



# *Cooperative Security Initiative (CSI)*

... before it's too late





**FES Regionalbüro für  
Zusammenarbeit und  
Frieden in Europa**

FES Regional Office for  
Cooperation and Peace  
in Europe

## **ABOUT > What is CSI?**

### **What is the CSI?**

The Cooperative Security Initiative is designed to generate ideas and shift momentum in favor of cooperative security and multilateralism through the OSCE in order to build a safer Europe.

### **Who takes part?**

The Initiative is composed of 18 experts from all OSCE regions, headed by a Chair. Experts have been chosen in their personal capacity, based on their expertise in issues of European security and their demonstrated interest in cooperative security, as well as their institutional affiliation and networks. While care has been taken to finding a geographical balance, experts do not represent their countries per se.

### **Who is behind it?**

The CSI is conceptualized and carried out by two think tanks: The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe (based in Vienna) and GLOBSEC (based in Bratislava). The Initiative was launched at the GLOBSEC Forum in June 2019, with the support of Slovakia's Chairmanship of the OSCE. OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger has endorsed the Initiative, and has offered Secretariat support.

### **Who is the audience?**

The Initiative is designed to engage an audience beyond the group of experts, including through social media, meetings hosted by think tanks, parliamentarians as well as senior officials of OSCE participating States. The Initiative will use innovative approaches – based around guiding questions – to generate debate to promote cooperative security. Join the discussion through the hashtag #whycooperate?

### **Outputs/Deliverables**

It is anticipated that the CSI will produce an output around a limited set of questions in time for the OSCE Ministerial Meeting in Bratislava on 5 and 6 December. A final product designed to enhanced cooperative security and encourage effective multilateralism for a safer future in Europe will be produced in time for the GLOBSEC Forum in spring 2020. Outreach events are planned for 2020.

### **Funding**

The Initiative is financed through voluntary contributions – either of the co-organizers or from OSCE participating States.



**ABOUT > 20 Questions for a Safer Future**

### **Preamble/Chapeau/Explanation**

Sense of urgency. Trend line. Potential dangers.

Can we consider the current security situation in Europe flawed, but acceptable? Is this situation sustainable for a long time?

Recall priorities of Slovak Chairmanship: need for a more cooperative approach to security, effective multilateralism [explain why], and a safer future.

Recall fact that in the past, reforming the European security system was usually only done after major wars (1648, 1815, 1919, 1945). Do we want to risk that in a nuclear age? Or what is the alternative?

Explain security dilemma (and recall way out as explained in the 1999 Istanbul Document).

Need to make the case for cooperation. To do that, need to understand what it means, and why it is in the interests of states and us all.

Need to challenge assumptions and the status quo – in order to better appreciate why states have a self-interest to work together.

What is cooperative security? [definition/explanation by the experts]

### **Current situation**

1. What kind of format of cooperation is realistic in light of great power competition?
2. How are cooperative and collective security compatible?
3. What are the benefits of cooperative security to great powers, but also smaller states?
4. How do opposing narratives and different interpretations of democracy and rule of law affect cooperative security?
5. What could trigger violent conflicts in Europe today? Is war in Europe thinkable, even likely in the next five years? What about a nuclear exchange?
6. What kind of mechanisms should we establish in case of an accidental use of nuclear capabilities? How will attribution and incident management work?

### **Shifting momentum**

7. What steps could be taken to de-escalate and de-militarize tensions in Europe in order to prevent possible war?
8. [Question on the conflict in and around Ukraine]
9. What can international organizations, non-state actors, sub-national entities, or even ordinary people do to promote cooperative arrangements?
10. Are new rules and agreements needed to enhance security and stability in Europe?
11. Can the existing principles and organizations deal with both "hard" and "soft" security in Europe?

### **Why cooperate?**

12. What are the challenges on which states need to work together, because they cannot be addressed on their own?
13. Are shared values essential for cooperation, and if so why?
14. How to get along with neighbors (and other states) that you do not trust?
15. Can your country protect its sovereignty and security without the help of others?
16. Should Russia be part of the European security system? Why?
17. Why should the United States be engaged in European security? Why?
18. Taking different integration projects into account, how should our common European space be managed?
19. Should your country strengthen its military potential and pursue national security interests regardless of the reaction of others?
20. If you do not support the idea of cooperative security, what is your vision for European security in the next 5 to 10 years?