



INVITATION TO THE “CYBER DIPLOMACY ADVANCED COURSE”

(ESDC activity number **24-25/207.b/1**)

Brussels, January 21-23, 2025

The French Institute for Higher National Defense Studies (IHEDN) and the Portuguese National Defence Institute (IDN) have the great honour of organizing, under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), the 2025 edition of the “Cyber Diplomacy Advanced Course.” The course will take place in Brussels from January 21st to 23rd and will accommodate a maximum of 40 participants.

Cyberspace has become a global common and prominent strategic domain in international relations. In this context, the European Union (EU) has strengthened its strategic standing to efficiently counter emerging and increasing threats posed by cyber actions while benefiting from relevant opportunities in the new digital age. The adoption of the Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox by the Council, in June 2017, the revision of the EU Cybersecurity Strategy in 2020, the Strategic Compass in 2022, and further developments in the international arena, highlight the EU’s engagement and involvement as regards the reinforcement of its posture in cyberspace.

This course will address several topics, to better understand Cyber Diplomacy tools, practices, and challenges, and identify the broader dynamics of international cyber-policy relevant to the EU, in five sessions dedicated to the following themes:

- Cyber Diplomacy: Concepts & Actors
- Rules, Norms, and International Law
- Emerging Trends and Geopolitical Challenges in Cyber Diplomacy
- Confidence-Building Measures & Capacity Building
- Cyber Diplomacy Case Study and Workshop



Throughout this course, participants will have the opportunity to learn and exchange views with experts and officials from around the world on issues such as international law, influence operations and confidence-building measures in cyberspace.

It is therefore with great pleasure that France and Portugal invite you to this advanced course on Cyber Diplomacy. Please find below all relevant details regarding the registration process.

Lieutenant-General Hervé de COURRÈGES

Director of the Institute for Higher National Defence Studies

Director of Advanced Military Education and President of the French Defense University (ACADEM)

Signed in the original

Dr. Isabel NUNES

Director of the Portuguese National Defence Institute

Signed in the original

Ambassador Ana Paula MOREIRA

Portuguese Permanent Representative to the European Union Political and Security Committee

Signed in the original

Fergal O' Regan

Acting Head of the European Security and Defence College

Signed in the original



Administrative Instructions

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- Participation: The course is open to government representatives, intergovernmental staff, and non-governmental organizations, as well as to entry-level high-level diplomats.
- The course will accommodate a maximum of **40 participants** from EU Member-states governmental institutions, academia, EU institutions, and agencies.
- Application: are to be filled *via* the ESDC secure internet system *ENLIST* by designated nominators, under <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>, **no later than 03rd January 2025**. A list with relevant ENLIST nominators can be retrieved from the ESDC website at <http://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>.
- Registration will not be final until confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat and upon completion of the requested personal data on ENLIST by the confirmed participants.
- POC: for any issue concerning the application, registration, nomination processes, please contact:
 - ESDC Training Manager: Mr Evangelos ENGLEZAKIS
Evangelos.ENGLEZAKIS@eeas.europa.eu
 - Course Director, IDN, Portugal: Col. João BARBAS - joao.barbas@defesa.pt
 - Course Directors, IHEDN, France: Mrs. Manon QUINCE - manon.quince@ihedn.fr and Dimitri SZOKE - dimitri.szoke@ihedn.fr
- Language: the language of the Cyber Diplomacy Advanced Course will be English.
- Dress code: Smart casual for civilians, uniform or smart casual for military
- E-Learning: **a mandatory eLearning module** (Internet-based Distance Learning - IDL) will be scheduled **from 10th January 2025** and will have to be finalised before the course starts.
- Attendance: participants' attendance at the course **is mandatory on all days**. A certificate will be awarded on the last day to course participants who will have completed the full course (e-learning and online parts).
- Costs: participants do not have to pay any fees to attend this module.
- Further detailed information regarding this course will be forwarded via e-mail directly to course participants as soon as the attendance list is confirmed.



2025 “CYBER DIPLOMACY ADVANCED COURSE”

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Brussels, January 21-23, 2025

Tuesday, January 21 st 2025 // 09h00 - 17h30 (CET)	
Course Opening and Administrative Aspects	
Keynote Speech	
SESSION I - CYBER DIPLOMACY: CONCEPTS & ACTORS	
What is Cyber Diplomacy?	
Cyber Diplomacy Key Actors	
EU Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox	
SESSION II - RULES, NORMS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW	
International Law and Cyberspace	
Rules, Norms, and Principles for Responsible State Behaviour	
ICE-BREAKER	
Official Ice-breaker dinner (hosted)	
Wednesday, January 22 nd , 2025 // 09h00 - 18h00(CET)	
SESSION III - EMERGING TRENDS AND GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES IN CYBER DIPLOMACY	
Cyber & Hybrid Threats & Emerging Technologies	
[Dis]Information and Influence Operations	
SESSION IV - CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES & CAPACITY BUILDING	
Confidence-building measures in cyberspace	
Capacity Building (CCB)	
EU Cyber Cooperation	
Thursday, January 23 rd , 2025 // 09h00 - 15h00 (CET)	
SESSION V – CYBER DIPLOMACY CASE STUDY	
Case Study Workshop & Discussion	
Closing Address	
FAREWELL CEREMONY	
Farewell drink (hosted)	