

European Security and Defence College

Doc: ESDC/2024/16
Date: 22 February 2024
Origin: ESDC Secretariat

Curriculum

To be reviewed by	Activity number	Civilian aspects of EU crisis management	естs 1
February 2026	17		SQF-MILOF N/A

CORRELATION WITH CTG / MTG TRAS	EQUIVALENCES
CTA: Gender Equality; MTA: Gender	

Target audience

Participants should preferably be midand senior-level experts, including civilians and military staff, engaged in fields related to crisis management within the broader framework of CFSP/CSDP. This includes those currently involved in crisis areas or potential future staff for CSDP missions or operations.

Priority will be given to participants from EU Member States, although non-EU participants and NATO staff are also welcome.

Aim

This course aims to enhance a common understanding of the civilian aspects of EU crisis management among personnel from Member States, EU Institutions, and relevant EU agencies involved in EU crisis management. It also seeks to improve understanding of EU crisis management decision-making processes and to identify and outline relevant CSDP instruments at the EU level, including the Civilian Compact, the Strategic Compass, and Lessons Learned.

The course will examine current and future trends, challenges and opportunities within the field of civilian crisis management. In doing so, it aims to raise awareness of how to consolidate long-term partnerships with international organisations, regional, and local actors regarding civilian crisis management.

Additionally, the course is designed to promote the development of a network of experts working in the field of crisis management.

Learning outcomes				
Knowledge	 LO1 Explain the overall EU crisis management decision-making process. LO2 Reflect on the EUGS concepts of 'ownership', 'resilience' and 'sustainability' and their impact on more efficient crisis management LO3 Describe the EU integrated approach and the role of EU actors LO4 Analyse the role of relevant governmental and non-governmental actors, and possible Interoperability with CSDP missions in crisis management LO5 Identify and explain long-term trends leading to crisis and their implications for EU policy formulation and implementation in crisis scenarios LO6 Identify and discuss the EU civilian capability development process and explain the main challenges it faces at Member State and EU level LO7 Identify and outline relevant CSDP instruments at EU level, including the Civilian Compact and the 			
	Strategic Compass LO8 Outline the financing mechanisms in EU crisis management missions and their legal aspects LO9 Identify the need to connect internal and external security issues in crisis management L10 Assess the importance of gender and human rights in CSDP missions and operations			
Skills	LO11 Analyse challenges and opportunities within civilian crisis management LO12 Evaluate/assess alternative ways to enhance crisis prevention and efficiency of crisis management LO13 Develop strategies to reorganise and manage processes relating to crisis management			

Responsibility and autonomy	LO14 Analyse and formulate independent and well-informed opinions on the need for CSDP missions LO15 Foster coordination between EU crisis management stakeholders & international actors LO16 Put into context strategic and operational mission planning documents and develop a critical approach to practices, (Political Framework for Crisis Approach [PFCA], Status of Mission Agreements [SOMA], Operation Plan [OPLAN] and Mission Implementation Plan [MIP]) LO17 Apply the main principles of intercultural communication within a multicultural environment
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Evaluation of learning outcomes

The course follows the Kirkpatrick model for evaluation, incorporating level 1 assessment based on participants' satisfaction with the course. Evaluation feedback is collected through the level 1 evaluation module.

To complete the course, participants must accomplish all learning objectives, which are evaluated based on their active contribution to the course, including syndicate sessions and practical activities, as well as on their completion of the e-Learning phase. Course participants must finalise the autonomous knowledge units (AKUs) and pass the tests (mandatory), scoring at least 80% in the incorporated out-test/quiz. However, no formal verification of the learning outcomes is planned; proposed ECTS is based on participants' workload only.

The Executive Academic Board considers these factors in the awarding of certificates to participants. The course director, with the support of the ESDC Secretariat, is responsible for overall coordination and drafts the final evaluation report, which is presented to the Executive Academic Board.

Course structure

The module is conducted over 3 days and is highly interactive, with a strong emphasis on interpersonal engagement and hands-on learning.

Main topic	Suggested working hours (required for individual learning)	Suggested contents
Current context of EU crisis management	2 (1)	1.1 EU civilian crisis management
EU Global Strategy and the Strategic Compass	2 (1)	EUGS (2016) and implementation of the Strategic Compass (2020) – the impact on effective crisis management
3. Civilian Compact	2 (1)	3.1 Deliverables
EU crisis management decision-making process	2 (1)	CSDP missions' decision-making process, planning and management
5. EU integrated approach	1 (1)	 5.1 The need to promote synergies at strategic and operational levels 5.2 Coordination mechanisms for all actors, EU policies and instruments
EU civilian crisis management capabilities	2 (1)	6.1 Consequences for Members States' interests, budgetary constraints, recruitment procedures (e.g. secondment versus contracted staff), duty of care, code of conduct and training in crisis management
7. Rapid deployment of EU crisis management	2	7.1 Ways to improve rapid deployment through better procurement, mission support, equipment, warehousing, training and pooling of experts
EU partnerships and international cooperation	1 (1)	 8.1 Cooperation between the EU, regional and international organisations (NATO, UN, AU) and local actors 8.2 Interoperability with the United Nations 8.3 Civil crisis management from a non-institutional perspective
9. Monitoring, mentoring & advising	1 (1)	9.1 Monitoring, mentoring and advising local actors
auvising		9.2 Principals of local ownership and sustainability
10.Cross-cultural competence	1 (1)	 10.1 Organisational cultures and working practices in a multicultural environment 10.2 Implications at individual and mission level

civilian CSDP TOTAL	20 (10)		
13. Lessons learned for	1	13.1 Lessons learned from the field	
12. Challenges in civilian crisis management	2	12.1 Example(s) from the field	
11. Gender and human rights	1 (1)	11.1 Gender and human rights in crisis management	

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Required: Essential e-Learning
AKU 4: CSDP crisis management structures

and chain of command

AKU 6: CSDP decision shaping/making AKU 55: The Strategic Compass

Syndicate materials, scenarios and other documents provided by the course director

Recommended reading:

AKU 2: European Global Strategy AKU 3: Role of the EU Institutions in CSDP

AKU 202: Integrated Approach

ESDC Handbook for Decision Makers

Methodology

The course is organised based on various methodologies, such as lectures, panels, and working groups.

All participants are required to prepare for the course by completing the mandatory e-Learning phase.

The Chatham House Rule is applied throughout the course: "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."

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