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A vertical banner for the eUISS, featuring the logo and the text 'European Union Institute for Security Studies' in a dark blue font on a light background.

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European Union Institute for Security Studies

# ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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# THE EUISS IN 2023

EU foreign policy in 2023 revolved principally around how the EU handled two major wars and their fallout: Russia's continuing war of aggression against Ukraine plus the outbreak of violence between Hamas and Israel. Both conflicts had major repercussions for international security and EU interests; both also posed serious challenges to the EU in upholding its security commitments and shaping events. Inevitably, the political and media debates focused on these two wars, even if conflicts and developments in the rest of the world continued – all calling for EU answers and engagement.

How the EU could best respond to these multiple challenges was at the heart of the work of the EUISS in 2023. The purpose of the EUISS was and remains to combine rigorous research with policy-relevant conclusions, to help EU policymakers make sense of the world and think through their strategic options. As in previous years, the EUISS acted in 2023 as a trusted interface between EU officials and Member State diplomats and Europe's think tank and scholarly community.

The two main 'outputs' of the EUISS and the means through which it seeks to accomplish its objectives are publications and events. In 2023, the Institute published various Briefs

and Chaillot Papers as well as books on a variety of security-related topics. An innovative feature in 2023 was the creation of a new short format, the online-only Commentary series, enabling staff at the EUISS to react quickly to events, sharing their insights and so contributing to the European debate on foreign policy.

In 2023, the Institute organised various events, many of them in partnership with other think tanks and research institutes, as part of our effort to help build a common 'EU strategic culture'. The highlight of the year was the annual conference, providing a key opportunity for Europe's strategic community to come together.

The EUISS also started its new project on Countering Foreign Interference and continued with the Cyber Direct project, both financed by the European Commission. These projects enable the Institute to draw on its intellectual and networking strengths while expanding its operational support to EU policymakers in areas of strategic relevance.

Finally, 2023 was the last year of the mandate of Gustav Lindstrom as Director. Steven Everts took over as the new Director in September.





# **PUBLICATIONS**



In 2023 the Institute published a total of 31 publications: two books, four Chaillot Papers and 25 Briefs:

February	
<b>Brief</b>	Sailing through the storm: Türkiye's Black Sea strategy amidst the Russian-Ukrainian war
<b>Brief</b>	Next level partnership: Bolstering EU-NATO cooperation to counter hybrid threats in the Western Balkans
March	
<b>Brief</b>	European defence partnerships: Stronger together
<b>Chaillot Paper</b>	The power shift: The impact of the low carbon transition on the oil and gas economy
<b>Brief</b>	Footprints in the sand: China's and India's low-key but growing presence in the Maghreb
<b>Brief</b>	China's global security initiative: When the process matters more than the content
<b>Brief</b>	African conflictivity: How connectivity can affect conflict and fragility dynamics in Africa
April	
<b>Brief</b>	Buying weapons together (or not): Joint defence acquisition and parallel arms procurement
<b>Brief</b>	Security risks emanating from Afghanistan: Assessing the Islamist terror threat post-August 2021
May	
<b>Book</b>	The new civilian CSDP compact: Food for impact
<b>Brief</b>	In the shadow of war: Moldova's quest for stability and security
June	
<b>Brief</b>	Dogs of war: Russia's corporate warriors in armed conflicts
<b>Brief</b>	Pakistan's polycrisis: Implications for regional stability and security
<b>Chaillot Paper</b>	The Islamic republic in existential crisis: The need for a paradigm shift in the EU's Iran policy



## July

**Brief** The EU and Latin America: Convergences and divergences

**Brief** New wine in old bottles? A new EU regional strategy for the Great Lakes

**Brief** Rebuilding trust: Towards a new momentum in EU-Iraq relations

## August

**Book** Yearbook of European Security 2023

**Brief** Walking a tightrope: Georgia's elusive quest for European integration

## September

**Brief** Easing, suspending and phasing out: The forgotten potential of sanctions relief

**Brief** India's G20 presidency: A showcase for skilful unilateralism

## October

**Chaillot Paper** The EU and North Africa - Lost in recalibration

**Brief** Feeling the pulse: Countering foreign information manipulation and interference in Africa and the Western Balkans

## November

**Brief** From cyber to hearts and minds: Cyber operations and the battle for global influence

**Chaillot Paper** Africa Atlas: Mapping the future of the AU-EU partnership

**Brief** Building weapons together (or not): How to strengthen the European defence industry

**Brief** After Nagorno-Karabakh: A case for the EU's strategic engagement in the new South Caucasus

**Brief** The last line of defence: Measuring resilience to foreign information manipulation and interference in West Africa

**Brief** Bosnia and Herzegovina's quest for EU membership: Breaking the grip of political and institutional deadlock

## December

**Brief** Between a rock and a bullet: Security provision and the protection of civilians in the Sahel

**Brief** EU-GCC relations: How to forge a stronger partnership?

## BOOKS



### > **The new civilian CSDP compact – Food for impact**

Edited by Giovanni Faleg, Volker Jacoby, Karin Limdal, Marleen de Haan, Patrick von Rakowski [May 2023]

This book, a joint publication between the EUISS and the European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management (CoE), presented 38 contributions from EU civilian crisis management experts, which fed into the policymaking process leading to the adoption of the new Civilian CSDP Compact in May 2023.



### > **Yearbook of European Security 2023**

By Jan Joel Andersson, Clara Sophie Cramer [August 2023]

The 2023 Yearbook of European Security provided an overview of events in 2022 that were significant for European security – in particular, inevitably, Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

## CHAILLOT PAPERS



### > **The power shift –The impact of the low carbon transition on the oil and gas economy (N° 177)**

By Yana Popkostova [March 2023]

In the light of the energy crisis engulfing Europe and the world since autumn 2021, this Chaillot Paper examines the transformation of the global energy system and its concrete implications for the EU in terms of its energy and national security, strategic sovereignty and geopolitical ambitions.

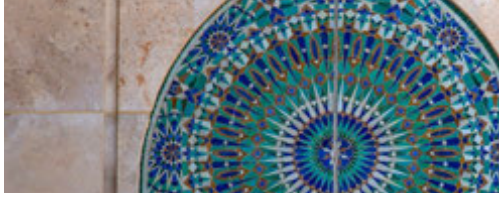


### > **The Islamic republic in existential crisis –The need for a paradigm shift in the EU’s Iran policy (N° 178)**

By Ali Fathollah-Nejad [June 2023]

This volume examines the background to the protest movement in Iran, focusing on the profound crises – socio-economic, political and ecological – with which the Islamic Republic is grappling, as well as on the issue of gender discrimination and inequality.

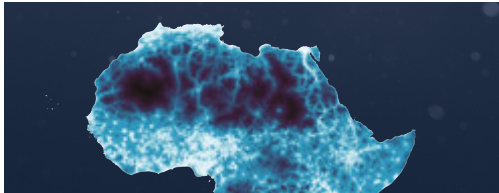




## > **The EU and North Africa - Lost in recalibration (N° 179)**

Edited by Dalia Ghanem, with contributions from Adel Abdel Ghafar, Intissar Fakir, Eya Jrad, Tarek Megerisi [October 2023]

This Chaillot Paper analyses the EU's relations with five North African countries – Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. In particular it focuses on how the fallout of the war in Ukraine as well as the ongoing migration crisis have affected relations.



