

COMPASS Project

COMPASS Project Methodology

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Version 1.0

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COMPASS Project

Navigating strategic partnerships

OVERALL COMPASS METHODOLOGY

Embark on a journey through the landscape of Serbia's relations with the EU and China! The COMPASS Project involves the realms of politics, security, and economics, measuring and assessing risks and opportunities within these piv-

otal partnerships. Explore the dynamic interplay of diplomatic maneuvers, security dynamics, and economic collaborations, offering a comprehensive understanding of Serbia's strategic navigation amidst the evolving global landscape.

Project methodology

The main objective of the Contributing to Modern Partnerships: Assessments of Sino-EU-Serbian Relations (COMPASS) project is to assess the main risks in relations between Serbia and two of its key international partners, the European Union and the People's Republic of China, in three areas: politics, security, and economics.

The area of politics encompasses the repercussions and influences of contingencies such as bilateral and multilateral agreements, official meetings, visits by political dignitaries, joint statements, and declarations. Additionally, it includes the practical effects and consequences of these actions and official documents affecting relations between entities, such as legislative acts and governmental decrees.

In the area of security, the focus is placed on the interactions involving military officials, the engagement of Serbian

Armed Forces in EU-led civil and military missions, arms trades, joint military exercises, shifts in armed forces posture, military cooperation agreements, and the ramifications of legislation related to security and defense.

The economic area revolves around the various dimensions of economic collaboration between Serbia and both the EU and China. This includes grants, loans, bilateral trade agreements, foreign direct investments, collaborative infrastructural projects, and the exploration of the economic effects arising from the cooperation with these two actors on Serbia's economy. Taken together, the three areas offer a comprehensive overview of the risks Serbia's navigation of its strategic partnerships with the EU and China entails.

The main analytical variable of the project is the foreign policy position of Serbia in the international system.

That position is primarily influenced and shaped by Serbia's relations with key international actors and its foreign policy choices that impact these relations in the three analyzed areas. These key actors are the EU, the United States, Russia, and China. Their importance is recognized in Serbia's foreign policy establishment which relies on the "Four Pillars", putting focus exactly on building stronger relationships with each of these four actors. This approach to foreign policy is determined by the global and regional position Serbia occupies in the international system.

One of Serbia's main foreign policy objectives and strategic orientations is to achieve membership in the European Union (EU). As a candidate country, Serbia has made significant progress in its accession process since being given a candidate status in 2012. Progress has been marked by the commencement of accession negotiations in 2014, with 20 negotiation chapters currently open and two temporarily closed. The crucial chapter in Serbia's accession process is Chapter 35, which addresses the complex political and security dynamics surrounding the status of Kosovo and Metohija. The unilateral declaration of independence in 2008 by Kosovo Albanian authorities in Priština, a move not recognized by Serbia, remains a critical issue impacting regional stability and Serbia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The response to this situation by key international actors profoundly influences Serbia's relations with each of them.

Another area of contention in Serbia's EU accession process is its alignment with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), under the Chapter 31 particularly regarding sanctions imposed on Russia following its actions in Ukraine in February 2022. Despite pressure, Serbia maintains its commitment not to implement these sanctions. Serbia's international standing is further shaped by its robust ties with China, characterized by deepening economic cooperation and underpinned by a comprehensive strategic partnership established in 2016.

Furthermore, Serbia finds itself navigating its strategic partnerships in an international landscape marked by growing divergence among key global actors, notably between the US and the EU on one side and Russia and China on the other. This divergence introduces multifaceted risks to Serbia's position in the international arena, spanning political, security, and economic areas.

Considering the outlined situation, the analysis will center on Serbia's interactions with two of the four pivotal international players: the EU and China. On one hand, membership in the EU is the proclaimed goal of Serbia's foreign policy, the EU is Serbia's leading economic partner and geographically most proximate of the four pillars of its foreign policy, and thus most relevant in the political and security domain as well. On the other hand, China's influence on the international system is on the rise, and its partnership with Serbia is being constantly developed and strengthened, evolving

from an economic area to also produce significant results in the political and security areas. Temporally, the analysis starts from the year 2013, a crucial juncture marked by the European Council's endorsement of the European Commission's recommendation to open negotiations with Serbia, as well as the year China initiated the Belt and Road Initiative.

