

# **EU Common Security and Defense Policy Civilian/Law Enforcement Mission's activity in the Middle-East.**

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In our today's global world, the concept of security has been re-evaluated. Security can no longer be interpreted only at the local level - of a country, a region or a continent. Serious events taking place in geographically far parts of the world - wars, natural disasters, economic crises, international organized crime, terrorism, etc. - can have a quick and strong impact on countries located on the opposite side of the world. For example, the conflicts taking place in the Middle East and North Africa have a deep impact on the national security of the EU member States, including Hungary. Illegal migration and terrorism originating from these regions are serious security risks in Europe. We can only effectively manage these risks at their starting points, locally. The EU actively takes place in this activity with its Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) missions. These missions are not robust military engagements, but mostly unarmed civilian experts and law enforcement specialists carry out missions supporting the rule of law and law enforcement sector in certain countries. The law enforcement components of the EU missions play an important role in the training and development of local law enforcement forces in different crises effected geographical regions. Through these activities, the affected countries and regions can be stabilized.

**Keywords:** Middle East, crisis, crisis management, EU, law enforcement.

## **I. Introduction**

Individual countries can do their best to preserve international security through their existing membership in various international organizations – eg.: the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), or through other international cooperation. Therefore, the international organizations take various measures to create secured environment for their member states. These measures can be diplomatic efforts, various forms of cooperation, but if necessary, in order to create security, even the use of force is possible.

After the second world war, which was the most destructive war in human history, the demand appeared to ensure security in the framework of international cooperation. Also, if a security challenge arises, we will also be able to provide an appropriate response within the framework of international cooperation if necessary. Nowadays, efforts to create international security have become integral components of international relations.

The concept of international or global security deals with the management of phenomena and security challenges that can affect every country on earth in one way or another. By definition, international security can only be effectively and efficiently maintained within the framework of international cooperation.

The EU also tries to be an active part of international crisis management and peacekeeping. My research based on my experience, which was gained in time where I was deployed in CSDP mission in Middle East and the official documents of international organizations and national authorities.

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## II. The Common Security and Defense Policy<sup>2</sup>

The Common Security and Defense Policy (hereinafter: CSDP) defines the political and military guidelines of the European Union, as well as the political, legal and operational frameworks of peacekeeping and crisis management military operations and civilian missions carried out abroad. The EU's 2016 global security strategy<sup>3</sup> contains the main objectives of the CSDP, and the Treaty of Lisbon regulates the tasks of individual EU institutions within the CSDP and strengthens the role of the European Parliament in decision-making. The CSDP has undergone a major strategic and operational review and modification in recent years in order to strengthen effective EU action against global security challenges affecting the Union. The CSDP focuses on the Balkans region, former Soviet states, the Middle East, North Africa, where political instability, civil war, local wars generate global security challenges such as terrorism, weapons-, drug smuggling, trafficking of human beings or illegal migration. These illegal acts endanger not only the given region but also the EU. On 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Bratislava<sup>4</sup>, the EU member states confirmed their intention to strengthen the EU's cooperation in external security and defense. The member countries that are willing to undertake a greater commitment in the field of common security and defense.

Within the framework of CSDP, the EU wants to be an active part of the efforts aimed at creating international security.

It is worth saying a few words about the circumstances leading to each conflict. The events cause of specific local and regional conflicts can be:

- Bad governance, corruption, economic problems, complete lack of social care system;
- failed external interventions (see Iraq, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan);
- war or civil war conditions, ethnic and religious conflicts, lack of security;
- population boom (eg. Middle East and North Africa, hereinafter MENA), the population has increased 4.5 times over the past nearly 60 years between 1960 and 2021)<sup>5</sup>;
- in parallel with population growth, the size of fertile land is constantly decreasing;
- the depletion of water resources (currently 2.2 billion people on Earth do not have access to safe drinking water in their homes)<sup>6</sup>, water shortages mostly affect MENA countries, the fight for drinking water is taking place in more and more parts of the world;
- environmental changes, the negative effects of global warming are felt most in the MENA region, Central and East Asia, and Central Africa.

In most cases, the countries involved in various conflicts are not able to solve the problems they face on their own, so they need the support of the international community.

