

Proposal full title

New approaches to security and the role of Europe for enhancing violence prevention and facilitating conflict transformation:

European Policies and Research, Alliance for Peace and Conflict European Management

Proposal acronym: **PARA PACEM**

Date of preparation: 14 April 2003

Type of instrument: Integrated Project

List of participants (with coordinator first named)

1	Centro Studi Difesa Civile (Rome, IT)
2	European Institute of Public Administration (Maastricht, NL)
3	Field Diplomacy Initiative (Leuven, B)
4	Saferworld (London, UK)
5	Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (A)
6	European Centre for Conflict Prevention and Transformation (Utrecht, NL)
7	Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (Schlaining, A)
8	International European Movement (Bruxelles, B)
9	Dip. Sociologia e Comunicazione - Università La Sapienza (Roma, IT)
10	Center for the Study of Conflict and Reconciliation - University of Sheffield (UK)
11	Institut of European Studies, ULB (Bruxelles, B)
12	Dipartimento di Istituzioni Politiche e Scienze Sociali. – “University Roma Tre” (Roma, IT)
13	Berliner Institute für Vergleichende Sozialforschung (Berlin, D)
14	Department of Information Systems, Faculty of Computer Science, Wroclaw University of Technology (PL)
15	Institute for Philosophical Research Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Sofia, BG)
16	Ayala Alternative Organizational Consulting Ltd. (Tel Aviv, Israel)

17	IDEC SA (Pireum, GR)
18	Integrated Resources Management Co. Ltd. (Senglea, Malta)
19	The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (Israel)
20	Gestalt HCC (IT)
21	International Security Information Service (B)
22	European Medical Association (B)
23	Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster (UK)
24	Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (D)
25	Cyprus Neuroscience and Technology Institute (Cyprus)
26	Berghof Center (Berlin, D)
27	CES, University of Coimbra (P)
28	University of Kent (UK)

Proposal Summary Page

New approaches to security and the role of Europe for enhancing violence prevention and facilitating conflict transformation:

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Strategic Objectives:

- 1) to advance knowledge on new approaches to security based on theories and practices of conflict transformation.
- 2) to foster a culture and practice of nonviolent conflict transformation in the European Union, the Member States, as well as the EU candidates and significant third parties (including international organisations).
- 3) to improve the understanding of violence prevention and conflict transformation in the EU context and to develop practical tools for the implementation of these ends.

ABSTRACT

‘Si vis pacem, para bellum’ – ‘If you want peace, prepare for war’. This was the phrase, taken from Latin tradition, often used by supporters of old approaches to security. The new approaches to security elaborated upon in the proposed project emphasise preparing for and preserving peace, hence *Para Pacem*. The phrase is also drawn from the subtitle of the project, *European Policies and Research, Alliance for Peace and Conflict (European) Management*.

Security in the 21st century is multidimensional, but our knowledge about the dynamics and effects of the multifarious challenges that confront Europe and other regions is still incomplete. Recently, the EU has developed a number of crisis management instruments. The relative knowledge on new approaches to security based on theories and practices of conflict transformation has to be advanced.

A goal of the proposed integrated project is therefore to *foster a culture and practice of nonviolent conflict transformation in the European Union, the Member States, as well as the EU candidates and significant third parties (including international organisations)*. The objective of the project is to improve the understanding of violence prevention and conflict transformation in the EU context and to develop practical tools for the implementation of these ends.

The research will be multidisciplinary in approach and will draw upon contributions from a wide geographical area. The research will also endeavour to identify different perspectives and disciplines in analysing conflicts, their causes and dynamics, as well as strategies for non-violent transformation. The research activities will be organised under four inter-related themes: *on changes in notions and perceptions of security; on security, fundamental rights and vulnerability; on security and key European policies; on conflict resolution and conditions for peace. A fifth theme will implement mainstreaming activities.*

Within each theme a number of *foci for research* will be sketched. The central assumption underpinning the research is that the various phenomena linked to security, explored in the themes outlined above, are part of a single complex system, with processes and feedback between the various

actors involved (international bodies, European institutions, state institutions, civil society actors, public opinion and research centres).

The emphasis of the project is placed on the ‘integrated’ element and this will be accomplished especially through:

- promoting partners integrate existing resources in an open way (to foster further integration with external resources);
- researchers are called to contribute also from outside (with calls for prizes for works on certain subjects)
- an independent Scientific Council will regularly revise results
- a set of "ready-to-use" instruments (website; a network of advisors; a series of policy papers; handbooks, etc.) will help decision-makers, civil servants, researchers and the general public to find their way in the new security landscape and maximise the benefit of related European knowledge.

