



POLICY BRIEF

EXAMINING NATO'S RESPONSE

What kind of partnership with Kosovo?

January 2017
Prishtina

Publisher: Kosovar Centre for Security Studies

Author: Plator Avdiu

Internal review: Florian Qehaja

Proofreading: Joseph Suszczyński

January 2017

Prishtina

© All rights reserved by Kosovar Centre for Security Studies. Intellectual property rights protected by Law No. 04/L-065 on Copyright and Related Rights and Law No. 05/L-047 on Amending and Supplementing the Law No. 04/L-065 on Copyright and Related Rights.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical or otherwise, without prior permission of the publisher.

The views expressed in this publication are those of Kosovar Centre for Security Studies and do not necessarily reflect those of its partners nor donors.

Table of content

Key findings.....	4
Introduction	5
1. Prospects of Kosovo-NATO relations	5
2. Examining NATO's partnership programmes	7
2.1. Programmes on cyber defence, education and training, and logistics	8
2.2. Building Integrity Programme.....	9
2.3. The Science for Peace and Security Programme.....	10
2.4. Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre.....	11
2.5. Public Diplomacy	11

Key findings

- Commencement of the new relations between Kosovo and NATO is expected to occur in 2017 which was presented in an ambiguous letter sent to Kosovo's Prime Minister by NATO Secretary General in December 2016. However, NATO's response to the Kosovo Government states a very small step in the prospective cooperation between Kosovo and NATO. Accordingly, it is far from what Kosovo demands, and it further marks a discrepancy with political discourse of the Kosovo institutions officials' who announced this as a major step.
- NATO's response paves the way to formal launching of Kosovo's accession into some NATO's programmes by balancing the existing mandate of KFOR/NATO presence in Kosovo through "interaction". In this regard, NATO already set a framework of cooperation by enabling Kosovo's involvement in certain NATO's programmes for state and non-state institutions of Kosovo. Hence, it marks the first time for Kosovo to participate in NATO's programmes and tools.
- In the framework of new Kosovo-NATO relations, there will be more frequent communication and regular visits of the NATO's senior officials to Kosovo. Furthermore, Kosovo will have initial participation in NATO's programmes, such as Building Integrity Programme, NATO Science for Peace and Security programme, Public Diplomacy as well as potential participation of the Kosovo Security Force as an observer in the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre Exercises.
- Even though it presents the first step towards initial cooperation between Kosovo and NATO, albeit such an "interaction" does not imply that Kosovo is a partner country of NATO when compared to other partner countries. This is due to the fact to NATO's neutrality approach towards Kosovo's statehood as four NATO member countries (Greece, Romania, Slovakia and Spain) have not recognized Kosovo's independence.

Introduction

NATO's response to the Kosovo Government indicates a very small step in the prospective cooperation between Kosovo and NATO. As such, it is far from what Kosovo deserves, and it marks discrepancy with the claims of Kosovo institutions officials' who announced this as a major step. Kosovo does not automatically fulfil the professional and political conditions to join the Partnership for Peace programme, yet the political challenges as a result of four NATO member countries still not recognising Kosovo (namely Spain) will continue to weaken prospective positioning of Kosovo in this international organisation.

In 2017, NATO will start some form of cooperation with Kosovo. This was presented in an ambiguous letter, which was sent to Kosovo's Prime Minister by NATO Secretary General in December 2016. The letter stated the formal commencement of Kosovo's accession into some NATO's programmes by balancing the existing mandate of KFOR/NATO presence with the need for gradual accession of Kosovo into NATO's programmes. In other words, NATO already designed a framework of cooperation by enabling Kosovo's involvement in certain programmes of the Alliance for state and non-state institutions of Kosovo by marking for the first time Kosovo's participation in NATO's programmes and tools.

This policy brief aims to examine the Kosovo Government demands' addressed to NATO's highest political level as well as the response from NATO. However, the challenges remain due to rejection of four NATO member countries to recognize Kosovo's statehood and neutral status approach of NATO towards Kosovo's statehood. With a view to better understanding of NATO's offered programmes to Kosovo, the paper will analyse each of the programmes indicated in the letter in order to provide an audience with better understanding of the prospective cooperation.

