

Dear Reader

Welcome to the second issue of the EvoCS newsletter.

The current publication will draw your attention to EvoCS methodology, offer some highlights from the project's regional workshops, and inform you about a current call for papers on evolving concepts of security.

The Procon team and the consortium are thankful for all visits to the project's website and for all the interactions with the EvoCS social media.

We hope to retain your interest and promise to continue delivering timely and useful information.

Sincerely,

Vesselin Petkov
Director Outreach

ProCon

EvoCS Newsletter

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Regional workshops map perceptions of security

January 2015 was a busy month for EvoCS partners. All four regional workshops took place in the period from 13 January to 29 January.

Overall the events attracted more than 100 participants, significant part of them being national policy-makers.

The workshops allowed for corroboration and / or re-calibration of the EvoCS coding analysis, informing the coding with expert opinion from a cross-section of experts.

The reports from the workshops are also available for download at www.evocs-project.eu/deliverables

A valuable asset of the events were country-focused, **data-rich visualisations** of the security concepts in twelve countries from the four regions examined, answering research questions revolving around:

- The most salient values, levels of actions and subjects.
- The correlation between security events and security thinking.
- The relations between actors and values.

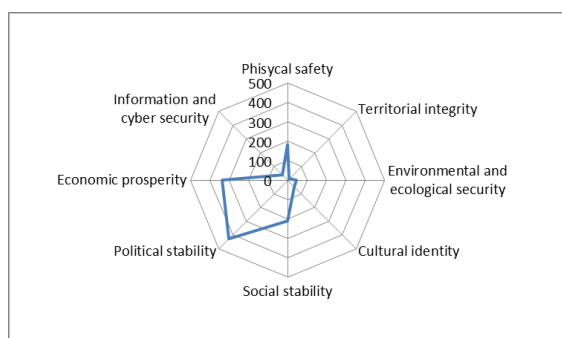


Figure 1. Salience of values in Bulgaria's security discourse

Although the workshops were constructed in a similar fashion, they still featured specific elements characteristic of the region and the participants' profile.

A **security timeline** exercise was held within the North Western Europe workshop, which resulted in key observations about the changing security environment, such as:

- Slow burning unfolding influences (i.e. trends and developments) can be as significant as high profile events, in shaping the general security dialogue.
- Globalisation of security: Events that occur outside of Europe can have direct impacts upon the security situation in Europe.
- The phenomena of "widening security": Non-security events have become securitised, because in doing so it can make it possible to quickly mobilise resources.
- Security considered as a negative construct: It is extremely difficult to identify ideas about security that relate to positive events than negative events. Negative events are punctuated with collaborative policy endeavours and cooperative policy shifts.
- Security is a "reactive" process (events disrupting trends): Security appears to be about knee-jerk reactions, but ideally should be about being able to accommodate events within consistent policy frameworks.
- "Hard security" was deemed to be the most prominent dimension of security and thus can end up being prioritised over other dimensions.

An interactive exercise in the frame of the Eastern EU border workshop was a



discussion over a *fictional non-paper*, “The Next European Union Security Strategy, Central and Eastern Europe Speaks. A non-paper”, which outlined that

- Common threat perception is absent, even within a region such as CEE.
- The EU must set its security in a broader, global geo-political context and security environment, keeping in mind the principle of solidarity.

Methodology unveiled

In February 2015 the EvoCS consortium unveiled the project’s methodology piece.

The methodology serves to pursuing the core objective of EvoCS to offer a clear and detailed overview of security concerns that exist in different regions of the European Union.

The EvoCS project aims to offer a general model – which relies on a combination of quantitative and qualitative inputs – to assess regional and temporal variation in security concerns in the future.

Thus, the document sets forth the analytical framework guiding the research conducted in the EvoCS project. It elaborates on the vision, introduces key methodological concepts and describes operational research guidelines. Accompanying this document is an online repository which is only accessible to members of the Consortium.

The document features an executive summary which is relevant for policymakers interested in the background of the EvoCS project. The methodologically inclined reader, who

would like to know more about the research design of a project stretching twelve countries executed by four different research teams, might find it interesting to read the document in full, available at <http://evocs-project.eu/deliverables>.

Call for Papers on Evolving Concepts of Security

Within the frame of the EvoCS project a call for papers on evolving concepts of security to result in a Special Issue of the [Information & Security: An International Journal](#) (I&S) was announced in March 2015. The authors of papers, accepted for publication in this special issue, will be invited to take part in EvoCS final conference in Brussels in November 2015, and the costs of their trips will be covered.

The submission deadline for full text papers is 10 September 2015, while publication is planned for early November 2015.

Guest editors of the volume are Dr. Milos Jovanovic of The Fraunhofer Institute for Technological Trend Analysis ([Fraunhofer INT](#)) and Tim Sweijts of The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies ([HCSS](#)). It will be directly relevant to security policy makers and security research and development planners at the European Commission, to national security authorities and other stakeholders.

Contributions will be welcomed on:

- Modelling security in innovative ways;
- Prioritising threats to security in Europe;



- Legitimising security policies across Europe;
- Comparing security perceptions and policies across European regions and beyond;
- Addressing ethical and human rights issues in security policy-making.

This special issue will also cover combinations of these themes, for instance:

- Models for assessing geographic and temporal variations in security concerns in the future;
- Presentations on national concepts of security, with elaboration of perceptions and specific policies;
- Case studies to discuss regional specifics.

[More information](#) about the call is available at the I&S website.

Calendar

Milestone events until the end of the project include:

- June 2015 – General Assembly and Advisory Board
- End of June 2015 – Release of the draft regional case studies
- November 2015 – Final Conference

The final conference is planned to take place in Brussels and involve EU policy-makers, so do not miss your chance to become part of the EvoCS community!

The EvoCS consortium