During the management of crises, all available political, economic and other tools must be used to improve the quality of life in each conflict zone and reduce the suffering of the people living there. Crisis management tools:

- Political and other tools for peace-enforcement and peacekeeping;
- long-term crisis management strategies;
- economic development;
- education, educational development;
- reduction of negative environmental impact;
- planned water management;
- supporting the establishment of the rule of law.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/pages/glossary/common-security-and-defence-policy-csdp\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/pages/glossary/common-security-and-defence-policy-csdp_en)

<sup>3</sup> Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign And Security Policy (Brussels 2016)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2016/09/16/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/region/middle-east-and-north-africa>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.who.int/news/item/03-05-2021-affordability-of-wash-must-be-defined-and-tracked-if-2030-global-goals-are-to-be-met-new-report>

The civilian/police peacekeeping and crisis management missions of various international organizations (UN, EU, OSCE) play an important role in the establishment of the rule of law mentioned in the last point.

### III. EU civilian/police missions

The purposes of EU CSDP missions and operations<sup>7</sup> are peacekeeping, crisis management, crisis prevention, strengthening international peace and security, supporting the establishment of the rule of law, and effective action against weapon smuggling, human trafficking, and piracy. The CSDP activities are concentrated on third countries outside the EU. These geographical areas affected by war, civil war, other crises, which are the starting points of various global security challenges (like terrorism, weapons-, goods-, drugs smuggling and human trafficking, etc.) posing a direct threat to the EU. The EU CSDP involvement in countries that emit and transit migration, including supporting the establishment of the rule of law and the reform of local law enforcement agencies.

Crisis management activities carried out under the direction of international organizations (e.g. EU, UN, OSCE) with non-military personnel and experts (e.g. police officers, judicial specialists) with the aim of restoring local public administration, sometimes temporarily using executive mandate, if the local law enforcement agencies cannot ensure this. In the international terminology, all civilian roles that are not military are classified as such, including police activity. Therefore, police and law enforcement agencies operating under the auspices of the EU peacekeeping and international crisis management missions are considered civilian involvement. Their activities and management system differ from military missions. The law enforcement component plays an important role in building the internal security system within the framework of post-crisis reconstruction. Through this activity, the EU CSDP civilian missions effectively help to normalize the “daily life” in a crisis zone.

The tasks of the police forces in the various crisis management and peacekeeping missions can be:

- Supporting the reconstruction and reform of various law enforcement institutions, increasing their efficiency;
- use of police force with an executive mandate;
- guaranteeing and monitoring the security of local elections;
- disarmament, reintegration of members of armed groups into civilian life;
- education, information (with special regard to crime prevention and victim protection);
- mentoring, monitoring, training, developing the capabilities of local law enforcement agencies;
- supporting the development of different policing models (e.g. community policing).

In the EU crisis management activity in the Balkan region, it has already been proven that the EU CSDP can operate efficiently and is capable of effective crisis management activities. For example the EU Rule of Law Mission (hereinafter: EULEX Kosovo)<sup>8</sup> is the largest civilian crisis management mission of the European Union ever launched. Its goal is to help the Kosovar authorities in building a functioning rule of law system.

The total staff of the mission in the period between 2008 and 2012 was approximately 3,000 people. The member states of the European Union and the non-EU countries that joined the mission as so-called contributing partners (the United States, Norway, Switzerland, Canada and Turkey) offered 2,210 police, customs officers and civil justice experts to the EULEX Kosovo mission. In addition, the work of the mission was supported by approximately 1,100 local

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/missions-and-operations\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/missions-and-operations_en)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.eulex-kosovo.eu/>

employees, interpreters, and logistics service personnel. The EU CSDP missions, although smaller in number, try to implement something similar in the Middle East.

#### IV. Middle East

Although the term denotes a geographically limited area - which is largely located in Asia, but whose western border extends into Africa through Egypt - it is, more of a political-historical less a geographical concept. Which was created during the 20th century thanks to the oil discovered in the area and the complicated ethnic-religious-political relations. With the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, followed by the end of British colonialism and the establishment of the State of Israel, ethnic, religious and political antagonisms turned into armed conflicts. Political instability, wars and civil wars conditions are the starting indicators of various global security challenges. Which are pose a direct threat to the EU as well. The EU CSDP efforts are clearly indicated by the fact that 3 of the 11 civil/police missions currently taking place are operating in the Middle East region.

