

Jean Monnet text report 2016-2018

Description. Planned activities

The project *'The EU's Comprehensive Approach to External Conflict and Crisis Management'* was expected to generate, accumulate, and synthesize knowledge about European Security Strategy, policy and initiatives and promote discussion on EU's emerging ambition and the role of the EU as a global conflict manager with particular relevance to the EU's recent experience in Ukraine and other countries of the European Neighbourhood. The aim of the project was to stimulate excellence in teaching, research and policy-making in European Security Studies with particular focus on a comprehensive approach to conflict and crisis management through early-warning and preparedness, conflict prevention, crisis management to early recovery and peace-building.

The strategy of the project was designed in order to provide an enabling framework for individual and cooperative learning with particular attention to developing critical and creative thinking skills, turning objectives into outcomes and incorporating assessment and implementation of the project results into research-led teaching and evidence-based policy-making. As it was planned, the project should have to run for two years and consisted of the following phases.

The creation of Advanced Study Distance Learning Platform based on the web-site of Ukrainian Institute for Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution, involving the core target group – the project leaders and key speakers. The purpose of this web-based activity was to establish and maintain an open source and web-based environment, which linked Ukrainian and European experts, junior faculty, representatives of NGOs, IOs, and national governments with the project teaching staff and facilitates the development of research-led curricula and evidence-based public- and security policy-making through a cognitive engagement.

A joint research should have to start in February 2017 (title of research project 'In Search of Peace: Conflict Management in Divided Societies'). The focus of research is the role of EU as a global conflict manager with particular reference to the Union's experience in the European Neighbourhood. The results of research project: academic articles, teaching materials, research report.

The first project event entitled *'The EU as a Global Conflict Manager: From Ad-hoc Reaction to Strategic Policy Coherence'* was planned for August 2017. The purpose of first workshop was to initiate and strengthen cooperation among 'the change leaders' group, applying interactive teaching methods, effective instructional technologies and modern communication technologies.

As it was planned by the project team, major project implementation stage (teaching in home universities by the project participants) planned to take place from August 2017 to August 2018. A book 'The EU's Comprehensive Approach to External Conflict in Fragile Societies' was planned for August 2018.

Finally, dissemination conference entitled *'The EU and International Conflicts: Current and Future Developments to Improve European Crisis Management and Conflict*

Prevention in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries’ with participation of European and Ukrainian scholars and policy-makers focused on presenting and engaging with research, teaching and policy-making on conflict prevention, management and resolution and enabling further networking and future cooperation among participants.

According to the project objectives, the project *‘The EU’s Comprehensive Approach’* was designed to build networks between Ukrainian and European military, security and academic communities and create sustainable channels of information and exchange. It has to be achieved both through the project events focused on particular issues of the EU’s comprehensive approach to security and crisis management during workshop, dissemination conference and online activities and through conceptualisation of the key outputs (research-led teaching curricula in Conflict Management, research publications and evidence-based policy projects).

Implementation Activities

Description of the implementation activities

The project run for 24 months. It consisted of research, curriculum development, and publication and dissemination activities. It synthesizes ‘cross-fertilization’ and ‘spread content’ dimensions of the Jean Monnet project to promote discussion and set out a common understanding of the EU’s comprehensive approach to external conflict and crisis management among the project target groups.

The project started with the creation of Advanced Study Distance Learning Platform at the web-site of Ukrainian Institute for Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution (www.sses.com.ua).

The special part of the Institute’s web-site was designed for current Jean Monnet project. It contains (1) open-source publications authored by the project team and participants (book chapters, textbooks, journal articles, policy papers), (2) teaching materials (syllabus, teaching notes, simulation games and case studies) designed by members of the project team, (3) research reports and (4) blogs of members of the project team. The web-site is linked with research and teaching activities. Through targeted distribution of information and open access to our e-publications, we ensured an exchange of insights, expertise, comments and proposals related to a comprehensive approach to security in general and external conflict and crisis, in particular.

Teaching

The project teaching activities started in September 2016. Teaching activities were made up of a number of more traditional courses in the field of European Security Studies at the higher education institutions. For example, in 2016-2018 Prof. Tetyana Malyarenko has taught courses ‘The EU and Global Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution’ – 48 hours, ‘European Information Security Policy’ – 36 hours, ‘Crisis Communications’ – 34 hours, for MA students at the National University ‘Odesa Law Academy’, Donetsk State University of Management, Mariupol, Ukraine; all teaching materials are placed at the project web-site. Prof. Greg Simons, Uppsala University and Prof. Yuriy Danik, National Military University of Ukraine served as guest lectures in Ministry of Defence of Ukraine.