The analytical spotlight will be placed on the years 2024 and 2025, coinciding with the project's active implementation. The main conclusions relating to these two years, as well as subsequent developments and their implications on the risks inherent in Serbia's relations with the EU and China, will be addressed in the annual COMPASS yearbook, offering an ongoing exploration of the Serbian attempts to navigate its strategic partnerships.

The overall theoretical approach is based on the appliance of the concept of strategic hedging on the Serbian foreign policy. Strategic hedging is defined as "behaviour in which a country seeks to offset risks by pursuing multiple policy options that are intended to produce mutually counteracting effects, under the situation of high-uncertainties and high-stakes" (Kuik 2008). This strategy is used to lessen the possible danger stemming from a decision to improve relations with one of the great powers or key regional actors and thus negatively impacting the interests of other powers. However, beside the advantages, the use of hedging strategy brings its own set of risks which are reflected in political, security, and economics areas. The start-

ing theoretical premise in the research on the relations of Serbia with the EU and China and the existing and potential future risks is that Serbia uses hedging in order to develop positive and beneficial bilateral relations both with the EU and China.

The **COMPASS Platform** serves as the central hub for comprehensive analysis and results stemming from the project. It encompasses a database containing all contingencies identified for research, along with their respective impact on Serbia's foreign policy position within the international system. The appropriate contingencies are chosen through the extensive literature review and content analysis of the developments in Serbia's relations with the EU and China in the politics, security and economics areas in the analysed period (starting from 2013). They are accordingly classified in one of the three research areas, with further concretization through assortment into one of several sub-categories within each area. The possibility for a single contingency to be assorted in more than one research area category (politics, security and economics) or more than one sub-category is allowed.

The analytical core of the project revolves around the application of a risk assessment matrix on the identified **contingencies**. Each contingency undergoes evaluation using a risk assessment matrix, where the X-axis gauges the likelihood of the risk, and the Y-axis assesses the consequences it may entail. This systematic approach categorizes contin-

gencies into distinct sections within the overall COMPASS risk framework. For a detailed understanding of each category on these axes and the explanation of the overall COMPASS risk system, refer to the section titled “Assessing the Risk for Serbia’s Foreign, Security, and Economic Policy”. The resulting classification of contingencies is accessible to the public and easily searchable on the COMPASS platform. The platform includes a search by filter option that displays contingencies assorted in the categories and sub-categories corresponding to the selected filters. Detailed explanation of the platform’s characteristics is presented in the section titled “**COMPASS Dataset Codebook**”.

In order to strengthen the risk assessment process conducted by the project team, it is enhanced in two methodologically complementary ways, through the use of the Delphi technique and the organization of two public opinion surveys. The **Delphi technique** allows for the gathering of expert opinions on the analyzed subjects. It can be defined as “an iterative, anonymous, group-based process for eliciting and aggregating opinion on a topic to explore the existence of consensus among experts” (Khodyakov et al. 2023). By answering the questionnaire, they offer their cumulative assessments of the risks in Serbia’s relations with the EU and China in the three research areas. With each round of the Delphi process, a new iteration of the questionnaire narrows the focus on the risks that are most commonly identified as relevant. In each round, the experts

have the opportunity to change their evaluation of each risk taking into account the results of the previous round or to adhere to their earlier assessment. When the process ends with the final round, the goal is to achieve a consensus of the experts’ opinions. Through the Delphi method the project team will map the key areas in relation to which the risks of concrete contingencies are to be assessed. Furthermore, the two **public opinion surveys** are to be conducted to gauge the overall stance of the wider public on the risks analyzed. The project team can thus take into account potential major discrepancies between the analysis conducted on the project and the public opinion. The public opinion surveys thus present a counterweight to the experts’ opinions stemming from the Delphi technique and allow the project team to include both aspects in the process of assigning a certain contingency in a distinct section of the overall COMPASS risk system.

The outcomes of the research conducted during the first and second years of project implementation (2024 and 2025) will be showcased in the **COMPASS Yearbook**. This publication will provide a comprehensive overview of important developments and events that influence the risks in Serbian relations with the EU and China across the areas of politics, security, and economics. However, the COMPASS Yearbook, as a new annual publication by the IPE, will persist beyond the project’s completion. It will encapsulate the research findings for each subsequent year, stemming from a continuous development of the COMPASS database with new insights.

COMPASS Dataset

The COMPASS Project offers three distinct datasets, each serving a specific purpose and capturing different temporal scopes and data variables.

