



**Joint Workshop
of the PfP Consortium Study Group
“Regional Stability in South East Europe”**

and the

Centre for Security Studies

**“Bosnia-Herzegovina and Beyond:
The Role of Civil Society in Supporting
Democratization and Euro-Atlantic Integration
in South East Europe”**

– Programme and Workshop Outline –

25 – 27 September 2014

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Purpose

The Study Group Regional Stability in South East Europe has been assessing the post-conflict development in Western Balkan countries and its implications for the region and beyond since 1999. Embedded in the wider academic framework of both the PFP Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes as well as the security-political research in the Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports, its main focus is to elaborate major conflict areas and propose possible solutions to local authorities and international actors alike.

During the last two decades, the region of South East Europe has been on the daily agenda of Transatlantic, European and Austrian institutions with the goal of enhancing capabilities in the field of conflict management and peace support. Recent developments in the region have given rise to the main topic of the upcoming 29th workshop of the Study Group entitled ***“Bosnia-Herzegovina and Beyond: The Role of Civil Society in Supporting Democratization and Euro-Atlantic Integration in South East Europe”*** to be convened in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina from 25 to 27 September 2014.

Partners

The partners to this project are

- Austrian National Defence Academy, Vienna/Austria
- Directorate General for Security Policy at the Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports, Vienna/Austria
- PFP Consortium Study Group “Regional Stability in South East Europe” (<http://www.pfpconsortium.org/>)
- Centre for Security Studies, Sarajevo / Bosnia and Herzegovina

Topic Outline

A vital Civil Society usually is seen as an important attribute of developed democratic states. Political science literature offers a broad scope of possible definitions. Despite this, most of the theoreticians and practitioners agree that the Civil Society manifests the interests and the will of citizens by counterbalancing the policies of political officials. From the perspective of liberal democracy this means advocacy for promoting a democratic society, which respects human rights and individual freedom. Civil Society in many cases is represented by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). They comprise varying organizations, as they are for example the so called Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), scientific initiatives, activist groups, religious communities,

charities etc. According to liberal democracy theory all of these CSOs try to promote social and political needs of the citizens, vis-à-vis the governing structures.

In South East Europe the Civil Society has found itself in a paradoxical situation during the previous period of political transition. On the one hand, South East European intellectuals and international stakeholders have pinned their hopes on Civil Society as a driving factor for positive societal and political changes and beneficial corrective to the governing structures in the reform processes linked to the EU and NATO integration processes. On the other hand, CSOs have been perceived as not have been resolute enough in their activities during critical political phases due to a widely spread social and economic pessimism, which has characterized South East European societies.

The return of authoritarian practices in some of the South East European countries, the division of CSOs along ethnic lines as well as long time stagnation in the EU and NATO integration processes have represented additional problems for developing pro-active approaches in the field of Civil Society. None the less, the previous demonstrations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which were caused by tremendous social and political frustration of the citizens, have given hope for some positive political changes in this country, but also in the neighbourhood.

This workshop will primarily deal with the question what the opportunities for regional CSOs are to contribute positively to democratic reforms in their countries and to Euro-Atlantic integration processes. In this regard, positive and negative regional experiences connected to CSOs will be compared, focusing among others on the difficult relationship between CSOs and governing structures, in which an advising or a controlling role of the CSOs can prevail. Further, the role and the motives of international stakeholders as facilitators and financiers of regional CSOs will be analyzed and discussed.

Key questions:

Guiding question:

- 1) To which extent do CSOs in South East Europe contribute to democratization and Euro-Atlantic integration? Through which means can their impact be improved / optimized?

Further key questions:

- 2) Which forms of CSOs are prevalent in South East Europe and what is their relevance at the national, regional and European level (positive and negative examples)?
- 3) What is a realistic estimation of the intellectual and organizational capacities of CSOs to influence substantially political reforms and to cooperate effectively at the national, regional and international level (e.g. CSO platforms, EU funded regional projects etc.)?
- 4) Should CSOs primarily be a “watchdog” to the government and oversight its activities or provide concrete support for designing policies?
- 5) Are CSOs in South East Europe based on a “civilian culture”?
- 6) Can CSOs counteract state dysfunctionality and authoritarian political behaviour, which in parts of South East Europe still represent a problem for consolidation?
- 7) How do the governing structures perceive CSOs and how do they approach them?
- 8) What is the level of participation of CSOs in drafting relevant policy documents (state strategies, action plans etc.)?
- 9) Is there a proper role for CSOs in the process of official negotiations with the EU? Experiences from CEI countries as well as Croatia and Montenegro.
- 10) How transparent are South East European CSOs in their work and what are their merit principles?
- 11) Through which means do international actors (e.g. EU, USA) support CSOs in South East Europe? Are changes in this field necessary?
- 12) Do the EU and the US share the same priorities in regard to their support of CSOs (concrete examples by reflecting EU’s IPA II etc.)?

