

Speakers

The Role of Civil Society and Cooperation with the EU in peacebuilding – focusing on local ownership and mediation: Challenges and Opportunities

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Gabriëlla Vogelaar is Project Coordinator of the WOSCAP project, and Regional Coordinator for Europe at the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). She manages an EU-funded Horizon-2020 project, "[Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding](#)" (WOSCAP), assessing the EU's peacebuilding interventions through best-practices based research, aimed at enhancing EU policies. Ms. Vogelaar manages the ten-partner consortium, and coordinates the research on EU action in SSR and civil-military synergies. She has published as editor-in-chief and co-author of two books, including "[Empowerment & Protection: Stories of Human Security](#)" (2014), and authored several publications. She has six years of experience working in the field of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, with a focus on human security, Security Sector Reform, civil-military cooperation, Mali, the EU, and the Middle East. Ms. Vogelaar holds a Master's Degree in International Relations from Utrecht University (2009), and a Bachelor in Liberal Arts and Sciences from University College Utrecht (politics, public international law and history). She speaks five languages.



Toon Dirkx is a PhD candidate at the University of Basel and a PhD fellow at the swisspeace Statehood program. His doctoral research is part of the research project 'From Fragility to Resilience: Accounting for the Diversity of State-making Trajectories', funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Toon holds a MA (cum laude) in Conflict Studies and Human Rights from Utrecht University. Before joining swisspeace, he worked as a researcher at the Centre for Conflict Studies of Utrecht University on a Horizon 2020 funded research project assessing EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding. He also taught courses on the politics of post-conflict reconstruction, and continuities and changes in the use of political violence. Toon acquired fieldwork experience in Afghanistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Colombia, and Guatemala. He has also done commissioned research for the Universität der Bundeswehr Munich, the Swedish Defence University, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and various non-governmental organizations. His primary research interests include the effects of peace- and state-building interventions, the governance of armed groups in civil wars, and the interconnections between violence, interventionism, and state formation processes.



Kristina Miletic is the Project Officer of the EU funded project "*Whole-of-Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding*" (WOSCAP) at the GPPAC's Global Secretariat. She is involved in the project management through ensuring that EU technical, financial and communication standards are being upheld by all partners in the implementation of the project. She interacts with the WOSCAP partners, including universities and civil society organisations in different European countries as well as in the four countries where the research took place: Mali, Yemen, Georgia and Ukraine. Kristina is also the Regional Coordinator of the GPPAC Western Balkans (network of civil society organisations). Prior to joining GPPAC, she worked with the Italian Atlantic Committee as a Researcher by conducting research and analysis related to politics and current issues in the Western Balkans. Her focus was on the EU-Atlantic Integration of the Western Balkans. Kristina holds a Master's degree in European and International Policies and Crisis Management from the University of Rome "La Sapienza". Her area of interest is: international organisations, project coordination, political research and analyses, and international relations.