1. Prospects of Kosovo-NATO relations

Kosovo's practical commitment to membership process into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) marked a trajectory in when it formally demanded from NATO's highest political structures to establish official cooperation and partnership. Kosovo's Prime Minister, Isa Mustafa addressed a letter to NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg in November 2015 aiming to launch new political relations between Kosovo and NATO. For the purpose of commencing mutual and official relations between both parties, the Kosovo Government has put the stress at the following six core areas: (i) Kosovo-NATO political dialogue on regular basis at the highest political and ministerial level; (ii) establishment of Kosovo's liaison office at NATO Headquarters in Brussels; (iii) assistance, assessment and development of an individual cooperation programme for enhancing cooperation with NATO; (iv) upgrading NATO's civilian and military presence in Kosovo, in particular merging of NATO Liaison and Advisory Team and NATO Advisory Team into a single NATO's team in Kosovo; (v) NATO Public Diplomacy Division Co-Sponsorship Grants for the Kosovo institutions, non-governmental organizations, universities, think tanks, and other pertinent civil society organizations on peace and security-related issues; (vi) Kosovo's access to NATO's programmes and tools, including the Science for Peace and Security Programme and Building Integrity Programme that can enhance cooperation and dialogue between Kosovo and NATO and with its partners.¹

Given the NATO's neutral stance towards Kosovo's status, it has carefully responded to the Kosovo institutions in relation to potential cooperation of the latter with NATO. In his letter sent to the Prime Minister of Kosovo in December 2016, NATO Secretary General has pointed out that NATO's North Atlantic Council (NAC) has agreed for a new mode of cooperation between Kosovo and NATO designed in the form of

1 KIPRED, "The Kosovo Security Sector Observer", Volume I, No. 4, July 2016, p. 22. Available at: <https://goo.gl/jNkFI3>. Accessed on 11 December 2016.

“interaction” to be launched in 2017.² Even though it presents the first step towards initial cooperation between Kosovo and NATO, however such an interaction does not imply that Kosovo is a partner country of NATO when compared to other partner countries. This is due to the fact that 4 out of 28 NATO member countries have not recognized Kosovo’s independence, such as Slovakia, Greece, Romania and Spain. NATO’s non-recognizing countries have been constantly rejecting establishment of partnership and formal political dialogue between Kosovo and NATO on the grounds that it would harm NATO’s neutrality in front of Kosovo’s statehood.³ Reasons on refusing to recognize Kosovo can be traced into internal problems of the respective countries where in particular Spain is considered to firmly opposing launching of contractual relations between Kosovo and the NATO Alliance.⁴

The political challenges are for the time being avoided in order to introduce some sort of minimal cooperation albeit ambiguously transmitted by NATO. It is important to note that NATO member countries supporting Kosovo’s path to join NATO have significantly contributed to initiate cooperation. They constantly demand from NATO’s decision-making structures to clearly formalize its relations with Kosovo.⁵ When deconstructing the letter of Stoltenberg, the Kosovo-NATO interaction will not be directly conducted via NATO Headquarters in Brussels, but through interaction of the Kosovo institutions with NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) and NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT) in Kosovo. With reference to KFOR, NATO has reiterated in the 2016 Warsaw Summit that it will continue to remain in Kosovo according to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and that

any change in KFOR troops will be “*conditions-based and not calendar-driven*.”⁶ The NALT which was established in August 2016 following the merge of NATO Liaison and Advisory Team and NATO Advisory Team is located within the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force (MKSF) and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) as well.⁷ It is an advisory body which is distinct from KFOR and serves as a linkage between NATO and the MKSF. When it comes to cooperation with NATO, it is expected that from 2017 the NALT will be the focal point to coordinate practical cooperation activities between Kosovo and NATO.⁸ Therefore, NATO Secretary General acting on the agreed position of the NAC of NATO has proposed a set of interaction activities between both parties that are foreseen to begin in 2017.