1. COMPASS Retroactive Data

The COMPASS Dataset - version 1.0 (retroactive) is a comprehensive dataset that spans a substantial period from January 1, 2013, to December 31, 2023. This dataset encompasses 11 years of data, providing an extensive historical record that captures various metrics over a decade. Within this temporal scope, the dataset includes a total of 27 variables, each representing different factors or indicators that were recorded throughout the given period.

The retroactive dataset is particularly notable for its extensive collection of 600 records or contingencies. Each record represents a distinct data point or entry, reflecting various aspects of the historical data over the 11-year span. This makes the dataset an invaluable resource for those seeking to analyze long-term trends or historical patterns up to the end of 2023.

2. COMPASS Annual Series Dataset

In contrast to the historical focus of the retroactive dataset, the COMPASS Dataset version 1.0 (annual series) is designed to capture and provide ongoing data starting from January 1, 2024. This dataset marks the beginning of a series that will be updated on an annual basis,

ensuring that it remains current and reflective of ongoing trends and changes.

The annual series dataset includes a broader scope of 33 variables, indicating an increased level of detail and complexity in the data being collected. This expanded variable set allows for a more comprehensive analysis of the factors being tracked from 2024 onwards. Initially, the dataset contains 50 records or contingencies, representing the first batch of entries for the year.

3. COMPASS Integral Dataset

The COMPASS Dataset - version 1.0 (integral), like the annual series dataset, begins its data collection from January 1, 2013. However, the integral dataset is designed with a long-term perspective, aiming to continuously accumulate data beyond just annual snapshots. This dataset also includes 33 variables, matching the scope and detail of the annual series, and starts with 50 records or contingencies.

The integral dataset is unique in its purpose, serving as a foundational dataset for ongoing data integration. It is intended to provide a comprehensive and continuous collection of data that grows over time, allowing for a more extensive longitudinal analysis. This makes the integral dataset particularly valuable for research that requires a broader and more integrated view of trends and developments over a longer duration.

Compass Data can be accessed at:
data.serbiacompass.com

Assessing the Risk for Serbia's Foreign, Security and Economic Policy

In the complex and interconnected global landscape, assessing risk is a critical component for any nation seeking to safeguard its interests and maintain stability. For Serbia, this involves a comprehensive evaluation of various threats and uncertainties that could impact its foreign, security, and economic policies. This section aims to delineate the different types of risks that Serbia faces and the methodologies used to measure and manage these risks effectively.

a. Definitions:

Political risk

- a situation or development that arises and has potential to negatively impact state's diplomatic and foreign interests. Political risk for Serbia involves scenarios where political developments or instability could negatively impact the country's national interests and international relations. This includes the risk of changes in government, shifts in policy direction, or political instability that could disrupt governance and economic policies. Furthermore, regional tensions or conflicts, as well as deteriorating relations with key international partners such as the EU, the US, China, or Russia, could undermine Serbia's diplomatic standing and economic prospects.

Security risk

- a situation or development that arises and has potential to negatively impact state's security interests and overall defence level. Security risk for Serbia refers to potential threats that could jeopardize the nation's safety, defense capabilities, and overall security environment. These risks may arise from external factors such as regional conflicts, terrorism, cyber-attacks, or military aggression from neighboring countries. Internally, security risks include political instability, organized crime, and social unrest, which can weaken national security and undermine public confidence. Serbia's strategic location in the Balkans also makes it susceptible to geopolitical tensions and the spillover effects of conflicts in the region.

Economic risk

- a situation or development that arises and has potential to negatively impact state's economic stability. Economic risk for Serbia encompasses potential threats that can disrupt the nation's economic stability and growth. These risks may include external factors such as global market fluctuations, changes in trade policies, or economic sanctions that could adversely affect Serbia's export-oriented industries. Internally, risks like inflation, unemployment, and fiscal imbalances can undermine economic progress and reduce the effectiveness of government policies. Additionally, structural challenges such as corruption, a lack of diversification in economic sectors, and dependence

on foreign investment increase vulnerability to economic shocks. Effective management of these risks is crucial for maintaining economic stability and fostering long-term sustainable growth in Serbia.

Contingency

- an event or an action that can influence the rise of risks in areas of politics, security or economics.

Overall COMPASS Risk

- a measure indicating the intersection between the potential consequences and the likelihood that a contingency could affect three distinct areas of Serbia's position in the international system: politics, security, and economics.

