

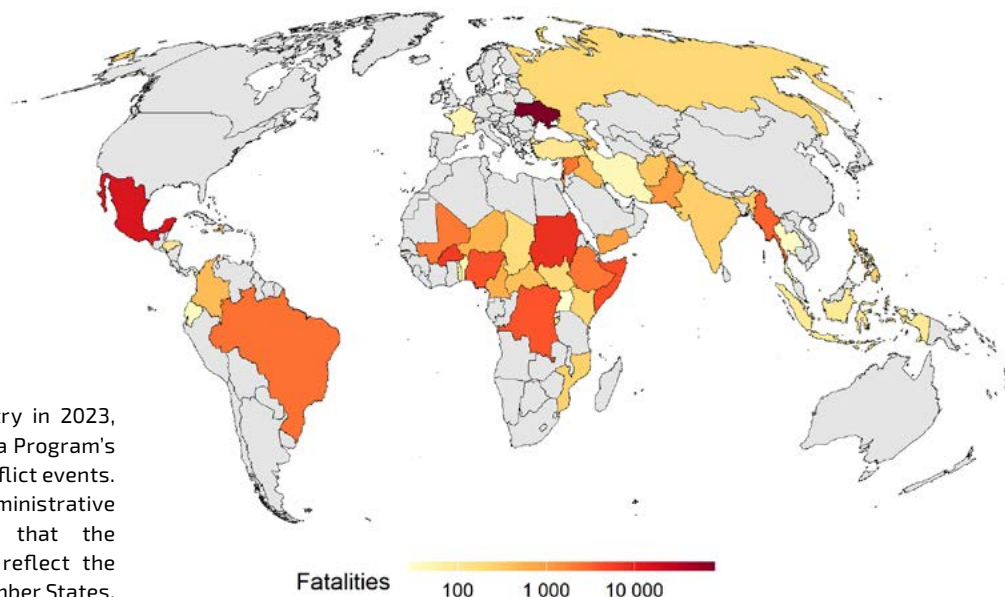


CONFLICT PREVENTION

Conflict prevention builds upon the premise that **violent conflicts can be prevented before they break out**, or at least the scope and impact of violence can be reduced. The European Union (EU) itself was created with the **core objective to prevent conflict** (article 21 of the Treaty on the European Union). Informed, timely and effective conflict prevention **reduces the risk of human suffering, and saves both human lives and financial resources**.

According to the World Bank, each euro invested in prevention saves an estimated 4 euros to the international community – up to €65 billion a year.

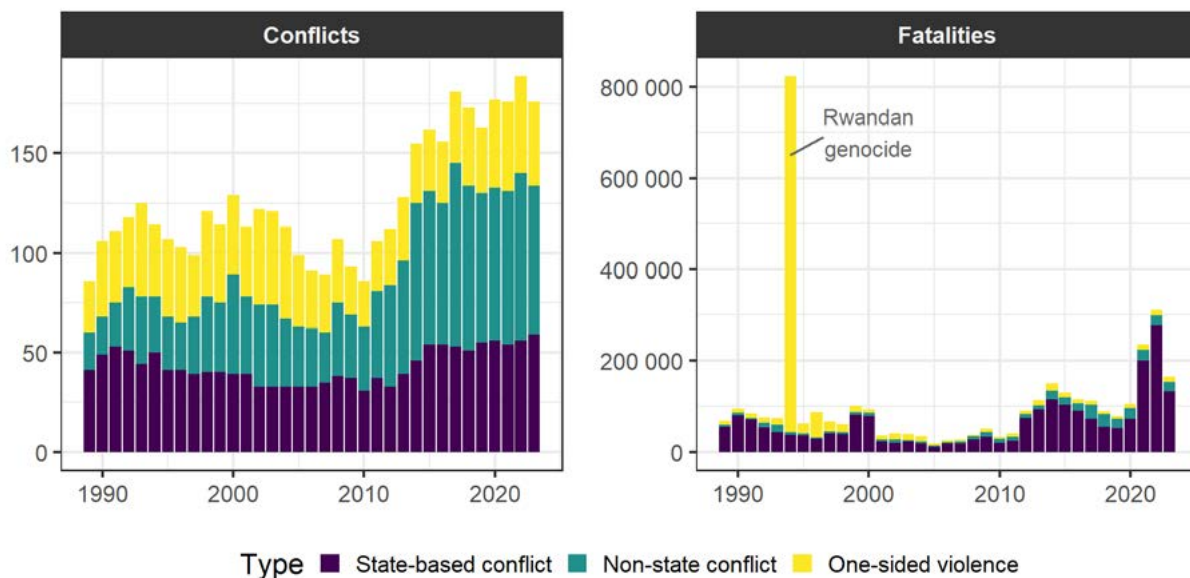
The EU, as a **global peace actor**, is ready to act preventively at all stages of a conflict, working to prevent the eruption, escalation and re-occurrence of violent conflicts as well as to foster their resolution as a means to support peace and prosperity around the world. For decades, the EU and its Member States have sustained their commitment to conflict prevention and peace, through **early warning, conflict sensitivity, and conflict analysis**.



