INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

ESDC Core Course on Security Sector Reform (SSR)

14 – 20 OCTOBER 2022, STADTSCHLAINING, AUSTRIA

Course Description

In accordance with the Standard ESDC Core Course on SSR Curriculum, the course aims to enhance the knowledge, skills, and competencies of participants in relation to the concept and principles of SSR as part of the EU integrated approach and other related EU policy and concepts, in particular 'the EU-wide strategic framework in support of Security Sector Reform'. It will highlight the key components of SSR, the various tools and techniques used by SSR practitioners and the challenges that an SSR advisor could face. It will also develop examples of good practice through the collective sharing of experience and provide tools to address future challenges and assess needs in relation to SSR.
The course also aims to strengthen a network of SSR experts, with a common understanding of SSR.

Participants are provided with a comprehensive overview on the concepts, strategies, and actors of SSR. They learn about the approaches of international organisations with a focus on the EU approach to SSR and will be familiarised with the main pillars of SSR such as defence, police, intelligence, judiciary, and integrated border management. Moreover, cross-cutting issues such as gender, human rights, the role of civil society, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), as well as the impact of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons are discussed. In-depth knowledge on SSR and its hands-on implementation is provided through exercises, case studies and the discussion of best practices. The Core Course furthermore stresses the importance of cooperation among stakeholders from different segments of the security sector.

To facilitate discussion between course participants and trainers/experts/guest speakers, the Chatham House Rule is enforced during the residential module: '*participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed*'.

At the end of this course participants will have a holistic understanding of SSR, a clear view of different organizations´ (EU, UN, NATO, OSCE) approaches to SSR, and will be familiar with SSR related reform processes. Participants will be able to analyse and connect with various actors in the field of SSR, undertake assessments and apply their skills regarding planning, implementing, and monitoring of SSR activities to their work.

The course is co-organized by the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence in the framework of the Academic Programme of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and conducted in cooperation with the International Security Sector Advisory Team of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF/ISSAT). It will take place from 14 to 20 October 2022 at the premises of the ASPR in Stadtschlaining, Austria.

Requirements for Participation

Participants should preferably be middle to senior level professionals deployed or just about to be deployed in support of a bilateral, regional or multilateral mission to support security and justice reform within EU or EU Member State and/or partner country structures. The course is also open to those involved in programming, programme management and/or in political/policy dialogue in the wider context of SSR.
Priority is given to personnel from the EU Member States.

➢ For detailed information on the conditions and costs of participation please check the attached "Additional Information" and the ASPR website: ESDC Core Course on Security Sector Reform - ASPR.

Application Procedure

Qualified candidates matching the set participants profile as outlined above are requested to fill the **personal application form** on our website (see link below) and submit **strictly** by the **deadline of 22 August 2022.**

The designated course Admission Board will select the course participants from the submitted applications while balancing affiliation, professional background, gender, nationality and working contexts in view to keep the intended course quality and standard.

Applicants are thereafter informed about the decision of the Admission Board within 2 weeks after the set application deadline.

➢ To apply, please use the link to the application form on the ASPR website:
ESDC Core Course on Security Sector Reform - ASPR

Attachments
- Annex 1 Additional Information
- Annex 2 Draft Programme Overview

Additional Information – SSR Core Course

1. Conditions of Participation

a. Expected Participant's Profile

This course is a specialisation course and targets national and international **mid- to senior level** professionals who are already deployed or just about to be deployed in support of a bilateral, regional or multilateral mission to support security and justice sector reform within EU, EU Member State and/or partner country structures or other International and Regional Organisations.

The course is thus open to those tasked with programming, programme management and/or political/policy dialogue in the wider context of SSR including members of the Civil Society, members of armed forces, police, and staff from non-governmental/civilian organisations, and the political/civilian administration in relevant positions who are working in the field of Security Sector Reform.

a. Expected Preparations

Participants are required to complete <u>selected e-Learning modules</u> in the preparatory phase preceding the residential part of this course. The timely completion of these eLearning modules is a precondition for receiving the course certificate. A constant well working internet connection and ongoing presence over email is therefore compulsory for participants, also in the preparation (non-residential) phase.

b. Course Language & Expected Attendance

The course language is English, and <u>participants must be fully proficient in English</u> to be able to engage in discussions and fully benefit from the training.

Late arrivals or early departures cannot be accepted. The intense course programme does furthermore not allow for any additional commitments during the course. Absence during the course may result in disqualification from the course diploma.

c. Certificate

Successful participants are rewarded with an official ESDC certificate at the end of the residential course phase. The certificate will only be granted if the pre-residential e-learning and the residential phase have both been completed successfully.

b. Selection Criteria

From all timely submitted applications, a Course Admission Board, consisting of subject matter experts strives to select a highly qualified group of participants to ensure the set course standard. The selection process considers a balance in professional and organisational backgrounds, age, nationality and gender.

Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply!

Since the slots are limited to 30 participants, only the best qualified candidates can be admitted. The selection of the Admission Board is final and cannot be challenged.

Depending on applicable national SARS COV II regulations, selection and admission may also be subject to the travel and immigration regulations accordingly (see specific point below).

c. Course Cost

The ESDC Courses are a capacity building measure by EU member states for their personnel working in or being deployed to CSDP missions. According to the agreement by the EU member states, the following cost sharing arrangement has been decided: The country where the ESDC course takes place is the course host and covers all general course-related issues while the sending member states cover the cost for the individual participants they send (see details below).

To be covered by participants:

a. Travel and Full Board Accommodation

Participants are to organise and book their travel to the course premises to arrive at the accommodation in the afternoon of Friday 14 October which is the course starting date. Due to limited availability of public and private ground transport to the course location, the cost for the transfer from/to the airport can be costly if not arranged in advance. The course organisation strives to make collective bus transport options available which can be booked in advance over the hotel.

More detailed guidance on available ground transport options will be provided to the confirmed participants.

Any costs for immigration to Austria are to be covered by the participants, this also includes visa fees, costs for required tests and vaccinations for SARS COV II.

Accommodation and meals for the duration of the course have been organised by the ASPR at the local hotel "Hotel Burg Schlaining" and must be booked there by the selected participants, once their participation has been officially confirmed by the ASPR. Depending on the room category, prices for the overnight with breakfast range from 95 to 120 EUR, meals are 25 EUR excluding drinks. Prices may be subject to change as per the hotel's policy.

Any extra costs incurring during the course (laundry, phone etc.) are to be covered by the participants.

Detailed joining instructions will be issued to confirmed participants only. Applicants/sending entities are kindly requested to commence bookings only when the official confirmation of participation has been received.

Covered by the Course Host:

b. Conference Costs & Hosted Dinner

Costs for Expert Trainers, course materials, the conference facility and 2 coffee breaks per course day are covered by the Republic of Austria as course host nation, there the Federal Ministry of Defence in the framework of the cooperation programme with the ASPR.

d. Health Insurance and SARS COV II

Note: These are the regulations known at the time of the announcement of the course; they may change according to official regulations.

Participants are to be fully covered by a valid health insurance; the ASPR and the course host do not cover any medical costs, including emergencies and costs for the treatment of SARS COV II infections.

All official regulations of the Republic of Austria for SARS COV II must be observed for immigration and the duration for the stay and are the responsibility of the participant. Although all regulations have been voided for the moment in Austria, it is foreseeable that **a valid EU-approved and completed vaccination will be necessary in autumn to travel in Europe and Austria. According to recent experience, entry and access to hotels and services in Austria may again be dependent on the relevant international certificates accordingly. It is strongly recommended to have the booster vaccine as well.**

Participants **must bring their own FFP-2 masks and wear them as per the regulations.**

Relevant safety measures will be set up for the running of the course to guarantee maximum protection for all participants and persons tasked with the course implementation.

For details on current regulations, kindly check these links:

Entry into Austria and pre-travel clearance (oesterreich.gv.at)

Coronavirus: Entry Regulations to Austria.

Re-open EU (europa.eu)

e. How to submit the Application

For the application, please use the provided link to the application form on the ASPR's website, there the page of this course ESDC Core Course on Security Sector Reform - ASPR and submit it **until the set deadline: 22 August 2022**

In case candidates are officially nominated, a supporting letter can be uploaded as reference over the online application form.

Please note that all information provided on the form will be kept strictly internal and shared only with the partners organising the course under the EU Data Protection Regulations.

We do not need any additional documentation, such as diplomas or a complete CV.

Tentative Programme Overview
ESDC Core Course on SSR
Stadtschlaining, Austria

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
0845-0900	Arrivals and Registration	Admin Remarks	Daily Evaluation	Daily Evaluation	Daily Evaluation	Daily Evaluation	Daily Evaluation
0900-1030		Introduction to the Concept of SSR	SSR in Post-Conflict Contexts	Advising in SSR	EU & SSR	Justice Reform	UN & SSR
Break		COFFEE					
1100-1230		Good Security Sector Governance	Role of Civil Society in SSR	Case Studies	DDR	Intelligence Reform	NATO & SSR
Lunch		LUNCH					
1400-1530		Mapping the Security Sector	Non-State Security Actors	Defence Reform	SALW	Penal and Corrections Reform	Building Integrity
Break		COFFEE					
1600-1730	Official Opening Introduction	SSR and Gender	Exercise: Coordination in SSR	Police Reform	OSCE & SSG/R	Integrated Border Management	Closing & Certificates