They delivered lectures on European Security Policy. Co-director of the project Prof. Stefan Wolff, University of Birmingham served as guest lecturer in Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine in September 2017 (title of his lecture: ‘The EU as an international security provider’). Prof. Tetyana Malyarenko served as visiting lecturer at Uppsala University, Sweden and Regensburg University, Germany. She delivered a series of lectures on conflict management in divided societies.

During the first project year, the project participants worked over their public policy or advisory project. Social networks and e-mail communications were used for consultations and discussions. The main assignments (power point presentations, journalist articles, op-eds, public policy papers) are placed at the project web-site. During the second year, the project participants produced case studies, simulation games and other learning exercises for wide use in teaching, research and policy-making among project target audience.

A joint research ‘*In Search of Peace: Conflict Management in Divided Societies*’ started in February 2017 and has lasted through 2017 and 2018. The research had an explorative nature, including significant fieldwork in the Eastern Partnership countries: Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and Western Balkans. Empirical research consisted of closely following events in the selected countries and in the media and interviewing key informants in local and central governments, IOs, NGOs. In total, we conducted 86 interviews between August 2016 and August 2018 and discussed our research in seven Jean Monnet workshops in the same period of time (2 workshop were organised by Ukrainian Institute for Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution in April 2017 and September 2017 and 5 workshops organised by members of Jean Monnet network in Romania, Belgium, Italy and Estonia). The latter, involving a range of participants from junior academics to senior government officials, was one our strategies to discuss and verify data obtained from other sources. The information obtained in the field research was analysed by the key experts in a greater depth. The results of research and analysis served as a basis for scenario building process, used in simulation game and case studies that together formed a background for 5 day workshop ‘The EU as a Global Conflict Manager: from Ad-Hoc Reaction to Strategic Policy Coherence?’ and 3 day conference ‘The EU and International Conflict’, for research monographs, written within the current project and a number of research articles and policy papers.

2017 Jean Monnet Workshop ‘The EU as a Global Conflict Manager’ was organised in Kyiv, Ukraine between 9 and 13 April 2017. It involved 32 participants, including young Ukrainian, European and American experts in the area of Contemporary Conflict and Conflict Management (participants: young faculty, military officers, security experts, representatives of civil society, think tanks and media).

2017 Jean Monnet Conference ‘The EU and International Conflicts’ was organised in Odessa, Ukraine between 17 and 19 September 2017. The conference attracted 46 participants from Eastern Partnership countries, Black Sea Region, European Union and USA and Canada. During the conference, its participants discussed the EU’s approach to external conflict and crises in fragile and conflict-affected countries and explore its future development with focus on a common strategic vision, conflict prevention and development of effective and efficient partnership with local stakeholders and IOs, UN and NATO (detailed report on the project events is uploaded on the Jean Monnet platform).

Following spring workshop and conference, the project team prepared a research report and two books: (1) 'Understanding the Dynamics of Emerging De-Facto States' (contract with Routledge publishing house was signed on 12 April 2018; manuscript was submitted on 31 May 2018; publication is expected on 22 December 2018) and (2) 'In the Cross-Hairs of Great Powers? Competitive Influence-Seeking in the Contested EU-Russia Neighbourhood' (submitted for publication in Taylor and Frances Group in June 26, 2018; it is under a peer-review now) and a number of academic articles, book chapters.

In summary, the goals and objectives of Jean Monnet Project achieved. In this project, we created new and strengthened existent formal and informal links with national military and civilian organisations and policy-makers in Ukraine and EU aiming at production of public policy recommendations and new teaching materials.

Changing in relation to the application

There is no conceptual change in relation to the initial application. However, two changes are evident. First change concerns the schedule of the project events. In our application we planned first workshop for August 2017 and second event (conference) for June 2018. In fact, we have shifted dates for April 2017 and September 2017 accordingly. We argue this change with high level of instability of the Ukrainian banking system, thus, we acted to minimize the financial risk for project which can appear in the result of bankruptcy of the bank. The second change related to the format of publication – monograph in English instead a handbook in Ukrainian. Our decision to change the format of publication was based on high demand for publications based on empirical research of the Ukrainian crisis, including EU involvement in its prevention and settlement. However, publication of hand book (as an additional follow-up activity) is also planned for December 2018-January 2019.

Team involved in the project and their role

The project team consists of two co-directors – one from EU country and other from Ukraine. We consider this to be very enriching for the project as far as they not only represent different educational traditions, but also are able to attract different kind of additional resources. Moreover, their cooperation in implementation of other Jean Monnet projects (2008-p/t; 7 Jean Monnet projects) has proved to be very successful.

Prof. Tetyana Malyarenko assumed overall responsibility for the conduct of the project in accordance with the strategy and priorities of the Jean Monnet Programme. She was responsible for development, co-ordination and promotion of all information and research activities and development and implementation of the appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and assessment. In this project, Prof. Wolff in close consultation and cooperation with Prof Malyarenko, provided academic leadership, encouraged and developed excellence in teaching and research. Academic leadership means support of the project staff on research matters and organization of appropriate and effective consultation with project team and participants.

