THE EVOLVING CONCEPT OF SECURITY: A CRITICAL EVALUATION ACROSS FOUR DIMENSIONS

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Abstract

"Security" is a complex and somewhat nebulous concept that is prone to multiple interpretations both across and within different societies and cultures, institutions, domains of human activity, etc. Within the FP7 project "The evolving concept of security: A critical evaluation across four dimensions" (EvoCS), the concept and perceptions of security are analyzed for the EU and some of its neighbors. The analysis is carried out based on four conceptual dimensions: A) Core values, e.g., political stability. B) Perceptions of security, e.g., companies or individuals. C) Areas of security, e.g., different regions of Europe. D) Time: How does the concept of security evolve? Case studies form the core of this project: 1. West-Mediterranean EU (e.g., Italy; challenged, e.g., by maritime border control), 2. Eastern EU border (e.g., Baltic states; challenged, e.g., by an unstable neighborhood, 3. North-Western Europe (e.g., Germany; challenged, e.g., by flooding), 4. South-Eastern Europe (e.g., former Yugoslavia; challenged, e.g., by aftermaths of civil war).

Keywords: Concept of security, evolution, European regions, security politics, perception of security, core values, areas of security, stability and security, regions of Europe.

1   INTRODUCTION

The project deals with the evolving concept of security and has a focus on the European Union and some of its close neighbors. EvoCS is but the most recent of a number of projects that dealt with similar questions, like [1], [2] and [3]. "Security" is a complex and somewhat nebulous concept that is prone to multiple interpretations both across and within different societies and cultures, institutions, domains of human activity, academic disciplines, eras, etc., as clearly demonstrated, for example, in [4]. To some, the term conjures up associations with the national security of states mainly buttressed by military power; to others, it is inextricably tied up with notions of the safety of individuals grounded in the fulfillment of basic Maslowian needs, and for yet others, human values and fundamental rights issues are crucial elements of security. It is interpreted differently by different stakeholders: For example, construction professionals may see security as "business as usual" [5], [6], policy makers may see it as an integral part of a "resilience agenda" [7] and so on. The project "The evolving

concept of security: A critical evaluation across four dimensions" (EvoCS)" aims at providing a holistic view on the subject. It commenced June 1, 2014[2].

2 METHODS

The means by which EvoCS aims at achieving its tasks is by first basing its evaluation upon four security dimensions:

1. Core values: What aspects of security are taken into account? (E.g.: physical safety and security or territorial integrity and security) [8].

2. Perceptions of security: From whose perspective is security being considered? What are the threats that influence this perception and what are the measures taken to address them? (E.g.: How does the perception of security of states differ to that of companies or individuals?)

3. Areas of security: How is security perceived in various regions of Europe?

4. Time: How does the concept of security evolve?

On the regional axis (dimension C in Fig. 1), the project anticipates that different perceptions of security exist in different member states of the European Union because of, amongst others, the geographical situation, history, culture and societal conditions. We will focus our attention on four European regions that we expect to be sufficiently different from each other and yet in their whole representative for the European Union. These regions will be analyzed in depth within four case studies:

1. **West-Mediterranean EU**: A cluster of countries like Spain, Italy [9], and (the south of) France. Most pressing security issues include: earthquakes, maritime border control, forest fires, draught, economic instability, political distrust, and separatism.

2. **Eastern EU Border**: A cluster of countries like Finland, the Baltic States, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria. Most pressing security issues include: land border control, classic inter-state conflicts, energy security, organized crime, and corruption.

3. **North-Western EU**: A cluster of countries like the Netherlands, Germany, the UK, and France. Most pressing security issues include: terrorism, crime, flooding, cyber threats, and inappropriate urban planning (particularly of critical infrastructure).

4. **South-Eastern Europe**: A cluster of countries like Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, and the states of former Yugoslavia. Most pressing security issues include: aftermaths of civil war, remains of political division, and displacement and migration.

All of these analyses will take the dynamic evolvement of the concept of security into account.

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[2] See www.evocsproject.eu or www.evolvingsecurity.eu. The project website will be available in August 2014.
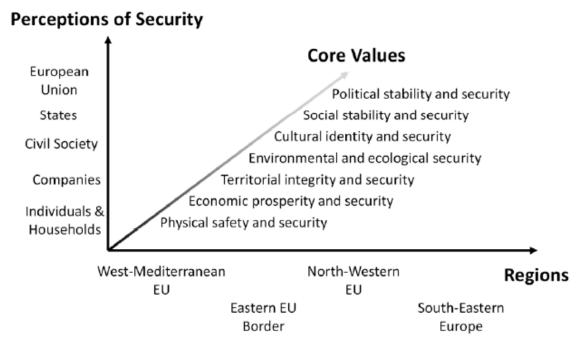
Perceptions of Security

Figure 1: Three security dimensions of the EvoCS framework ("time" is not represented).

