



Course outline of the

14th ESDC Advanced Course for Political Advisers in CSDP Missions and Operations

Brussels/Geneva/Vienna May–June–July 2025

Organised by

*Guglielmo Marconi University (UNIMARCONI)
Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
Austrian National Defence Academy (NDA)*

*under the aegis of the
European Security and Defence College (ESDC)*

Course Aim:

- a) To give participants an understanding of the tasks and challenges that political advisers at operational and strategic levels are likely to face in CSDP missions or operations
- b) To provide a detailed overview of the core principles of the EU's External Action Service and the framework, skills and working methods for political advisers, both in capital cities and in the field
- c) To enhance participants' existing skills through practical training exercises
- d) To encourage networking among individuals working in advisory positions

Target Group:

Personnel working in political advisory positions/departments in national capital cities, EU institutions, EU agencies and CSDP missions and operations.

Number of Participants:

Maximum 27

Course Structure:

Three five-day modules:

Module 1 - Rome

Module 2 - Geneva

Module 3 - Vienna

Course Modules

Module 1: Framework for political advisers

Course location: UNIMARCONI, Via Plinio, 44 - ROME

Date: 12-16 May 2025 (Monday - Friday)

Host: Guglielmo Marconi University (UNIMARCONI)

Course Director: Prof Andrea Ungari

Contents:

- The strategic context:
 - ✓ New geopolitics and the European strategic environment
 - ✓ Overall priorities and goals of CSDP – an emerging strategy
 - ✓ Regional strategies: southern and eastern neighbourhood, Africa, maritime security
- The institutional context:
 - ✓ The crisis response system of the EEAS
 - ✓ From political decision-making to operational plan
 - ✓ Regional and horizontal issues
 - ✓ Role and tasks of political advisers
 - ✓ Political advisers' related skills



Module 2: Skills for political advisers

Course location: GCSP, Chemin Eugene-Rigot 2D, 1211 Geneva

Date: 10 -13 June 2025 (Tuesday - Friday)

Host: Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)

Course Director: Dr Anca Munteanu

Contents:

- Political and conflict analysis
- Peace mediation and negotiation techniques
- Effective political writing
- Strategic Communication: understanding the main effective communication tools



- Challenges and expectations of advising for political advisers

Module 3: Practical work environment and simulation exercise

Course location: NDA, Stiftgasse 2A, 1070 Vienna

Date: 7 -11 July 2025 (Monday - Friday)

Host: Austrian National Defence Academy (NDA)

Course Director: Sandra Kick

Contents:

- ❖ Current and future deployment of political advisers in various CSDP missions and operations
- ❖ Practical implementation of contents of modules 1 and 2
- ❖ Political advising in current challenging security-political environment
- ❖ Immersion in political advisers' field environment for missions and operations through coordination with other key mission staff
- ❖ Political advisers training exercise

