

” NATO and the Regional Stability of Western Balkans- Smart Power Approach”

Findings for the Policy Recommendations of the Syndicate Group 2

31 August 2013
Struga, Macedonia

Smart Powers Incentives & Definition

- more than security less than soft approach
- setting scene for common understanding
- like a strategic culture
- resonate solution of the traditional and modern challenges
- how to build, use implement and benefit from smart power

Basic Questions

- How smart power could make us prepared, looking ahead of top global security challenges?
- What could/should NATO be doing to address those challenges? and
- What would be the role of the region and small states within?

Specifics and Sum of Potentials

- some already existent forms of cooperation could be used as a smart power mechanisms
- connecting NATO new security challenges and future regional interests
- what can be used as a power building
- Marshall Center fundamentals
- use of advanced EU/NATO member countries
- Budget spending & SSR

What is important

- Priorities
- chronically incapability
- problems, ways , mince and ends
- Can we change our mentality?
- no time for luxury to continue under current circumstances

Session 2

- Political culture in a region is on low level and politicians should be brought to the point to be part of speed up processes;
- Personal inclusiveness is not sufficient if the processes in the institutions are very slow;
- Related to all political elites in addition of our mentality inefficiency could come as a result of former influence of the socialist system (more than 75% of now a day's politicians are from former communist party);
- There is general political stability of the region but interim entities' instabilities as well;
- The only way how to overcome mentality is to reform political parties through competition;
- People and the change are dependent on power, some countries have permanent political crises for more than three years not discussing about economy but about past war disputes which send bad message to the citizens;
- According to Economist intelligence for WB, politicians are trusted by 10% and maybe that's the case why in some of the countries there are other findings for public opinion that for leaders is very high;
- Socialistic time made people dependent to state, incapable to do anything, expecting that it should solve all their problems which is kind of culture of inert personage with lack of professional capacities;
- Need of being at the moment not to become and necessity of change reluctance and understanding that someone else should do the work is a still present paradigm;

Session 2/2

- Need of being at the moment not to become and necessity of change reluctance and understanding that someone else should do the work is a still present paradigm;
- Therefore 'rule for the games' should be established cause if the rules were as such in WE some of those countries would ask very similar questions;
- What one did or could do on reconciliation could cost him/her an end of political career which again emphasize the strength;
- Expensive belongings and show up will necessarily be reason more for confrontations between those that want to earn it legally and the others;
- In certain stances bribery and low salaries of politicians make them being prone to corruption;
- Signing blank resignation letters make politicians dependent on their party leaders or their superiors and a powerful instrument cause of ultimatum;
- There are roundabout of politicizing without intention to fulfill the purpose of solving the issues;
- Decision-making process has a new dilemma, who can undertake hard decisions authorial or open-minded politicians;
- Conclusions can be always drafted without being implemented;
- Countries have so many similarities but one of the problem is missing adequate civil society;
- Political elites instead of being servant to the electorates they lost the idea whose servant they are;
- We exercise case of the corruption from the west and for politician regular phrase is "you are either corrupted or you a fool";
- Authoritarian philosophy of governing, obedience, awareness for permanent race of people, punishments, irresponsibility;
- Regularities in financing political parties and making money for party are questionable;
- Governments in the region are controlling everything, opponents, medias, civil society, citizens;

Session 2/3

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