In the framework of strengthening interaction, there will be more frequent communication and regular visits of the NAC to KFOR in Kosovo. These visits will involve meetings of the NATO’s NAC with the KFOR, the NALT and with representatives of the Kosovo institutions with the aim to enhance political dialogue. Apart from intensifying the mutual communication of Kosovo with NATO, it is expected that will be discussed areas of practical cooperation with Kosovo and NATO within the NAC-mandated framework.⁹

In the context of launching cooperation with the Kosovo institutions, NATO will offer additional activities for Kosovo to participate in the relevant partnership programmes¹⁰ of NATO, though in limited areas within the selected programmes. Accordingly, Kosovo

2 Letter of NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg addressed to Kosovo’s Prime Minister, Isa Mustafa, 5 December 2016, SG(2016)0357, p. 1.

3 Discussion with a NATO’s senior official, 14 November 2016, Brussels.

4 Discussion with a NATO member country’s senior representative supporting membership of Kosovo into NATO, 14 November 2016, Brussels.

5 Top Channel, “NATO dhe Shqipëria, Bushati flet për Kosovën, Trump dhe Rusinë” [NATO and Albania, Bushati discusses on Kosovo, Trump and Russia], 6 December 2016. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/qdhx6w>>. Accessed on 7 December 2016.

6 Para. 89, Warsaw Summit Communiqué, Press Release (2016) 100, 9 July 2016. Last updated on 3 August 2016. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/QGUBPS>>. Accessed on 5 December 2016.

7 Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force, “NATO mandaton Ekipin Këshillues dhe Ndërlidhës për Ministrinë e FSK-së dhe FSK-në” [NATO mandates the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team for the Ministry of the KSF and the KSF], 24 August 2016. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/5fBfRI>>. Accessed on 12 December 2016.

8 Letter of NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg addressed to Kosovo’s Prime Minister, Isa Mustafa, 5 December 2016, SG(2016)0357, p. 2.

9 Ibid., p. 1.

10 The second section of the paper provides explanation on the NATO’s partnership programmes.

may be involved to participate in NATO's programmes including cyber defence, education and training as well as logistics. Kosovo will be involved in the Building Integrity Programme in order to enhance activities of Kosovo with NATO to increase Kosovo's institutional capacity. Kosovo's formal involvement in the Building Integrity Programme will strengthen the existing endeavours of the Norwegian Government in the MKSF which happened to support integrity measures on bilateral level. Another programme at which Kosovo will participate through interaction with NATO is the Science for Peace and Security Programme for cooperation on security-related civil science, technology, innovation and beyond. However, Kosovo's participation in this programme is not fully guaranteed as NATO will examine the options for Kosovo to take part within activities of this programme.

Concerning activities related to the KSF and its involvement to potential cooperation with NATO, there has been proposed the KSF's participation as an observer in the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) Consequence Management Exercises. Consequently, the KSF may be part of exercises of the EADRCC within the existing mandate of the KSF. Furthermore, NATO in coordination with the NALT will explore possibilities regarding participation of the KSF in joint exercises with KFOR.

Except the state institutions' involvement, there will be also an opportunity for non-state actors in Kosovo to be included in the relevant NATO's programmes and tools. Thus, it is expected that Kosovo will be part of the public diplomacy matters through NATO's Public Diplomacy Division for further cooperation in order to support the relevant Kosovo institutions, non-governmental organizations, universities, think tanks, and other pertinent civil society organizations on peace and security-related issues, as well as on communications and Public Diplomacy issues.¹¹

It can be summed up that in spite of existing challenges the new relations of Kosovo with NATO through

mutual interactions is marking the foremost step and a turning point on Kosovo's path to establish formal relations with NATO. The Kosovo institutions and its domestic stakeholders should constructively cooperate with NATO to strengthen relations with NATO across the offered package of cooperation at the various NATO's programmes.

2. Examining NATO's partnership programmes

NATO is comprised of 28 member countries¹² from Europe and North America. It has constantly developed a mode of cooperation with partner countries or non-member countries through various partnership programmes. NATO's partnerships are established and maintained with the purpose to enhance political dialogue and practical cooperation between partner countries and NATO on providing contribution in international peace and security.¹³

In principle, partnerships framework of NATO with relevant partner countries are based on common values, reciprocity, mutual benefit and mutual respect. In this regard, among the most prominent partnership programmes of NATO with partner countries are the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) at which are involved 22 partner countries¹⁴ having partnership relations with NATO and its 28 member countries. Furthermore, there are established cooperation and partnership at different structures with other regions, including NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue, Istanbul Cooperation

11 Letter of NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg addressed to Kosovo's Prime Minister, Isa Mustafa, 5 December 2016, SG(2016)0357, p. 2.

