Curriculum

To be reviewed by February 2025	Activity number 18	Advanced course for political advisers in CSDP missions and operations	ECTS 6

CORRELATION WITH CTG/MTG TRAs	EQUIVALENCES
Civilian Training Area n. 23: political analysis and reporting	N/A

Target audience

Participants should be working in political advisory positions/departments in Member States, EU institutions and agencies, or CSDP missions and operations. Subject to national decision, they can be academics, civilians, diplomats, members of the business community, military and police.

Selection of the course participants is the responsibility of the organisers.

The course organisers recommend that course participants have attended the ESDC CSDP Orientation Course.

Open to:
- EU Member States and institutions

Aim

The course aims to give participants a wider knowledge of the tasks and challenges that political advisers are likely to encounter in a CSDP mission or operation, both at operational and strategic level. It provides a detailed overview of the core principles of the EU's external action, as well as the framework, skills and working techniques for political advisers both in capitals and in the field. Enhancing participants' existing skills through practical training exercises will further support the goal of fostering the formation of networks among individuals working in an advisory position.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge	LO.01 Define the main goals of the Common Security and Defence Policy
	LO.02 Identify the CSDP's main actors
	LO.03 Become familiar with the guidelines for crisis management procedures
	LO.04 Recognise the decision-making/shaping process
	LO.05 Name the main tasks of a political adviser
	LO.06 Understand the main strategic communication tools
	LO.07 Learn from the experience of field experts
	LO.08 Understand the challenges and expectations of advising different stakeholders
Skills	LO.09 Apply the EU's interests and values in decision-making
	LO.10 Categorise CSDP missions as executive or non-executive
	LO.11 Acknowledge the advantages and disadvantages of the value-based approach
	LO.12 Distinguish between humanitarian and CSDP action
	LO.13 Gain greater awareness of negotiation/mediation techniques

Responsibility and autonomy	LO.14 Assess the role of the CSDP within the EU's integrated approach
	LO.15 Summarise the main achievements of the EU as a global actor
	LO.16 Eliminate weak points in the crisis management procedure
	LO.17 Practise strategic communication and effective messaging

---

Evaluation and verification of learning outcomes

The course is evaluated according to the Kirkpatrick model, using *level 1 evaluation* (*based on participants' satisfaction with the course*).

In order to complete the course, participants have to accomplish all learning objectives, which are evaluated based on their active contribution in the residential module, including their group session/practical activities, as well as on their completion of the eLearning phases: course participants must finish the autonomous knowledge units (AKUs) and pass the tests (*mandatory*), scoring at least 80% in the incorporated final test/quiz. The course director/lead instructor actively observes the process and participants fill in a feedback questionnaire at the end of the course.

There is no formal verification of the learning outcomes; proposed ECTS credits are based on participants' workload only.

Course structure		
Main topic	**Suggested working hours (required for individual learning)**	**Suggested content**
1. Framework for political advisers (Module 1)	60 (20)	1.1 The strategic context: • New geopolitics and European grand strategy • Overall priorities of the CSDP – an emerging strategy • Regional strategies: southern and eastern neighbourhood, Africa, Asia 1.2 The institutional context: • The crisis response system of the EEAS • From political decision-making to operational plan • Views from permanent representations and from within the institutions 1.3 Regional and horizontal issues
2. Skills for political advisers (Module 2)	50 (10)	2.1 Political analysis 2.2 Negotiation techniques 2.3 Peace negotiation, peace mediation and mediation support 2.4 Effective writing: political reporting and speechwriting 2.5 Understanding the main effective communication tools 2.6 Challenges and expectations of advising

3. Working in the field for political advisers (Module 3)	50 (10)	3.1 Current and future deployment of political advisers in various CSDP missions and operations 3.2 Practical implementation of modules 1 and 2 content 3.3 Political advising in the current challenging security/political environment 3.4 Immersion into the mission and operations field environment of political advisers through coordination with other key mission staff 3.5 Political Advisers training exercise
TOTAL	**160 (40)**	

Materials	Methodology
ELearning materials are made available online on the ESDC eLearning platform (ILIAS). Essential eLearning*:* as decided by the course director/module leader. Recommended study (voluntary)*:* as decided by the course director/module leader. The exercise documentation used in modules 2 and 3 is uploaded on the eLearning platform.	A pre-course questionnaire on learning expectations and possible briefing topics from the specific area of expertise may be used. All course participants must prepare for the residential module by completing the relevant eLearning preparatory phase, which is mandatory (minimum 2 AKUs per residential module, to be decided by the course director/module leader based on the advice of the ESDC eLearning training manager). In order to facilitate discussion between course participants and trainers/experts/high-level guest speakers, the **Chatham House Rule** is enforced during the residential modules: *participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed***.**