Curriculum

To be reviewed by **Feb. 2027**	Activity number **70**	**Research Methodology Course on CSDP**	ECTS **2**

CORRELATION WITH CTG / MTG TRAs	EQUIVALENCES
CTG / MTG TRA on …..	(i.e SQF MILOF equivalence)

Target audience

This course is designed for doctoral students, PhD fellows, and invited researchers specialising in political and social sciences. It is also suitable for academics seeking to refine their research methodology skills within the context of European security and defence studies.

Open to:

- ESDC Doctoral School Fellows
- EU member States / Institutions
- Non-EU countries

Aim

The Research Methodology Course aims to enhance participants' knowledge of current developments in the CSDP within the wider framework of CFSP. Moreover, it intends to extend and deepen the understanding of different research approaches and methodologies in the areas of CFSP/CSDP.

This course provides doctoral students with essential methodological tools to design and conduct rigorous research on CSDP issues. It emphasises research design, theoretical approaches, data collection techniques (qualitive and quantity research), academic writing, advises regarding publication of papers and funding sources.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge	LO1: Understand the EU's Strategic Autonomy – Gain awareness of the concept and its implications for European security and defence. LO2: Learn the Strategic Policy Framework for CSDP – Explore the policies shaping the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). LO3: Analyse the International Security Context – Assess the global security landscape and the EU's strategic environment in relation to CSDP development. LO4: Understand the CSDP Governance Architecture – Comprehend its structure, key institutions, and operational instruments
Skills	LO5: Develop and implement qualitative rigor research designs. LO6: Apply Research Methods to CSDP Studies – Develop the ability to select appropriate methodologies for research objectives in security and defence. LO7: Master Research Methodologies in Peace, Security, and Defence – Enhance analytical skills for conducting research in these fields.

	LO8: Utilise Qualitative & Quantitative Research Methods – Learn techniques such as case studies, surveys, interviews, and statistical analysis for studying CSDP . LO9: Capability to conduct comprehensive literature reviews on relevant topics in Common Security and Defence Policy and identifying gaps in the literature.
Responsibility and Autonomy	LO10: Demonstrate the ability to independently integrate theoretical and empirical insights into research design. L11: Exhibit autonomy in scholarly communication, including publications and academic presentations. LO12: Analyse and formulate arguments in research and debates on Peace, Security and Defence framework. LO13: Develop critical thinking on EU external action in CFSP/CSDP and form research questions concerning that policies. LO14: Capacity to develop and deliver presentations, defending one's research topic, analyse information and provide feedback in scientific contexts, argument, compare and contrast benefits and shortcomings of a variety of research methods and methodologies and the research design adequacy for addressing the matters examined.

Evaluation and verification of learning outcomes

The course is evaluated according to the Kirkpatrick model, particularly level 1 evaluation (based on participants' satisfaction with the course). Evaluation feedback is given in the level 1 evaluation of the residential module.

In order to complete the course, participants have to fulfil all the learning objectives, and are evaluated on the basis of their active contribution to the residential modules, including their teamwork sessions and practical activities, and on their completion of the eLearning phases. Course participants must complete the autonomous knowledge units (AKUs) and pass the tests (mandatory), scoring at least 80% in the incorporated test/quiz. However, no formal verification of the learning outcomes is provided for; the proposed ECTS is based solely on participants' coursework.

The Executive Academic Board takes these factors into account when considering whether to award certificates to participants. The Course Director is responsible for overall coordination, with the support of the ESDC Secretariat, and drafts the final evaluation report, which is presented to the Executive Academic Board.

Course structure		
Main Topic	**Suggested Working Hours + (Required hours for individual learning)**	**Suggested Contents**
The Geopolitical Europe: strategic autonomy and the new geopolitical environment	4 + (4)	- Overview of contemporary global strategic trends. - Key geopolitical and security developments. - EU's external relations. - EU and International Organisations. - Strategic Autonomy. - The Strategic Compass and Civilian Compact - The strategic policy framework for CSDP.
CSDP governance	4 + (4)	- EU institutions' role and competencies. - CSDP funding and procurement mechanisms.

architecture: structure and instruments		- CSDP Decision Shaping/Making. - EU integration in the defence domain.
Technology, Innovation and Threats	4 + (4)	- Technology, innovation and R&D on CSDP. - Hybrid Threats landscape. - Legal international and European aspects of UAVs operations. - Disinformation and manipulation. - Artificial Intelligence and its implications on CSDP. - Space as security and defence field .
Fundamentals of Research in Political and Social Sciences	4	- Introduction to core research methodologies in political and social sciences. - Key epistemological and ontological perspectives. - Ethical frameworks and responsible research conduct. - European integration theories and CSDP - CSDP conceptual frameworks
Research Design	3	- Overview of research methods: case studies, cross-national comparisons,process tracing. - Understanding the strengths and limitations of different research designs. - Evaluating research reliability, validity, and causal inference. - Formulation of concrete research questions
Quantitative Methods in Political and Social Science	2	- Introduction to statistical analysis in political and social research. - Survey design, data collection techniques, and hypothesis testing. - Application of quantitative methodologies in empirical studies.
Qualitative Methods in Political and Social Science	2	- Principles and techniques of qualitative research. - Conducting interviews, focus groups, and archival research. - Applying discourse analysis and coding techniques in case studies.
Writing and Publishing Academic Research	3	- Structuring academic research papers and dissertations. - Writing for peer-reviewed journals and responding to reviewer feedback. - Citation management, plagiarism prevention, and research dissemination strategies. - Use of software and AI in academic research - Ethics of academic research
Practical Exercises (Simulations, Peer Review)	4 + (2)	- Hands-on practice in research design, data collection, and analysis. - Peer review and feedback mechanisms for improving research work.

		- Application of research techniques in specific research questions - Research pathways and research funding in the EU
Research Colloquium and Feedback	3 + (2)	- Presentation of research proposals and interim findings. - Engaging with academic critiques and constructive feedback. - Refining research projects based on peer and instructor evaluation. - 3 minutes pitch dissertation presentation
Meet my Mentor	1	- Reflection on key learnings and methodological advancements. - Guidance on post-course research development and academic publishing. - Direct interaction with researchers in Peace, Security and Defence studies – 1:1 mentorship - Guidelines for academic research to fellows from experts and mentors
TOTAL	**34 + (16) = 50**	

Materials	Methodology
Required: AKU 1 History and context of CSDP AKU 3 Role of EU Institutions in the field of CFSP/ CSDP AKU 55 Strategic Compass AKU 200 Conflicts and Crisis Management :the EU as a global actor Syndicate materials, documents provided by working groups coordinators and course director. **Recommended:** CSDP Handbook, Volume I 4th edition, 2021	- Seminars: Interactive discussions on research paradigms and methodologies. - Workshops: Practical sessions on research design and data analysis. - Mentorship: One-on-one guidance on research progress. - Group Discussions: Critical review of published research and methodologies. - Hands-on Exercises: Application of research techniques in real-world contexts. - Presentations: Peer review and feedback on research proposals. <u>Additional information</u> The Chatham House Rule is applied during all residential modules of 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".