



Institute for  
European Studies  
*Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

# Security Sector Reform

ESDC Training Course on Fragility, Security and Development  
in the Context of European Union External Action

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# Overview

- ① Peacebuilding vs. Statebuilding
- ② SSR and Rule of Law
- ③ SSR: Towards a truly Comprehensive Approach?

# Peacebuilding vs. Statebuilding

- + Conceptual, but often also ideologically charged debate (2001/2003: Afghanistan & Iraq)
- + Policy Implications: Priorities on the Ground, Role of State Institutions
- + Increasing Consensus in recent years

# Statebuilding

- + Political Science Debate: Charles Tilly (1975): ‘Western Statemaking’
- + Statebuilding vs. State Formation (cf. unlike nation-building)
- + Prioritization of Outcomes: **Resilience**
- + “Ownership” vs. “Intrusiveness”
- + Role of external actors (indigenous vs. exogenous approaches)

# Peacebuilding

- + Post-Cold War concept for multidimensional measures for **preventing relapse** into conflict and process **towards lasting and sustainable peace** (see, for example, OECD, 2005)
- + Process for promoting direct peace dividends for (civil) society (justice, human rights, development) - possibility for actions that “bypass” state structures?
- + Goal: **Structural Stability**

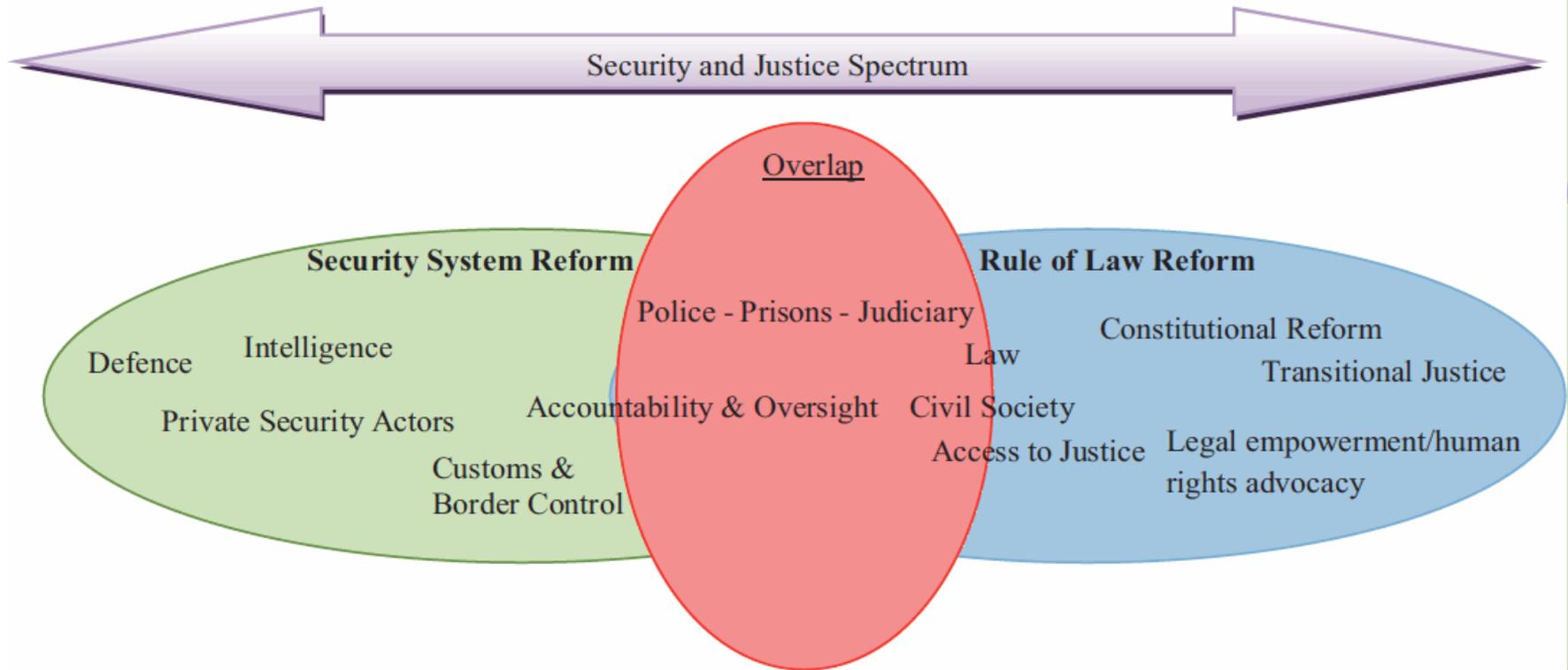


# Peacebuilding and Statebuilding

- + Convergence of concepts and practice
- + Both perspectives focus on long-term stability and resilience through institution-building, ownership and legitimacy
- + Complementary - avoid temptation of hierarchy
- + Role of SSR central for both perspectives



# SSR and Rule of Law



Source: Clingendael Conflict Research Unit, 2012

# SSR and Rule of Law

- + Shared goals in peacebuilding/statebuilding approaches - Rule of Law dependent on SSR
- + SSR and Rule of Law - different programming, different actors (budget lines)
- + Integrating military and judicial approach
- + Challenges in CSDP (Iraq/Georgia/Kosovo)



# SSR: Ideal Case for Comprehensive Approach

- + SSR as integral part of Long-term Peacebuilding
- + Requires variety of instruments at EU's disposal (Sustained Experience by Commission, Council and CSDP)
- + Requires intensive and systematic cooperation and exchange with International Organizations (UN, NATO, OSCE, Council of Europe, African Union)

# Internal Dimension

## ① EU Institutions vs. Member States

- Limitation of EU Impact if disjointed from activities of Core Member States (Sahel, Horn)
- Lack of Resources / Monopolized Training

## ② Lack of Overall SSR Strategy

- Council and Commission papers 2005/2006
- Systematic CSDP Lessons Learned?
- Marginalization of Military Dimension / EUMS
- **Niche vs. Grand Strategy Approach?**

## ③ Lack of Inter-Institutional “Task Force”

Lessons from the UN?

**Lessons from the EU Crisis Platform?**



# External Dimension

## ① SSR is one of the core 'multi-actor' fields

NATO / African Union

OSCE / Council of Europe

United Nations / Peacebuilding Commission

## ② External Comprehensive Approach?

- Early coordinated Planning
- Cooperation and Coordination on the Ground
- Continuous Inter-organizational Lessons Learned

# External Dimension: UN-EU

- + UN as the organization with considerable (but far from perfect) experience of integrated approach
- + Far-reaching Institutionalization of UN-EU Relations (EU CSDP Action Plan to Enhance UN, 2012)
- + But: No Institutionalized Dialogue on SSR (Utilize Role of Slovakia's 'UN Group of SSR Friends')
- + Absence of UN-EU SSR Roster Coordination (EU resource constraints?)

# Capability and Resource Issues

- + 18 out of 27 CSDP missions with SSR elements, yet underfunded; demand for thematic lessons learned
- + EU SSR Roster established, but understaffed
- + Member States: Better spending, more inclusive, innovative and transparent recruitment needed
- + Expansion and lessons from Existing Tools: European Gendarmerie Force



# Many thanks

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