

## Curriculum

To be reviewed by <i>February 2027</i>	Activity number <b>18</b>	<b>Advanced course for political advisers in CSDP missions and operations</b>	<b>ECTS 6</b>
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CORRELATION WITH CTG/MTG TRAs	EQUIVALENCES
<u>Civilian Training Area no.23: political analysis and reporting</u>	N/A

<p><u>Target audience</u></p> <p>Participants should ideally be working in political advisory positions/departments in Member States, EU institutions and agencies, or CSDP missions and operations. Subject to national decision, the course may also be attended by academics, civilians, diplomats, members of the business community, military or the police.</p> <p>The selection of course participants is the responsibility of the organisers.</p> <p>The course organisers recommend that course participants have attended the ESDC CSDP Orientation Course.</p> <p>Open to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Member States and institutions</li> </ul>	<p><u>Aim</u></p> <p>The course aims to provide participants with a broader 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 capital cities 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.</p>
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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 Recognise the importance not only of EU's values and interests but also local values and a community-based approach when providing political advice LO.07 Understand the main strategic communication tools LO.08 Learn from the experience of field experts LO.09 Understand the challenges and expectations of advising the various stakeholders LO.10 Recognise horizontal issues, in particular the importance of gender sensitivity, the impact of environmental degradation and exploitation, climate change and security, hybrid threats etc.
Skills	LO.11 Apply the EU's interests and values are reflecting in decision making LO.12 Categorise CSDP missions as executive or non-executive

	LO.13 Acknowledge the advantages and disadvantages of a value-based approach LO.14 Distinguish between humanitarian and development aspects in CSDP activities LO.15 Acquire enhanced awareness of negotiation/mediation techniques
Responsibility and autonomy	LO.16 Assess the CSDP's role within the EU's integrated approach LO.17 Summarise the main achievements of the EU as a global actor LO.18 Eliminate weaknesses in the crisis management procedure LO.19 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 are required to meet 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 complete 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 complete 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New geopolitics and the European strategic environment</li> <li>• Overall priorities of CSDP</li> <li>• Regional strategies: southern and eastern neighbourhood, Africa, Asia</li> </ul> 1.2 Regional and horizontal issues: i.e the impact of climate change, environmental degradation and exploitation, climate change and security, hybrid threats etc.         1.3 The institutional context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EEAS crisis response system</li> <li>• From political decision-making to operational planning</li> </ul> 1.4 Role and tasks of political advisers 1.5 Political advisers' related skills
2. Skills for political advisers	50 (10)	2.1 Political and conflict analysis 2.2 Peace mediation and negotiation techniques

(Module 2)		2.3 Effective political drafting 2.4 Strategic communication: understanding the main effective communication tools 2.5 Challenges and expectations of advising for a political adviser
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 the content of modules 1 and 2 3.3 Providing political advise in the current challenging security/political environment 3.4 Immersion into the missions and operations field environment of political advisers through coordination with other key mission staff 3.5 Training exercise for political advisers
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>160 + (40)</b>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Materials</u></p> <p>ELearning materials are made available online on the ESDC eLearning platform (ILIAS).</p> <p><u>Essential eLearning</u>: as decided by the course director/module leader.</p> <p><u>Recommended study (voluntary)</u>: as decided by the course director/module leader.</p> <p>The exercise documentation used in modules 2 and 3 is uploaded on the eLearning platform.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Methodology</u></p> <p>A pre-course questionnaire on learning expectations and possible briefing topics from the specific area of expertise may be used.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>In order to facilitate discussion between course participants and trainers/experts/high-level guest speakers, the <b>Chatham House Rule</b> will apply during the residential modules: <i>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.</i></p>
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