## > **Africa Atlas - Mapping the future of the AU-EU partnership (N° 180)**

By Giovanni Faleg, Marleen de Haan, Christian Dietrich [November 2023]

Africa is experiencing a far-reaching social, economic and demographic transformation, while gaining increasing prominence in global geopolitics. To take account of these changes, this Chaillot Paper sets out to update our 'mental map' of the continent and zoom in on the trends and dynamics that are reshaping Africa and thus affecting its relationship with the European Union.

# BRIEFS

## > **Sailing through the storm**

By Dimitar Bechev



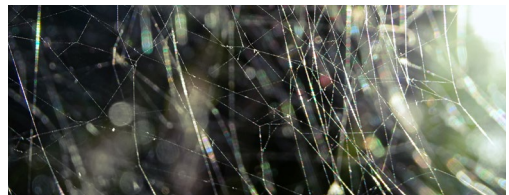
As the conflict in Ukraine continues to unfold, Türkiye is trying to perform a delicate balancing act. This Brief explores how Türkiye seeks to maintain equidistance from Russia and the West in a bid to assert its strategic autonomy while exploiting Russia's current weakness to project influence in the Black Sea region and beyond.



## > **Next level partnership - Bolstering EU-NATO cooperation to counter hybrid threats in the Western Balkans**

By Marie Brethous, Nad'a Kovalčíková

The Western Balkans are increasingly targeted by hybrid attacks. This Brief examines the threats destabilising the region, and the EU's and NATO's cooperation to counter them.



## > **European defence partnerships**

By Jan Joel Andersson

This Brief analyses EU defence cooperation with key partners and makes suggestions for how these strategic partnerships might be further tailored and enhanced, including the

idea of ‘Institutional nesting’ as a way to reconcile overlapping cooperation formats.



### > Footprints in the sand

By Dalia Ghanem

In recent years both China and India have expanded their presence in the Middle East. This Brief shows that their footprint in the Maghreb is primarily economic and remains light in comparison to that of the long-standing partner of the countries in the region: the EU.



### > China’s Global Security Initiative

By Alice Ekman

This Brief examines China’s newly-unveiled Global Security Initiative (GSI) and its significance as part of a larger diplomatic offensive to advance Beijing’s strategic agenda and promote an alternative security governance architecture.



### > African conflictivity

By Carlo Palleschi

While it is a key pillar of the AfCFTA, transport connectivity has the potential to either advance or hinder peacebuilding and stabilisation efforts in Africa. This Brief examines the linkage between connectivity and conflict dynamics, and how conditions can be created to ensure that connectivity successfully

contributes to reducing violence and fragility in the continent.



### > Buying weapons together (or not)

By Jan Joel Andersson

After many years of underinvestment in defence, EU Member States are rearming. This Brief reviews the record of European armaments collaboration and sets out under what conditions common defence acquisition and joint arms procurement makes most sense (and when it does not).



### > Security risks emanating from Afghanistan

By Lucinda Creighton, Hans-Jakob Schindler

This Brief explores security risks for the EU emanating from Afghanistan by assessing the evolving Islamist terrorist threat since the Taliban regained control of the country in August 2021.



### > In the shadow of war: Moldova’s quest for stability and security

By Stanislav Secieru

In 2022 Moldova faced one of the most dangerous moments in its recent history. This Brief explores how the country has sought to strengthen its security and resilience in the shadow of Russia’s war on Ukraine.



### > Dogs of war: Russia's corporate warriors in armed conflicts

By Andreas Heinemann-Grüder

This Brief explores the sphere in which Russia's state-controlled irregular armed groups operate, focusing in particular on the notorious Wagner Group and their impact on violent conflicts.



### > Pakistan's polycrisis

By Arif Rafiq

Pakistan currently faces a perfect storm of economic, political and security crises. This Brief explores the key drivers of instability that plague Pakistan and their potential repercussions beyond the country's borders.



### > The EU and Latin America

By Carla Hobbs, Ángel Melguizo, Víctor Muñoz, José-Ignacio Torreblanca

After years of neglect, the EU is making a concerted effort to reach out to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and forge stronger links with the region. This Brief examines the common challenges faced by the EU and LAC, the



### > New wine in old bottles?

By Nina Wilén, Erik Kennes

According to the Renewed EU Great Lakes Strategy released in February, 20 years after it deployed its first CSDP mission to the DRC the African Great Lakes region remains a strategic priority for the EU. This Brief examines the key challenges facing the new strategy, which comes at a moment of increased tension and instability in the region.



### > Rebuilding trust

By Loulouwa Al Rachid, Dalia Ghanem

This Brief examines how EU-Iraq relations have evolved since 2003 and how they can be enhanced. The authors argue that the EU needs to revise its perception of Iraq in the light of how the country has changed over the past two decades and explores ways for the EU to pursue a more mutually beneficial partnership with the country.



### > Walking a tightrope

By Teona Lavrelashvili

For Georgia the clock is ticking as in autumn 2023 the EU will decide whether to grant the country candidacy status. This Brief assesses how both domestic and external factors affect Georgia's EU integration prospects and examines the obstacles on its path, including the impact of Russia's war against Ukraine.



### > Easing, suspending and phasing out

By Clara Portela

This Brief examines the idea that compliance can be promoted through sanctions easing or relief. In particular, it shows how the gradual easing of sanctions employed in the field of development cooperation might be usefully transferred to the foreign policy realm.



### > India's G20 presidency

By Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo

As India prepares to host the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi on 9–10 September, this Brief analyses the Indian government's motivations in seeking to pursue such an active and high-profile presidency, focusing in particular on its various minilateral diplomacy initiatives.



### > Feeling the pulse

By Tijana Morača, Federico Giulio Sicurella, Tatjana Sekulić, Justin Armanini, Fabio Antonio Stella

This Brief examines how foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) represents a challenge to the EU's global interests and values. It focuses on the Western Balkans and selected African countries – two contexts where the EU's strategic interests are increasingly at stake due to the growing presence of Russia and China.



### > From cyber to hearts and minds

By Viola Fee Dreikhausen, Andrea Salvi

This Brief examines how Cyber Influence Operations (CIOs) blend the use of cyber force with strategic interference in the Human Domain. It argues that CIOs are akin to 'dirty bombs' in cyberspace, where their initial 'blast' disrupts infrastructures through cyber-attacks before their strategic 'dispersal' targets human perception to reshape narratives and alter geopolitical power dynamics.



### > Building weapons together (or not)

By Jan Joel Andersson

Against the backdrop of the biggest rearmament effort in Europe since the 1950s, this Brief examines whether the EU defence industry is as fragmented as is commonly believed. It argues that new EU initiatives should focus on strengthening long-term demand for critical strategic enablers, but also on facilitating competition in defence industrial sectors where possible to promote innovation and cost control.



### > **After Nagorno-Karabakh**

By Ondrej Ditrych

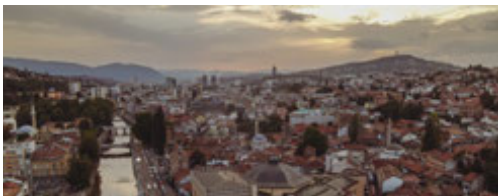
Although the bitter and protracted conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh is now over, the risk of further hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia remains high. This Brief argues that the EU should seek deeper strategic engagement in the altered geopolitical landscape as Moscow's ability to influence developments in the region weakens.



