

# ESDC Course on Strategic Planning Processes for Civilian Missions

Activity Number 2025/07/01

Online 28 – 29 August 2025 and  
Brussels, 8 - 12 September 2025

*“Ukraine is the scenario in the Strategic planning course – but it is more: It is growingly the EU’s reality and CSDP environment for years to come. Wise, senior and strategic planning is the key to CSDP success with Ukraine.”*

Brussels, 11 June 2025

Good and relevant planning is essential for the success of CSDP missions and operations as is the review and assessment of the ongoing missions in the evolving environments. While strategic planning is part of the regular curriculum of military academies – and planners with military background are thus easily available for the planning of military CSDP missions and operations – the same does not apply to the civilian domain.

The planning of civilian missions requires above all a specific mind-set and understanding starting from the EU’s political considerations and strategic options. The course on **“Strategic Planning Processes for Civilian Missions”** offered by the Austrian MFA, the Finnish MOI and the Austrian Centre for Peace under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College on **28 - 29 August 2025 online** and **from 8 to 12 September 2025 in Brussels** will focus on specific challenges that strategic planners are confronted with in the context of civilian crisis management, taking into account the EU’s integrated approach and the latest strategic policy framework for CSDP - the Civilian CSDP Compact.

Recently, in the spring 2025, the EU has had significant political and strategic development in all security aspects having major impact also to civilian CSDP and the missions in Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, the Middle East and Africa. The White paper on European defence, Preparedness Union Strategy and the EU’s Internal Security Strategy provide guidance in the wider security relevant to Team Europe and Our Union approach in the EU – Ukraine relations.

The course is scenario-based (Ukraine) and takes an interactive, participatory and learner-centred approach, training participants to translate political vision and strategic guidance towards conceptual application of mission planning through the development of the Crisis Management Concept (CMC). Additionally, participants of this year’s edition will be testing a digital immersion element, which is currently being developed by a consortium led by the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology within the framework of the AT national security research program KIRAS to support planning processes.

The Course Directors, Ambassador Philipp Agathonos ([philipp.agathonos@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:philipp.agathonos@bmeia.gv.at)) of Austria, MFA, and Ministerial Advisor Antti Häikiö ([antti.haikio@gov.fi](mailto:antti.haikio@gov.fi)) of Finland, MOI, have been directing and developing the course since 2012 through the global and international changes and challenges in the European security environment.

It is our great pleasure to invite you to nominate participants for this course via the ENLIST system **until Monday, June 30, 2025**. The course is open to civilian and military experts from the EU Member States and the European Institutions and Services, including EU Delegations as well as to CSDP missions. Priority will be given to participants, who are engaged or plan to engage in strategic planning for civilian CSDP and/or have recently joined relevant departments of the Member State national governance, EEAS and the European Commission.

Best regards,

Martin HOJNI  
Ambassador  
Austrian Representative  
to the PSC

Juha OTTMAN  
Ambassador  
Finnish Representative  
to the PSC

Fergal O REGAN  
Acting Head of the European  
Security and Defence College

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## Administrative Information

Activity Number 2025/07/01

Online 28 – 29 August 2025 and in Brussels, 8 - 12 September 2025

- **Target group:** The course is open to mid- to senior level civilian, police and military personnel from EU Member States, relevant EU institutions and agencies, CSDP missions and operations and international organisations who are engaged or plan to engage in strategic planning for civilian CSDP and/or have recently joined relevant departments of the Member State national governance, EEAS and the European Commission.
- **Application:** Registrations are to be made through ENLIST and your nominator and are subject to a selection process. The total number of participants is limited to 30. Selected participants will be confirmed by the ESDC within two weeks after the set application deadline:
- **Registration & deadline:** The registration period will end on Monday, **30 June 2025**.
- **Language:** The working language will be English, without translation.
- **eLearning:** The course will be preceded by a mandatory e-learning module, which needs to be finalised before the residential phase starts. The instructions will be provided by the ESDC.
- **Attendance:** The participant's attendance during the presence part of course is mandatory on all days. A certificate will be awarded on the last day to those course participants who have completed the full course, including the e-learning module.
- **Course venue:** TBC – in the nearest neighbourhood of the EU institutions in Brussels.
- **Costs:** All costs for travel, meals and accommodation are to be covered by the sending authorities or the participants themselves.
- **Travel:** Participants are expected to arrive in Brussels by the morning of 8 September and may depart on 12 September not earlier than 15h in the afternoon.
- **Hotel:** Accommodation is the responsibility of the participants.
- **Hosted Events:** Will be informed.
- **Dress code:** Civilian dress for the regular course days and reception (smart casual, i.e. no jacket or tie, working dress).

- **Liability and insurance:** In the event of a medical emergency, the costs must be covered by the participant's medical insurance provided by the sending country/organisation. The organisers will not provide health or accident insurance for participants taking part in the event.
- **POCs:**

**Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs:**

Amb Philipp AGATHONOS

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