Total fatalities within each country in 2023, based on the Uppsala Conflict Data Program's (UCDP) fatality estimate for all conflict events. Source of the map: The Global Administrative Areas Database. Please note that the geographical boundaries do not reflect the official position of the EU or its Member States.

As the nature of violent conflict evolves continuously, the EU conflict prevention toolset requires regular **reinforcing and recalibration** to better shape peacebuilding approaches. While **intra-state conflict still is the main source of casualties**, conventional war in the form of **inter-state conflict is back**. At the same time, a multitude of non-state and external actors are involved in intra-state conflicts, which implies an **increased complexity of conflict**. Besides the emergence of **new hybrid threats** (disinformation, cyber, attacks against critical infrastructures), other realities of today's world like climate change are weaponised. All this takes place in a context of **accelerated geopolitical rivalry** and a **normalisation of violence** as a tool to achieve political goals.





Trends in conflict types and resulting fatalities, based on the Uppsala Conflict Data Program's (UCDP) data.

THE EU CONFLICT EARLY WARNING AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS TOOLSET

In the era of deep fakes and disinformation, it is crucial to dispose of **evidence-based foreign policy planning**. Concerning the area of conflict prevention, this means that the EU identifies risks of conflict through a thorough analysis of **quantitative and qualitative data**, conducts **sound early warning and conflict analyses**, and eventually provides **options for action** for conflict prevention and peace building. Its **diverse conflict analysis toolset** allows to flexibly adapt to the changing nature of violent conflict, to ensure timely and data-driven conflict prevention, and to address both structural and more dynamic conflict factors.



The EU's Early Warning and Conflict Analysis toolset

2020

2024

70 reports

Since 2014, the **EU's Early Warning System (EWS)** uses **quantitative, constantly improved data modelling and intelligence** to identify countries at risk of conflict and potential escalation of violence. Between 2020 and 2024, the EWS and the Conflict Analysis Screenings (CAS) tools produced over 70 reports to strengthen **evidence-based decision-making**, identify opportunities and recommendations for EU conflict prevention, action and peacebuilding, and ensure the conflict sensitivity of EU programming.



Reinforced Conflict Analysis

Most recently, **new types of conflict analysis** with **regional or thematic focus** (such as electoral violence, gender, hybrid threats or economics of conflict) have been included in the EU's toolset.



Preventive Diplomacy

For the EU, **preventive diplomacy** is a key tool to prevent disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of conflicts when they occur. Moreover, conflict prevention informs and shapes the planning and design of the **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) actions** as well as the **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) programming and engagements**.

In all of these processes, **EU Delegations** around the world play a key role, to best factor in the situation on the ground. Moreover, **local civil society, international organisations and like-minded partners** are consulted. If necessary, it is also possible to involve **external experts** in order to benefit from their insights. **Monitoring** exercises ensure that recommendations lead to timely and effective action, shape political engagement, inform strategic planning, steer conflict-sensitive programming and trigger concrete action.

For more information, please see the **Updated toolset** for EU Conflict Analysis and Conflict Early Warning Objectives, processes and guidance: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12580-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

