

Holding the Stick from the Middle: The European Union's Attempt to Balance Between Its Inward and Outward Building Resilience Approach in Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis

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Abstract : When the EU launched the European Union Global strategy in 2016, state and societal resilience to the EU's East and South was a main priority, and it was a 'Governing Principle' when responding to crises, including its migration crisis of 2015. Yet, with the launching of the EU strategic compass in 2022, after the return of high-intensity war, namely the Ukrainian war, the emphasis became on the EU's own resilience. Consequently, this can be interpreted as a shift from outward building resilience into inward-building resilience. However, this paper argues that the EU effort is not a shift but rather an attempt to balance between building the EU's own resilience and its neighbors' resilience. Thus, the main question of this paper is about the EU's balance between building its own resilience and building the resilience of its neighbors in the case of Jordan in response to crises. To answer this question, this article attempts an in-depth analysis considering the case of displacement from Syria and the Ukrainian war focuses on the EU's approach to building its own resilience and building resilience in its neighborhood through the EU's refugee cooperation with Jordan, one of the key regional hosts of Syrian refugees. Textual analysis of secondary data of various texts from official European and Jordanian websites, news reports, and scholarly literature on resilience, as well as document analysis of different EU and the EU-Jordan policies, including their bilateral and multilateral agreements, will be examined to trace the EU's effort to maintain a balance between building its own resilience in its neighbor's resilience.

Keywords : inward approach, outward approach, resilience, Syrian refugee crisis

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