

1 July 2025

Invitation
to the course
Advanced Research Into Hybrid Threats
(Activity number 25-26/77/1)

The “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy, in cooperation with the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), has the honour to invite participants to the upcoming course “**Advanced Research into Hybrid Threats**”, which will take place **from 14 to 17 October 2025 in Brussels**, in a residential format.

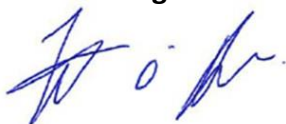
This course will address the evolving nature of hybrid threats and the key challenges they pose at EU level. It will examine hybrid tactics, the EU’s integrated approach to situational awareness, resilience, and coordinated response, as well as specific areas such as cyberattacks, cybersecurity, and foreign information manipulation and interference.

The course is designed primarily for **ESDC PhD fellows** enrolled in universities belonging to the **European Doctoral School on CSDP network**, as well as for **representatives of EU Member States** nominated through their respective national nominators.

The ultimate objective of this course is to support the doctoral research of participating PhD fellows in the domain of hybrid threats and to promote a shared European understanding and strengthened resilience in this area.

We kindly invite representatives of Member States to register for the course through the appropriate channels.

Acting Head
European Security and Defence
College



Fergal Ó Regan

Course Director
“Mihai Viteazul” National
Intelligence Academy



Irena Chiru

Annex A

Administrative information

14 to 17 October 2025
(Activity Number 25-26/77/1)

The course will be held from 14 to 17 October 2025 at the Albert Borschette Conference Centre in Brussels and is equivalent to 2 ECTS credits.

It is open to ESDC PhD fellows affiliated with universities that are part of the European Doctoral School on CSDP, as well as to representatives of EU Member States nominated through their respective national points of contact.

A total of 30 places are available, of which 20 are reserved for PhD fellows and 10 for representatives of Member States.

ESDC PhD fellows wishing to participate must submit their applications to the following address: ESDC-DOCSCHOOL@eeas.europa.eu no later than 22 August 2025. Member State representatives must be nominated via their national authorities by 11 September 2025.

Attendance is compulsory on all days of the course. Participants who complete the entire programme, including the required e-learning modules, will receive a certificate on the final day. Please note that the course will be delivered exclusively in a residential, in-person format. No hybrid or online attendance will be possible.

The working language of the course will be **English**, and no interpretation will be provided.

For ESDC PhD fellows, the costs related to international travel and accommodation (including breakfast) will be reimbursed by the ESDC, in accordance with the applicable ESDC Administrative Instructions and within the authorised ceilings. For Member State representatives, costs will be covered by their respective sending authorities.

Formal attire is required for the opening and closing ceremonies, while smart casual dress is appropriate for the working sessions.

Participants are expected to have appropriate **medical insurance** arranged by their sending institution or country. The organiser does not provide health or accident insurance. In the

event of a medical emergency, all related costs must be covered by the participant's insurance.

The course will start on **Tuesday, 14 October** at 09:00 and conclude on **Friday, 17 October** at 14:00. Participants are therefore advised to arrive in Brussels on Monday, 13 October.

Further practical details regarding the course and logistics will be sent directly to selected participants in due course.

For any questions, you may contact the Course Director, Professor Irena Chiru (chiru.irena@animv.eu), or the ESDC Training Manager, Ms Maria Penedos (maria.penedos@eeas.europa.eu).

Annex B

**ADVANCED RESEARCH INTO HYBRID THREATS
DRAFT SCHEDULE**

DAY 1 14.10.2025	
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:45	Introductory remarks EU training policy and ESDC
09:45-11:00	Theoretical framework for hybrid threats
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:45	The EU integrated approach to hybrid threats
12:45-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:15	Hybrid threats research – methodological acumen
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-17:00	Practical exercise

DAY 2 15.10.2025	
09:00-10:15	The role of cyberattacks in hybrid warfare and medium and long-term challenges in cyber security
10:15-10:30	Coffee break
10:30-11:45	Emerging technologies and their role in cybersecurity
11:45-12:00	Coffee break
12:00-13:15	NATO approach regarding hybrid threats in the current geopolitical and technological context
13:15-14:15	Lunch break
14:15-15:45	Main challenges ahead – AI impact and changing strategies in information manipulation
15:45-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	Practical exercise
18:30-22:00	Official dinner

DAY 3 16.10.2025	
09:30-11:00	Resilience and deterrence models applied for countering hybrid threats
11:00-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:45	Resilience against violent radicalisation and extremism in the context of hybrid threats against EU and member states
12:45-13:45	Lunch break
13:45-15:00	Psychological effects and individual resilience actions in the context of hybrid threats
15:00-15:15	Lunch break
15:15-16:30	Resilience-building educational models to counter hybrid threats
16:30-16:45	Coffee break
16:45-18:00	Practical exercise

DAY 4 17.10.2025	
09:30-11:00	Hybrid economic war
11:00-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:00	Exercise presentations and evaluation
12:00-13:00	Concluding remarks Feedback session Way forward
13:00-14:00	Departure