

Abstract

The thesis deals with the mediation role of the OSCE in the conflict in Transnistria. The aim of the work is to assess success of the OSCE mission and analyse the main factors that influence the success. Contingency model is used for the analysis, based on an assumption that a conflict is a dynamic process, and during its analysis and search for a solution we have to view it as a complex, in as wide a context as possible. Via contingency model, it is possible to explain the success of the mediation mission on the basis of an analysis of two types of independent variables – contextual and process. Contingency model differs from other approaches in mediation, being specific because it does not automatically suppose certain success of mediator's work. Thanks to its complexity, it therefore offers a convenient analytical framework that makes it possible to study the success of mediation in various contexts.

Although the OSCE has achieved a lot and has had a positive impact on the evolution of the conflict as well as the overall situation in the region, the main aim of the mission – i.e. the arrangement of finding a stable political settlement of the conflict – has not been reached yet. Also, the OSCE has not managed to accomplish another two very delicate goals: to contribute by its activities to the complete withdrawal of the Russian army units and to remove the Russian military material and equipment from the Moldovan territory. Therefore, owing to the failure to accomplish of the most important goals, the OSCE mission cannot be considered successful in the strict sense.

After an analysis of the independent variables, it is possible to identify the main factors that make the activities of the OSCE mission in Moldova more difficult. All contextual variables – the character of the conflict, the character of the conflict parties, and the character of the mediator – have a negative impact on the OSCE activities.

As regards the process variable, mediation strategy of the Russian Federation negatively influences the OSCE activities as well. It is because Moscow submits proposals of which the nature is not favourable for Chişinău and other relevant participants, including the OSCE. At the same time, Russia is not ready to make possible compromises, especially as for the issue of the Russian army units staying in the Moldovan territory. The overall position of the Russian Federation results in maintaining the status quo of the Transnistrian region, while the existence of the de facto Transnistrian State suits Moscow.