Interoperability

Currently, many processes, procedures, systems and equipment for CSDP information management and exchange are in place, but these are often not interoperable. This makes information exchange and a shared situation awareness between CSDP entities and associated stakeholders difficult to accomplish.

Information exchange

CIVILEX aims to identify, characterise and model the communication and information systems in use within the EU civilian missions, to understand stakeholders’ requirements, and to provide possible solutions for a future interoperable Situational Awareness, Information Exchange and Operation Control Platform.

Innovation

The project will help to clarify the wider policy, institutional and operational issues of ICT systems in the context of CSDP and EU external action. The project takes a hybrid approach, aiming at both technical solutions for information exchange, and potential institutional changes (leading to agreements on exchange formats for civilian parties).
Our objectives

The CIVILEX project formulates recommendations for a future Situational Awareness, Information Exchange and Operation Control Platform (OCP) in support of civilian CSDP missions.

1. Create understanding and commitment among key OCP users on the institutional changes needed to streamline information management arrangements within CSDP missions.

2. Analyse the existing information management, exchange and operation control systems; identify the technical, security and usability requirements for the formulation of appropriate technical solutions.

3. Review state-of-the-art technologies and applications for effective information exchange and identify options for future technical interoperability formats, architecture and information exchange solutions.

4. Provide recommendations for setting the research and procurement agenda for acquisition and implementation of the future OCP, taking into account the technical options and institutional dimensions.

Our approach

The CIVILEX frame of analysis looks at factors and drivers originating in institutions, technology and working processes in an integrated manner.

To improve effectiveness in the implementation of CSDP civilian missions it is necessary to: (1) raise awareness among institutions about the benefits that a coherent and interoperable information and communication exchange system could provide to the implementation of CSDP missions, (2) foster information sharing and interoperability through standard procedures and practices, and (3) propose innovative technical solutions based on best practices and state of the art technologies to support processes and information needs, including security.

CIVILEX is developed in close collaboration and interaction with the users. This work is facilitated through interviews, regular exchanges with a User Group, and workshops to consult a wider community of stakeholders.

CIVILEX context

There is a wide range of potential EU instruments to confront crises at European level: diplomatic actions, economic sanctions, development aid, humanitarian activities, CSDP military and civilian activities.

CIVILEX focuses on civilian CSDP activities.

CSDP missions are complex endeavours that require all sorts of actions before operational implementation can commence, such as political crisis decision-making processes, the development of crisis management concepts and concepts of operations and the drafting of operation plans.

CIVILEX focuses on operations implementation and operations support

CIVILEX focuses on communication and collaboration. Its main purpose is to provide recommendations for the establishment of a platform that supports information exchange, situational awareness and operation control in civilian CSDP missions. The main aim of this platform is to foster cooperation and information sharing vertically, among Brussels institutions and field headquarters, and horizontally, among the units, institutions and local partners involved.