European Security and Defence College
Doc: ESDC/2022/072
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Origin: ESDC Secretariat

Curriculum

To be reviewed by	Activity number	**Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)**	ECTS
Feb. 2024	**261**		**2**

Target audience	Aim
Participants should be officials dealing with aspects in the field of intelligence, security and cyber security from Member States (MS), EU Institutions and Agencies. Course participants must be available during the entire course and should be ready participate with their specific field of expertise and experience.	This course is intended to strengthen the establishment of the Cyber Education Training Exercise and Evaluation (ETEE) platform of the ESDC and widen the scope of its activities by addressing basic technical and tactical/operational-level training in OSINT discipline. This course aim to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and best practices among «OSINT operators» by improving their knowledge, skills and competencies via lab exercises. Furthermore, this course will allow the participants to exchange their views and share best practices on related topics of OSINT by improving their knowledge, skills and competencies and better align with the overall objectives of CSDP. By the end of this course the participants will be able to be more effective in Intelligence Collection from Open Sources and to share some common views.
Open to: ▪ EU Member States / EU Institutions Bodies and Agencies	

CORRELATION WITH CTG / MTG TRAs	EQUIVALENCES
CTG / MTG TRA on Cyber	• *Specialised cyber course, at tactical/technical levels* • *Linked with the strategic objectives of Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 of the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade [16.12.2020 JOIN (2020)]*

Learning Outcomes	
Knowledge	LO1- List the principles of OSINT LO2- Define the basic types of OSINT Sources LO3- Define the basic notions and concepts used in the EU Cyber Security Strategy LO4- Explain webpage evaluation criteria LO5- Identify the entities involved in the EU Intelligence Frame LO6- Explain Cognitive Biases that affect Collection from Open Sources LO7- Explain how Thinking and Memory works

	LO8- Explain how the Internet works
Skills	LO9- Describe the basics about computer networks LO10- Use various search engines LO11- Use BOOLEAN operators LO12- Use Google advance search operators LO13- Use various OSINT tools
Responsibility and Autonomy	LO14- Take advantage of opportunities to collect information from Open Sources LO15- Select the most appropriate method to collect information form open sources LO16- Use a structure approach to answer an intelligence requirement LO17- Create a structured report to present the collection results

Evaluation and verification of learning outcomes

The course is evaluated according to the Kirkpatrick model: it makes use of *level 1 evaluation* (*based on participants' satisfaction with the course*) and *level 3 evaluation* (*assessment of participants' long-term change in behaviour after the end of the course*). *Evaluation feed-back* is given in the level 1 evaluation on the residential modules.
In order to complete the course, participants have to accomplish all learning objectives, which are evaluated based on their active contribution to the residential modules, including their syndicate sessions and practical activities as well as on their completion of the eLearning phases: 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 foreseen; proposed ECTS is based on participants' workload only**.
The Executive Academic Board takes these factors into account when considering the award of *Certificates* to participants. Module leaders provide an evaluation report for each residential module. 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

The residential module is held over 3 days.

Main Topic	Suggested Working Hours (required for individual learning)	Suggested Contents
1. Introduction to OSINT	9(2)	1.1 OSINT Principles-Definitions 1.2 EU Intelligence Agencies 1.3 OSINT by level of Command 1.4 OSINT Sources 1.5 Sources Evaluation
2. Computer Networks and the Internet	10(1)	2.1 Computer Networks 2.2 The Internet 2.3 Deep Web 2.4 Site Framework 2.5 IP Tools
3. Search Engines	5	3.1 Use of various search engines

		3.2 Google Operators 3.3 BOOLEAN Operators 3.4 Internet of Things
4. OSINT Collection	11	1.1 Social Media 1.2 Multimedia Tools 1.3 OSINT Tools 1.4 Metadata Tools - Deep Web tools
5. Structured Approach to OSINT Collection	13	5.1 Introduction to Thinking 5.2 How memory works 5.3 Mind Sets 5.4 Cognitive Biases 5.5 Critical-Creative Thinking 5.6 Critical Reading 5.7 Problem Decomposition 5.8 Structured Analytic Techniques 5.9 Query Lists
6. Delivering the OSINT collectables	2	6.1 Email Services / Email Security 6.2 Creating an OSINT report
7. Major Exercise	18	7.1 Work Teams in research of information from Open Sources, based on a real case scenario
TOTAL	**68 (3)**	

Materials	Methodology
Required: AKU on OSINT **Recommended:** • *Council Decision* (2001/80/CFSP) *on the Establishment of the EUMS* • *HR Decision 013 on the Establishment of an ISA* • *OSINT Training Guide by HNDGS*	The course is based on the following methodology: lectures, workshops, exercises, labs Additional information Pre-course questionnaire on learning expectations and possible briefing topic from the specific area of expertise may be used. All course participants have to prepare for the residential module by going through the relevant eLearning preparatory phase, which is mandatory. The materials proposed for supplemental (eLearning) study will reflect current developments in the field of cyber security/cyber defence in general and EU policies in particular. The Chatham House Rule is applied during all residential phase 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".