

Analysing the Effectiveness of EUFOR Althea Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

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ABSTRACT

European Union has since the 1990s established close links with the countries of the Western Balkans, aiming to secure stable, prosperous and well-functioning democratic societies on a path towards the EU integration. It had placed operations in the framework of then European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), now renamed Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), high on the political agenda of the Union. Following the decision by NATO to hand over its own operation that had the task of maintaining security in the region, the EU launched a military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina titled Operation EUFOR Althea, on 2 December 2004, 9 years after the war ended. EUFOR Althea is a military operation and up until now the longest CSDP operation in its history. The present paper undertakes an analysis of the effectiveness of EUFOR Althea, which is defined as: “when an operation achieves its purpose in an appropriate manner both from

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the perspective of the EU and the conflict it seeks to prevent.” So-called ‘effectiveness success criteria/indicators’ are used to evaluate the effectiveness. Indicators take into account two levels of perspectives, EU and non-EU, the first one including the general EU and EU personnel perspective, and the second entailing local stakeholders’ view. For assessing effectiveness, the article draws lessons from the findings of the research of EUFOR Althea’s capabilities. The article argues that despite the long-lasting presence of the operation on the ground and no official sign of the operation leaving soon, the operation has nevertheless achieved certain success, especially in maintaining safe and secure environment, advancing human rights and gender equality as well as capacity-building of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

KEY WORDS: European Union, Bosnia and Herzegovina, CSDP, EUFOR Althea, effectiveness

POVZETEK

Evropska unija je od 1990-ih let vzpostavila tesne stike z državami Zahodnega Balkana, da bi zagotovila stabilne, uspešne in dobro delujoče demokratične družbe pri integraciji v EU. Ta cilj je postavil misije in operacije znotraj takratne Evropske varnostne in obrambne politike (EVOP) visoko na politično agendo držav EU, kasneje preimenovane v Skupno varnostno in obrambno politiko (SVOP). Ob odločitvi Nata, da preda svojo misijo, ki je bila vzpostavljena z namenom zagotavljanja varnosti v regiji, je EU 2. decembra 2004 v ta namen ustanovila vojaško operacijo EUFOR Althea v Bosni in Hercegovini (BiH). EUFOR Althea je do danes najdlje trajajoča SVOP operacija. Pričujoči prispevek analizira uspešnost le-te, ki je definirana kot: ‘ko operacija doseže svoj namen na primeren način, tako z vidika EU, kot tudi konflikta, ki ga želi preprečiti.’ Za potrebe analize so bili vzpostavljeni tako imenovani kriteriji/indikatorji za merjenje uspešnosti. Indikatorji upoštevajo dve perspektivi, EU raven ter raven izven EU, kjer prva vključuje EU kot celoto ter njene predstavnike, medtem ko se druga osredotoča na raven končnih lokalnih deležnikov. Pri oceni učinkovitosti članek črpa zaključke iz ugotovitev raziskave o zmogljivostih operacije Althea. Članek tako navaja, da operacija kljub dolgi prisotnosti v BiH ter brez znakov, da bo kmalu zakl-