



Invitation to the **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION COURSE**

(ESDC Activity Number 23-24/208.a)

Lisbon, Portugal, 20–24 November 2023

Under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), the Portuguese *Guarda Nacional Republicana* (GNR) will organise the Critical Infrastructure Protection Course (Basic Level), from Monday 20 to Friday 24 November 2023, in Lisbon.

Critical infrastructure (CI) is an asset or system, which is essential for the maintenance of vital societal functions. Damage to critical infrastructure, its destruction or disruption by natural disasters, terrorism, criminal activity or malicious behaviour, may have a significant negative impact for the security of the EU and the well-being of its citizens. Critical infrastructure includes power grids, the transport network and information and communication systems. Reducing the vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure and increasing its resilience is one of the major objectives of the EU and its Member States.

Improving resilience of critical infrastructure has become a priority for the authorities around the globe. Emerging threats, as well as unconventional attacks on critical infrastructure have exposed the limits of traditional risk assessment and risk mitigation efforts. Consequently, an adequate level of protection must be ensured and the detrimental effects of disruptions on society and citizens must be limited as far as possible.

In this regard, the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP) sets the overall framework for activities aimed at improving the protection of critical infrastructure in Europe – across all EU Member States and in all relevant sectors of economic activity. These measures include the establishment of the European Reference Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection (ERN-CIP), coordinated by the Joint Research Centre, which provides technical support and carries out different research activities, in support of EU efforts to protect critical infrastructure, leading to better protection of critical infrastructure against all types of threats and hazards. Recently, the Directive (EU) 2022/2557 on the resilience of critical entities (CER) repealed the Directive 2008/114/EC. Therefore, by 17 October 2024, EU Member States must transpose the requirements of the Critical Entities Resilience Directive (CER) into national law.

The **course aims** to provide participants with a significant grounding in the framework of Critical Entities Resilience (CER), including critical infrastructure protection, which will contribute to a

systemic view of the world and the underlying risks, vulnerabilities and threats which national governments and the European Commission are trying to address through new regulations, requirements, new mechanisms and better cooperation.

This course is aimed at mid- or high-level representatives and experts of public authorities or CI owners/operators (private and state) with responsibilities for the development, formulation and implementation of security strategies and mechanisms for Critical Entities Resilience and CI Protection. Therefore, EU Member States' governmental and private companies involved in CER and operations, as well as EU institutions bodies and agencies members are welcome to participate.

On behalf of the Portuguese *Guarda Nacional Republicana*, we are pleased to invite you to nominate suitable participants for this ESDC course, which is an excellent opportunity to gain an insight into Critical Entities Resilience (CER), as well as to share expertise and information on new technologies, initiatives, trends, networks and projects on Critical Entities Protection, Governance and Resilience.

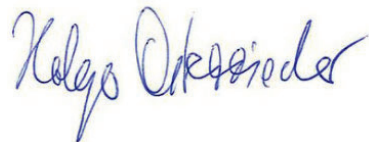
Yours faithfully,



José TAVARES DUARTE (Course Director)

Colonel (OF-05) | Deputy Commander

GNR State Security and Honours Unit (USHE)



Holger OSTERRIEDER

Head

European Security and Defence College

Annexes:

A – Course Administrative Instructions

B – Tentative Course Agenda



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION COURSE

(ESDC Activity Number 23-24/208.a)

Lisbon, Portugal, 20–24 November 2023



Annex A

Course administrative instructions

- **Target audience:** This course is open to mid- or high-level representatives and experts of public authorities or Critical Infrastructure (CI) owners/operators (private and state) with responsibilities for the development, formulation and implementation of security strategies and mechanisms for Critical Infrastructure Protection. Therefore, EU Member States governmental and private companies involved in CI operations, as well as EU institutions bodies and agencies members are welcome to participate.
- **Seats and nominations:** A maximum number of 20 participants is expected.
- **Application and deadline:** Applications should be submitted by designated nominators using the ESDC ENLIST Platform <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>, **no later than 3 October 2023**. A list with relevant ENLIST nominators can be retrieved from the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>.
- **Registration will not be completed until confirmation by the ESDC Secretariat.** For any issue concerning the application, registration and nomination processes, please contact course administration: Ms Anna MALEC (ESDC Training Manager, Anna.MALEC@eeas.europa.eu).
- **The selection of participants** will be based on applicant backgrounds, experience, suitability, gender balance and country of origin. The decision on which applications are accepted remains solely with the Portuguese GNR Course Director and ESDC Secretariat. When the participants list is finalised, the course administration will contact the selected participants and provide more detailed information on the course and logistics. The nominated participants will be directly requested by the hosting organisation (GNR) to send a supplementary Personal Profile Form (provided by the Portuguese GNR, at a later stage) to ushe.sft@gnr.pt. This information will be required for granting access to the event, security facilities and field visit to a Critical Infrastructure, as well as to setting-up working groups and course exercises.
- **Late registration:** Subject to availability of seats, the course is open for late registration. Please contact course administration: Ms Anna MALEC (ESDC Training Manager, Anna.MALEC@eeas.europa.eu) or the Course Director, Colonel (OF-05) José DUARTE (duarte.jmsft@gnr.pt).
- **Mandatory e-learning and attendance:** The course consists of an e-learning preparatory phase (online) to be completed via the ESDC e-Learning platform ILIAS, as well as a residential activity in Lisbon (Portugal), both parts being compulsory. In order to complete the first part (i.e. the online modules), the ESDC will provide relevant links to the selected participants. Participants must complete these online e-learning modules before the start of the residential part. The participants' attendance during the residential course in Lisbon is mandatory on all days. A certificate will be awarded, on the last day, to those course participants who have completed both the e-learning phase and the residential course.