During the planning and organization of CSDP missions and operations, special emphasis is placed on geographical areas where the security challenges arising from conflicts there generate global consequences. Even within these geographical areas, the Middle East is of great importance for the Union, and its member states. In addition to the UN, in the recent decades the EU has also paid special attention to the Middle East region, including the Palestinian territories and Iraq. The Union tries to be an active part of crisis management. This is clearly demonstrated by the fact that the former High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, after her appointment on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014, made her first trip to the "Holy Land"<sup>9</sup>. There she met with Israeli and Palestinian political leaders. During his visit, he emphasized that the stability of the region is important for the Union.

The EU Border Assistance Mission for Rafah Crossing (EUBAM Rafah)<sup>10</sup> began its activities in 2005, within the framework of which it trains and mentors staff of the border security and customs agencies of the legitimate Palestinian Authority in the Palestinian territories<sup>11</sup>. Its aim is to build and operate the integrated border management system effectively, according to the international standards at border crossings run by the Palestinian Authorities.

The other European Union involvement in the occupied Palestinian territories is the EU Police and Rule of Law Support Mission (the EU Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support - EUPOL COPPS)<sup>12</sup>. The main tasks of the EUPOL COPPS Mission are supporting the reform of the Palestinian civilian police, developing its operational capabilities, strengthening and supporting the criminal justice system, strengthening cooperation between the police and judicial bodies, coordinating the activities of external partners supporting the Palestinian Police. The mission prioritizes the areas of human rights and gender equality during the training of Palestinian law enforcement and judicial staff.

The third CSDP mission established in the region is the EU Iraq Advisory Mission (EUAM Iraq)<sup>13</sup>. The mission started operating in 2017, its main task is to provide advice and expertise to the Iraqi internal affairs bodies at a strategic level, to support the implementation of the tasks set out in the Iraqi national security strategy and the reform of the security sector.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.dw.com/en/eu-foreign-affairs-chief-mogherini-calls-for-palestinian-state/a-18048838>

<sup>10</sup> <https://eupolcopps.eu/>

<sup>11</sup> The UN The General Assembly affirmed that the status of the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, remained one of military occupation, as it adopted a revised resolution on the question of Palestine.

<sup>12</sup> <https://eupolcopps.eu/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.euam-iraq.eu/>

## V. EU CSDP civilian/police missions in the Middle East

### A *EUBAM Rafah Mission*

The mission was established to support the operation of the Rafah border crossing. It is mentoring and monitoring the work of the border police and customs agencies of the Palestinian Authority since 2005 and developing their operational capabilities. The EU legal basis for the operation of the mission is the joint action plan of the Council of the European Union adopted on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005<sup>14</sup>. The international legal basis are the "Agreement on Freedom of Movement and Acces" concluded between the Palestinian Authority and the State of Israel and signed on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2005. The other is the "Conventional Guidelines Related to the Rafah Border Crossing" signed by the Palestinian Authority and Egypt . The contracting parties agreed that at the Rafah border crossing, the EU Mission, as a third party and observer, will check and support the work of the legitimate Palestinian Authority, and ensure the operation of the crossing in accordance with international standards. The mission began its operations at the end of 2005, with a total operational staff of 86 (currently 18)<sup>15</sup>. The mission's border guards and customs experts performed 24/7 duties at the Rafah border crossing and the Kerem Shalom cargo crossing, as well as operating a liaison office and operations center in Gaza City. After Hamas took over the control in Gaza in 2007, the mission was withdrawn from the Gaza Strip following the decision of the EU Council. It is currently stationed in Israel with a reduced number of staff and provides training and mentoring, monitoring the members of the legitimate Palestinian Authority's border security agencies from there. The EU considers Hamas as a terrorist organization, does not recognize the legitimacy of the 2007 takeover of power, and only considers the legitimate Palestinian Authority based in Ramallah in West-Bank as a partner. The Rafah crossing currently operates on a "rhapsodic" basis. Due to the terrorist threat from Gaza, the Egyptian authorities permit the opening of the crossing once or twice a month and only for humanitarian reasons allow entry and exit for those who announce their intention to cross the border in advance.

