STABILITY AND PEACE

INSTRUMENT CONTRIBUTING TO STABILITY AND PEACE

What is the IcSP?

The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) is the EU’s main instrument supporting security initiatives and peacebuilding activities in partner countries. It came into force in 2014, replacing the Instrument for Stability and several earlier instruments that focused on drugs, landmines, uprooted people, crisis management, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The IcSP provides quick, short-term assistance, for example in countries where a crisis is unfolding, or long-term support, notably to mitigate a variety of crisis- and peace-related risks, tackle global and trans-regional threats and build capacity for lasting socioeconomic development. Its activities complement those of the EU’s geographical instruments.

Specific objectives

- In a situation of crisis or emerging crisis, to swiftly contribute to stability by providing an effective response designed to help preserve, establish or re-establish the conditions essential to the proper implementation of the EU’s external policies and actions in accordance with Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union.
- To contribute to preventing conflicts and to ensuring the capacity and preparedness to address pre- and post-crisis situations and build peace.
- To address specific global and trans-regional threats to peace, international security and stability.

Why is it necessary?

Preserving peace, preventing conflicts and strengthening international security are the common overarching principles and objectives of the EU’s external action. Responding to these particular challenges requires a collective effort based on strong partnerships with other states, civil-society actors and multilateral and regional partners. As a global player, the EU has credibility and is perceived to be neutral, which provides a competitive advantage to intervene in many conflict areas so as to avoid escalation or to offer assistance in preventing conflicts. A greater impact is achieved when the response is provided at the EU level, as combined efforts provide increased leverage over authorities and international partners. Crisis-response actions at the EU level increase the coherence of response and aid efficiency, while peacebuilding actions create openings for structural and thematic engagement with Member States and civil society. Synergies and cooperation are increasingly needed at international level, as EU Member States and international donors are facing similar problems in terms of scarce resources. In this regard, it should be noted that a very limited number of EU Member States operate a crisis-response or peacebuilding facility comparable in scope to the IcSP.

Outlook for the 2021–2027 period

This instrument will be integrated into the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument under the new multiannual financial framework.

Budget implementation (in million EUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXECUTED COMMITMENTS</th>
<th>EXECUTED PAYMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>369.4</td>
<td>2018 308.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>376.9</td>
<td>2019 311.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>408.4</td>
<td>2020 376.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concrete examples of achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>56</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>crisis-response actions</strong> were adopted in 2020.</td>
<td>actions addressed the COVID-19 crisis in 2020.</td>
<td>assignments were performed under the Mediation Facility in 2020.</td>
<td>assignments were performed under the Security Sector Governance Facility in 2020.</td>
<td>assignments were performed under the Transitional Justice Facility in 2020.</td>
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Where are we in the implementation?

- The 100% execution of commitment appropriations reflects the full implementation of the allocated envelope for IcSP actions. The 71% execution of payment appropriations is explained by the fact that IcSP actions respond to conflict situations or situations where there is a risk of conflict. The risk of unforeseen events is high, and at times actions have to be amended as a consequence. Sometimes this meant that not all planned activities could be implemented, which was reflected as underspending and hence the need to de-commit.
- Under the IcSP, during the 2014-2020 period, more than 600 actions were launched worldwide in the field of crisis response, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, along with more than 300 actions in the field of global and trans-regional threats.
- Actions under the IcSP were among the first implemented that contributed to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic within the Commission’s ‘Team Europe’ approach (the EU together with the Member States). Eleven new financing decisions (EUR 50.85 million) and five increases to existing financing decisions (EUR 5.42 million) were adopted. Furthermore, 60 ongoing actions were reoriented to deal with COVID-19-related needs (EUR 8.6 million).
- Travel restrictions related to COVID-19 have caused some delays in implementation during 2020, but the vast majority of actions adapted swiftly to the new context, including through the use of new online tools.

Performance assessment

- The IcSP was a key element of the EU’s diplomatic efforts to respond to crises, promote peacebuilding and support conflict-prevention efforts. The funding of actions was determined by the EU’s political priorities. The challenges faced by the instrument included the constant adaptation of planning and implementation to highly volatile operational contexts, along with maximising synergies and complementarities with other external action instruments and Member States’ actions.
- The non-programmable crisis-response component allowed for the rapid mobilisation of EU funding to support short-term, rapid actions. This enabled timely and flexible EU responses to prevent conflict and to support post-conflict political stabilisation and early recovery in situations of crisis, emerging crisis or disaster. This contributed to fostering the conditions for the implementation of EU assistance and cooperation policies and programmes, when opportune financial assistance cannot be provided through other EU financing instruments. The IcSP has been mobilised to support a multitude of crisis-response and peacebuilding processes, including in the Central African Republic, Colombia, Libya, Mali, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. At the same time, the IcSP was able to respond to or prevent a multitude of local conflict contexts.
- The support of development and security for development was launched in December 2017. It allowed work to be carried out with with military actors for civilian purposes in exceptional circumstances. Following the positive experience under this pilot initiative, such actions have been included in all pillars of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument.
- The peacebuilding component focused on increasing support for early and preventive action and on strengthening capacity at local-community level. Such actions have allowed the EU to build and strengthen its own capacity and that of its partners to prevent conflicts, enhance resilience and build peace.
- IcSP support was instrumental in the establishment and development of the EU early warning system, an essential tool to anticipate conflicts and develop early actions. It underpinned many EU external policies in the field of peace and security. It also contributed to assert multilateralism by providing the EU’s contribution to recovery and peacebuilding assessments and to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.
- The IcSP supported civil-society organisations, in particular local organisations in non-EU countries, strengthening their capacities and skills in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, aiming at an inclusive approach and concretely contributing to the effectiveness and long-term ownership of mediation, peace and stabilisation processes.
- The component on the response to global, trans-regional and emerging threats included actions aiming at strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and judicial and civil authorities involved in the fight against terrorism, organised crime and all forms of illicit trafficking, and in the control of illegal trade and transit. Between 2014 and 2020, the threat picture evolved rapidly. The EU and partner countries faced new security challenges and had to adapt quickly. Supported actions were global in nature and adopted a ‘niche’ approach, complementing and adding value to other funding instruments. Possibilities under this component were fully utilised, including, among other things, security-targeted actions, non-development initiatives and actions with a trans-regional scope.
- IcSP responses to global, trans-regional and emerging threats also played a pioneering role, engaging in areas not previously covered by EU cooperation instruments, through pilot actions that in some cases were later scaled up under the development cooperation instruments such as the European Development Fund. Pertinent examples include those in the Sahel (on police cooperation and counterterrorism), the Horn of Africa (on the prevention and financing of terrorism) and in Latin America (on police cooperation).
- IcSP actions have enhanced the role of the EU as a relevant and responsive global peace actor in often sensitive contexts. In countries that have been subject to the EU early warning analysis, the IcSP has been mobilised to translate early warning into early action.

Key performance indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>PROGRESS TOWARDS THE TARGET</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of processes and entities with strengthened capacity</td>
<td>1 183</td>
<td>&gt; 100%</td>
<td>1 650</td>
<td>1 726 compared to a target of 1 650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological threats – number of facilities upgraded to international standard</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12 out of 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Countering terrorism – partner countries covered by counterterrorism activities</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>&gt; 100%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40 compared to a target of 20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

% of target achieved by the end of 2020