

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with conflict prevention in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Its aim was to compare its relevance and results in the both countries. In doing so, the first theoretical section outlined the way of assessing conflict potential, which conditions and justifies applying preventative measures. This was examined in terms of Copenhagen school and its broaden meaning of security, whereas the paper focused on the political, economic and societal dimension. Then the notion of conflict prevention was framed within terminological and historical context and considered in terms of its trends and current challenges. At the end of the theoretical section, the concepts if security dimensions and conflict prevention were discussed in terms of their applicability for the case studies of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Afterwards, the empirical section researched the conflict potential and preventive actions of international organisations, states and non-state actors in the both countries. Analytical part evaluated the empirical data in order to assess conflict prevention in the both states. In doing so, I used SWOT analysis, which defined strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of conflict prevention in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The results can be summarised as follows:

- The character of conflict prevention in both countries is almost identical. Common concept / guidelines for similar cases should be hence discussed.
- External actors are usually skilled, well equipped, and institutionally strong.
- The preventive actions in the countries have been diminished due to the limited presence of actors as well as because of the lack of tools, information, motivation and reliable local partners.
- Despite their global emergence, the contribution of non-state actors to conflict prevention in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan is very limited.
- Preventive actions should be long-term, better targeted, more appealing and compatible with each other.
- Grass-roots projects together with educational and training programmes are most likely to create sustainable and fruitful preventive actions.
- Small grants can result in better targeted, efficient and transparent projects.
- The recent seemingly positive shift in Turkmenstan's foreign policy should be carefully considered and subsequently used for the local promotion of conflict prevention.

- As regards preventive strategies, their manageability (due to repressive character of the states) and transparency (due to highly corruptive environment) should be emphasised.
- The short-sighted projection of Western values without consideration of local particularities might be counterproductive.