Since 2014, according to the agreement between Hamas and the legitimate Palestinian Authority, the "Palestinian unity government" has been established "several times". One of the essential elements of the agreement between the two parties was to allow return the members of the legitimate Palestinian Authority to the Rafah border crossing currently controlled by Hamas. Accordingly, the EUBAM Rafah mission launched a project supporting the return of the Palestinian Authority's Border Police to Gaza. Parts of the mission's project are the organization of trainings, study trips, and the implementation of appropriate technical developments of the local counterparts. Within the project, since 2014, several trainings and study trips were organized for middle and senior managers, as well as executive staff of local border security forces. The Palestinian border police and customs specialists participating in different trainings about integrated border management. The mission also giving trainings about the planning, organizing, and managing of border security related activities according to international standards. The human rights, the safe operation of crossing points, effective action against illegal border related activities are in focus. The local officers also have been receiving training about the methods of fighting corruption. With the support of the EU an Integrated Border Management Command and Control Centre was built in West-Bank in 2020. The staff of this Command and Control Centre will be trained, mentored and monitored by Hungarian and Polish law enforcement experts in late 2022<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> (COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2005/889/CFSP of 12 December 2005 on establishing a European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.eubam-rafah.eu/en/node/5054>

<sup>16</sup> The writer of this manuscript is appointed as the leader of international team.



## ***B EUPOL COPPS Mission***

Another EU CSDP engagement in the occupied Palestinian territories is the EU Police and Rule of Law Support Mission (EUPOL COPPS). The mission started operating on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006. The legal basis for the operation of the mission is provided by the joint action plan adopted by the Council of the European Union on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2005<sup>17</sup>. The main task of the mission is to support the reform of the rule of law and the police. The operation of the mission is part of the EU's efforts to support the establishment of the two-state solution set out in the Oslo Peace Agreement<sup>18</sup>. The main tasks of EUPOL COPPS: supporting the reform of the Palestinian civilian police, developing its operational capabilities, strengthening and supporting the criminal justice system, strengthening cooperation between the police and judicial bodies, coordinating the activities of external partners supporting the Palestinian Police. The mission prioritizes the areas of human rights and gender equality during the training of Palestinian law enforcement and judicial bodies.

When the mission started in 2006, it only had a police advisory unit, and the mandate only covered this area. At the same time, the EU quickly realized that the capacity building of the police cannot be separated without supporting the reform of the criminal justice system (prosecutors, courts, correctional). For this reason, in 2008, the mission was supplemented with a consulting unit supporting the rule of law. Thus, the implementation of the mandate of the mission is carried out by relying on two main pillars (police advisory pillar and the rule of law pillar). The mission employs well-trained police officers, judges, prosecutors, civilian experts and seconded by EU member states and third countries supporting the CSDP (Canada, Norway, Turkey) and some contracted experts with extensive professional experience, who ensure the successful operation of EUPOL COPPS. The members of the police advisory unit provide assistance to the middle and senior managers of the regional and central bodies of the Palestinian Ministry of the Interior, Police (approx. 8,000 people). Within this activity, the support of the planning, organizing and managing the work related to various law enforcement activities is given a prominent role.

The mission achieved great results in the development of the Palestinian civil police in traffic policing, public order, public safety, crowd and riot control, prevention of domestic violence, effective detection of such crimes, victim protection, cybercrime, intelligence-based policing, community policing, transparent, accountable policing. In the field of domestic violence and victim protection, with the support of EUPOL COPPS, a victim protection center was opened in Ramallah in 2017, where qualified police officers, medical personnel, civilian volunteers, and legal experts provide assistance to those in need. The mission directly supports the work of the Palestinian Ministry of the Interior, supports strategic planning, effective personnel policy, and the efficient operation of the internal control system. Through the legal advisory unit, it participates in the process of legislation and supports local government bodies in creating a legislative environment that meets international standards. EUPOL COPPS also treats the fight against corruption as a priority area, building effective cooperation between the police, prosecutors and the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Council.