- **Course venue (location):** The course will be held mainly in the Portuguese GNR conference room located in Quartel do Conde Lippe - Grupo de Segurança - Calçada da Ajuda 134, 1349-053 Ajuda – Lisbon. Nevertheless, a field visit is also planned to a Critical Infrastructure. More details about the venue, daily transfers and access will be provided to all confirmed participants. GPS Coordinates: 38.702723, -9.198692.
- **Language:** The working language is English, without translation.
- **Course (tuition) fees:** The course has no registration or tuition fees.
- **Travel expenses, transfers, accommodation, meals and catering:** Participants should arrange their own travel and accommodation. All costs for travelling to/from Lisbon, accommodation, catering and meals (including breakfast), daily allowances, transfers and local transport will be covered by the participants or by their sending authorities.

Hotel reservations: There are numerous hotels in the Lisbon area, and participants are responsible for their own arrangements. Nevertheless, due to the high demand and occupancy rate of hotels in the area, GNR has made pre-reservations at the SANA Malhoa Hotel, with a specific agreed rate for the course participants, of €130 per night (breakfast included) in a single room or €150 for a double room, with the reservation code: **ESDC-GNR-2023**. Participants can make their own arrangements by 16 October 2023 via <https://reservations.travelclick.com/95356?groupID=4012680>, or alternatively, by filling in the hotel reservation form. The GNR will endeavour to facilitate a daily transfer between the suggested hotel and the course venue. Accordingly, participants staying in other hotels can take advantage of the daily transfer from this pick-up and return point (if they wish).

Participants should not make booking arrangements before the confirmatory message on their complete course registration.

- **Liabilities, medical and life insurance:** In the event of medical emergencies or accidents, the costs will be covered directly by the participant's medical life- and risk insurance provided by their sending countries, national authorities or organisations. The organiser does not provide health-, life- or accident insurance for participants of the event, neither during their staying in Portugal.
- **Dress code:** As far as the dress code is concerned, we recommend participants to wear business attire (or dress) for the opening event and closing ceremony. Members of the armed forces, gendarmerie and police are not obliged to wear their uniforms, unless they prefer. During the course, a networking social dinner will be offered to all the course participants, experts and trainers. For this specific event, course classes, field visits, comfortable business / smart casual will be appropriate.
- **Additional info:** The Critical Infrastructure Protection Course (Basic Level) standard curriculum can be consulted on the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/curricula/>.
- **Arrival/Departure:** Participants are invited to arrive in Lisbon, on Sunday 19 November 2023. The course will start at 09:30 on Monday 20 November 2023 and will finish around 16:00 on Friday, 24 November 2023.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** The ESDC is committed to an inclusive, gender-sensitive and discrimination-free environment. 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. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and therefore the ESDC and its partners, realise their true potential. We therefore particularly encourage those applicants who are likely to be underrepresented to apply. The ESDC and the Portuguese GNR will not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.

- The final course agenda will be distributed to all selected participants. Nevertheless, for matters regarding the course programme and planned activities, please do not hesitate to contact the Course Director, Colonel (OF-05) José TAVARES DUARTE.

- **Points of contact:**
 - ✓ **Course Director, Colonel (OF-05) José DUARTE:** duarte.jmsft@gnr.pt
Deputy Commander of GNR State Security and Honours Unit (USHE), PORTUGAL
 - ✓ **ESDC Cyber ETEE Training Manager, Anna MALEC:** Anna.MALEC@eeas.europa.eu
ESDC Representative, ENLIST registration, E-Learning and course information
 - ✓ **Personal Profile Form (PPF), Logistics and Administrative support** (in Portugal):
ushe.sft@gnr.pt - GNR State Security and Honours Unit (USHE)