Panels:

Panel 1:

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Pinning Hopes on Civil Society

Keywords:

- *Parliamentary elections as a chance for positive changes?*
- *Role of CSOs in overcoming the permanent political crisis and Euro-Atlantic stagnation*
- *International approaches towards B-H CSOs*
- *Cross-entity cooperation of CSOs*

Panel 2+3:

The Regional Dimension of the Role of CSOs

Keywords:

- *Specific situation of CSOs in the single SEE countries*
- *Relations and interaction with governing structures*
- *Evaluation of their role in democratization processes, EU and NATO integration*
- *Benefits, shortcomings, proposals for changes*
- *Regional co-operation of CSO's and common policy goals*

Panel 4:

International Stakeholders and Regional CSOs

Keywords:

- *Is their support target-orientated and selective enough?*
- *Good and bad practices*
- *Possible differences between the EU and US approach*

Programme

Thursday, 25 September 2014

- till 18.00 Arrival of the participants
- 19.00 – 21.00 **Welcome Reception at the Austrian Embassy to Bosnia-Herzegovina**
- Introduction**
- Andreas WANNEMACHER, Directorate General for Security Policy at the Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports, Vienna
- Words of Welcome**
- Denis HADŽOVIĆ, Centre for Security Studies, Sarajevo
- H.E. Martin PAMMER, Austrian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Friday, 26 September 2014

- 07.00 – 09.00 **Breakfast**
- 09.00 – 09.15 **Introduction to the PfP Consortium and Administrative Remarks**
- COL Ernst M. FELBERBAUER and Benedikt HENSELLEK, Austrian National Defence Academy, Vienna
- 09.15 – 09.45 **Keynote Address**
- Prof. Adam FAGAN, Queen Mary University of London
- 09.45 – 11.15 **PANEL 1: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Pinning Hopes on Civil Society**
- Chair:** Predrag JUREKOVIĆ, Austrian National Defence Academy, Vienna
- Mitar KUJUNDŽIĆ, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of BIH, Sarajevo
- Žarko PAPIĆ, Initiative for Better and Humane Inclusion, Sarajevo
- Miloš ŠOLAJA, University of Banja Luka
- 11.15 – 11.45 **Coffee Break**

- 11.45 – 13.15 **PANEL 2: The Regional Dimension of the Role of Civil Society Organizations**
- Chair:** Sandro KNEZOVIC', Institute for Development and International Relations, Zagreb
- Maja BOBIC', European Movement in Serbia, Belgrade
- Sashenka LLESHAJ, Albanian Institute for International Studies, Tirana
- Habit HAJREDINI, Office of the Prime Minister, Prishtina/Priština
- 13.15 – 14.15 **Lunch**
- 14.15 – 15.45 **PANEL 3 (cont.): The Regional Dimension of the Role of Civil Society Organizations**
- Chair:** Filip EJDUS, University of Belgrade
- Drago PILSEL, and Theologian, Zagreb
- Daliborka ULJAREVIC', Centre for Civic Education, Podgorica
- Nedžad MEHMEDOVIĆ, Center for Research and Policy Making, Skopje
- 15.45 – 16.15 **Coffee Break**
- 16.15 – 17.45 **Interactive Discussion**
- Moderation:** Franz-Lothar ALTMANN, University of Bucharest
- 19:00 – 21:00 **Dinner** (individual)

Saturday, 27 September 2014

07.00 – 09.00 **Breakfast**

09.00 – 10.30 **PANEL 4: International Stakeholders and Regional Civil Society Organizations**

Chair: Denis HADŽOVIĆ, Centre for Security Studies, Sarajevo

Selma SIJERČIĆ, USAID/Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sarajevo

Matthew RHODES, George C. Marshall Center – European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch-Partenkirchen

Massimo MINA, Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo

Fatih CERAN, Journalists and Writers Foundation, Istanbul

Dennis BLEASE, Cranfield University, Shrivenham

10.30 – 11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.00 – 12.15 **Plenary Session: Interactive Debate for Policy Recommendations and Workshop Outlook**

Moderation: Predrag JUREKOVIĆ, Austrian National Defence Academy, Vienna

12.15 – 12.30 **Closing Remarks**

Amb. Heidemaria GÜRER, Austrian Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Vienna

12.30 – 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 **Departure to the Side Programme/Individual Departures**

Sunday, 28 September 2014

Individual Departures