## ***C EU Advisory Mission in Iraq (EUAM Iraq).***

The third mission in the region is the EU Advisory Mission in Iraq (EUAM Iraq) was launched in October 2017, in response to the Iraqi government's request to the EU to implement Security Sector Reform (SSR). The mission's initial mandate was for one year (until October 17, 2018),

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<sup>17</sup>[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?toc=OJ%3AL%3A2005%3A300%3ATOC&uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L\\_2005.300.01.0065.01.EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?toc=OJ%3AL%3A2005%3A300%3ATOC&uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_2005.300.01.0065.01.EN)

<sup>18</sup> <https://peacemaker.un.org/israelopt-osloII95>

which was extended annually based on local needs. The mission's current mandate runs until April 30, 2024. EUAM Iraq is headquartered in Baghdad, and the main task of the mission is to support the implementation of the civilian and therefore non-military tasks of Iraq's national security strategy and the reform of the security sector. This process, supported by many other international partners including the UN and NATO. This support process includes the implementation of institutional reforms as well as the fight against terrorism (including violent extremism). Furthermore, support for effective action against organized crime, with particular regard to support for the establishment of a well-functioning integrated border management system. The land borders between Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic remained unsecured, allowing terrorist fighters to move between the two countries. Also smuggling of antiquities and cultural goods activity poses a serious security challenge for the local law enforcement authorities. In rural desert areas, DAESH<sup>19</sup> is still present and controls smaller and larger areas, where the local law enforcement agencies do not operate. Most of the illegal acts related to the state border are coordinated and managed by DAESH, such as human trafficking or smuggling antiquities. The mission also supporting effective action against corruption, money laundering and the illegal trade of cultural heritage. The staff of the EUAM Iraq mission mainly supports the high ranking officials of the Iraqi National Security Council and the Ministry of the Interior. The local authorities are responsible for managing the reforms, supported by strategic advices of mission's international experts.

## VI. Challenges

The security challenges related to the state border in the current Palestinian territories, illegal migration, weapons, goods, drug smuggling. Most of the border violations take place in the Gaza Strip, where the legitimate Palestinian Authority has no, or only a small, ability to take effective action against illegal activities. Since the zone is de facto governed by Hamas, they also manage the policing tasks. The international community regards Hamas as a terrorist organization so there is no possibility of effective cooperation between the international and the Hamas controlled law enforcement agencies operating in Gaza. Since Hamas controls Gaza and needed to operate its own "state apparatus", it often happens that the organization does not prevent, but rather supports, the illegal cross the border activities, and benefits from them. Illegal migration, goods, and arms smuggling between the zone and Egypt are carried out through tunnels dug under the security wall erected by Israeli Defense Forces. It is 6.9 m (20 ft) high and has a 4.87 m (16 ft) deep concrete foundation. The migrants who want to leave the strip illegally through tunnels must pay around 4-5,000 per person for the smugglers affiliated to Hamas. For the above mentioned amount of money, the smugglers transport the persons from Gaza to the port of Alexandria, The smugglers ensure passage under the security fence, as well as they place a fake Egyptian entry stamp in the passports of the migrants, with which they legalize their stay in Egypt. After that the smugglers continue to transport the migrants from the port of Alexandria to Europe. The numbers are only based on estimates, but experts from the Palestinian Authority put the number of people who leave Gaza through the smuggling tunnels at around 3,500-5,000 per year. Medicines, drugs, weapons and food mainly arrive in Gaza from Egypt through the tunnels. The tunnels are often dug at the behest of Hamas, and the illegal activity passing through them is controlled by the organization rather than prevented. In many cases it collects "tolls" for smuggled goods. Terrorist acts are common in the occupied Palestinian territories, the targets of which are usually members of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), Israeli Police, Israeli settlers living in the occupied territories.

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<sup>19</sup> Terror group, also known the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)

Due to the Israeli blockade and strict controls, it is difficult to obtain weapons even illegally, especially in the West Bank. Therefore, in the occupied Palestinian territories, there is a "decade-old tradition" of committing terrorist attacks with cold weapons, mainly knives, and vehicles. Therefore, the international experts serving in the mission - although they are not targets, but can be at the wrong time and in the wrong place at any time - must be prepared before they travel to the operational area on how to avoid or respond to attacks.

Due to the presence of DAESH and other terrorist organizations in Iraq's rural area, the mission does not operate outside of Baghdad and the northern Kurdish areas, which can be said to be safe. In contrast to the Palestinian territories, international personnel in Iraq are the primary targets of local terrorist groups.