### > **The last line of defence**

By Ludovic Terren, Peter Van Aelst, Thomas Van Damme

This Brief explores how countries' resilience to foreign information manipulation and interference can be measured, focusing specifically on the context of West Africa, a fast-growing region that is experiencing political turmoil and a geopolitical realignment.



### > **Bosnia and Herzegovina's quest for EU membership**

By Bojana Zorić

Ahead of the Council meeting of 14-15 December 2023 where the issue of enlargement was at the top of the agenda, this Brief analyses the prospects for breaking the political and institutional impasse in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It argues that while the EU cannot fix the structural problems inherent to the

Dayton Peace Agreement, it can incentivise enforcement of its provisions until new rules with popular legitimacy are in place.



### > **Between a rock and a bullet**

By Viola Fee Dreikhausen, Thierry Vircoulon

This Brief examines the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel. It makes the case that by eliminating a key source of competition between rival factions, a focus on the protection of civilians may help to break the escalating cycle of violence in the region.



### > **EU-GCC relations**

By Bader Al-Saif, Dalia Ghanem

The EU and GCC have a long-standing partnership, but it has been hampered by institutional differences, contrasting values and priorities, and conflicting interests. This Brief explores what steps need to be taken to ensure that the partnership can realise its full potential.



# EVENTS



## CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

### EUISS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

#### > **Trajectories for European security and defence**

On 27 June, to mark the 20th anniversary of CSDP missions and operations, the Institute held its annual conference in Brussels. The event brought together high-level speakers and over 150 participants from the EU institutions, Member States and think-tanks to examine the future of European security and defence. During the keynote speech by HR/VP Josep Borrell and over the course of three panels, the conference addressed the increased securitisation of trade and energy as well as thematic issues such as transnational security, climate change and international diplomacy.

## AFRICA

### Africa-Europe relationship in a fragmented world

On 24 January the Institute and the European External Action Service co-organised an expert seminar to exchange perspectives on geopolitical transformations and their implications for Africa-Europe relations.

### Implementing the EU's new strategic approach to the Great Lakes region

On 7 March, the EUISS and the Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations co-organised a workshop on the EU's engagement with the Great Lakes region.





## EUISS-COAFR Breakfast Meeting: New geopolitics of the Horn of Africa

On 19 April, Member State delegates to the Africa Working Party of the Council of the EU (COAFR) and experts from the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Chatham House and the EU Institute for Security Studies discussed the ‘new geopolitics of the Horn of Africa’. This meeting marked the twentieth of a series jointly organised by the EUISS and COAFR.

## ASIA

### COASI Breakfast meeting on China’s 20th Party Congress

On 25 November, the EUISS hosted a delegation of the Asia–Oceania Working Party (COASI) for a brainstorming session entitled “China’s 20th Party Congress: A Game Changer?”.

### EU-Japan strategic dialogue

On 26 January, the EUISS, the Genron NPO, and the EU–Japan Strategic Dialogue organised a meeting which brought together experts from both sides to discuss the recent evolution of their respective security frameworks.

## Connectivity potential around Afghanistan

On 16 February, the EUISS organised a half-day hybrid seminar at the EUISS Brussels Liaison Office to examine existing and planned inter-regional connectivity initiatives around Afghanistan. There were eight speakers invited with expertise on South Asia, Central Asia and Eurasia, the majority of whom were based in these regions.

## Sri Lanka’s crisis: The geopolitics and geoeconomics behind it?

A webinar on the geopolitics and geoeconomics behind Sri Lanka’s crisis was held on 23 February 2023. Five speakers attended from Sri Lanka, Singapore, the US and India. Discussions focused on the restructuring of Sri Lanka’s sovereign debt, conditionalities linked to the IMF loan and the role of emerging vs. traditional donors.

## Terror Threat Afghanistan Post-August 2021

On 15 June, in partnership with the Counter Extremism Project (CEP), the EUISS organised a webinar to launch the EUISS Brief on ‘Security Risks Emanating from Afghanistan:



Assessing the Islamist terror threat post-August 2021'. The authors presented their findings, while a discussant from the EEAS and another from the Munich Security Conference provided their insights, followed by a Q&A with the audience at the end.

## EU-Japan Strategic Dialogue

On 29 June, in partnership with the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) and the Delegation of the European Union to Japan, a Track 1.5 event in Tokyo took place with high-level representatives from the Japanese MFA, MoD, and Procurement Agency as well as with Policy Planners from several EU Member States to exchange on various areas of common interest including new security strategies in Japan and the European Union. This event followed a track II event organised online in January.

## The EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy: Where to and how?

On 18 October, the EUISS together with the EEAS, the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and CIDOB organised a half day hybrid roundtable discussion entitled the "EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy: Where to and how?" in Barcelona, Spain. Eight expert

speakers on the topic presented, with time afterwards for the audience to pose questions and hold a discussion. Most of those who attended in person were COASI members, as well as EEAS staff, DG Trade and Spanish MFA staff members.

## RUSSIA AND THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

### Changing the Regional Order – The EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and the war in Ukraine

On 22 March, the EUISS and the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) organised a meeting to take stock of the various ramifications of the war in Ukraine for the EU's Eastern neighbourhood.



## How Ukraine is resisting the invasion

On 4 April, the EUISS and Eastern Circles co-organised a meeting to discuss Ukraine's military and civilian resistance against the Russian invasion.

## The war in Ukraine and the future of conflict and peacemaking

On 15 May the EUISS participated in the 2023 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development. Together with Conciliation Resources, the Institute organised a partner session entitled 'The war in Ukraine and the future of conflict and peacemaking'.

## Impact of Russia and Ukraine war on Eastern Neighbourhood states

On 4 July, the EUISS and the EEAS Public Diplomacy division organised a closed-door event for EU officials on the impact of the Russian-Ukraine war on the Eastern neighbourhood.

# THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

## Türkiye in the world: Understanding the future of EU-Turkish relations.

On 1 February the EUISS held a closed-door meeting with scholars from Türkiye and EU officials in Brussels. Türkiye's assertive foreign policy has put its relationship with the EU under strain, particularly regarding military interventions in the Caucasus, Syria and Iraq. The EU and Türkiye have conflicting



approaches to Libya and Syria, and the 1963 association agreement is no longer effective for managing their relationship. With MENA countries, Türkiye has a stronger presence, especially in the Maghreb region. The participants discussed Türkiye's role in the region, and the domestic challenges facing Ankara ahead of the June 2023 elections, which could further complicate its relations with the EU.

## Translating and understanding the Arab world in 2023

On 13 April, the EUISS hosted diplomats from the MEDAC academy (Malta) and held a closed round table on The Future(s) of the MENA region. This closed roundtable gathered diplomats from the region to investigate how the war in Ukraine has affected MENA countries as well as Russia's involvement in the area. It also explored the impact of the conflict on the region, changing attitudes towards and perceptions of Russia, the geopolitical dynamics in the MENA region and how the EU could revisit its priorities in a region still shaken by the Arab uprisings of 2011.

## EUISS hosting the MaMa/MoG delegates

On April 20 the EUISS hosted a full-day conference in Paris on MENA-EU relations.

The geopolitical landscape of the Middle East is becoming increasingly complex and multipolar, with the US, China, Russia and regional powers like the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) vying for influence. The EU is also stepping up its engagement in the region, while remaining committed to supporting Ukraine.

