



EUNPACK

A CONFLICT SENSITIVE UNPACKING OF
THE EU COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH
TO CONFLICT AND CRISES MECHANISM

European Café Debate and presentation of initial findings in Kosovo

Deliverable 5.8

(30.11.2017)

Prepared by:
BCSP



Project acronym:	EUNPACK
Project full title:	Good intentions, mixed results – A conflict sensitive unpacking of the EU comprehensive approach to conflict and crisis mechanisms
Grant agreement no.:	693337
Type of action:	Research and Innovation Action
Project start date:	01 April 2016
Project duration:	36 months
Call topic:	H2020-INT-05-2015
Project web-site:	www.eunpack.eu
Document:	European Café Debate in Belgrade - Report
Deliverable number:	5.8
Deliverable title:	Workshop, European Café Debate and presentation of initial findings in Kosovo
Due date of deliverable:	30 November 2017
Actual submission date:	30 November 2017
Editors:	Sonja Stojanovic Gajic
Authors:	Sonja Stojanovic Gajic, Marija Ignjatijević
Reviewers:	Morten Bøås
Participating beneficiaries:	Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP), Comenius University
Work Package no.:	5
Work Package title:	Crisis Response in the Enlargement Area
Work Package leader:	COMENIUS
Work Package participants:	COMENIUS, KCSS, BCSP, NUPI, CEPS, UMan
Estimated person-months for deliverable:	0,15
Dissemination level:	Public
Nature:	Report
Version:	1
Draft/Final:	Final
No of pages (including cover):	7
Keywords:	Kosovo, EU crisis response, bridge in Mitrovica, public perception

Dear member of Working Group for Chapter 35 of National Convention for EU,

The Belgrade Centre for Security Policy invites you to the European Café Debate “**The Bridge as a Symbol of Divisions in Mitrovica and EU’s role**”, where the results of the research on public perceptions of the bridge in Mitrovica and EU’s role in Kosovo will be presented. **Sonja Stojanović Gajić**, BCSP Director, and **Jozef Batora**, professor at the Comenius University in Bratislava will share the main findings of the surveys conducted in July 2017 in North and South Mitrovica on perceptions.

The European Café Debate will take place on November 29 at 11:00 AM at the European Movement in Serbia premises before the meeting of the Working Group for Chapter 35 of National Convention on EU.

EUNPACK is a research project funded by the European Union through the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, aimed at unpacking EU crisis response practices and providing knowledge on how it can be improved.

Please confirm your participation at office@bezbednost.org, no later than Monday, 27 November 2017.

Should you need any additional information, do not hesitate to contact us.

AGENDA

“Public Perception about the European Union (EU) in Kosovo”

Date: 29th of November 2017

Venue: European Movement in Serbia’s Office premises

Details of Agenda

- 10:45 – 11:00 **Arrival and registration of participants**
- 11:00 – 11:30 Presentation of the results
Sonja Stojanovic Gajic, Director of BCSP
Mr. Jozef Batora, Comenius University in Bratislava
- 11:30 – 12:00 Open discussion and recommendation

List of participants

Name and Surname	Organisation	Contact
Marija Ignjatijević	BCSP	marija.ignjatijevic@bezbednost.org
Snežana Đapić	Bureau for social research (BIRODI)	snezana.djapic@birodi.rs
Dušan Milenković	Center for Social Dialogue and Regional Initiatives (CDDRI)	milenkovicdusan@gmail.com
Dragiša Mijačić	Institute for Territorial Economic Development (Inter), Belgrade and North Mitrovica	dmijacic@regionalnirazvoj.org
Nina Cvetanović	European Movement in Serbia	nina.cvetanovic@emins.org
Nataša Dragojlović	European Movement in Serbia	natasa.dragojlovic@emins.org
Izabela Kisić	Helsinki Committee for Human Rights	kisicizabela@gmail.com
Radomir Cvetković	BCSP	radomir.cvetkovic@bezbednost.org
Aleksandar Popov	Center for Regionalism	+38163537149

European Café Debate
“The Bridge as a symbol of divisions in Mitrovica and EU’s role”