Serbia's strategic partnerships

- relations between Serbia and key international actors defined as four pillars of its foreign policy: the US, the EU, China, and Russia. Changes in relations with any of these actors significantly influence Serbia's international position in areas of politics, security, and economics.

Hedging theory

- behaviour in which a country seeks to offset risks by pursuing multiple policy options that are intended to produce mutually counteracting effects, under the situation of high-uncertainties and high-stakes (Kuik 2008).

Delphi method

- an iterative, anonymous, group-based process for eliciting and aggregating opinion on a topic to explore the existence of consensus among experts" (Khodyakov et al. 2023).

Delphi session

- A Delphi session is a structured, iterative process used to gather and refine expert opinions on a specific topic through a series of rounds, ensuring that participants' responses remain anonymous. This method aims to achieve a consensus by aggregating the insights of experts, typically used in forecasting, decision-making, and policy formulation. There will be two Delphi sessions in COMPASS Project – economic delphi and politico-security delphi.

Foreign policy analysis

- Foreign policy analysis involves examining a country's strategies and actions in relation to other nations and international entities, focusing on how decisions are made and the impact they have on global relations. This field combines insights from political science, international relations, and economics to understand the underlying motivations and outcomes of a nation's foreign policy choices.

COMPASS Platform

- The COMPASS Platform is a comprehensive analytical tool available at data.serbiacompass.com that assesses and monitors risks across political,

security, and economic domains, providing an integrated framework for strategic decision-making. It hosts the COMPASS Datasets and other project outputs, enabling users to access, analyze, and visualize data crucial for evaluating contingencies and their potential impacts on Serbia’s national and international stability.

b. Project’s temporal domains

COMPASS Project captures contingencies occurring as of January 2024 onwards on annual basis. However, COMPASS Dataset includes data spanning January 2013 – December 2023 indexed in COMPASS Dataset Retroactive (See COMPASS Dataset Codebook).

Overall COMPASS Risk is a measure indicating the intersection between the potential consequences and the likelihood that a contingency could affect three distinct areas of Serbia’s position in the international system: politics, security, and economics.



CONSEQUENCES	LIKELIHOOD	OVERALL COMPASS RISK
Catastrophic	Certain	EXTREME/ CRITICAL RISK
Serious	Highly likely	HIGH RISK
Moderate	Medium	MODERATE RISK
Low	Low	LOW RISK
Minimal	Unlikely	NO RISK



ASSESSING CONSEQUENCES FOR SERBIA'S FOREIGN, SECURITY, AND ECONOMIC POLICY

CATASTROPHIC

Catastrophic consequences for Serbia's foreign, security, and economic policy would involve severe and widespread negative impacts on its international relations, security, and overall standing in the global arena.

Examples:

- Major armed conflict or war involving Serbia, leading to significant human and economic losses.
- Complete isolation from key international organizations and alliances.
- Imposition of severe economic sanctions with substantial negative effects on the country's economy.

SERIOUS

Serious consequences would significantly impact Serbia's foreign and security policy but might not be as severe or widespread as catastrophic events.

Examples:

- Escalation of regional tensions that strain diplomatic relations and regional stability.
- Economic sanctions targeting specific sectors or industries, causing economic hardships.
- Deterioration of diplomatic ties with key partners and allies.

MODERATE

Moderate consequences could disrupt normal operations and have noticeable impacts on specific aspects of Serbia's foreign and security policy.

Examples:

- Minor diplomatic disputes affecting bilateral relations.
- Economic challenges due to trade restrictions or barriers.
- Limited security challenges requiring adjustments in defence or security policies.

LOW

Low-consequence risks are manageable and unlikely to cause significant disruptions to Serbia's foreign and security policy.

Examples:

- Short-term economic fluctuations with minimal long-term impact.
- Minor diplomatic disagreements with minimal fallout.
- Limited cybersecurity threats with effective mitigation measures.

MINIMAL

Risks with negligible consequences that are unlikely to affect Serbia's foreign and security policy in a meaningful way.

Examples:

- Minor incidents with no significant impact on international relations.
- Routine diplomatic challenges with swift resolution.
- Minimal disruptions to national security.
- Geographically distant events not making an impact to Serbia.



