



Civil Society Dialogue Network

Reviewing the EU's conflict analysis practices – Gathering civil society input

Wednesday 17 October 2018, 8:30 – 17:15
Martin's Brussels EU Hotel, Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels

Concept note

Background:

The European Union's (EU's) [Guidance note on the use of Conflict Analysis in support of EU external action](#) was published in 2013 with the goal of setting out how conflict analysis could “assist EEAS and Commission staff working in fragile and/or conflict-affected countries.” It emphasises that rigorous conflict analysis should be carried out for any type of EU engagement to ensure that the actions do no harm and are sensitive to the peace and conflict dynamics of the context in which they are (or may be) implemented.

The EEAS and the European Commission (EC) have started a process to revise and update the guidance note based on recent EU policy developments¹, on the development of new practices and methodologies, and on the lessons learned from experiences in carrying out and making use of conflict analyses. As part of this process, this meeting will bring together civil society experts with experience in carrying out conflict analyses and in using them to design, implement, adapt, monitor and evaluate programmes. They will share their experiences and recommendations to enhance the EU's approach to conflict analysis in the context of the revision of the guidance note, including to look at how to better incorporate civil society input.

Objectives:

The overall objective of the meeting will be to gather the input of civil society experts for the revision of the EU's *Guidance note on the use of Conflict Analysis in support of EU external action*. Specifically, the meeting will seek to gather best practices, lessons learned and recommendations for the EU on:

- When to prioritise doing a conflict analysis;
- Different conflict analysis methodologies and their value in different contexts;
- How to involve civil society at different levels in the conflict analysis (e.g. for in-country processes) and ensure that their diverse input is better incorporated in the analysis;
- How to design and adapt programming based on conflict analysis.

Participants:

The meeting will bring together around 30-35 participants from civil society and the EU institutions:

¹ Including the publication of the *EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy*, of the *Joint Communication for a Strategic Approach to Resilience in the EU's External Action*, of the new *European Consensus on Development*, etc.

- Civil society experts (including with specific geographic/thematic expertise) with experience in carrying out conflict analyses and in using them to design, implement, adapt, monitor and evaluate programmes.
- Policymakers from the EEAS and the EC, including officials who have previously participated in EU-led conflict analysis workshops.

Format and Structure:

The meeting will take the form of a day-long informal workshop with facilitated interactive sessions under the Chatham House Rule.²

It will consist of a mix of plenary and small group sessions. The following elements will be covered:

- Conflict analysis methodologies, including how to integrate gender analysis into a conflict analysis;
- How to involve diverse civil society at different levels in the analysis and to better incorporate their input;
- How to plan and adapt actions based on the conflict analysis, including how to identify and build on local drivers of resilience;
- How to address the interplay between humanitarian, peace and development issues in conflict analysis.

Participants may be split into small thematic groups to discuss best practices in approaching specific thematic issues that regularly come up during conflict analyses (e.g. in relation to gender, peace and security (GPS), trade, land control, natural resources, the role of the private sector, etc.). These thematic issues will be determined based on the expertise of the participants and on the discussions during the meeting.

² Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

Agenda

08:30 – 09.00	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
09:00 – 09.15	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Manuela Cabral (Commission – DG DEVCO B.2. Resilience, Fragility) • Stefano Tomat (European External Action Service – PRISM) • Sonya Reines-Djivanides (European Peacebuilding Liaison Office)
09.15 – 11.00	<p>Session 1: Overview of conflict analysis practices and experiences</p> <p>This session will allow participants to discuss best practices and lessons learned in developing conflict analysis to inform programming.</p> <p>The issues to be discussed will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What</i> works? Sharing examples of good practices from civil society / EU collaboration in developing conflict analysis, and <i>why</i> these worked • When should conflict analysis be prioritised? • What are the lessons learned from past experiences in developing robust, useful conflict analysis? • What are the challenges to implementing a conflict analysis? And to revising / updating the conflict analysis? • What are obstacles to civil society / EU cooperation in conflict analysis? How can these be addressed? • What are examples of risk mitigation strategies? <p>Facilitated by Laura Davis (EPLO)</p>
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Session 2: If it's about people, it's about gender</p> <p>This session will focus on integrating gender analysis into conflict analysis. Examples from a variety of geographic and thematic contexts will be discussed.</p> <p>The issues to be discussed will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting on assumptions around gender, gender analysis and conflict analysis. What does gender analysis bring to conflict analysis? • <i>What</i> should be asked? • <i>Who</i> should be asked? • <i>How</i> do you ask? • What are challenges to integrating gender analysis into conflict analysis? • What risk mitigation strategies have been successful when integrating gender analysis into conflict analysis? <p>Facilitated by Laura Davis (EPLO)</p>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch

14.00 – 15.30	<p>Session 3: Civil society and EU conflict analysis</p> <p>This session will focus on involving civil society at different levels in the conflict analysis. Examples from a variety of geographic and thematic contexts will be discussed.</p> <p>The issues to be discussed will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting on assumptions around civil society/civil societies, civil society analyses and conflict analysis. What does civil society (/societies) bring to conflict analysis? • <i>What</i> should be asked? • <i>Who</i> should be asked? • <i>How</i> do you ask? • What are challenges to involving civil society in conflict analysis and integrating their input? • What successful examples of risk mitigation strategies are there? <p>Facilitated by Laura Davis (EPLO)</p>
15.30 – 16.00	<p>Coffee Break</p>
16.00 – 17.00	<p>Session 4: From theory of change to positive change</p> <p>This session will seek to provide additional recommendations on how the EU should design and adapt conflict analysis as part of its engagements.</p> <p>The issues to be discussed will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can conflict analysis Do Harm? (And how would we know?) • What is “good enough” conflict analysis? • How should one design conflict analysis for practical use? • Reality bites: responding to dynamic environments • Designing for best fit: integrating conflict analysis into indicator design • Designing risk mitigation strategies <p>Facilitated by Laura Davis (EPLO)</p>
17.00 – 17.15	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European External Action Service – PRISM • Commission – DG DEVCO B.2. (Resilience, Fragility) • Laura Davis (European Peacebuilding Liaison Office)

The Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace). It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), a civil society network, in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The third phase of the CSDN will last from 2017 to 2020. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).