12 See NATO member countries at the following link: <<https://goo.gl/Hvkeu7>>. Last updated on 30 June 2016. Accessed on 5 December 2016.

13 Para. 98, Warsaw Summit Communiqué, Press Release (2016) 100, 9 July 2016. Last updated on 3 August 2016. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/OGUBPS>>. Accessed on 5 December 2016.

14 See the list of partner countries under NATO's Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council at the following link: <<https://goo.gl/lhvxAI>>. Last updated on 11 November 2015. Accessed on 9 December 2016. See also the list of signature countries of the Partnership for Peace Framework Document at the following link: <<https://goo.gl/fXCZWo>>. Last updated on 10 January 2012. Accessed on 09 December 2016.

Initiative (ICI) and Partners across the globe as well as cooperation of NATO with international organizations (United Nations, European Union and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe).¹⁵ In cooperation with NATO an individual partner sets the pace, scope, intensity and focus of partnership with NATO involving individual objectives. Such partnerships are framed in a document that determines goals for the relationship which can be reviewed on regular basis. Hence, areas of cooperation include: (i) consultation, (ii) interoperability, (iii) contribution of partners to NATO-led operations and missions, and (iv) defence reform, capability and capacity-building by means of education and training.¹⁶

This paper examines the relevant NATO's programmes, albeit in limited scope, at which the Kosovo institutions and relevant stakeholders will have the prospect of participation starting from 2017.

2.1. Programmes on cyber defence, education and training, and logistics

Protection of communication and information systems was placed in NATO's political agenda in 2002 at the Prague Summit, and it was reiterated in 2006 at the Riga Summit. The cyber defence was noticeably developed in 2014 when NATO adopted its enhanced policy and action plan. The latter has ranked this policy as one of the core tasks of NATO's collective defence by confirming that international law applies in cyberspace and intensifies NATO's cooperation with that industry. Thus, protection of the communication systems owned by NATO is among the top priorities of the Alliance.¹⁷ It presents decisions of NATO member countries on streamlined cyber defence govern-

ance, procedures for assistance to member countries, and the integration of cyber defence into operational planning, including civil emergency planning. This policy defines the paths to take awareness, education, training and exercise activities forward, as well as encourages further progress in various cooperation initiatives with partner countries and international organizations. When considering cooperation with partners on cyber defence, NATO is engaged with partner countries on shared values and common approaches. Any request for cooperation with NATO is handled on an individual case based on mutual interest.¹⁸

NATO's programmes on education and training have been progressively implemented since 1949 when NATO was established. As education and training are developed in the course of various reforms and transformations, consequently, these mechanisms have become an integral part of NATO. Since 2002 when the Allied Command Transformation (ACT) was founded, education and individual training have been aligned with collective training and exercises. ACT ensures that appropriate education and trainings are developed from requirements and consequent analyses, which in turn develops the most suitable education and training solution for every discipline. In regard to cooperation with partner countries, NATO is using education to support institutional reform, more precisely NATO's education and training programmes are focused on increasing interoperability between NATO and partner forces.¹⁹ Education and training programmes are tools for cooperation on building, developing, and reforming educational institutions in the security, defence, and military domain. Partner countries that cooperate with NATO can participate in a range of education activities, including courses, roundtables, seminars and workshops of NATO. In addition to education and training policies, NATO shares expertise in the field of defence capabilities with partner countries through the PfP Planning and Review Process for multinational training, exercises, and operations. On the other hand, logistics within NATO's definition is the science of planning and carrying

15 NATO, "Partners". Last updated on 11 November 2015. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/lhvxAl>>. Accessed on 9 December 2016.

16 For more information on these areas of cooperation between NATO and its partners, see the following link: <<https://goo.gl/rQU5N1>>. Last updated on 7 October 2016. Accessed on 7 December 2016.

17 NATO, "Cyber defence". Last updated on 1 December 2016. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/cKBh42>>. Accessed on 10 December 2016.