LIKELIHOOD ASSESSMENT FOR SERBIA'S FOREIGN, SECURITY, AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Factors to contribute to decision of the risk likelihood

The determination of the likelihood of a contingency risk is made by following a sequential process. Likelihood is determined for each contingency as follows:

- **Certain** - Probability exceeding 90% (9/10) or an equivalent threshold indicates a near-certainty.
- **Highly likely** - Probability ranging from 70% to 89% (7-8,9/10) or an equivalent threshold indicates a high possibility.
- **Medium** - Probability ranging from 45% to 69% (4,5-6,9/10) or an equivalent threshold indicates a medium possibility.
- **Low** - Probability exceeding 21-44% (2,1-4,4/10) or an equivalent threshold indicates a low possibility.
- **Unlikely** - Probability being lower than 20% (0,1-2/10) or an equivalent threshold indicates a near-unfeasibility.

The team will prioritize the steps in the order of their importance until the needed saturation relevant for the decision. Likelihood will be determined by deployment of the following methods:

1. Predictive data indicating a probability of occurrence based on available open-source information stemming from strong objective facts and figures related to contingency;
2. Historical precedence or empirical data supporting the likelihood of similar events occurring in the past;
3. Expert consensus among the project team members;
4. Soliciting input and insights from relevant stakeholders, to gather diverse perspectives and enhance the understanding of risk likelihood.

COMPASS Likelihood levels

CERTAIN

Contingency which denotes an eventuality that is expected to occur with exceptional certainty. It is virtually assured to transpire and will significantly influence risk assessment concerning Serbia's foreign or security or economic policies.

HIGHLY LIKELY

Contingency which has a big probability to occur and accordingly is quite likely to impact risk assessment in areas of Serbia's foreign or security or economic policy.

MEDIUM

Contingency has a legitimate chance of occurring and accordingly it is possible for it to impact risk assessment in areas of Serbia's foreign, security and economic policy. Alternatively, such contingencies are the ones with unstable patterns so the project team find hard to assess whether or not they will expose in the near future.

LOW

Contingency that has a small possibility to occur and has accordingly minor chance to impact risk assessment in areas of Serbia's foreign, security and economic policy.

UNLIKELY

Contingency that with great certainty will not occur at all and accordingly has almost no chance to impact risk assessment in areas of Serbia's foreign, security, and economic policy. This contingency is deemed certain or nearly certain not to materialize within the subsequent two years following the assessment moment.

OVERALL COMPASS RISK

The risk assessment is based on the project team's evaluation using the aforementioned criteria for consequences and likelihood assessment, as well as the regularities and patterns identified throughout the research analysis. It is further strengthened by taking into account the results of the Delphi method and public opinion surveys. This approach minimizes the arbitrariness of decisions in assigning each contingency to one of the overall COMPASS Risk sections.

The risk assessment for each contingency is grounded in the defined methodology, detailed in the previous section titled "Project Methodology". The resulting assortment of each contingency is the outcome of the application of this methodology on every case in the moment the risk assessment is conducted.

EXTREME / CRITICAL RISK (PURPLE)

The most critical risk for the values embedded in Serbia's foreign, security, or economic policies. Critical/extreme risks that would involve catastrophic consequences and are, based on current available information undoubtedly certain to occur in the near or mid term future. Due to its significance, such risks are to be analysed in-depth with their background, motives, specifics, alternative scenarios, and potential mitigation solutions. Those risks pose an imminent threat to the geopolitical stability of Serbia and have the potential to cause severe and irreversible damage to its foreign relations or security or economic system.

HIGH RISK (RED)

High risk constitute a real and significant risk for Serbia's position in international system. They have the potential to cause considerable harm if left unaddressed. Risk that would have significantly impact and has a legitimate chance to occur, has a big probability or will occur with great certainty, as well as a contingency tied risk that would have severe and widespread negative impacts and has a legitimate chance to occur. Contingencies associated with high risks will be thoroughly examined and explained, including the projection of repercussions for Serbia and its international position.

MODERATE RISK (ORANGE)

Moderate risks constitute measurable threat for Serbia's three areas of its foreign policy. While they may not cause immediate harm, they still require attention to prevent escalation.that would cause moderate consequences and is to occur with low, medium, high or extreme likelihood, as well as a contingency-tied risk that would cause serious or catastrophic consequences and whose likelihood to occur is low. Contingencies posing a moderate risk will be further explained and analyzed while their consequences on Serbia will be noted and presented, but without the detailed elaboration.

