

## INVITATION:

### Comprehensive Protection of Civilians (CPoC)

Activity Number 22-23/30/3

#### Course Description

This course will **take place between 12 and 16 June 2023 in Brussels, Belgium, at the Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the European Union**. The training will be delivered by the Peace Operations Training Centre (POTC) in cooperation with the European Security and Defence College.



Photo credit: Hanna Morris/Unsplash

The content of this 5-day course is built around the concept of the protection of civilians. It refers to the responsibility of states, international organisations and other actors to protect individuals, particularly non-combatants, from harm during armed conflict, natural disasters and other forms of violence. This includes protecting them from physical violence, such as harm caused by weapons, and other forms of harm, such as forced displacement, sexual violence, and denial of access to essential resources and services. The principles of PoC are enshrined in international humanitarian law and human rights law and are considered a crucial aspect of ensuring respect for human dignity in times of conflict and crisis.

#### Aim of the course

- to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of PoC practice in UN and EU missions and operations
- to provide participants with effective tools as used in UN and EU PoC practice;
- to prepare participants for working in missions with a PoC mandate;
- to give participants an understanding of the basic documents, legal rules and guidelines for PoC.
- to give participants an understanding of the operational concepts of the EU, the UN and NATO with regard to PoC.
- to enhance participants' analysis of the threats, needs and rights related to vulnerable groups.

The course is designed as a comprehensive introduction to the Protection of Civilians for military personnel (battalion level or above), police personnel (senior police officer or above) and civilian personnel (head of section or above). These include decision-makers, members of non-governmental organisations and individual civilian experts who expect to be deployed to international missions and operations or who work in civilian crisis management without prior knowledge or skills to prevent or respond to violence against civilians.

Lectures will be delivered by trainers with a wide range of experience in UN and EU missions and operations. The participants should have advanced English speaking and writing skills corresponding to at least CEFR C1 proficiency level.

### Application Procedure

Qualified candidates who match the above description are asked **to complete the online application form and submit it by 1 June 2023.**

Applications are to be filed via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, by designated nominators, under <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>, no later than 23 April 2023. A list with relevant ENLIST nominators can be retrieved from the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>. Each nominator is kindly requested to nominate participants, in order of preference. **Alternatively use the online application form available at the following link: [POTC & ESDC Comprehensive Protection of Civilians \(PoC\) Course.](#)**

All submissions will be reviewed by the ESDC and the POTC. **The selected participants will be notified in a timely manner within 10 days following the application deadline.** In their final selection of participants, the course admission board will seek to ensure a balance of genders, nationalities and working contexts.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ESDC Comprehensive Course on the Protection of Civilians (CPoC)

Activity Number 22-23/30/3

### 1. Conditions of participation

#### a. Participant Profile

This course is aimed at military personnel (battalion level or above), police personnel (senior police officer or above) and civilian personnel (heads of section or above), as well as decision-makers, members of non-governmental organisations and individual civilian experts who expect to be deployed on international missions and operations or who work in civilian crisis management, with no prior knowledge or skills in preventing or responding to violence against civilians.

Participants are expected to have a basic understanding of the international peace support operations context.

#### b. Preparations

Participants are required to complete selected e-learning modules in the preparatory phase, before attending the course in person. Completing these e-learning modules is a prerequisite for participation and for receiving the course certificate.

Participants are expected to be available via email once their participation has been confirmed by POTC/ESDC and to remain in contact with both institutions for the entire preparation phase.

#### c. Course language and attendance

The course language is English. Participants should have advanced English speaking and writing skills corresponding to at least C1 CEFR proficiency level.

Course participants are expected to be present for the whole duration of the course.

#### d. Certificate

Upon successfully completing both the pre-e-learning and in-house phases, participants will receive an official ESDC certificate. The certificate will only be issued if participants complete both phases successfully, so failure to participate in all of the course activities will render participants ineligible for the course certificate.

## 2. Selection criteria

The Course Submission Board, comprised of experts in this subject area, carefully evaluates all applications submitted in a timely manner to select a highly qualified group of participants who meet the course standards. The selection process takes into account a balance of professional and organisational backgrounds, age, nationality, and gender to ensure a diverse cohort. The course is designed for a maximum of 27 participants.

### Course cost

The ESDC's Courses are designed to be a capacity-building measure for personnel working in or deployed on CSDP missions from EU member states. As per the agreement among EU member states, the country hosting the ESDC course covers all general course-related expenses, while the sending member states bear the cost for the participants they select to attend. The same regulation applies to non-EU participants, who are therefore responsible for covering their own expenses.

### To be covered by participants

Participants are to organise and book their own travel and accommodation arrangements and arrive at their accommodation by Sunday 11 June.

More detailed guidance on available transport and accommodation options will be provided to the confirmed participants. Detailed instructions will be issued to confirmed participants only. Applicants/sending entities are kindly requested not to book travel/accommodation until they have received official confirmation of participation.

### To be covered by the course host

The course hosts will cover the cost of the expert trainers, course materials, the conference facilities and two coffee breaks per course day.

## 3. Health insurance

Participants need to be fully covered by a valid health insurance provider. ESDC/POTC do not cover any medical costs, including emergencies such as treatment of COVID-19 infections.

The participants are asked to observe all official regulations regarding the containment of COVID-19 relevant throughout the duration of the course in Belgium.

The course host will observe all relevant health and safety measures throughout the course in order to guarantee maximum protection of all participants and persons running the course. For details on current regulations, please visit the following sites:

FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

FPS Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment

#### 4. Diversity and inclusion

The ESDC strives to ensure a gender-sensitive and inclusive environment in all its courses, activities and day-to-day work. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and therefore the ESDC and its partners, reach their true potential. We do not and will not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status or sexual orientation in any of our activities or operations. The ESDC and the Training Institutes do not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.