



Invitation to the course PILOT Course 'Women, peace and security (WPS): looking at the Western Balkans and the MENA region'

Thessaloniki, 29 July 2024

The Department of International and European Studies at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), has the pleasure and honour of organising the pilot edition of the course '**Women, Peace and Security (WPS): looking at the Western Balkans and the MENA region**'. The course will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from **2 to 6 December 2024** (residential format) and is being organised in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair on Women, Peace and Security of the University of Macedonia, hosted by the same department

The pilot course aims to raise awareness and evaluate the implementation of the WPS policy agenda throughout its development over more than two decades by the UN and other organisations, including the EU, through the EU Strategic Approach to WPS and the EU Action Plan on WPS 2019-2024. The course will focus on the Western Balkans and the MENA region as environments that have been affected by conflict and composite vulnerabilities and in which the EU is currently making efforts to build peace resilience. Participants will have the opportunity to gain knowledge about the significance of WPS in building state resilience, to evaluate good practices in the regions and to think differently about ways of optimising the WPS agenda's instruments within the EU policy framework, in order to bolster women's resilience and agency in peacebuilding in the regions through CSDP missions and operations.

In addition to the residential section of the course, there is also an e-learning module, and both are compulsory. All participants should be mid- to senior level officials or experts (civilian (including diplomats), police and military), and they will be invited to create a network of personnel working in the field of promoting the WPS agenda within the EU and at regional and global levels.

Fergal O'Regan

Acting Head of the
European Security and
Defence College

Professor Dimitris V. Skiadas

Head of the
Department of International and European
Studies - University of Macedonia (GR),
Jean Monnet Chair



Administrative instructions

- **Target group:** The course is open to civilian, diplomatic, police and military personnel from EU Member States and relevant EU bodies. Suitable participants will have expertise in gender equality, diplomacy and intelligence.
- **Places and nominations:** Around 35 places will be available for international participants. Typically, one or two places are allocated to each EU Member State, but depending on the total number of requests, one additional place may be offered. Our objective is to put together a group that is balanced in terms of gender and professional background.
- **Applications:** Applications from the EU Member States are to be filed via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, by designated nominators, at <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login> **no later than 28 October 2024**. A list of ENLIST nominators can be found on the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>.
- **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory on all days of the course. Participants will receive an ESDC certificate on the last day only if they have completed the entire course. This course will not be offered in hybrid format.
- **Inclusivity:** The ESDC strives to create 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 institutions will not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.
- **Language:** The course will be conducted in English, without translation.
- **E-learning:** The course is preceded by a mandatory e-learning module (set to start on 1 November **2024** on the ESDC e-learning platform ILIAS), which course participants will have to complete before the residential session starts (**2 December 2024**). Connection details will be provided in due course to all registered participants.
- **Residential part of the course:** This part of the course will take place on University of Macedonia premises in Thessaloniki, Greece, from the **2 to 6 December 2024** (Monday 09:00 to Friday 14:00).

- **Costs:** Sending authorities must cover all travel, accommodation and catering (including breakfast) costs for participants from EU Member States.
 - **Dress code:** Formal dress or service uniform for the first and last days, smart casual clothing for the rest of the course.
 - **Liabilities and insurance:** In the event of a medical emergency, participants' medical insurance, provided by the sending country/organisation must cover all costs. The organiser does not provide health or accident insurance for participants in the event. The activity will commence on 09:00 on Monday 2 December and end at 14:00 on Friday 6 December.
 - **Additional info:** Course participants will receive further detailed information about the course (e.g. curriculum, schedule, driving directions) in due time.
 - More information regarding the University of Macedonia and its training activities are available at www.uom.gr and about the Department of International and European Studies at <https://www.uom.gr/en/ies>.
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- **Points of contact:**
ESDC – Maria Grazia Romano, Training Manager, Coordinator for Civilian CSDP Training, Education & Research – email: maria-grazia.romano@eeas.europa.eu
University of Macedonia – Fotini Bellou (Course Director), Associate Professor, Department of International and European Studies – email: fbellou@uom.edu.gr

Pilot course ‘WPS: looking at the Western Balkans and the MENA region

2 to 6 December 2024, Thessaloniki, Greece

Draft programme

Monday 02/12/2024	Tuesday 03/12/2024	Wednesday 04/12/2024	Thursday 05/12/2024	Friday 06/12/2024
<p>09:30-09:45</p> <p>Welcome, course introduction, ESDC presentation</p> <p>09:45-10:45 Opening speech</p> <p>10:45-11:00 Coffee break</p> <p>11:00-12:15 International security context and threats to human security</p> <p>12:15-13:15 Security challenges in the MENA region</p> <p>13:15-14:15 Short break (snack)</p> <p>14:15-15:30 Security challenges in the W. Balkans</p> <p>15:30.-17:30 Ice breaker</p>	<p>09:30-10:15</p> <p>The WPS agenda: a global perspective</p> <p>10:15-10:30 Coffee break</p> <p>10:30-11:45 The WPS agenda: the EU perspective</p> <p>11:45-12:45 Coffee break</p> <p>12:45-13:15 EU military operations the role of Gender Advisors</p> <p>13:15-14:15 Short break (snack)</p> <p>14:15-15:00 EU Integrated Approach to Conflict and Crisis: a gender perspective</p>	<p>09:30-10:15</p> <p>Empowering women in building local resilience</p> <p>10:15-10:30 Coffee break</p> <p>10:30-11:45 Good practices in women’s mediation from the MENA region</p> <p>11:45-12:45 Coffee break</p> <p>12:45-13:15 EU civilian missions and Civilian Compact: a WPS perspective</p> <p>13:15-14:15 Short break (snack)</p> <p>13:15-14:00 Capacity-building for women in post- conflict areas</p> <p>14:00-14:15 Short break</p> <p>14:15-15:00 European Civil Protection and its role in the Integrated Approach</p>	<p>09:30-10:15</p> <p>Lessons learned from women’ stories in the MENA region (panel?)</p> <p>10:15-10:30 Coffee break</p> <p>10:30-11:45 Lessons learned from women’s stories in the MENA region (panel?)</p> <p>11:45-12:45 Coffee break</p> <p>12:45-13:15 The role of the EULEX Gender Advisor – lessons learnt</p> <p>13:15-14:15 Short break (snack)</p> <p>14:15-15:00 Group activity</p> <p>17:00-21:00 COURSE DINNER</p>	<p>09:30-10:15</p> <p>The WPS agenda in the W. Balkans and the MENA region – Conclusions of working groups</p> <p>10:15-10:30 Coffee break</p> <p>10:30-11:30 Closing speech by UNESCO officer</p> <p>11:30-12:45 Coffee break</p> <p>12.45-13:15 Course evaluation and</p> <p>Certificates and closing ceremony</p>