Date: 29th November 2017

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 AM

Venue: European Movement in Serbia, Kralja Milana 31/2

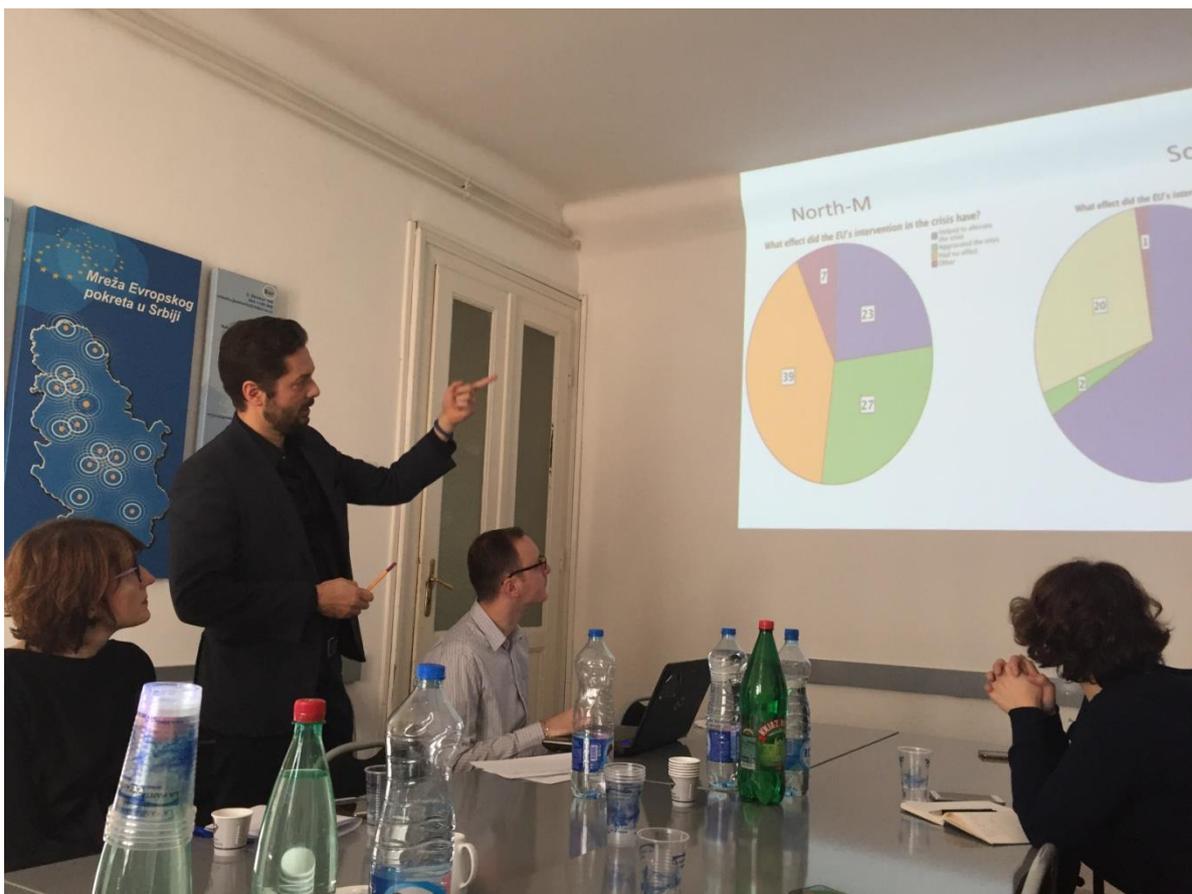
The Belgrade Centre for Security Policy (BCSP) organised a meeting with civil society organisations that are members of the Working Group for Chapter 35 in the National Convention on the EU. This group was selected as it gathers representatives of Serbian CSOs that work on normalization of relations with Kosovo. The meeting was used to present the findings of surveys on public perceptions of the bridge in Mitrovica and EU’s role in crisis management collected in North and South Mitrovica in July 2017 and to collect feedback.