18 Ibid.

19 NATO, "Education and training". Last updated on 25 May 2016. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/5fwQ6s>>. Accessed on 11 December 2016.

out the movement and maintenance of forces. It covers such areas as design and development, acquisition, storage, transport, distribution, maintenance, evacuation and disposal of materiel; transport of personnel; acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation and disposition of facilities; acquisition of provision of services; and medical and health service support.²⁰ Logistics has a great importance for any military operation, and in absence of that, operations could not be carried out and sustained, with particular emphasis in the case of out-of-area operations. In the beginning of the 1990, NATO recognized the changed security environment as a result of enlargement and partnerships through the PfP programme and other cooperation programmes with Central and Eastern Europe as well as peace support operations in the Western Balkans. Therefore, since 2002 there is no geographical limits to NATO's area of operations and NATO's logistics itself has evolved as various initiatives have been commenced to develop the required capabilities.²¹

Kosovo is expected to participate into these NATO's programmes, however it is not clearly stated in which areas of the relevant programmes would be allowed to participate. In relation to cyber defence, it can be assumed that Kosovo will be involved in fields that affect the scope of the Kosovo Security Force (or the forthcoming Kosovo Armed Forces), while a potential cooperation will be expected to set up through individual case between NATO and Kosovo on sharing common values. As regards the education and the training programmes Kosovo can benefit from NATO on international reform towards increasing interoperability amid the Kosovo Security Force (or the forthcoming Kosovo Armed Forces) and NATO's presence in Kosovo. Apart from building, developing, and reforming security and defence institutions in the educational field; Kosovo can cooperate with this international organization at various NATO's educational courses, roundtables, seminars and workshops.

20 NATO, "Logistics". Last updated on 6 June 2012. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/DrtRSu>>. Accessed on 11 December 2016.

21 Ibid.

2.2. Building Integrity Programme

The Building Integrity (BI) Programme was initially established in 2007 by the EAPC. At the Chicago Summit in 2012, the BI Programme was confirmed under NATO Education and Training Discipline within the framework of Allied Command Transformation Global Programming. Integrity tools of NATO were further discussed in 2014 at the Wales Summit where the BI Programme was reaffirmed as an integral part of NATO's Defence and Related Security Capacity Building Initiative.²² Given that corruption and poor governance present security challenges that weaken democracy, the rule of law, and economic development; NATO during the Warsaw Summit in 2016 highlighted the importance of improving integrity building, anti-corruption measures, and good governance that should be applied by NATO, its member countries and partners. Moreover, the summit endorsed the NATO BI Policy which has pointed out that "*transparent and accountable defence institutions under democratic control are fundamental to stability in the Euro-Atlantic area and essential for international security cooperation.*"²³

The BI Programme is designed to reduce the risk of corruption in the defence and related security sector in order to strengthen good governance of defence institutions. Its activities which are opened to NATO member countries and partner countries involve: (i) the BI Self-Assessment Questionnaire and Peer Review Process, (ii) tailored programmes, (iii) education and training activities, and (iv) publications.²⁴ Being a programme within NATO Education and Training Discipline, the BI's structure includes NATO International Staff as a Requirement Authority and the Centre for Integrity in the Defence Sector (CIDS) operating under

22 NATO, "Building integrity". Last updated on 5 October 2016. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/LymsOz>>. Accessed on 10 December 2016.

23 Para. 130, Warsaw Summit Communiqué, Press Release (2016) 100, 9 July 2016. Last updated on 3 August 2016. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/QGUBPS>>. Accessed on 5 December 2016.

24 NATO, "Building integrity". Last updated on 5 October 2016. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/LymsOz>>. Accessed on 10 December 2016.

the Ministry of Defence of Norway. This programme is developed and managed by NATO International Staff in cooperation with NATO Military Authorities as well as NATO International Military Staff, Allied Command Transformation, Allied Command Operations and subordinated commands that meet on regular basis. Apart from this, implementing partners of the BI Programme are NATO and non-member countries, civil society and other international organisations that provide contribution through giving expert advice, hosting events, conducting research, and proving analysis and training in the framework of the defence sector.²⁵

