

AN EVASIVE INSIGHT TO A COMPLEX REALITY

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN PALESTINE

INTRODUCTION

Palestine has been a receiver of development assistance for decades, with the European Union and its member states as the main donors.

But programmes have not managed to secure long-term prosperity and peace in the territory and for its people.

OBJECTIVE

Form a coherent critique of the **European Joint Strategy in support of Palestine (EJS)** (periods 2017-2020, and 2021-2024)

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the instrument by which EU donors aim at **working together more efficiently to enhance the coherence** between their work's political, development and humanitarian dimensions

RESEARCH QUESTION

What has been the effectiveness and coherence of the EJS in transforming the lives of the Palestinian people?

Supported by secondary ones:

- What has been the **evolution of the results?**
- What is the EJS' **adaptability to the humanitarian crisis?**

METHODOLOGY

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

of the recommendations and policy proposals of the EJS by contrasting them with:

- Critical ideas and perspectives on development from the Conceptual Framework
- Views of the interviewed Palestinian feminist activist

PRELIMINARY QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

comparing the results of both periods of the EJS

EU VIEW ON DEVELOPMENT

State-building programmes focus on democracy and good governance as drivers of peace

CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE

- Decolonial thinking** → development studies perpetuate power asymmetries
- EU compliance with Israeli occupation**
- Palestinian Authority authoritarianism** → EU focus on technical rather than legitimacy capacities
- Coherence** of the plan with local reality
- Anthropological views** → sustainability must prepare us for an unpredictable future

EVOLUTION OF THE EJS

Between the results of 2020 and the latest from 2021/2022, there is:

- Growth of progress indicators** | milestone met
- Similar but lesser growth of aggravation indicators** | negative trend, needs corrective action
- Drop of deviation indicators** | milestone not met, needs review

So, there is a **positive evolution**

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

CRITICAL IDEAS	THEIR PRESENCE IN THE EUROPEAN JOINT STRATEGY
Decolonial thinking	Short-term and managerial solutions to structural constraints Unique engagement with PA neglects internal power dynamics
EU compliance with Israeli occupation	Evasion of the population's distrust towards the EU Dismissal of EU role in sustaining internal political division No indicator to incorporate responsibility of Israel
Palestinian Authority illegitimacy	Minimal civil society inclusion Focus on strengthening institutions' capacity
Coherence and sustainability	Minimal indicators on settlers' actions No acknowledgement of the population's self-organisation and resistance

INADAPTABILITY TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus has not been implemented in the formulation

But the prospects for its applications are not remarkable:

- Focus on emergency responses that do not tackle dependency on humanitarian aid
- Incorporation of peace limited by political agenda of donors supporting Israel and internal EU contestation on common policy

CONCLUSIONS

! The European Joint Strategy achieves certain milestone, but it is not an effective instrument for transforming the lives of the Palestinian people.

Evasion of the complex reality of the field that preserves the status quo, and generates interventions that are **incoherent** with:

- Structural constraints
- Anti-colonial struggles and claims of the local population

REFERENCES

