

Invitation to the ESDC's

'EU-NATO Cooperation' pilot course

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, 21-25 July 2025

The George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies (GCMC) and the German Federal Ministry of Defence (FMoD), under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), have the honour of inviting you to the pilot course on EU-NATO cooperation, to be held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, from 21 to 25 July 2025.

In light of the annexation of Crimea in 2014, the migration movements of 2015 and 2016 and China's assertive role in global politics, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the NATO Secretary General signed two Joint Declarations on EU-NATO cooperation, the first in 2016 and the second in 2018, asking their organisations to cooperate on: countering hybrid threats; coordinating out-of-area and peace operations; sharing information with a view to countering cyber threats and terrorism; complementing defence planning processes; supporting states' security and defence capacity-building; and facilitating military mobility across Europe and beyond. In early 2023, a third EU-NATO Declaration was signed, stressing the importance of jointly fostering resilience, protecting critical infrastructure and countering foreign interference and information manipulation.

The EU-NATO cooperation pilot course will be the first course to be attended by 30 representatives of EU Member States and 30 peers from security architectures of third countries (e.g. candidate countries), facilitated by GCMC. The aim of this training is to engage all invitees in understanding the impact of NATO and EU cooperation in light of strategic competition and the conflict dynamics in Eurasia. It also aims to deepen the content of NATO and EU cooperation for countries that are both EU and NATO member states, countries that are solely NATO or EU members, and partner countries bordering Europe. The pilot course will provide insights into selected areas of existing cooperation between the two organisations and encourage debate where cooperation should be enhanced. Lastly, the hope is that the pilot course will allow for the formation of a network of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian experts to bolster Europe's flanks and the wider Euro-Atlantic space.

The EU-NATO cooperation course consists of a combination of lectures and panel discussions, as well as smaller breakout discussions to allow participants to explore the content of the presentations and panel discussions in more depth.

The target group for this training course is entry-/mid-level staff (police, military personnel, diplomats and civilians) working in security architectures of EU Member States and EU institutions, bodies and agencies, with some experience in security policy matters.

We would be grateful if you would nominate suitable candidates for this activity, as it would offer them an excellent opportunity to gain insights into EU-NATO cooperation and contribute to achieving the ultimate goal of the course.

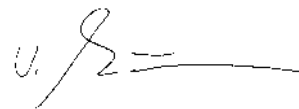
Please find attached the administrative remarks and a list of potential topics.



Acting Head of the European
Security and Defence College



Representative FMoD



Course Director, George C.
Marshall European Center for
Security Studies

Administrative remarks

- **Target group:** the course is open to civilian, diplomatic, police and military personnel from EU Member States, relevant EU institutions, bodies and agencies, and CSDP missions and operations, who are or will be involved in CSDP-related activities.
- **Places and nominations:** around 30 places will be available to international participants. Typically, one place is 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 EU Member States and EU institutions, bodies and agencies are to be submitted via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, by designated nominators, at <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login> no later than 6 June 2025. 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.
- **Residential part of the course:** the course will take place on the premises of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Sheridan Kaserne, Bldg. 105, 2nd floor, Gernackerstrasse 2, 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, commencing at 10:00 on Monday 21 July, and concluding at 13:00 on Friday 25 July 2025.
- **Accommodation:** the recommended accommodation is Army Lodging (Sheridan Kaserne), on the premises of the barracks. This accommodation has been selected for its quality, its proximity to the lecture rooms of the Center and its dining facilities, as well as a special rate of \$133 per night, which is low in comparison to accommodation rates in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in high season.

For participants staying at Army Lodging, the Marshall Center will provide transport from and to Munich airport.

Participants may stay off-post. In that case, they will need to make their own ground transportation arrangements for travelling from and to Munich airport and to and from

the Marshall Center. Be mindful that the Marshall Center is located around five kilometres from Garmisch-Partenkirchen city centre and buses run only every hour.

Participants wishing to stay at Army Lodging will need to complete a form that will be distributed to all confirmed participants.

- **Meals:** participants will be invited to an icebreaker reception in the Marshall Center Dining Facility, Bldg. 263, on Monday 21 July at 18:00, and one dinner, TBD. Coffee breaks will be organised at the course venue.
- **Costs:** sending authorities must cover all costs for travel, accommodation and meals (including breakfast) for participants from EU Member States and EU institutions, bodies agencies.
- **Dress code:** formal dress or service uniform for the first and last day; business casual clothing for the rest of the course.
- **Liabilities and insurance:** in the event of a medical emergency, all costs must be covered by participants' medical insurance, provided by the sending country/organisation. The organiser will not provide health or accident insurance for course participants.
- **Additional info:** participants will receive further, more detailed information about the course (e.g. schedule, forms to be filled in for access to the premises, etc.) in good time.

Please do not book accommodation or travel before receiving a confirmation message from the ESDC Secretariat.

Points of contact:

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Tentative list of topics

- NATO and the EU in the contemporary world (dis)order
- Background and history of EU-NATO cooperation
- Defence capabilities
- Cooperation preparedness
- Aspects of resilience
- Military mobility
- Countering terrorism
- Hybrid threats