

EVOLVING CONCEPT OF SECURITY: PROJECT OVERVIEW

“**T**he evolving concept of security: A critical evaluation across four dimensions” (EvoCS) project has received funding from the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no. 605142.

EvoCS is a Coordination Action, which addressed Work Programme SEC-2013.6.3-2 “The evolving concept of security.” The project’s total cost is 1 079 648.49 EUR, including EU contribution of EUR 918 125.

EvoCS started on 1 June 2014 and ends on 30 November 2015.

The project is coordinated by Dr. Milos Jovanovic and Dr. Joachim Burbiel of Fraunhofer INT and includes representatives of nine partners from seven EU member states.

Goal and Objectives

The EvoCS project deals with the evolving concept of security and has a focus on the European Union and its close neighbours. The project aims at providing a holistic view on the complex and somewhat diffuse concept of security by evaluating it across four dimensions:

- 1) Core values
- 2) Actors of the public security discourse
- 3) Level
- 4) Security challenges
- 5) Ethics and human rights.

Structure

The project is divided into nine work packages, as follows:

- WP 1 “Project Management”
- WP 2 “Dissemination”

- WP 3 “Development of the Analytical Framework”
- WP 4 “Inter-case Methodology and Coherence Support”
- WP 5 “Case Study A: West-Mediterranean EU”
- WP 6 “Case Study B: Eastern EU Border”
- WP 7 “Case Study C: North-Western Europe”
- WP 8 “Case Study D: South-Eastern Europe”
- WP 9 “Compilation and Evaluation.”

Methodology

In accordance with its main goal, EvoCS has employed a methodology aimed at delivering a better understanding of the security concerns in different regions of Europe, considered vital to more effective and representative priority setting in the European security policymaking.

The project has relied on a combination of inputs to examine different concepts of security that exist across Europe in four regions.

EvoCS has regarded the “concept of security” as combining a general definition as well as a delineation of its eight constituent dimensions, namely physical safety and security, territorial integrity and security, environmental and ecological security, cultural identity and security, social stability and security, political stability and security, economic prosperity and security, and information and cyber security. Moreover, a concept of security also contains a particular understanding of the challenges that affect security.

EvoCS has examined the perceptions of: governments, parliaments, think tanks and academia, media, private sector and NGOs, at six levels – from local, via subnational and national, to international, transnational and global.

Regional Case Studies

The EvoCS consortium has performed substantial research in four regional case studies:

- A) West-Mediterranean EU, represented by Italy, Malta and Spain
- B) Eastern EU Border – Hungary, Lithuania and Poland
- C) North-Western EU – France, the Netherlands and the UK
- D) South-Eastern Europe – Bulgaria, Serbia and Turkey.

Prior to producing the case studies, in January 2015 EvoCS Partners organised four regional workshops that took place in the period from 13 January to 29 January. Overall, the events attracted more than 100 participants, a significant part of them being national policy-makers. The workshops allowed for corroboration and/or recalibration of the EvoCS initial results, informing the research with expert opinion from a cross-section of experts.

Before the project's end, a final report will provide a harmonised summary based on the regional case studies. The report will put the results into a European context by comparing them with EU-level policy documents, and formulate recommendations for policy makers and end-users from the security sector which they can use to improve the effects of their policies and their work in general.

Final Conference

Against a background of already updated or new strategic documents and policies of the European Union related to security, EvoCS partners organise the project's final conference as a forum for policy briefing and for sharing a broad range of opinions among high-level participants, reflecting on and comparing security perceptions, views and security policies across the EU.

The event is organised to discuss and deliver a clear and detailed overview of security concerns, the needs and priorities that exist in the different regions of the EU. The conference will thus bring together participants from EU institutions, national governments, international organisations, NGOs, academia, and the industry to share views on topics of extreme importance to policy setting in Europe and to discuss perceptions of security, similarities and differences in the national approaches to security in the regions examined, and to draw actionable policy conclusions.

Deliverables

By the project's end, the EvoCS Consortium will have produced a total of 13 written deliverables, clustered as follows:

D3.1 "Assessing Evolving Concepts of Security" (of methodological nature): This deliverable represents the first version of the analytical framework which was used to define an evolving concept of security with its dimensions. It also includes detailed instructions on how the source items for the analysis are supposed to be processed.

D5.1, D6.1, D7.1 and D8.1 are the workshop reports for the West-Mediterranean Europe, Eastern EU Border, North-Western Europe and South-Eastern Europe regions, respectively. They are of an analytical nature and are related to the events at which

the analytical framework and the first coding results were presented to regional experts.

D4.1 “Tools for methodological support” (methodological): After the publication of D3.1, the EvoCS consortium started working with it and using the analytical framework in a number of test runs. The feedback from those test-runs and the regional workshops was collected in D4.1 in order to improve upon the existing analytical framework and partially expand it.

D5.2, D6.2, D7.2, D8.2 are the case studies, analysing three countries in each of the four EvoCS regions. The case studies also include recommendations for security stakeholders, based on these results.

D4.2 “Case Studies Report Compendium” (analytical) analyses the deliverables D5.2, D6.2, D7.2 and D8.2 together and notes on similarities and differences among the case studies. The document binds the case studies into one common report.

D4.3 “Final Methodology Review and Recommendations” (methodological) collects and analyses the feedback on the analytical framework. It includes recommendations as to how future analysis using the EvoCS methodology should be conducted.

D9.1 is the “Final report” (analytical and methodological) for the EvoCS project.

These deliverable are available for download at the project website:

<http://evocs-project.eu/deliverables>