Since 2016, the Ministry for Kosovo Security Force has implemented its integrity plan, which is being developed under the bilateral support of the Norwegian Government in the Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force with the aim to strengthen the integrity framework in the institution. The integrity plan is consisted of the most high-risk areas to corruption and unethical behaviour as follows: (i) improvement of procurement system and asset management, (ii) prevention of conflict of interest, (iii) human resource management, and (iv) enhancing internal control mechanisms.²⁶ The latter is in line with the principles of NATO's Building Integrity Programme to diminish corruption risk.²⁷ As it is expected to participate within the activities of the Building Integrity Programme, Kosovo will further develop institutional capacity and particularly integrity policies within the Kosovo Security Force (or the forthcoming Kosovo Armed Forces). In this regard, implementation of the existing integrity plan can be supervised through mechanisms of this NATO's programme. Additionally, measures to reduce corruption risk and strengthen good governance in the Kosovo Security Force (or the forthcoming Kosovo Armed Forces) will potentially imply participation in NATO's Building Integrity Self-Assessment Questionnaire and Peer Review Process, tailored programmes as well as education and training activities.

25 Ibid.

26 Ministry for the Kosovo Security Forces, "Integrity Plan (2016-2018)", June 2016, pp. 11-22. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/zcV5WH>>. Accessed on 11 December 2016.

27 Ibid., p. 8.

2.3. The Science for Peace and Security Programme

NATO's Science for Peace and Security (SPS) Programme was established in 1958 and promotes security-related practical cooperation to address emerging security challenges. It connects scientists, experts, and representatives from NATO member countries and partner countries who cooperate together to address these challenges.²⁸ The SPS Programme provides funding, expert advice, and support for security-related activities through workshops, training courses, or multi-year research and development projects. This programme promotes the political dimensions of NATO with respect to shared values and support to civil society. The NATO's SPS Programme is became one of the most important partnerships of the Alliance by connecting governmental and civil audiences.

Three main dimensions of the SPS Programme are science, partnership, and security. The focus of this programme is stressed on a growing range of non-traditional risks and challenges including terrorism, defence against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents, cyber security threats, energy security and environmental security concerns, human and social aspects of security, particularly the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. Such a programme makes possible the linkage between civil society and NATO through activities that address global security challenges. Researchers, academics, government experts as civil actors have an important role to play in helping NATO to identify, understand, and respond to threats and risks. While NATO intends to guarantee that funding and support are available for cooperation activities that address NATO's security objectives towards promotion of cooperation and partnership.²⁹

Yet, it is vague whether Kosovo's state institutions and civil society organisations will be involved in

28 NATO, "The Science for Peace and Security Programme". Last updated on 9 April 2015. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/cJ12Qk>>. Accessed on 11 December 2016.

29 NATO Emerging Security Challenges Division, "The NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme", Brussels, December 2015, pp. 9-26.. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/QghFKE>>. Accessed on 11 December 2016.

this programme towards cooperation with NATO. Accordingly, NATO's response to the Kosovo institutions has not precisely indicated at which dimensions of the programme it will participate except that NATO "will explore alternative ways" as to Kosovo's participation in "some" of the Science for Peace and Security activities.³⁰ Notwithstanding, Kosovo can provide its expertise and share practises with NATO in order to jointly address security risks and challenges with respect to counter violent extremism and human security as well.

2.4. Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre

Established in 1998 by the EAPC, the EADRCC is a civil emergency planning of NATO and presents an important EAPC's policy on cooperation in the field of international disaster relief. Serving as a partnership tool of NATO, the EADRCC guides consequence management efforts and operates as an information-sharing tool on disaster assistance through the organizations of seminars to discuss lessons learned from NATO-coordinated disaster response operations and exercises.³¹ Furthermore, this body conducts annual large-scale field exercises with realistic scenarios to improve interaction between NATO and partner countries. Its work implies regular major disaster exercises in different participating countries to practice procedures; provide training for local and international participants; build up interoperability skills and capabilities; as well as harness the experience and lessons learnt for future operations. The EADRCC submits assistance requests to NATO and partner countries and further keeps track of the assistance offered; assistance accepted by the stricken country; delivery dates and assistance still

required and the situation on the ground. It is located at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.³²

