

# Drawing Lessons Learnt on Operational Capabilities of EU's CSDP Missions in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina

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## ABSTRACT

EU has taken on the role of guaranteeing long-term stability through different measures of conflict prevention and peacebuilding in two countries of the Western Balkans, which have undergone a severe armed conflict in the 1990s. This paper undertakes an analysis and evaluation of operational capabilities of civilian mission EULEX Kosovo and military operation EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It draws lessons learned from the challenges the missions have faced in this field of functioning, namely operational capabilities. Furthermore, the article provides a quality assessment comparing both missions' **operational capabilities**, which can lead to improvement in approaches. The overarching feature in both EU missions is the seeming lack of willingness by the EU and its partner nations to continually politically commit to more effort at contributing to well-functioning security sectors of Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina not only "waving their flag on the ground". It draws the conclusion that without the political willingness, both missions are exposed to many operational risks.

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**KEY WORDS:** European Union, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR Althea, EULEX, CSDP, conflict prevention

## POVZETEK

Evropska unija je v dveh državah Zahodnega Balkana prevzela vlogo zagotavljanja dolgotrajne stabilnosti s številnimi ukrepi za preprečevanje konfliktov in vzpostavljanja miru. Članek vključuje analizo in oceno posameznih vidikov operativnih zmožnosti civilne misije EULEX Kosovo in vojaške operacije EUFOR Althea v Bosni in Hercegovini. Obsega nova spoznanja o težavah, s katerimi sta se misiji spopadali na tem področju delovanja. Hkrati članek podaja tudi oceno primerjave določenih operativnih vidikov obeh misij, uporabno za nadaljnje izboljšave v pristopih. Obema misijama je skupno očitno pomanjkanje politične volje EU in njenih partnerskih držav pri zavezi za stalni in dolgotrajni prispevek k dobro delujočemu varnostnemu sektorju Kosova in Bosne in Hercegovine, ne le, "mahanju z EU zastavo". Podaja tudi zaključek, da sta brez politične volje obe misiji izpostavljeni številu operativnih tveganj.

**KLJUČNE BESEDE:** Evropska Unija, Kosovo, Bosna in Hercegovina, EUFOR Althea, EULEX, SVOP preprečevanje oboroženih spopadov

## INTRODUCTION

European Union (EU) has directed its efforts for conflict prevention in the Western Balkans as part of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), supporting countries which have undergone a period of violence in their recent history, hence directly influencing the stability of a region in EU's proximity. This article is focusing on comparison of the two of the EU's, each in its own way, most ambitious missions regarding their **operational capabilities**, EULEX Kosovo and EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Following the Kosovo conflict in 1999, the United Nations Security Council (UN SC) approved the Resolution 1244, which authorized international military, as well as civil intervention and created UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UN-