On 20 April, the EUISS hosted the Mashreq/Maghreb (MaMa) and Middle East/Gulf (MoG) delegates to discuss these issues and develop further policy recommendations for the EU.

## Roundtable on EU-North Africa relations

On 17 November, the EUISS organised a closed-door roundtable to launch *Chaillot Paper* no. 179 on EU and North Africa relations to an audience of field experts and policymakers. The authors of the publication presented their main findings in each of the country-specific chapters on Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

## AMERICAS

### The Europe-Latin America relationship in a shifting global context

On 4 May, a closed-door seminar was held in Brussels with the cooperation of the European External Action Service (EEAS) on the Europe-Latin America relationship in a shifting global context. The aim of this seminar was to

facilitate an exchange between and among Latin American and European experts on their respective assessments and perspectives regarding geoeconomic and geopolitical transformations and their implications for relations between Europe and Latin America.

## CYBER

### Table-Top Exercise on EU Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox at the Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues (Council)

On 10 November the EUISS co-organised and chaired a Council exercise together with the External Action Service and the other EU Cyber entities. The exercise was aimed at testing the Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox.



# TRANSNATIONAL SECURITY

## A stronger transatlantic approach to countering hybrid threats

On 23 February, the EUISS organised a roundtable to share insights and knowledge on the prospective impact of greater transatlantic cooperation to counter hybrid threats in the Western Balkans and Eastern neighbourhood.

## EU-NATO cooperation on hybrid threats in the Western Balkans

On 17 May, the EUISS and the European Policy Centre co-organised a roundtable focusing on EU-NATO cooperation on countering hybrid threats in the Western Balkans.

## Table-Top Exercise on Addressing hybrid threats at the Horizontal Working Party on Hybrid threats (Council)

On 12 December, the EUISS co-organised and chaired a Council exercise together with the

Spanish Presidency and the European External Action Service. The exercise was aimed at testing the Hybrid and FIMI toolboxes.

# SECURITY AND DEFENCE

## Integrating a gender perspective into EU CSDP missions and operations: delivering on the Strategic Compass

On 10 March 2023, the Institute co-organised with the Swedish Presidency a seminar on the various dimensions of integrating gender perspectives into European security and defence.

## EUISS at the Schuman Forum

On 21–22 March 2023, the EUISS took part in the first Schuman Security and Defence Forum. The Institute was involved in the planning of the Forum, a high-level event aiming to facilitate dialogue and strategic reflection on international security and defence between the EU, its Member States and their partners. The Director moderated the opening dinner discussion with ministers and co-chaired the side-event meeting with various think-tanks.





## Advancing the EU's strategic positioning in outer space

On 24 April 2023, the EUISS and the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU organised a seminar discussing the implications of the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence for EU Member States, associated industry and key EU strategic partners.

## The EU's role as a security and defence policy actor

On 12 May 2023, the EUISS and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs co-organised a panel discussion with the Swedish Defence Minister Dr. Pål Jonson on the EU's role as a security and defence policy actor in light of the war in Ukraine, Sweden's EU presidency and application to NATO.

## European Defence Cooperation in a Time of War

On 12 June, a seminar was co-organised by the Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy (DGRIS) of the French MoD and the EUISS. The first part of the seminar focused on the transition from the the trio of

French–Czech–Swedish presidencies to the trio of Spanish–Belgian–Hungarian presidencies beginning on 1 July with high-level speakers from the MoDs of several Member States. The second part of the seminar concentrated on how to strengthen the European defence industry with speakers from the Commission, EDA and the defence industry.

## The EU's approach to security sector reform amidst shifting geopolitics

On 28 June, the EUISS together with the EU Task Force on Security Sector Reform hosted an expert roundtable on 'The EU's approach to security sector reform amidst shifting geopolitics'.

## Building weapons together (or not)

On 29 November, the Institute organised a seminar that brought together representatives from EU Member States, EU institutions and various experts from academia, think tanks and industry to discuss the European defence industry.

## Climate change and defence: Preparing for the future

On 12 December the EUISS and the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU organised a seminar to discuss both internal and external dimensions of the climate change and defence nexus, and how we can adapt infrastructure, training, and scenario planning for the future

## UNDER THE EU CYBER DIPLOMACY INITIATIVE – EU CYBER DIRECT PROJECT

### Advancing the EU's cyber posture

On 3 February, the EUISS, the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – EU Cyber Direct co-organised a session to discuss ways to advance the EU's cyber posture. The dialogue, informed by the May 2022 Council Conclusions, explored the impact of global cyber postures on the EU and ways to promote responsible state behaviour

in cyberspace through the EU's Cyber Posture and Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox.

### Workshop on public-private cooperation in the context of EU Cyber Diplomacy

On 16 March EUISS co-organised a workshop on public-private cooperation with the European Cyber Agora – an initiative launched in 2021 by the German Marshall Fund, Microsoft, and the European Cyber Diplomacy Initiative (EU Cyber Direct) to advance the role of the EU as a global actor in cyber diplomacy. This workshop was the second in a series of meetings on 'Enhancing public-private collaboration in threat intelligence and situational awareness under the revised EU Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox.'

### Strengthening Transatlantic Relations: Cyber and Digital Cooperation in the Age of Geopolitics

On 22 March ahead of the 2023 EU-US Trade and Technology Council meeting in Sweden, a panel discussion was organised by EU Cyber Direct, the Swedish EU Council Presidency, and the EUISS to foster transatlantic cyber and digital cooperation. The panel featured prominent figures like Nathaniel Fick (US Cyber



Ambassador) and officials from the EEAS and DG Connect.

## Workshop on EU cyber diplomacy and international law

On 8 June, EU Cyber Direct, the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU, and the European External Action Service invited members of the EU's Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues, legal experts and officials to a workshop on EU cyber diplomacy and international law. It aimed at discussing the application of international law in cyberspace, focusing on the perspectives of the EU, like-minded countries, and the role of UN-level discussions in promoting responsible state behaviour.

# THE COUNTERING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE (CFI) PROJECT

## The Countering Foreign Interference (CFI) project held its kick-off event on 28 March 2023.

On 28 March 2023, the CFI project team organised its first event to kick off the year and introduce the project to both partner institutions and wider stakeholders. The launch event was organised in two parts that allowed for both closed-door roundtable exchanges with a group of selected practitioners and wider engagement (in hybrid mode) with a broader audience of EU institutions' representatives, CSDP/EU delegations personnel and Member State representatives.

## Countering Foreign Interference project at the 2023 State of the Union conference

On 5 May 2023, the EUISS CFI project organised a partners' panel at the State of the Union conference hosted by the European University Institute in Florence. With the participation of representatives from both EEAS StratCom, the European Hybrid Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats and the think tank world (Atlantic Council), the event represented an opportunity to discuss how foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) impacts the EU from diverse perspectives.

## CFI project training for Western Balkans' diplomats

On 30 May 2023, the Countering Foreign Interference project delivered its first training session to a group of junior diplomats from the Western Balkans. By presenting the EU's perspective on hybrid threats and foreign information manipulation and interference, the project team contributed to raising situational awareness of emerging threats, while various views and perspectives from the region were discussed.