## **VII. The mission's staff**

The union supports peacemaking and crisis management in many parts of the world. Only professionally well-trained, highly motivated police and law enforcement officers who speak the working language of the given mission - usually English - can perform these crisis management tasks. Those who, in a multicultural environment, often have to work together with dozens of experts from other countries, cooperate to carry out the tasks specified in the given mission mandate. The selection process of mission members must be multi-level and transparent. The missions always try to find the best and most suitable candidates for the certain positions, they usually serve for 1-2 years in CSDP missions, rarely for longer.

Applicants for EU CSDP crisis management missions must meet all the admission requirements, which are listed below.

- Physically mentally fit. The personnel of the missions perform their duties in war crisis zones, in a cultural environment very different from the domestic one, and sometimes in extreme weather conditions. Therefore, it is necessary that they can withstand above-average physical and mental stress.
- Minimum 5 years of previous professional experience. The main tasks of the EU CSDP missions are training, mentoring and monitoring of members of the local law enforcement forces. For this reason, it is necessary that the selected specialist has the appropriate theoretical and practical professional knowledge and professional wisdom.
- Negotiable English language skills. I don't think I need to explain why this is important in an international environment, where the English is the working language.
- The written support of the competent commander or employer of the applicant is necessary. Because the police officer, law enforcement professional, civilian expert who is assigned to the given mission from the individual member states remains in the staff of his original service and workplace. He/she is deployed as seconded expert to the mission. Therefore, the employer/supervisor must also sign the law enforcement officer's application.

## **VIII. The mission's related training system**

The personnel of civilian/police missions carried out tasks in a challenging environment, different from general domestic police tasks. Therefore the applicants must be adequately trained for the mission. The pre-mission trainings usually delivered by the national authorities for the deployed personnel. But at the same time training is carried out according to unified international standards based on the UN Police handbook and the EU CSDP Mission's handbook.

The training of law enforcement professionals and civilian experts participating in international crisis management tasks is carried out in Hungary by the personnel of the Police Education and



Training Centre Peace Support and Foreign Deployment Department. Due to the nature of the task, this training activity is conducted in close cooperation with other police bodies and the Peace Support Training Center of the Hungarian Armed Forces and other military bodies. Due to the nature of the tasks in crises areas and war zones, the topics of the training also includes basic knowledge related to military activity.

Content of the mission related trainings:

- Information about the work of various international organizations;
- knowledge of human rights;
- first aid skills;
- orientation, map reading, use of GPS;
- religious and cultural awareness;
- radio communication in English;
- firearms training and police tactics (only for mission having executive mandate);
- 4X4 driving skills;
- stress management training;
- basic knowledge of explosive devices and mines;
- protocol skills.

## **IX. Conclusions**

In the Middle East, in addition to political and economic assistance, "civilian" law enforcement missions operating under the umbrella of the European Union's Common Security and Defense Policy play an important role. The missions, with their activities, greatly contribute to the development of the capabilities of the local law enforcement agencies and judiciary bodies. Through these efforts, they also promote the stability of the region.

The negative impacts of global security challenges, originating from the region can be reduced through capacity building of local law enforcement agencies and judicial bodies.

This task can only be performed by well-prepared, motivated specialists who speak the working language of the given mission well. The experts returning from the mission area can use their experience at home about terrorism and organized crime gained in the field.

In basic and advanced police training does not include CSDP or other international police peacekeeping and crises management related lessons. According to my opinion, it would be useful to give lessons about missions and police peacekeeping activity to young cadets as well. Hungary's national security strategy adopted in 2020 clearly defines that our country remains an active participant in the peacekeeping efforts of the EU, NATO, UN and other international organizations, and within this, civilian capabilities must be increased. Despite, this recently, the number of police officers deployed to peacekeeping and other international crises management missions abroad has decreased drastically, from 63 officers in 2012 to 21 officers in the first half of 2022<sup>20</sup>. It would be useful if, at a strategic level, a certain number of police officers should be determined per year to be deployed to international crisis management and peacekeeping missions. The same system works well in the case of Frontex<sup>21</sup>, where Hungary provides a specific number of police officers for the various operations in each year.

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<sup>20</sup> Source: Hungarian Police Education and Training Centre

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