BCSP Director, **Sonja Stojanović Gajić**, first outlined background and research methodology, as well as the obstacles researchers and interviewers have encountered during the process. First, due to huge distrust towards civil society organisations and external researchers in North Mitrovica, local students were trained and carried out polling in the field, as citizens were more responsive to talk to them. She has highlighted that the sampling carried out in consultations with local researchers from Mitrovica enabled first insights in conflict dynamics within North Mitrovica. This is how the research team was advised to carry out polling not only at the Main Bridge, but around three bridges that connect centre of South and North Mitrovica and provided background information on different composition of population and their experience of conflict. Demographic questions were the most difficult and have provoked emotional reactions of the respondents. Research was conducted in 4 zones/regions of the city, which revealed different perceptions and multiple realities existing in a small city of North Mitrovica. Besides the main bridge, perceived as a symbol of divisions and conflict, there are three more bridges in Mitrovica, crossed on a daily basis in both directions for various reasons. For instance, Kosovo Albanians cross to the North to buy pharmaceutical and agricultural products or visit the doctor, Kosovo Serbs use the railway bridge to visit the shopping mall in South, while those from enclaves in the South cross it to visit family. The conclusion of her presentation was that it is important for EU to understand. As Sonja Stojanović Gajić highlighted, even the simple question of location turned out to be complicated, since the titles (North, South or just Mitrovica) also represent ethnic signifiers. The representatives of civil society organisations present confirmed that these insights on multiply realities within Mitrovica provided a new perspective on the reality in North and South Mitrovica, not presented in media reports in Serbia. Another representative also explained the lack of interest of local Serbs for opening of the main bridge by the fact that there are no more Serbs in South Mitrovica or any facilities that they might use except the church and cemetery, while Kosovo Albanians have greater interest to move to the north to visit relatives or work as construction workers.

Jozef Batora, professor at Comenius University, presented findings of the surveys on perception of the EU’s involvement in crisis management. Main conclusion derived from the survey results is that perceptions differ to a great extent in North and South Mitrovica. For instance, 54% of the interlocutors in the South think that the EU does understand where the assistance and support is needed, whereas in the North only 23% of respondents consider the allocation of EU funds efficient. He pointed out that huge anger towards the EU is present in the North for channelling funds through corrupt local elites, which prevents it from reaching ordinary citizens .

During the discussion about the presented findings, Dragiša Mijačić from the Institute of Territorial Economic Development, confirmed the findings presented by EUNPACK team with evidence from the research that his organisation Inter conducted. Namely, he stressed that EU has very low visibility in the North, especially taking into account that local politicians do not want to be connected with the EU, in order to avoid being labelled as “traitors“. The dissatisfaction with the EU was caused as significant EU funds were spent without resolving any of the strategic issues. He also noticed that clientelism prevails in the North, as almost 80% of citizens depend on income from public institutions. He has also indicated that there is the „institutional mess“ in the North Kosovo made of multiply local governance systems functioning simultaneously (old Serbian system, unrecognised Kosovo system introduced before Brussels Agreements and new local government system introduced after the Brussels Agreement). Representative of Helsinki Committee highlighted that EUNPACK research shows that there has not been progress regards people’s perceptions of EU, but that similar trends of distrust were evident also in 2012 when

this organisation carried our survey in the North Kosovo. In conclusion, the participants agreed that there needs to be more field research done on people's perspectives and that the EU should take into account value of symbols when planning actions, as well as seek accountability and results for the aid it invests in the development of four municipalities in the North Kosovo.





Attendance List
European Policy Café
 29th November 2017

European Movement in Serbia, Kralja Milana St. 31, Belgrade

Name and Surname	Organization	Contact	Signature
Marija Iqmatijević	BCBP	marija.iqmatijevic@beebednot.org	M. Iqmatijevic
SNEŽANA ĐAPIĆ	BIRODI	snezana.djapic@biradi.rs	Snezana Djapic
DUSKA MIČENKOVIĆ	CSD NI	MICHENOVIC.DUSKA@MAIL.COM	Duska Mitchenovic
DRAGISA MIJAJIĆ	INTER	dmijajic@regionalniradvoj.org	Dragisa Mijajic
Nina Cvetanović	EPoS	nina.cvetanovic@emins.org	Nina Cvetanovic
Natara Dragoflović	NKEU / EPUS	natara.dragoflovic@ceuns.org	Natara Dragoflovic
Izabela Kitić	Hels. Com. for. HR	kisicizabela@gmail.com	Izabela Kitic
Radovan Urošević Aleksandar Popov	OLUON center za regionalizam	RADOVAN.URSEVIC@BBDOVAR.ORG 063527 148	Radovan Urošević