The two dimensions of core values versus the four regions presented in Fig. 1 will form the basic coordinate system of this project. Within this coordinate system, the different perceptions of security and the evolution of the concept will be analyzed.

3 EXPECTED IMPACT

If we consider the fact that "security" is a complex concept that touches everyone at some point in life, the impacts of the EvoCS project will be just as complex. As described in the section on "methods", the EvoCS concept of the security framework is made up of different core values like physical safety, economic prosperity or social stability. The perceptions of security and the measures (to be selected, created and introduced during the project) are closely linked to these core values, since the former interact with them in a bi-directional way and the latter seek to protect them. The results of EvoCS will thus have an impact on this perception of threats and the measures that are taken to address these threats. Also, the EvoCS project aims to foster the understanding of the fact that different security perceptions exist in Europe and that some of these perceptions are mutually neglected or ignored. For example, an Eastern European member will have a different perception of security from a South-Western EU member. The South-Western EU member faces very different threats to security compared to the Eastern European one. This might lead to both EU members ignoring each other's specific threat perceptions and only focusing on their own. EvoCS aims to have an impact on the understanding that specific threats need mutual understanding and that common European threats (which are part of a common European evolving concept of security) also exist, even if they differ in their potential when moving across the EU.

The goal of the EvoCS project is to study the various European concepts of security which differ depending on place and time and to analyze similarities and differences between them. To achieve this, the project will bring together all relevant European stakeholders to discuss core values, the threats to them and counter measures to be taken. These discussions are complemented by desktop research, which takes into account European and national projects and literature (both scientific and popular), which address similar topics. The results of these discussions and analyses are

compared to each other and clustered into thematic groups. The recommendations that will come out of EvoCS will be based on these studies and take into account, e.g., each studied region's unique environment. Europe is comprised of many different national states and regions on the one hand and many international threats on the other hand. This is the reason why a project like EvoCS is only efficient on a European level. A national approach to the topic addressed in this project would stop at national borders, quite in contrast to many threats that transcend such borders easily.

The recommendations compiled by this project will have an impact on the working parameters of various types of security end-users (and security stakeholders in general) and will serve as guidelines for policy makers who are responsible for formulating measures that influence an evolving shared European concept of security.

4   EXPECTED FIRST RESULTS

By September 2014 the development of the analytical framework for EvoCS will be underway and a first concept paper finished, the details of which will be presented during the oral presentation at the Future Security Conference 2014. The concept paper will include a report on already existing analytical frameworks on security and literature reviews identifying elements of the framework, its methodology and format and an analysis of different perceptions of core values and ethical aspects.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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FUTURE TECHNOLOGY LANDSCAPES: INSIGHTS, ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR DEFENCE

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Abstract

For European defense ministries, responding to current defense and security issues with innovative technological solutions is a challenge in the face of shrinking budgets. This trend has reinforced a wider shift of the innovation center of gravity from defense to the civilian sector.

In this context, in January 2013 RAND Europe was commissioned by the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) to conduct a study on the future landscape of defense technology development. The focus of the study was to help the UK MOD assess and harness wider investment in relevant technology areas [1].

Our findings show that research and innovation are crucial to defense, and defense actors need to think creatively about improving engagement with the wider innovation ecosystem. Opportunities and challenges for engagement will vary by technology area, making it important for national defense actors to leverage commercial technologies, to improve networks with non-defense actors, and to invest strategically.

Keywords: Defense, technology, technology development, innovation, R&D, R&T, future trends, defense ministries, UK.

1 EUROPEAN DEFENSE MINISTRIES FACE A CHANGING CONTEXT FOR DEFENSE INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Innovation and technology development are critical to ensure operational supremacy as well as the sustainability and competitiveness of the defense industry in the international market. However, the technology development context for European defense ministries has changed rapidly in recent years in two major ways: research, technology and development (R/T&D) budgets have declined significantly due to austerity measures; and innovation foci have shifted from defense to the civil sector.

Across Europe, recent years of budget cuts in a struggling economic climate have led to a trend of declining trend of defense R&D. As shown in Fig. 1, the share of national R&D allocated to defense objectives has declined for most major European actors (and the US) over the past decade.