## CFI CSDP Orientation workshop

On 8 June 2023, the CFI Project launched the two workstreams dealing with CSDP and cognitive security with a joint workshop. The workshop served as a starting point for a reflection on the CSDP guidance support and the work on cognitive security. The discussion, divided into two sessions, was led by the EUISS: the main participants were EU officials plus a small, selected group of experts in the fields of CSDP missions and operations, disinformation, hybrid threats and cognitive security.

## Countering Foreign Interference Dialogues 2023

On 20–21 June, the EUISS together with the European University Institute (EUI) held the first edition of the Countering Foreign Interference (CFI) Dialogues, one of the flagship events of the CFI project.

The CFI Dialogues 2023 allowed for fruitful exchanges to build stronger partnerships and tools to counter foreign interference. Perspectives from EU partners (across regions and organisations) on countering foreign interference were highlighted throughout the two-day hybrid event, as well as EU approaches and tools aimed at contributing to a stable and secure environment.

## CFI project training to Young African Leaders Programme (YALP)

On 16 November 2023, the Countering Foreign Interference (CFI) project delivered its second training session, to a cohort of the Young African Leaders Programme (YALP) at the European University Institute (EUI). Hosted by the School of Transnational Governance in Florence, and delivered in collaboration with the University of Antwerp, the training was delivered to a group of African representatives from civil society organisations, national authorities and international organisations.



The background features a complex, organic pattern of glowing, ethereal lines in shades of cyan, blue, and purple. These lines swirl and flow across a solid black field, creating a sense of dynamic movement and interconnectedness, reminiscent of a neural network or a complex data structure.

# **NETWORKS AND PROJECTS**

## NETWORKS

- > The EUISS is a member of the Steering Committee of the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System (ESPAS) network.

ESPAS is an inter-institutional EU process promoting foresight and anticipatory governance. It brings together nine EU institutions and bodies who are committed to thinking longer term about the challenges and opportunities facing Europe and, through foresight, to support policymakers to make the right policy choices. In 2023 the EUISS has actively participated in the ESPAS Steering Committee meetings and working groups and has been an active contributor to the Global Trends 2040 report and speaking at its annual conference.

- > **The EUISS is also a member of The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP)**, which is a non-governmental (second track) process for dialogue on security issues in the Asia Pacific.

CSCAP provides an informal mechanism for scholars, officials and others in their private capacities to discuss political and security issues and challenges facing the region. It also provides policy recommendations to various inter-governmental bodies, convenes regional and international meetings, and establishes linkages with institutions and organisations in other parts of the world to exchange information, insights and experiences around regional political-security cooperation. The CSCAP Steering Committee meets twice a year.

The role of CSCAP EU, under the leadership of the EUISS, is to contribute actively to CSCAP activities by providing the best European expertise on key regional security issues.

In its capacity as the coordinator of CSCAP EU, the EUISS ensured the participation of EU experts in various CSCAP events, provided European perspectives to CSCAP's annual publication (the *CSCAP Regional Outlook*) as well as organised the annual thematic seminar gathering European experts on Asia.

## PROJECTS

The EUISS runs two major EU-funded projects, on cyber and countering foreign interference.



- > **The EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – EU Cyber Direct**

Funded by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, EU Cyber Direct provides policy support, research, outreach and capacity building in the field of cyber diplomacy.

Implemented by the EUISS, Carnegie Europe, and Leiden University's Institute of Security and Global Affairs, its objective is to identify opportunities for increased convergence between the EU and other stakeholders on the application of existing international law in cyberspace and development of cyber norms and confidence-building measures. The project looks at the ongoing cyber-related process at the global, regional and national levels with the aim of increasing participation of different stakeholder groups in regional and global debates on responsible behaviour and resilience in cyberspace, particularly through building capacities and sharing knowledge about the EU's standards, policies and good practices.

The EU Cyber Direct focuses on four key themes:

1. conflict prevention and advancing responsible behaviour in cyberspace through international law, norms and confidence-building measures (CBMs);
2. cyber resilience and critical infrastructure protection;
3. cybercrime and criminal justice in cyberspace; and

4. new and emerging technologies with a potential disruptive effect.

EU Cyber Direct supports EU cyber diplomacy efforts and consequently contributes to the development of a secure, stable and rights-based international order in cyberspace through extensive dialogues with strategic partners all over the world. The project is a continuation of the work launched by the EUISS in 2018.


Detailed information about project activities and research can be found on the project website: [www.eucyberdirect.eu](http://www.eucyberdirect.eu)

Detailed information about project activities and research can be found on the project webpage: <https://www.iss.europa.eu/projects/countering-foreign-interference>



#### > Countering Foreign Interference (CFI) project

The EUISS is leading the Countering Foreign Interference (CFI) project. Launched on 1 January 2023, this 3-year, multi-million euro EU-funded project focuses on enhancing knowledge and developing EU methodologies and tools to detect, analyse, assess and prevent, deter and counter threats emerging in the information space. Through the funding from the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments and close cooperation with the European External Action Service, the project's goal is to enable the EU to address foreign policy needs and forge new partnerships to counter foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI). By doing so, it will contribute to strengthening the resilience and responses against FIMI, reinforcing the EU's role as a global security provider and defender of democratic values. Implementing partners include: the University of Antwerp, the University of Milano-Bicocca, the European University Institute and School of Transnational Governance.

The background is a dark blue gradient with numerous thin, light blue lines radiating from various points. These lines terminate in small, bright blue circular dots, creating a starburst or fiber-optic effect. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and digital.

# **ONLINE PRESENCE AND OUTREACH**

The EUISS made significant strides in strengthening its online presence and amplifying its reach in 2023. Here is a glimpse into our year of digital engagement:

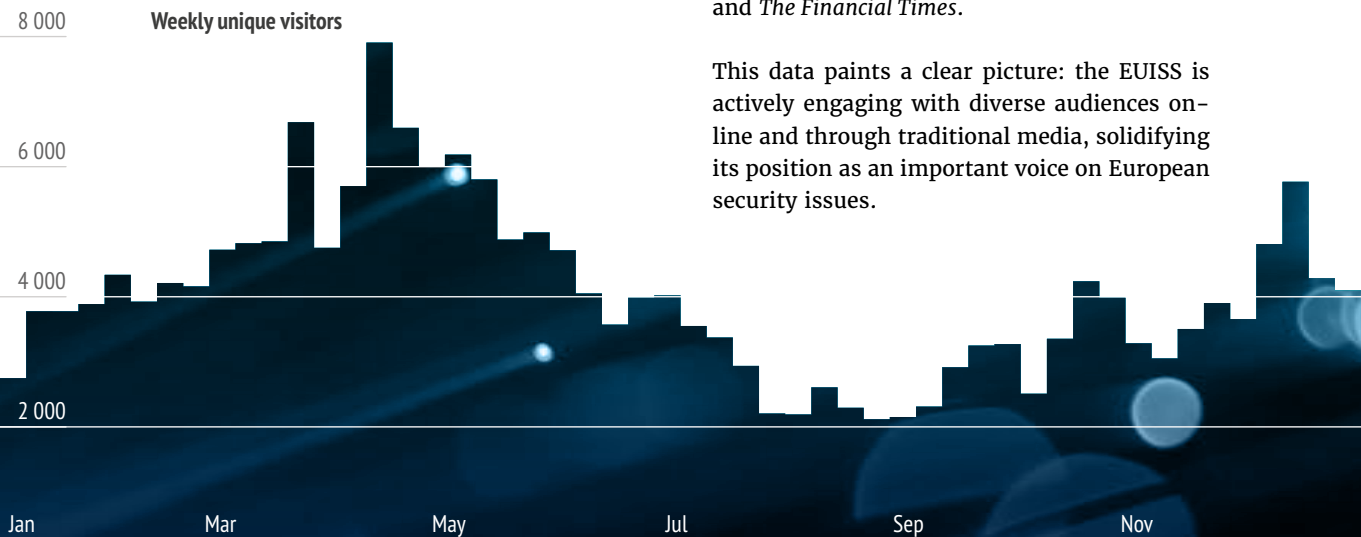
## Website

Over a quarter million (252,783) visitors explored the EUISS website, with 72% originating from Europe.

