

Summary Report: “How to strengthen Stability?”

Activity description: Discussion panel about the empowering of stability in Kosovo and the role educational institutions play in it.

Location: Prishtina Hackerspace, Prishtine, Kosovo

Date: 16-May-2017

Panelists: Skender Perteshi (Kosovar Centre for Security Studies); Roland Sulejmani (Kosovar Youth Council) and Agon Ahmeti (ETEA)

Audience: Medina Qerimi, Blerona Shuleta, Taulant Thaqi, Mihane Fetahu, Astrit Dedaj, Artan Banishta, Dardana Fetahu, Qendresa Ibrahim, Drin Syla, Edona Tahiri, Armire Ramshaj, Shkëndije Azemi, Elion Kollçaku, Ilirianë Morina, Leonore Berisha, Arbies Elshani, Enes Aliji, Elona Kryeziu, Katarina Palushaj, Albenita Kryeziu, Vegim Xhambazi, Arbios Muçolli, Jeton Krasniqi, Drenusha Ramadani, Artan Ramadani, Kujtim Morina, Rexhep Spahiu, Majlindë Tanushi, Drenushë Morina, Suzana Berisha, Donika Zeka and Vigan Xhambazi.

Discussion Summary

Since security is a basic need and a fundamental right of every citizen, the idea of this discussion was to exchange opinions about security and stability and which occurrences could risk the stability in Kosovo. Most importantly to exchange ideas on how Kosovo citizens can reinforce the stability of safety with a special focus on educational institutions as a way to influence in this issue.

In this discussion took part 32 students. The panelists were Skender Perteshi from the Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, Roland Sylejmani from the Kosovar Youth Council and Agon Ahmeti from ETEA organization. The discussion started with opinions from the panelists, respectively experts of their fields. Which was followed by a discussion with the audience who mainly were young students from Kosovo.

During the first part where the panelists expressed their opinions, it was discussed about school textbooks and their influence in the security issue by quoting citations that express hatred language in these school textbooks, excessive nationalism, mythology, etc. Not only in history but other school textbooks as well, starting from elementary school, middle and high school and further. From where the panelists came to the conclusions that the

educational system must be very careful in what they serve the young generations. Because hatred language can create differences among communities, and can also increase the political tension between states in the region, since this hatred language exists in the school textbooks of every state in the region. In an ideal era, school textbooks' content should focus more in the future and living together than in events of the past.

There was discussion about the institutional culture, which was deemed as not satisfying. Since after Kosovo's independence our state has built the institutions from zero and that the work and effort has not been enough regardless of all the factors, because tradition in this sector lacks. But on the contrary, this was considered as an advantage from some since the security institutions have been built from zero and already are the best in the region. Since other states in the region are still trying to reform the institutions according to international community requirements, and they have not managed to successfully implement them yet.

Regarding the question as how to enforce stability, a discussion was made regarding government's strategy about security and the youth strategy. From which it came to a conclusion that the last ones have to be reevaluated and rewritten to adjust community needs. Also, they should be adjusted for at least a ten year period of time, as longer as possible generally.

The need of the Security Forces of Kosovo to be transformed into Armed Forces of Kosovo by fulfilling every standard that is required from NATO and to become a member of NATO by earning the privileges as a part of it was made aware, as NATO is the primary organization in the security sector in the world. Armed Forces of Kosovo should have a defensive role, and contribute in the preservation of regional stability by being part of NATO.

Furthermore, it was evaluated that education and law reigning are the two crucial pillars for a national sustainable stability, meaning that investments and effort should be focused on these two fields.

Also, it was discussed about the risks that endanger stability in Kosovo. Compared to the neighbor countries of the region Kosovo was deemed as progressive and safer compared to the neighbor countries regarding stability and safety. The risks which Kosovo faces, and which mainly are of a lower priority were discussed as well as the panelist Skender Perteshi considered them to be; Of course, the issues of corruption, nepotism, unstable institutions, unstable politics remain problematic situations to be solved.

Security issues in Kosovo are under the authority of Kosovo's Police Department mainly, which was deemed to have the right capacity to deal with any issue that might come up, but

the influence of politics even in this institution has caused for it to not have the desirable credibility in the eyes of Kosovo's citizens.

Occurrences such as terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism were mentioned. The risks of these was considered as intermediate level according to some researches of Kosovar Centre for Security Studies. Even though over 300 citizens have entered ISIS until 2013-2014, but during 2015-2016 only two citizens from Kosovo have joined ISIS.

A very concerning issue remains Kosovo not getting to be a member of the regional and international security organizations, on which case Kosovo can't access needed information which can result into risking the security in Kosovo.

Also, it was discussed about the intervention of NATO and its contribution in keeping the peace and security since its intervention in 1999 which was valued very highly. Knowing Kosovo's relationship with Serbia and the fact Serbia doesn't recognize Kosovo yet. So, to maintain this stability, NATO's presence to preserve Kosovo's territory in case of any threat of its sovereignty. Since Serbia has still territorial ambitions upon Kosovo.

At the end, as a result of the whole discussion, we came to a conclusion that the security sector is still an ongoing process. Starting from the education of young generations and individual awareness to Kosovo becoming a member of regional and international security organizations.