

INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

ESDC Core Course on Security Sector Reform (SSR)

4 – 15 OCT 2021, ONLINE

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 4 to 15 October 2021 in online format.

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 further 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 29 August 2021**.

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 – Online 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.

b. Expected Preparations and Required Technical Equipment for Participation

Participants are required to complete selected e-Learning modules in the preparatory phase preceding the online video conference part of this course. The timely completion of these eLearning modules is a precondition for participation and for receiving the course certificate. A constant well working internet connection and ongoing presence over email is therefore compulsory for participants before the actual online starts. This will also include a test session to check the connection quality and sort out problems before the online course starts.

Participation to the course requires a reliable internet connection of **min. 4 Mbit/s over HSDPA/3,5 G** and a computer/laptop with video/audio equipment or a separate headphone set to be able to use all online tools made available. It furthermore requires a suitable, quiet learning environment that allows the participant and his/her fellow participants to concentrate.

The course timings are set in Austrian local time and adapted to suit the widest possible participation through time zones. Participants are requested to be present for the whole video conferencing time and for the required after hour work assignments or preparations. The course organisation cannot make exceptions for participants in far-away time zones.

c. Course Language & Expected Attendance

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

Participants must participate to the course as scheduled. The intense programme does not allow for any additional commitments during the course and participants are expected to be off duty when attending. Absence during the course may result in disqualification from the course diploma.

d. Certificate

Successful participants are rewarded with an official ESDC certificate at the end of the course. The certificate will only be granted if the e-Learning and the required participation with all assignments have been completed successfully.

2. Selection Criteria

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, 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.

3. 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.

Please note that all information you will provide to us 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.



 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Defence

Draft Programme Overview

ESDC SSR Core Course (Online) 4 to 15 October 2021

Part 1 - SSR Concept



CET	Min.	Mon 4 Oct	CET	Min.	Tue 5 Oct	Wed 6 Oct	Thu 7 Oct	CET	Min.	Fri 8 Oct
09:00	10'	Boarding	10:00	10'	Boarding	Boarding	Boarding	10:00	10'	Boarding
09:10 - 10:10	60'	Welcome & Introduction SSR Concept	10:10 - 11:50	45'	Gender	Mapping	Civil Society	10:10 - 11:50	45'	Case studies
10:10 - 11:50	45'			10'	Break	Break	Break		10'	Break
	10'	SSR Concept		45'	Gender	Mapping	Civil Society		45'	Case studies
Lunch	30'	Lunch	Lunch	30'	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	30'	Lunch
12:20 - 14:00	45'	Governance	12:20 - 14:00	45'	Post-Conflict	Advising	Non-State Actors	12:20 - 14:30	60'	Coordination
	10'	Break		10'	Break	Break	Break		10'	Break
	45'	Governance		45'	Post-Conflict	Advising	Non-State Actors		60'	Coordination
Ends at 14:15	15''	Recap.	Ends at 14:15	15'	Recap.	Recap.	Recap.	Ends at 14:45	15'	Recap.

Draft Programme Overview

ESDC SSR Core Course (Online) 4 to 15 October 2021

Part 2 - SSR Implementation

CET	Min.	Mon 11 Oct	Tue 12 Oct	CET	Min.	Wed 13 Oct	Thu 14 Oct		Min.	Fri 15 Oct
10:00	10'	Boarding	Boarding	10:00	10'	Boarding	Boarding	10:00	10'	Boarding
10:10 - 11:50	45'	Defence Reform	Justice Reform	10:10 - 11:50	45'	Integrated Border Management	SALW	10:10 - 11:10	60'	EU SSR
	10'	Break	Break		10'	Break	Break		10'	Break
	45'	Defence Reform	Justice Reform		45'	Integrated Border Management	SALW	11:20 - 12:20	60'	UN SSR
Lunch	30'	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	30'	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	30'	Lunch
12:20 - 14:00	45'	Police Reform	Penitentiary Reform	12:20 - 14:30	60'	DDR	OSCE SSG/R	12:50 - 13:30	40'	Course Recap Course Survey
	10'	Break	Break		10'	Break	Break		10'	Break
	45'	Police Reform	Penitentiary Reform		60'	Building Integrity	NATO SSR	13:40 - 14:30	50'	Closure
Ends at 14:15	15'	Recap.	Recap.	Ends At 14:45	15'	Recap.	Recap.	Ends At 14:30		

Status as of 24 June 2021