Course Curriculum

To be reviewed by *February 2023*	Activity number *18*	**Advanced Course for Political Advisors in CSDP Missions and Operations**	ECTS **6**

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 civilians (diplomats, police, academics, members of the business community) and/or military.

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

EU Security Clearance at the minimum level "Confidential" is mandatory.

Aim

The course aims to give participants wider knowledge of the tasks and challenges likely to face Political Advisors 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 Advisors 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

Learning Outcomes	Know-ledge	• Define the main goals of the Common Security and Defence Policy; • Identify the main actors of CSDP; • Memorise the guidelines of the crisis management procedures; • Recognise the decision making/shaping process; • Name the main tasks of a political advisor.
	Skills	• Apply the interests and values in decision making; • Categorise the CSDP missions in executive and non-executive; • Demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of the value-based approach; • Distinguish between humanitarian (e.g. ECHO) and CSDP action;
	Compe-tences	• Assess the CSDP role within the integrated approach of the EU; • Summarize the main achievements of the EU as a global actor; • Eliminate the weak points of the crisis management procedure; • Co-ordinate the work of the special advisory board of a HoM/FCdr.

Evaluation and verification of learning outcomes

The course is evaluated according to the Kirkpatrick model: it makes use of *level 1 evaluation* (*based on participant's satisfaction with the course*).

In order to complete the course, participants have to accomplish all learning objectives, which are evaluated based on the active contribution in the residential Modules, including their syndicate session and practical activities as well as on their completion of the eLearning phases: course participants finalise the autonomous knowledge units (AKUs) and pass the tests (*mandatory*), scoring at least 80% in the incorporated out-test/quiz. Active observation by the course director and *feedback questionnaire filled by course participants at the end of each of the three modules* is used. An *overall evaluation report* is drafted by the course/programme director at the completion of the course.

However, no formal verification of learning outcome is foreseen; proposed ECTS is based on participants' workload only.

Course Structure		
Main Topic	**Recommended Working Hours (of that eLearning)**	**Contents**

Framework for Political Advisors (Module 1)	60 (20)	• The strategic context:
		  o New geopolitics and European grand strategy
		  o Overall priorities of CSDP – an emerging strategy
		  o Regional strategies : southern and eastern neighbourhood, Africa, maritime security
		• The institutional context:
		  o The crisis response system of the EEAS
		  o From political decision-making to operational plan
		  o Views from permanent representations and from within the institutions
		• Regional and horizontal issues

Skills for Political Advisors (Module 2)	50 (10)	• Use of Information and Intelligence • Conflict and Political Analysis • Negotiation Techniques • Peace Negotiation, Peace Mediation and Mediation Support • Effective Writing: Political Reporting and Speechwriting • Effective Communication • Challenges and Expectations of Advising
Working in the Field for Political Advisors (Module 3)	50 (10)	• Current and Future Deployment of PolAds in various CSDP Missions and Operations • Practical Implementation of Contents Module 1 and 2 • Political Advising in Current Challenging Security-political environment • Immersion into the Mission and Operation Field Environment of PolAd through Coordination with other Key Mission Staff • PolAd Training Exercise
TOTAL	**160 (40)**	

Materials	Additional information
<u>Materials</u> *Essential eLearning:* Materials are made available online on the eLearning platform of the ESDC. *Recommended study on voluntary basis:* As decided by the course director/module leader. The course makes use of the ESDC eLearning platform (ILIAS). All participants have to prepare for the residential module by going through the relevant eLearning preparatory phase, which is mandatory. The exercise used in modules II and III is uploaded on the eLearning platform.	<u>Additional information</u> Pre-course questionnaire on learning expectations and possible briefing topic from the specific area of expertise could be utilised. 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*"**.** EU Security Clearance at the level "Confidential" or higher is mandatory; the modalities of sending the copy of the course participant's valid *Personal Security Clearance Certificate* to the EEAS Security Clearance Office will be indicated in the course invitation and its annex dedicated to registration procedures and practical aspects.