Kosovo, more precisely the Kosovo Security Force (or the forthcoming Kosovo Armed Forces), will be expected to participate as an observer in the EADRCC Consequence Management Exercises in accordance with its mandate.³³ Kosovo has an extensive experience in emergency planning from 1999 to date (2017), including activities of the former Kosovo Protection Corps, and the existing Kosovo Security Force to conduct civil protection operations and assisting the civil authorities to natural disasters and other emergencies.³⁴ Thereby, the Kosovo institutions can share their experience with NATO as well as with its member and partner countries in the emergency planning to further contribute in joint exercises with the EADRCC. Moreover, Kosovo needs to seek active participation in the framework of the EADRCC activities' on disaster response, and it ultimately should aspire to obtain full involvement in the EADRCC.

2.5. Public Diplomacy

In terms of communication with the public, NATO cooperates with media and public diplomacy programmes with relevant stakeholders involving opinion leaders, academic and parliamentary groups, youth and educational circles.³⁵ Apart from traditional media, NATO uses internet-based media and public engagement to build awareness and support for NATO's role, objectives and missions. Programmes and policy have adapted to changes in the political and security environment, as well as to the technical innovations that have a direct impact on communication work. Moreover, the communications services provid-

32 Ibid.

33 Letter of NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg addressed to Kosovo's Prime Minister, Isa Mustafa, 5 December 2016, SG(2016)0357, p. 2.

34 NATO, "The Kosovo Security Force now self-sustainable". Last updated on 30 July 2013. Available at: <<https://googl/5zaW0A>>. Accessed on 11 December 2016.

35 NATO, "Communications and public diplomacy". Last updated on 20 June 2016. Available at: <<https://googl/eLPZlQ>>. Accessed on 11 December 2016.

30 Letter of NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg addressed to Kosovo's Prime Minister, Isa Mustafa, 5 December 2016, SG(2016)0357, p. 1.

31 NATO, "Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre". Last updated on 7 April 2016. Available at: <<https://googl/6qbsTB>>. Accessed on 11 December 2016.

ed by NATO have been reformed and restructured on numerous occasions to adapt to the different needs of the constantly evolving information environment, as well as to the needs of the security environment.³⁶

NATO's Public Diplomacy Division (PDD) supports various public diplomacy activities including conferences, seminars and information campaigns. Its co-sponsorship programmes including conferences, seminars, workshops, digital multimedia or online projects on peace and security issues through grants. Non-governmental organizations, universities and think tanks are beneficiaries of grants from the PDD. Project areas are mainly focused on NATO's current agenda, such as collective defence, cooperative security and NATO's partnerships, NATO's role in crisis management, NATO's open door policy and NATO capabilities or Smart Defence.³⁷

State and non-state actors in Kosovo, including the relevant Kosovo institutions, non-governmental organizations, universities, think tanks, media and other pertinent civil society organizations on communications, peace and security-related matters will be directly involved in this programme. Parties that will benefit from NATO's PDD will be jointly engaged with NATO in conferences, seminars, workshops and other public diplomacy activities. In addition, when considering the context of Kosovo, there is a need to have more frequent visits and meetings of representatives of the Kosovo institutions, civil society organizations, universities, think tanks and media with relevant representatives of NATO Headquarters in Brussels within NATO's PDD. It will further contribute to reaching the public of Kosovo to raise awareness and understanding NATO's values, policies, and activities beyond the perspective of KFOR's mission in Kosovo in order to enhance the level of debate on peace, security and defence related issues.³⁸

36 Ibid.

37 NATO, "NATO Public Diplomacy Division's Co-Sponsorship Grants". Last updated on 3 February 2015. Available at: <<https://goo.gl/G7p5hl>>. Accessed on 11 December 2016.

38 Ibid.

Katalogimi në botim – **(CIP)**
Biblioteka Kombëtare e Kosovës "Pjetër Bogdani"

327(4/9:496.51)
061.1(4/9:496.51):355

Avdiu, Palator

Examining NATO's response : what kind of partnership with Kosovo? / Plator
Avdiu. – Prishtina : Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, 2017. – 13 f. ; 30 cm.

ISBN-978-9951-679-54-1

www.qkss.org

ISBN 978-9951-679-54-1



9 789951 679541