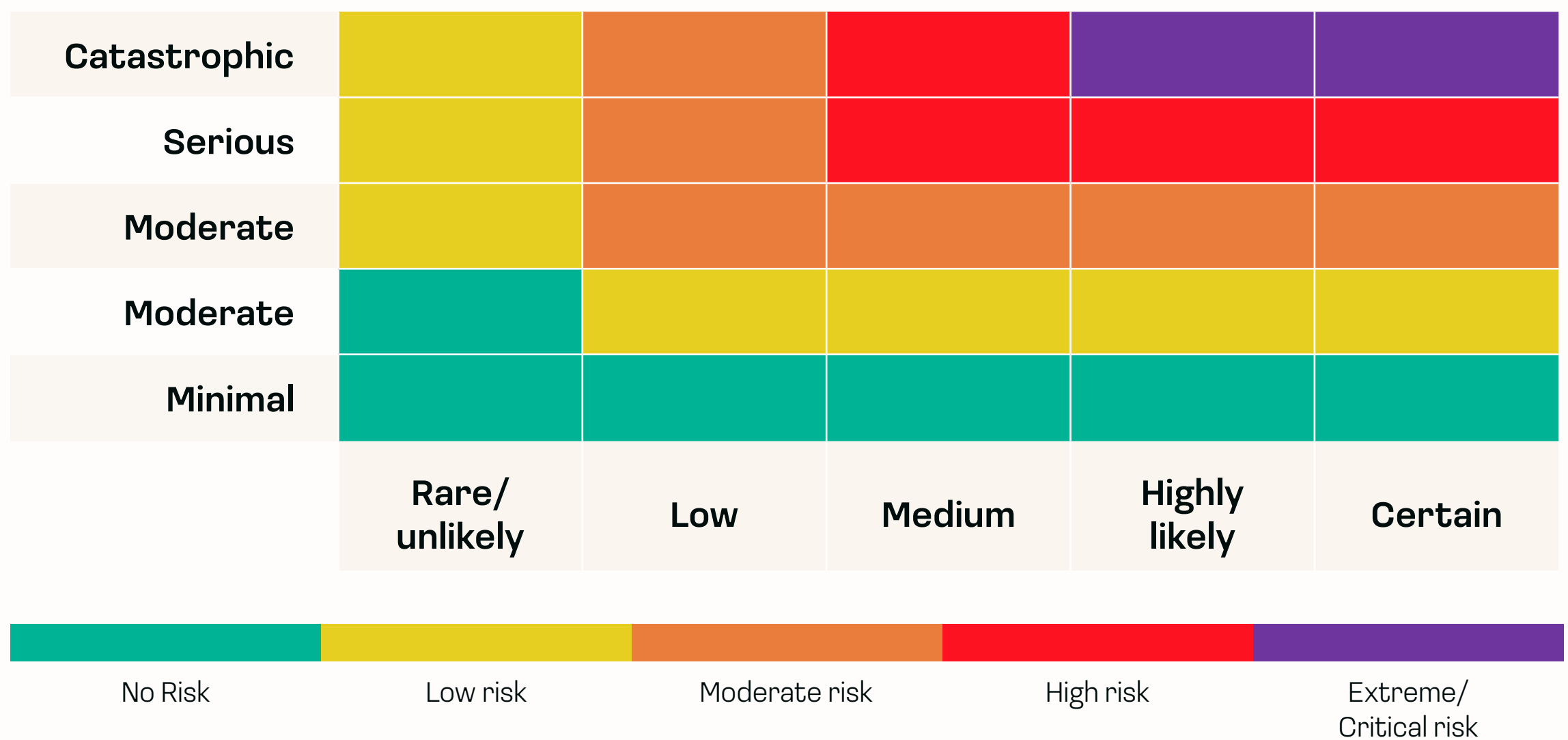
LOW RISK (YELLOW)

Low risks would cause low consequences and its likelihood is low, medium, high or extreme, as well as a contingency tied risk that would have moderate, serious or catastrophic consequences and is unlikely to occur. They are typically manageable and may not require immediate action but still warrant monitoring. Low-risk contingencies, given their low likelihood and the possibility of effective mitigation with reasonable effort, will only be listed and briefly described.

NO RISK (GREEN)

Contingency tied risk that would involve minimal or none consequences regardless of likelihood, as well as a contingency tied risk that would cause low consequences and is unlikely. These scenarios are stable and do not require immediate attention or mitigation efforts. Since the no risk contingencies are in practical terms least relevant, they do not need additional analysis and as such will only be listed and appropriately categorized.