Nearly 40,000 unique downloads were made, indicating the appetite for EUISS publications. The 10 most-read publications were:

1. Yearbook of European Security 2023
2. Yearbook of European Security 2022
3. European Defence Partnerships - Stronger together
4. The Power Shift - The impact of the low carbon transition on the oil and gas economy
5. Africa Atlas - Mapping the future of the AU-EU partnership
6. The EU and North Africa - Lost in recalibration
7. China's Global Security Initiative - When the process matters more than the content
8. Next level partnership - Bolstering EU-NATO cooperation to counter hybrid threats in the Western Balkans
9. The Islamic Republic in existential crisis - The need for a paradigm shift in the EU's Iran policy
10. The New Civilian CSDP - Food for impact

## Visits to the EUISS website (2023)



To enhance user experience, we are revamping the website with a planned migration to Drupal 10 in 2024, ensuring user-friendly navigation and easy access to information.

## Social Media

LinkedIn emerged as our leading platform, surpassing Twitter in both followers and engagement. We saw an increased average engagement rate across all platforms, particularly on Facebook thanks to strategic promotion. Overall, our social media content reached over 1 million people across Facebook, X and LinkedIn.

By year-end, we had:

- > 48,000 followers on LinkedIn
- > 38,000 followers on Twitter
- > 25,000 followers on Facebook

Our email newsletter attracted 478 new subscribers, eager to stay up-to-date with our latest publications.

## Media engagement

Leveraging the power of newspapers, TV, and radio, the EUISS garnered over 60 media mentions in 2023.

Our analysts actively engaged with the public and fostered broader awareness of our research, appearing in renowned outlets like *Le Monde*, *The New York Times*, *Al Jazeera*, *Politico*, and *The Financial Times*.

This data paints a clear picture: the EUISS is actively engaging with diverse audiences online and through traditional media, solidifying its position as an important voice on European security issues.

An aerial, top-down view of a rowing team in a scull on a body of water. The water is a deep, vibrant blue, and the scull is a light, almost white color. Five rowers are visible, each with their own oar, creating a symmetrical pattern of oars extending outwards from the boat. The rowers are positioned in a line, and their oars are in various stages of the stroke. The overall scene is dynamic and focused, capturing the team's movement across the water.

# **EUISS TEAM**

## DIRECTOR

### Steven Everts

Steven Everts joined the EU Institute for Security Studies as Director in September 2023.

Prior to joining the EUISS, Dr Everts worked at the European External Action Service (EEAS) where he served as Senior Advisor to the HR/VP on Strategy and Communications. Previously, he was a Senior Advisor in the Asia-Pacific Department of the EEAS. From 2009–2012 he was a Member of the Cabinet of HR/VP Catherine Ashton with responsibility for Asia and the Pacific, Turkey, and the general issue of how to frame and strengthen the EU's relations with its strategic partners. Between 2005 and 2009, Steven Everts worked for SG/HR Javier Solana, both as his Personal Representative for Energy and Foreign Policy and as a Member of his Cabinet.

Before his time at the EU, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the London-based Centre for European Reform and Director of the CER's transatlantic programme, which covered the full range of US-European relations.

He holds a DPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford and an MA in Political Science from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

### Gustav Lindström

(until September 2023)

Gustav Lindström was the Director of the EUISS from January 2018 until September 2023. In his capacity as director, he also chaired the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific – EU Committee (CSCAP-EU). Previously, he served as the Head of the Emerging Security Challenges Programme at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP). In this function, he was also co-chair of the Partnership for Peace Consortium (PfP-C) Emerging Security Challenges Working Group and a member of the Executive Academic Board of the European Security and Defence College. Prior to his tenure at the GCSP, he was a Research Fellow and later a Senior Research Fellow at the EUISS. He also served at the RAND Corporation and the World Bank. His areas of focus include the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, cybersecurity, EU-NATO relations, and emerging security challenges.

Dr Lindström holds a doctorate in Policy Analysis from the RAND Graduate School and an MA in International Policy Studies from Stanford University.



## SENIOR ANALYSTS

### Jan Joel Andersson

Jan Joel Andersson is a Senior Analyst at the EUISS, where he heads the analysis of security and defence, including CSDP, Capability Development, Defence Industry and Technology & Innovation issues.

Between 2017–2022, he was a member of the Chief Executive’s Policy Office (cabinet) at the European Defence Agency, advising the EDA Chief Executive on strategy and policy, specifically on the EU defence initiatives (CARD, PESCO, EDF), relations with the European Commission and the defence and high-tech industries.

He was Senior Analyst for Transatlantic Security, NATO and US Politics at the EUISS from 2014 to 2017, during which time he supported the consultation and drafting process of the EU Global Strategy, and was a member of the secretariat assisting the ‘Group of Personalities’ in the drafting of their proposal for a Preparatory Action for defence-related research, presented to the Commission in 2016.

He has also worked in the private sector for a world-leading crisis management consultancy and has held faculty appointments at universities and in think tanks in the United States, Sweden and France. He has published widely on European and transatlantic security and defence, capability development, and defence industry issues.

He was educated at the United World College of the Adriatic in Italy, graduated from Uppsala University in Sweden, and received his MA and PhD in political science from the University of California at Berkeley.

### Ondrej Ditrych

Ondrej Ditrych is a Senior Analyst at the EUISS where he is in charge of the Russia and the Eastern Neighbourhood portfolio.

His professional career has been dedicated to research and strategic advice, foresight, and analysis on international security matters for civilian and military decision-makers, bridging the worlds of policy and expertise.

He was previously the head of and senior researcher at the Institute of International Relations Prague, a public research institute established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, and was a visiting scholar at CERl, Sciences Po Paris, a visiting researcher at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, and a Fulbright research fellow at Belfer Center, Harvard University. He held the position of assistant/associate professor of international relations at Charles University in Prague (2013–2023) and was a visiting lecturer at the University of Copenhagen (2019) and the VU Amsterdam (2023). He is the author of a number of policy publications on politics and security in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, hybrid threats, ethnopolitical conflict and





revolutionary violence, and foresight and global risks. He has also published more than 20 scholarly articles including in journals such as *Cooperation and Conflict*, *Security Dialogue*, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* or *International Relations* and four books, most recently the edited volume *Revolutionaries and Global Politics: War machines from the Bolsheviks to ISIS* (Edinburgh University Press).

He received his MA in Political Science and PhD in International Relations from Charles University, Prague, and an MPhil in International Relations from the University of Cambridge.

