



## About EUNPACK

EUNPACK, a project funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, takes an integral approach to the crisis cycle. It considers the EU's intentions and use of the tools at its disposal (from financial and technical assistance to the launch of military missions); reception on the ground and perceptions in host countries. The project started in April 2016, and its first substantive research reports are now available. Fieldwork is ongoing.

## Follow us:

[www.eunpack.eu](http://www.eunpack.eu) @eunpack



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no.: 693337. The content reflects only the authors' views, and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.*

## Workshop in Bamako, Mali

### Morten Bøås, NUPI and EUNPACK Coordinator

On 8-10 November 2016, EUNPACK held a workshop in Bamako, Mali. In this workshop, Morten Bøås and Silje Skøien from NUPI met with the ARGA team led by Abdoul Wahab Cisse and Ambroise Dakouo for two days of discussions about the implementation of the field work in Mali. Among the items discussed was the question what sectors we should target in this case. We decided to focus on the EU's support to Security Sector Reform through the EUTM and the EU's approach to rule of law programmes in Mali. Both are sectors of crucial importance as the political environment in Mali is tense and the security situation is fragile.

Unfortunately, Mali is not moving in the right direction. In the northern part of the country, insurgencies are still active; rebels have taken control of territory as well as people in certain places. Conflict has also materialised in Central Mali, particularly in the Mopti region. Here, just 450 kilometres from the capital Bamako, a series of local land rights disputes between semi-nomadic Fulani populations and sedentary farmers have been appropriated by the Salafi insurgency Macina Liberation Front that recruits among young Fulani men. This insurgency is associated with Ansar ed-Dine (a mainly Tuareg Salafi insurgency) that operates in Northern Mali.

It is the view of the researchers who took part in the Bamako workshop that these recent events only underscore the need to facilitate a conflict-sensitive approach by key international stakeholders such as the EU. This is the best way to tackle the gaps of intention/implementation and perception/reception identified in EUNPACK as gaps that must be reduced if an external crisis response is to be both legitimate and effective.



European  
Commission

Horizon 2020  
European Union funding  
for Research & Innovation

## Mosul after IS

In an opinion piece for Norwegian daily *Dagsavisen*, EUNPACK project manager Morten Bøås and Tina Gade ask what will happen after Islamic State are driven out of Mosul. They argue that an apparent lack of planning on the part of the anti-IS forces currently attacking Mosul makes it likely that they will win the war, but lose the peace in the city. "The coalition now fighting against IS is a short-term military coalition that has an interest in chasing IS out of Mosul but has little else that unites them," they write. "At best the coalition now has a military plan but no real plan to rebuild Mosul politically and economically. This is necessary because a plan is required to bring the city and its people together again socially, economically and politically."

## Coming up

Working papers on Ukraine and Libya, on Serbia and Kosovo, and on Iraq, Afghanistan and Mali.

**All publications are available at <http://eunpack.eu/publications>**

## A conflict-sensitive EU approach to conflict and crisis in the Middle East

A panel organised by EUNPACK as part of the 2016 annual MERI Forum on 27 October 2016 presented ongoing research conducted under the project. The main question is how and to what extent the EU crisis response has been designed to enable



responses that are sensitive to the political and social context in the different crisis areas? The panel focused on EU involvement and support to state-building, good governance and the rule of law, as well as the fight against IS and humanitarian assistance. Moreover, the EU's political and economic dealings with non-state and sub-state actors such as the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) was assessed. Chair: Athanasios Manis, Middle East Research Institute. Speakers: Morten Bøås, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway; Steven Blockmans, Centre for European Policy Studies, Belgium; Tine Gade, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway.

## New publications

### Best practices in EU crisis response and policy implementation

This report has two aims: To take stock of how the European External Action Service and the Commission have institutionalised lessons-learned mechanism, and to discuss the extent to which these mechanisms and practices incorporate the EU's ambitions for a 'conflict-sensitive' and 'comprehensive' approach.

### Understanding the EU's crisis response toolbox and decision-making processes

This report provides an overview of current EU crisis-response capacity. It describes the institutional framework and the decision-making processes, focusing on the capacity at the EU level. It also discusses how and to what extent the EU has developed institutional capacities for coordinating its activities with other international organisations (NATO, UN, AU, etc.) as well as with individual member-state activities in this area. Finally, it discusses how the EU deals with conflict sensitivity in its key documents.