



***Invitation to the ESDC course:  
Modern leadership in the context of  
the law of armed conflict and open-source intelligence***

***14-18 October 2024, Thessaloniki, Greece***

***Brussels, 17 June 2024***

The Hellenic Army War College (HAWC) and the Cyprus Security and Defence Academy (CSDA), under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), have the honour of organising the course **'Modern leadership in the context of the law of armed conflict and open-source intelligence'**, from 14 to 18 October 2024, in Thessaloniki, Greece.

The course aims to help the participants to reach their full leadership potential in the context of armed conflict. Furthermore, the course aims to educate participants regarding the key elements of the law of armed conflict (LOAC) and the impact of open-source intelligence (OSINT) in decision-making. In addition, the course will provide participants with opportunities for networking and mindful conversation with peers and experts.

The course consists of an e-learning phase and a residential phase. During the e-learning phase, participants will be introduced to the basic principles of subjects that will be further analysed in the subsequent residential phase (14-18 October). The three basic modules on which the course focuses are leadership, LOAC and OSINT.

Subject matter experts and qualified tutors will guide participants through the course material, through lecturing, mentoring and discussion. In addition, all participants will have the opportunity to work in groups and put their new knowledge into practice, in workshops and a crisis management scenario.



The course is open to mid-/senior-ranking military/law enforcement officers and civilian staff, from various levels of governmental institutions (defence, foreign affairs, interior, etc.) of Member States and EU structures.

Personnel involved in planning or conducting military operations and personnel deployed or expected to be deployed in civilian/military CSDP missions/operations are also welcome.

The ESDC is committed to an inclusive, gender-sensitive and discrimination-free environment. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, including the ESDC and its partners, realise their true potential. Therefore, applicants who are likely to be underrepresented are particularly encouraged to apply.

**Brig. Gen. Anastasios Kyriakidis**  
Commandant of the HAWC

**Fergal O'Regan**  
Acting Head of the ESDC

**LTC Symeon ZAMBAS**  
Director of CSDA

### **Annexes**

**Annex A: Administrative information**

**Annex B: Summarised course topics**



## Annex A

### Administrative instructions

- **Target audience:** The course is open to both civilian and military personnel from the EU Member States, EU institutions and agencies, and civilian/military CSDP missions and operations.
- **Course language:** The course language is English and participants must be proficient in English, in order to be able to engage in discussions and fully benefit from the training.
- **Attendance** is mandatory on all days of the residential phase. A certificate will be awarded to course participants who have completed the full course, including the e-learning phase.
- **All costs** of travel, accommodation and catering must be covered by the sending authorities or by the participants. No course fees will be charged.
- **Applications** are to be filed via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST (<https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>) by designated nominators. A list of ENLIST nominators can be found on the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>.
- The **deadline** for nominations is no later than **23 September 2024**.
- **Registration** is not final until confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat.
- **Location:** Hellenic Army War College<sup>1</sup>, Thessaloniki, Greece.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://esdc.europa.eu/institutes/> or <https://spsx.army.gr/en/archiki-english/>



- **Transportation** from/to the airport of Thessaloniki may be provided upon early request and depending on availability. Daily transportation from/to the city centre and the HAWC will be provided.
- An official **dinner** will take place on Thursday 17 October.
- **Schedule:** The e-learning phase of the course will start on 30 September. The residential phase will take place in Thessaloniki **from 14 to 18 October** (Monday 09:00 to Friday 14:00).
- The **dress code** for all course events is smart/business casual.
- **PoC HAWC:** Lt.Col (GRC-A) Evangelos Anastasiou  
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- **PoC CSDA:** Major (CYP-A) Andreas Patsalides  
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## Annex B

### Summarised course topics

Module	Lecture
<b>Module 1 Law of armed conflict</b>	Law of armed conflict - legal challenges in current conflict areas
	Rules of engagement (ROE) and operationalising the law
	International criminal justice; command responsibility and criminal liability; legal challenges
<b>Module 2 OSINT</b>	Information management (IM)
	Role of social media in hybrid strategies
	Information as a means of lawfare
	OSINT in the era of disinformation and fake news
	Workshop on assessing the reliability of OSINT: a validity analysis in military targeting
<b>Module 3 Modern leadership</b>	The model leader in the digital era
	Soft skills of military commanders in information operations
	Modern Leadership in Practice
	Modern leadership workshop
<b>Workshop</b>	Tabletop exercise on decision-making
<b>Post-action review - graduation</b>	Draft conclusions and final presentations from working groups
	Lecturers' feedback and summary