Figure 1. Simplified Risk Matrix formulated for COMPASS project



3. CODEBOOK

The COMPASS Dataset Codebook is a comprehensive document that serves as a guide for understanding the structure, content, and usage of the COMPASS Dataset. It provides detailed descriptions of the dataset's versions, variables, and data collection methodologies, facilitating accurate and consistent data analysis and interpretation. The Codebook contains sections that cover the background of the COMPASS Project, the dataset's temporal domains, and the different data formats available, such as XLS, CSV, and PDF.

It also outlines the dataset's organization by listing and defining the various variables captured within the dataset, including technical, risk-related, and attributive variables, each with specific functions and purposes. For instance, technical variables help in tracking and organizing contingencies, risk-related variables assess the likelihood and impact of risks, and attributive variables provide contextual and descriptive information about each contingency event.

The content of the Codebook includes an introduction to the COMPASS Project and an overview of its aims and scope. It describes the dataset's structure, explaining how each contingency event is represented by a unique identifier and detailed descriptors. The Codebook also details the types of risks assessed within the dataset, such as economic, political, and security risks, and explains how these risks are quantified and analyzed. Additionally, it provides guidelines on how

to interpret and use the dataset, including instructions on how to handle missing data and how to cite the dataset in academic and professional contexts.

The variables included in the COMPASS Dataset are categorized into three main groups: technical, risk-related, and attributive. Technical variables include identifiers and metadata such as the ordinal number, unique identifier (compassID), date of the last edit, and the initials of the data entry team member. Risk-related variables assess the probability and consequences of different risks and include fields like risk probability (riskProb), risk consequence (riskConseq), and overall COMPASS risk (overallCOMPASSrisk). Attributive variables provide additional context and include fields like short name, description, area, sub-area, actors involved, geographic reference, and temporal details (year, month, day).

The COMPASS Dataset Codebook is going to serve as an essential tool for users looking to engage with the COMPASS Dataset, providing them with the necessary information to understand and analyze the data effectively. It supports diverse users including scholars, policy-makers, and media professionals by offering a clear and structured approach to data handling and interpretation, thus enhancing the utility and accessibility of the COMPASS Dataset for various research and decision-making processes. For more detailed information, please refer to the full COMPASS Dataset Codebook available on the COMPASS Platform at data.serbiacompass.com

4. EVENTS TO FOLLOW

In this aspect of the project, a systematic approach will be implemented to monitor events crucial for Serbia in the upcoming year. These encompass a wide range of geopolitical, security, and economic developments, including key elections in significant states, current and potential armed conflicts, economic risks such as fluctuations in global markets and trade tensions, major international summits, and significant anniversaries relevant to Serbia's history and geopolitical context. Monitoring efforts will involve proactive tracking, data collection, and analysis of relevant sources – official institutional reports, statements, and open source data – to provide timely insights into the potential impact of these events on Serbia's foreign, security, and economic policy landscape. Through closely monitoring these key events, valuable perspectives on their implications for Serbia's strategic positioning and policy priorities will be offered.

In December of each ongoing year, up to 10 trends and major events for the next year will be identified and presented.

While the number, nature, scope and importance of events cannot be predicted to the full extent, the project will focus, but not be limited, to the following:

- International summits and conferences
- Elections, developments and events
- Bilateral meetings and documents

- Domestic events in Serbia
- Documents and initiatives
- Armed conflicts

The key events will be identified based on their relevance to the theme of the project. The key criteria will be:

- Direct affect, impact or influence on China-Serbia and/or EU-Serbia foreign, economic and security policy;
- Impact of China-EU bilateral documents, agreements and relations on Serbia and the Balkans;
- Influence of the multilateral events and agreements on Serbia's relations with China and the EU.

The main focus will be to identify the following set of events:

- Two domestic events (addresses to the nation, legislative, bilateral and multilateral activities related to China and the EU; EU-mediated dialogue on Belgrade-Priština);
- Two events related to EU-Serbia relations (European Commission yearly progress report on enlargement; EU accession negotiations);
- Two events related to China and China-Serbia relations (Serbia-China bilateral relations; Two Sessions);
- Three multilateral events (BRI summit, China-CEEC meetings, EU summit);
- One China-EU event (EU-China Summit).

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While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data collected and analyzed within the COMPASS Project, it is important to note that COMPASS project team can not guarantee the completeness or accuracy of all data.

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Users should interpret the results with caution and acknowledge the inherent uncertainties and limitations associated with forecasting and risk assessment methodologies.

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COMPASS Project

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