society organisations (CSOs) on the ground, and sharing upwards to the EU institutions' headquarters.

II. Conflict prevention, crisis management and response, including Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)
- Define 'ownership' and 'mutual ownership' in relation to resilience, sustainability, and political processes and contexts.

- Make the integrated approach context-centric and start with 'do no harm' principles which can help foster coordination and coherence between the EU institutions and the EU Member States.
- Identify key constituents for conflict analysis exercises beyond victims and spoilers.
- Partner with academic institutions to support rigorous conflict analysis.
- Connect with CSOs and other relevant community groups, especially with youth and women, at local, national and regional levels.
- Exchange best practices between the Eastern and the Southern Neighbourhood and seek to involve the civil society in these processes.
- Create opportunities for systematic inputs from CSOs on entry and exit points for CSDP missions.
- Carry out internal assessments of gender inclusion into CSDP missions, and engage with CSOs for input on analysis and integration of gender in CSDP missions to support mission effectiveness.
- Design a coherent and dynamic approach to monitoring and evaluation of crisis management and response, and assess accountability towards local population and donors.
- Make the EU's Common Security Defence Policy (CSDP) missions context-sensitive and engage with relevant stakeholders, including political leaders and local authorities.

III. Tackling terrorism and violent extremism
- Acknowledge that violent extremism (VE) doesn't operate in a vacuum and that this is a reflection of a much deeper problem. Design interventions that take into account the root causes of VE.
- Invest in long-term, holistic interventions that have a local and a contextual focus.
- Blueprint approaches to Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) need to be used with caution as, for example, a young Tunisian is different from a young Belgian.
- Design flexible interventions to constantly test, learn and adapt.
- Take into account masculinity while designing programming for tackling VE.
- Design interventions that capitalise on individuals who are resisting recruitment by violent extremist groups to build the resilience of other community members.
- Support civil society in raising awareness of the importance of developing peacebuilding approaches to tackling terrorism and VE.
- Engage in long-term dialogue and recognise that setting up dialogue structures takes time and should be complemented by livelihood support.
- Make flexible funding available for pilot projects that integrate risk management to see what works and why it works.
- Devise funding mechanisms that adapt to the challenges of funding local civil society organisations coming from countries that are witnessing a high level of VE.
- Raise awareness of the potential of the media to influence certain narratives that could exacerbate stigmatisation and exclusion, thus acting as a VE enabler. Coach journalists on conflict-sensitive reporting.

IV. Disrupting organised crime and fostering cyber security
- Develop conflict-sensitive interventions aimed at disrupting organised crime, and crime sensitise conflict and peacebuilding programming.
- Recognise the important role of civil society and the media in protecting against political manipulation and in pushing for accountability.
- Engage with civil society particularly on border security through supporting the creation of border security dialogue fora and strengthen such structures where they are already in place.
- Ensure a clear complementarity and coordination of different actors dealing with organised crime such as Interpol, Europol, and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).