## Alice Ekman

Alice Ekman is the Senior Analyst in charge of the Asia portfolio at the EUISS. She covers foreign policy and security developments in the Asian/Indo-Pacific region – including in China, the Korean Peninsula, Japan, India and ASEAN. At the Institute, she also manages regular ‘Track 1.5’ dialogues with the EU’s partners in Asia and coordinates the EU member committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP EU). Alice Ekman was formerly Head of China Research at the French Institute of International Relations (Ifri) in Paris. She has also been Visiting Scholar at Tsinghua University (Beijing), at National Taiwan Normal University (Taipei) and at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies (Seoul). She is a co-founder of the European Think Tank Network on China (ETNC).

She holds a master’s degree in International Relations, Economics and Anthropology (China focus) from the London School of Economics and a Ph.D in International Relations from the Institut d’études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po). She is fluent in Mandarin Chinese. She is the author of *Rouge Vif – L’idéal communiste chinois* (L’Observatoire, 2020), which received the prize of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for best geopolitical book of the year.

## Giovanni Faleg

(until July 2023)

Giovanni Faleg was the Senior Analyst in charge of analysis and research on sub-Saharan Africa. His research focused on the drivers of state fragility in Africa and the EU’s engagement in the region, particularly conflict prevention and peacebuilding, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and the integrated approach to conflicts and crises.

Before joining the EUISS, he worked at the World Bank (2014–2018) in the fragility, conflict, and violence unit; at the Centre for European Policy Studies (2011–2018) and the Istituto Affari Internazionali (2013), focusing on the EU’s foreign and security policy.

Giovanni Faleg holds a PhD in European Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science (2014), with a thesis on the evolution of security cooperation in the EU through institutional learning. He is the author of *The EU’s Common Security and Defence Policy: Learning communities in international*



organizations (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016) and *More Union in European Defence* (CEPS, 2015).

## Dalia Ghanem

Dalia Ghanem joined the EUISS in May 2022. She is the Senior Analyst responsible for analysis and research on the Middle East and North Africa region. Her research interests focus on EU-MENA relations.

Before joining the EUISS, she was a senior resident scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, where her research focused on Algeria's political, economic, social and security developments. Her research also examined political violence, radicalisation, civil-military relationships, transborder dynamics and gender.

Dr. Ghanem has been a guest speaker on these issues in various conferences and a regular commentator in different Arab and international print and audio-visual media.

Prior to joining Carnegie in 2013, she was a teaching associate at Williams College in Massachusetts, and she also served as a research assistant at the Center for Political Analysis and Regulation at the University of Versailles. She holds a PhD from the University of Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines.

## Nad'a Kovalčíková

Nad'a Kovalčíková is the Senior Analyst in charge of the transnational security portfolio at the EUISS and a project Director of the multi-million, EU-funded initiative "Countering Foreign Interference. A project to strengthen EU CSDP capacities against foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI)". In particular, her research focuses on hybrid threats, foreign interference, disinformation, resilience and democracy, election security, and transatlantic cooperation. She is a member of the ESPAS strategic foresight Steering Group; a member of the Advisory Board for the TEPSA project *Raising Awareness on Disinformation, Achieving Resilience* (RADAR); a mentor within the innovative network of Harvard Women in Defense, Diplomacy, and Development; an expert collaborator for Minsait's Ideas for Democracy; and a 2019 awardee and currently also a member of the Steering Committee of Women In International Security. She was formerly a programme manager and Fellow at the Alliance for Securing Democracy in the German Marshall Fund of the United States. She also worked at NATO, the European Parliament, the French and Canadian embassies, and several NGO and think tank projects.

She obtained her PhD in international economic relations with a focus on globalisation and security threats from the University of Economics in Bratislava (EUBA), and master's degrees in politics and government from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), in European Affairs from the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), and in international relations from EUBA.



## Rossella Marangio

Rossella Marangio joined the EUISS as a Senior Analyst in September 2023. Her research focuses on EU–Africa relations, including relations with regional and sub-regional organisations, EU strategic engagement towards Africa, the humanitarian–development–peace nexus and the role of civilian CSDP missions.

Before joining the EUISS, she worked as a civil servant in several postings in Africa, including EU Delegations, CSDP and UN missions. Before these civil servant roles, she conducted extensive research in the Horn of Africa, and co-operated with several think tanks and international institutions, particularly concerning the role of international and regional organisations in peacebuilding, and cooperation between the EU, the AU and the UN.

Dr Marangio holds a PhD from the Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa and MA degrees from the College of Europe and the University of Trieste.

## Andrea Salvi

Andrea Salvi is a Senior Analyst at the EUISS. He leads the analysis of cyber and digital issues, and he is the project director of the multi-million euro EU Cyber Direct project.

Before joining the EUISS he worked as a project officer responsible for the scientific direction and development of the DRMKC Risk Data Hub at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

He also served as a human rights statistics consultant for the United Nations Missions in South Sudan. Previously, he worked as a postdoctoral research fellow at Luiss University (Rome) and as a research affiliate at the Center for Research in Leadership, Innovation and Organization researching cybersecurity, cyber-physical critical infrastructures, and high-reliability organisations. He specialises in quantitative methods and computational social sciences, making use of cutting-edge data technologies to answer security and political questions.

He holds a PhD in Political Science from Trinity College Dublin with a thesis on reactive violence in civil conflict and counterinsurgency practices as an Andrew Grene Scholar in Conflict Resolution. He holds master’s degrees in International Relations, Law and Government of the EU and Cybersecurity.

His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *International Studies Quarterly* and *Computers & Security*. He has also contributed to several edited volumes. He has extensive lecturing experience in quantitative methods for security and intelligence, political risk and conflict studies.



## Stanislav Secieru

(until August 2023)

Stanislav Secieru was the Senior Analyst covering Russia and the EU's Eastern neighbourhood. His research interests focused on EU-Russia relations, Russia's foreign and security policy in the post-Soviet region, protracted conflicts, and the EU's relations with the Eastern Partnership (EaP) states.

Prior to joining the EUISS, Stanislav Secieru was a Senior Research Fellow at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (2014–2016) and a Policy Analyst at the Open Society European Policy Institute in Brussels (2016–2017). He was also previously a Research Fellow at the NATO Defense College in Rome (2006), the Institute for European Politics in Berlin (2009–2010) and the New Europe College in Bucharest (2011–2012). He worked on research projects addressing political and security developments in the EU's Eastern neighbourhood for the European Council on Foreign Relations (2007–2009) and Freedom House (2012–2013).

Stanislav Secieru holds a PhD from the National School of Political Science and Public Administration in Bucharest.

## ASSOCIATE ANALYSTS

### Marie Brethous

(until September 2023)

Marie Brethous was an Associate Analyst in charge of the transatlantic relations and EU-NATO affairs portfolio at the EUISS. She specialises in security and defence policy analysis, with a focus on the international security community.

She formerly worked at NATO in the Political Affairs and Security Policy (PASP) division, where she analysed political and policy developments in NATO partner countries in Western Europe as well as the Black Sea and South Caucasus regions.

Her prior experience also includes EU Government Affairs at Siemens AG, transatlantic relations at the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) and policy development for DG EXPO at the European Parliament.

She has been a member of Women in international Security (WiiS) since 2018 and was a co-organiser of the 2021/2022 WiiS Mentoring Programme – a professional development scheme for women active in the fields of international relations, security and defence.

Marie Brethous holds a postgraduate degree in European Studies with a specialisation in European External Relations from KU Leuven (Belgium), a graduate degree in European Studies from Maastricht University (the Netherlands)



and studied Political Science at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich (Germany).

## Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo

Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo is the Non-resident Associate Analyst in charge of the South Asia portfolio at the EUISS. She contributes to the analysis of South Asian security and foreign policy, focusing especially on India, Afghanistan and Pakistan. She monitors ongoing security developments in South Asia and relations with the EU.

She is a graduate of Georgetown University and completed her PhD at the Politics and International Studies Department of the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Her PhD research culminated in her first book *Building States, Building Peace: Global and Regional Involvement in Sri Lanka and Myanmar* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

Prior to joining the EUISS, she was an adjunct professor at IE University in Madrid where she taught courses on peace and conflict resolution, as well as on Asian international relations. She also taught at SOAS and at the University of Zurich and previously worked for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Costa Rica, Kenya and Sri Lanka.

## Viola Fee Dreikhausen

(until September 2023)

Viola Dreikhausen was an Associate Analyst at the EUISS, where she was responsible for the Institute's portfolio on Conflict Research. In her capacity as editor of the EUISS Conflict series, her thematic focus spans the prevention, onset, evolution and resolution of conflict. In addition, she conducts research and analysis on the future of conflict and related developments of interest to the European Union.

Prior to joining the EUISS, Viola Dreikhausen held positions with the European University Institute, the United Nations University, the University of Lucerne, and the German Parliament. She obtained a master's degree in Global Governance and Diplomacy at the University of Oxford and a doctoral degree in affiliation with the European University Institute.

## Yana Popkostova

(until August 2023)

Yana Popkostova was an Associate Analyst at the EUISS responsible for the environmental security portfolio. She investigates the various security challenges posed by climate change, environmental degradation and ecosystems depletion, focusing on mechanisms to mitigate and prevent impacts on European security and stability.

She is an expert on the geopolitics of energy, and has an established record of engagement on geopolitical, governance and commodities volatility. Her work on the energy-climate-geopolitics nexus has been featured in edited volumes, expert publications, and high-level industry events.

Yana Popkostova is the founder of the European Centre for Energy and Geopolitical Analysis (ECEGA), an Advisory Board Member of the World Energy & Meteorology Council, and an expert on the energy trilemma at the World Energy Council.

She previously worked for the European Parliament, the European Climate Foundation, and as an expert reviewer for the IPCC 1.5 °C report. She was an inaugural recipient of the EUI Policy Leaders Fellowship. She holds a post-graduate degree from the London School of Economics (LSE).

## Lukas Trakimavičius

Lukas Trakimavičius is an Associate Analyst at the EUISS. He is in charge of the portfolio on energy and environmental security. He is also a Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), based in Washington D.C. He also supports the World Energy Council's efforts on the energy transition.

Before joining the EUISS, he worked at the NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence, focusing on clean technologies, the energy transition, and the geopolitics of energy. He also served at the Economic Security Policy Division of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working on energy security, energy diplomacy, and broader economic security issues in the CEE region. Prior to that, he held several positions at the Emerging Security Challenges (ESC) and Political Affairs and Security Policy (PASP) divisions at NATO HQ, where he worked on energy security, arms control, disarmament, and WMD non-proliferation matters. Lukas Trakimavičius holds a postgraduate degree from the London School of Economics (LSE).



## Bojana Zorić

Bojana Zorić joined the Institute in September 2023 as an Associate Analyst for the Western Balkans. In this capacity, she covers the analysis of policy and security developments in the Western Balkans, particularly in the context of enlargement, transatlantic relations, third-party influence, as well as other day-to-day developments that affect Euro-Atlantic security infrastructure.

Previously, she held the position of Senior Policy Analyst at the Regional Cooperation Council in Sarajevo, where she, among others, led the analysis of the Balkan Barometer, including in security and (geo)political domains. Before that, she was based in Brussels with the European Committee of the Regions and in Stockholm with the Swedish International Liberal Centre, where she worked on democracy building and promotion in Eastern Partnership countries.

Bojana Zorić has contributed to edited volumes published by Routledge and to the Springer Handbooks of Political Science and International Relations and has been published in several peer-reviewed journals focusing on security developments in the Western Balkans, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia.

She was awarded an MA degree in European Union-Russia studies from the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies (University of Tartu) and an MA degree in Russian Philology and Pedagogy from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (University of Zagreb). As part of her education, she also studied at KU Leuven, Saint Petersburg State University and Tallinn University. Currently, she is completing a PhD degree with a specialisation in security studies at Masaryk University, where she examines the scope and impact of Turkish foreign policy in the Western Balkans over the last decade.

## TRAINEES

### January-July 2023

Hippolyte Cailleteau, Beatrice Catena, Clara-Sophie Cramer, Marleen De Haan, Oisín Herbots, Caspar Hobhouse, Tijs Cornelis Van De Vijver

### September-December 2023

Fee-Marie von der Brelie, Adam Eskang, Lily Grumbach, Smaranda Olariu, Alexander Royall, Simmi Saini, Sascha Simon, Pelle Smits



**ANNEX**  
OVERVIEW OF EUISS  
ACTIVITIES IN 2023



January	
24	Africa-Europe relationship in a fragmented world
26	EU-Japan strategic dialogue
February	
1	Roundtable on Türkiye
3	Advancing the EU's cyber posture
16	Connectivity potential around Afghanistan
23	Sri Lanka's crisis: The geopolitics and geoeconomics behind it?
23	A stronger transatlantic approach to countering hybrid threats
March	
7	Implementing the EU's new strategic approach to the Great Lakes region
10	Integrating a gender perspective into EU CSDP missions and operations: delivering on the Strategic Compass
16	Workshop on public-private cooperation in the context of EU Cyber Diplomacy
21-22	Schuman Forum
22	Changing the Regional Order – The EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and the war in Ukraine
22	Strengthening transatlantic relations: Cyber and digital cooperation in the age of geopolitics
28	Launch of the Countering Foreign Interference project
April	
4	How Ukraine is resisting the invasion
13	Translating and understanding the Arab world in 2023
19	EUISS-COAFR Breakfast Meeting: New geopolitics of the Horn of Africa
20	EUISS hosting the MaMa/MoG delegates
24	Advancing the EU's strategic positioning in outer space
May	
4	The Europe-Latin America relationship in a shifting global context
5	Countering Foreign Interference project at the 2023 State of the Union conference
12	The EU's role as a security and defence policy actor
15	The war in Ukraine and the future of conflict and peacemaking
17	EU-NATO cooperation on hybrid threats in the Western Balkans
30	CFI project trains Western Balkans diplomats
June	
8	Workshop on EU cyber diplomacy and international law

12	European defence cooperation in time of war
15	Terror Threat Afghanistan Post-August 2021
20-21	Countering Foreign Interference Dialogues 2023
27	EUISS ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Trajectories for European security and defence
28	The EU's approach to security sector reform amidst shifting geopolitics
29	EU-Japan Strategic Dialogue
<b>July</b>	
4	Impact of Russia and Ukraine war on Eastern Neighbourhood states
<b>September</b>	
<b>October</b>	
18	The EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy: Where to and how?
<b>November</b>	
16	CFI project trains Young African Leaders Programme (YALP)
17	Roundtable on EU-North Africa relations
25	COASI Breakfast meeting on China's 20th Party Congress
29	Building weapons together (or not)
<b>December</b>	
12	Climate change and defence: Preparing for the future