Project structure and objectives

The project structure is organised in major subdivisions (Themes) divided in workpackages.

Theme 1 Changes in the notion of security and perceptions of security threats: Towards a European culture of peace and security?

Theme 2 The balance between security and respect for fundamental rights and values and forms of vulnerability (e.g. economic, social, technological, judicial)

Theme 3 Relations between security and the evolution of key European policies: models & Testing for Conflict Impact Assessment on European Policies

Theme 4 Resolution of conflicts and conditions for peace settlements: models of peacebuilding, violence prevention and conflict transformation

Theme 5 Coordination, communication, training and mainstreaming activities

The selected themes serve as integral structures for the workpackages (sub-divisions) and contribute to the overall objective of improving the state-of-the-art of the related research areas and to foster interdisciplinary research.

THEMES	Work-package N	TITLE
D) Changes in the notion of security and perceptions of security threats: Towards a European culture of peace and security?	1	Social and institutional aspects
	2	Psychological and psychosocial aspects
	3	Historical and ethno-anthropological aspects

II) The balance between security and respect for fundamental rights and values and forms of vulnerability (e.g. economic, social, technological, judicial)	4	The balance between security and the respect for fundamental rights and values
	5	Forms of vulnerability
III) Relations between security and the evolution of key European policies	6	Models & Testing for Conflict Impact Assessment on European Policies
	7	Assessment of the effects of violent conflict
IV) Resolution of conflicts and conditions for peace settlements: models of peacebuilding, violence prevention and conflict transformation	8	Violence Prevention
	9	Peacebuilding and Conflict transformation
	10	Institutional Conflict Management
	11	Problems and prospects of humanitarian intervention in crises and conflicts
V) Coordination, communication, training and mainstreaming activities	12	Training plan
	13	Communication
	14	Coordination activities

Themes research areas will have overlapping interests, which will allow them to work together on issues relevant for two or more of them, and will have common tools granted by the training, communication and coordination workpackages.

The first theme, **Changes in the notion of security and perceptions of security threats: Towards a European culture of peace and security?**, focuses on the question "which cultural framework is the background of the EU role in security and conflict related policies". The workpackages in this theme will focus on actors' points of view. Thus it will explore perceptions, cultural attitudes and institutional debate from social actors' points of view, giving a needed but still quite unexplored overview of social dynamics underpinning security related issues and policies.

The second theme, **The balance between security and respect for fundamental rights and values and forms of vulnerability (e.g. economic, social, technological, judicial)** will profit of the previous theme results (also the partial ones) to explore:

- on one side, the relationships between security policies and fundamental rights and values as defined in the basic international documents, that is to see how one side is vulnerable to the other;
- on the other side, structural vulnerabilities (economic, technological, etc.) will be investigated.

In practice this will be the level of analysis of general social structures, that is higher legal framework (fundamental rights in their crossing to security policies) and social infrastructures (technological, economic, etc.).

The third theme is about **Relations between security and the evolution of key European policies: models & Testing for Conflict Impact Assessment on European Policies**. It will study both the impact of EC policies on conflict situations and the impact of violent conflicts on societies.

Theme 4 addresses **Resolution of conflicts and conditions for peace settlements: models of peacebuilding, violence prevention and conflict transformation**, through 4 thematic declinations: prevention of violent conflicts, peacebuilding, the institutional conflict management, the problems of humanitarian intervention in conflicts and crisis.

The final theme is concerned with **Coordination, communication, training and mainstreaming activities**

The combined themes aim to analyse and thus interact with a social system made of EU institutions and other social actors (public opinions, NGOs, external actors, etc.). In its implementation, following the 6FP Priority 7 work programme demand, the project shapes the social system relevant to its work considering as central element a real development of EU role in security and conflict related policy. This objective can be achieved only with a well functioning integration of coordination, training and communication activities (theme 5). This integration needs a solid basis of a wide review and development of actual and possible answers to conflicts (theme 4).

Conflicts can be addressed successfully only with a deep knowledge of their impact on social systems and with a clear understanding of how other policies have an impact on conflicts themselves (theme 3). At this time, identification of relevant actors and actions to that aim should be based on investigation of social (legal and values) structures and structural vulnerabilities relevant to security (theme 2). Social structures and infrastructures are made of social actors' relations among them (when relevant to security) and with security policies' concepts (Theme 1).