The team of key speakers is composed by core group of the project leaders responsible for organization of research (field research in Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia), discussions, case study and small group exercises. Participants are junior scientists (PhD students and

young faculty), representing academia, public and semi-public research institutions and think tanks. Since majority of participants of the workshop and conference represented the media, public administrations, think tanks and research institutions in Ukraine and EU member states, with this project we aimed at development of critical thinking and analytical skills of policy makers by applying a *deep learning* approach and strengthening contacts between academics from EU and NATO member states and Ukrainian academic community and creation of new opportunities for junior faculty to present the results of their research to policy makers and teaching activity and exchange ideas. The participants were selected via open competition based on quality of applications, geographical and gender balance criteria.

The advantage of our project is the format of NGO. Unlike public universities, the format of NGO can provide a platform for horizontal networking among members of academic, policy communities, civil societies and media, open exchange of ideas, promotion of liberal European values and cooperation.

Impact, visibility and dissemination

The project provided a security solution in the form of specific recommendations on how to improve EU's ability to achieve sustainable security and to coordinate work with its neighbours and partners to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of EU external policy and action in conflict and crisis situations.

The knowledge generated and understanding gained in this project has been disseminated in a variety of different ways.

First, monograph **'The Dynamics of Emerging De-Facto States'** (English-language publication; *120 pages has been published; it will be placed online and disseminated among the stakeholders, including participants of 2016-2018 Jean Monnet project, universities and public libraries in Ukraine and the EU member states as well as for all interested individuals; online version will also available at www.sses.com.ua*). A number of presentations of this publication for international academic and policy community was organized in the framework of several international conferences and roundtables, including Kennan institute alumni conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC, international workshop 'Building States and Nations in Turbulent Context', Germany and others. The book will be placed at a number of academic web-sites, for example, at www.academia.edu or/and Google Scholar. We expect it will meet a sharp interest from students and policy-makers in the area of European Security Studies.

Second, book **'In the crosshairs of great powers? Competitive Influence-seeking in the contested EU-Russia Neighbourhood'** (English-language publication, authors: the key speakers and project participants) expected to be published by Taylor and Frances Publishing House in the beginning of 2019. The book will be also available online.

The project team and participants have issued a number of internationally visible publications, such as book chapters and articles in referred journals, for example: Tetyana Malyarenko and Stefan Wolff ('The Logic of Competitive Influence-Seeking: Russia, Ukraine and Conflict in Donbas' – 'in Post-Soviet Affairs

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1060586X.2018.1425083>), Tetyana Malyarenko and David Galbreath (Paramilitary Motivation in Ukraine: Beyond Integration and Abolition' in Southeast and Black Sea Studies <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14683857.2016.1148414?journalCode=fbs20>), Stefan Wolff (2017) Linkage and Leverage in Moldova's Transnistrian Politics in East European Politics <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21599165.2015.1124092> and others.

Examples of contribution to and cooperation with the mass media include: **publications in the Washington Post, Carnegie, Kennan Institute, OSCE**; a series of publications for Theconversation.

Also, during the project period 2016-2018 we continue our cooperation with other Jean Monnet projects and Jean Monnet professors, in particular, with Clubul European Jean Monnet, Romania, Jean Monnet Project 'Discourses on European Union and Human Rights', implemented by Kalliopi Koufa Foundation, Thessaloniki, Greece, Jean Monnet Chair at University of Genoa and others. The cooperation manifests itself as joint publications, jointly-organized panels and roundtables, consulting projects for national governments and international organizations, exchange visits and guest lecturing.

The particular attention has been paid to collaboration and dissemination of the project result via the web-based platforms (both formal – through the web-site of Ukrainian Institute for Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution and partner institutions, and informal – through social networks, for example, the project page at Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/2014JeanMonnet> personal web-sites of Prof. Stefan Wolff, www.stefanwolff.com personal pages of participating scholars at LinkedIn, Academia.edu, ResearchGate, Ukrainian Scholars Worldwide etc.

The web-site of the project has been used for dissemination of the project products. Through the web-site we gave all interest groups, such as the project participants, media, general public free access to the project materials, presentations, participants' personal portfolios, and consolidated the network of contacts in the field of European Security.

Main products placed at the project web-site:

Podcasts;

Interviews with participants;

News and announcements on European integration/security related issues.

The project 'The EU's Comprehensive Approach to External Conflict and Crisis Management' received very positive media coverage and reporting in several electronic and printed mass media. Interviews with Stefan Wolff, Tetyana Malyarenko, Chad Briggs, Greg Simons, Daniela Irrera and other key speakers and participants were published by international and printed mass media.