



Brussels, 18 January 2023

Invitation to the
12th ESDC Advanced Course for
Political Advisors in EU Missions and Operations

(Activities no. 22-23/18/1- 22-23/18/2 – 22-23/18/3)

Brussels/Geneva/Vienna

April - July - September 2023

Since 2003, the European Union has played a crucial role in crisis management through its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). With more than 35 missions and operations worldwide, the EU has proved its readiness to respond effectively and in timely fashion to emerging challenges.

Effective crisis management requires a combination of adequate capabilities and well-trained personnel. In response, one of the key tasks of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) is to contribute towards the development of human capital and build a pool of crisis management experts with a wide range of knowledge. The College provides basic and advanced courses ranging from orientation to specialised training for civil-military purposes specifically designed to facilitate a comprehensive and integrated approach. The forthcoming 'ESDC Advanced Course for Political Advisors in EU Missions and Operations' aims to complement this effort. It will consist of three modules organised and offered by three partner institutes to the course, the Egmont Institute in Brussels, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, and the Austrian National Defence Academy in Vienna, which will cover the requirements for personnel assigned to EU missions and operations as Political Advisors.

We are therefore very pleased to invite you to this ESDC training activity in support of the Common Security and Defence Policy. For further information, please refer to the course outline and the administrative details in the annexes.

Professor Dr Sven Biscop

Director at the Egmont
Institute

LTG Erich Csirkovits

Commandant of the
Austrian National Defence
Academy

Holger OSTERRIEDER

Head of the European
Security and Defence
College

Ambassador Thomas Greminger

Director of the Geneva Centre



Annex 1

Course Outline of the

12th ESDC Advanced Course for Political Advisors in EU Missions and Operations

Brussels/Geneva/Vienna April - July - September 2023

*Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations
Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
Austrian National Defence Academy (NDA)*

*conducted under the aegis of the
European Security and Defence College (ESDC)*

Course Aim:

- a) Give participants an understanding of the tasks and challenges likely to be faced by political advisors in EU missions or operations, at both operational and strategic levels
- b) Provide a detailed overview of the core principles of the EU's External Action Service and the framework, skills and working techniques for political advisors, both in capitals and in the field
- c) Enhance participants' existing skills through practical training exercises
- d) Encourage networking among individuals working in advisory positions

Target Group:

Personnel working in political advisory positions/departments in national capitals, EU institutions, EU agencies and EU missions and operations.

Number of Participants:

Maximum 25 per course.

Course Structure:

Three five-day modules:
Module 1, to be held in Brussels,
Module 2, to be held in Geneva,
Module 3, to be held in Vienna.

Participants must attend and complete an internet-based Distance Learning course prior to each module. The Distance Learning course is provided on the ESDC's eLearning platform (ILIAS).

Course Modules

Module 1: Framework for Political Advisors

Course location: ESDC, Brussels

Date: 24 - 28 April 2023 (Monday - Friday)

Host: Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

Course Director: Prof Dr Sven Biscop

Contents:

- The strategic context:
 - New geopolitics and European grand strategy
 - Overall priorities of the CSDP – an emerging strategy
 - Regional strategies : southern and eastern neighbourhood, Africa, maritime security
- The institutional context:
 - The post-Lisbon apparatus for external action
 - From political decision-making to operational plan
 - Views from permanent representations and from within the institutions
- Regional and horizontal issues



Module 2: Skills for Political Advisors

Course location: GCSP, Chemin Eugene-Rigot 2D, 1211 Geneva

Date: 04 - 07 July 2023 (Tuesday - Friday)

Host: Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)

Course Director: Alexandra Thiry

Contents:

- Political analysis
- Negotiation techniques
- Peace negotiation, peace mediation and mediation support
- Effective writing: political reporting and speechwriting
- Understanding the main effective communication tools
- Practicing strategic communication and effective messaging
- Challenges and expectations of advising

Module 3: Practical Work Environment and Simulation Exercise

Course location: NDA, Stiftgasse 2A, 1070 Vienna

Date: 04 - 08 September 2023 (Monday – Friday)

Host: Austrian National Defence Academy

Course Director: Sandra Kick



Contents:

- *Current and future deployment of political advisors in various CSDP missions and operations*
- *Practical implementation of contents of modules 1 and 2*
- *Political advising in current challenging security-political environment*
- *Immersion into the mission and operation field environment of political advisors through coordination with other key mission staff*
- *PolAd training exercise*



Annex 2

Administrative details of the

12th ESDC Advanced Course for Political Advisors in EU Missions and Operations

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Sending parties

The **ESDC Advanced Course for Political Advisors in EU Missions and Operations** is open to participants from all EU Member States, candidate countries, relevant EU institutions and agencies and also members or possible candidates of political advisory positions in theatre.

Participation by course participants from candidate countries is subject to the existence of a security agreement by the beginning of the course.

Modalities

- Participants should be working in political advisory positions/departments in national capitals, EU institutions, and EU agencies and also in EU missions and operations. Subject to a national decision, they can be civilian (including diplomats, police, academics, members of the business community) and/or military.
- The selection of course participants is the responsibility of the organizers.
- The **deadline** for applications is **17 March 2023**.
- The course is limited to a maximum of 25 participants.
- The selected participants will receive a confirmation email by **21 March 2022** at the latest.
- No course fee will be charged, but participants will cover the cost of their own travel, hotel and meals (unless otherwise indicated in the programme).
- EU Security Clearance at the level 'Confidential' or higher is required. A copy of a valid security clearance shall be provided by the course participant or the relevant national/EU security office to the EEAS Security Clearance Office by e-mail, to the following address: EEAS-SECURITY-

CLEARANCE@eeas.europa.eu at the latest one week before the course (**17 April 2023**).

- Having attended an ESCD Orientation Course is highly recommended.

Registration of participants

Please see Annex 3.

Support

- This course will use the ESDC e-Learning system (ILIAS).
- Communication between participants, Module Leaders and the ESDC secretariat is carried out by e-mail and Internet.
- The sending authorities or the course participant will bear all costs related to participation in the course, including accommodation and travel expenses.
- The institutes organising the course modules will each bear their own costs related to organisation and administrative support.

Languages

The working languages are English and French without interpretation (CSDP language regime).

Certificate of Attendance

Availability is an explicit selection criterion: each participant should be able to complete all residential modules of the course and the e-Learning components.

A certificate of attendance signed by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will be awarded to the participants in accordance with the agreed modalities (Modalities of the ESDC Certificate/Doc: SC/2009/022 as of 31 August 2009).



Annex 3

Points of Contact

12th ESDC Advanced Course for Political Advisors in EU Missions and Operations

Brussels/Geneva/Vienna April - July - September 2023

For any urgent need to communicate regarding the course, course participants are kindly asked to contact the following persons:

ESDC SECRETARIAT and e-Learning (overall co-ordination)
secretariat-esdc@eeas.europa.eu

ESDC Training Manager

Maria Grazia Romano
Phone: + 32 460 840629
Email: maria-grazia.romano@eeas.europa.eu

Course Director Module 1 (Brussels)

Prof Dr Sven Biscop
Egmont Institute (BEL)
Phone: + 32 2 213 40 23
E-mail: s.biscop@egmontinstitute.be

Course Director Module 2 (Geneva)

Alexandra Thiry
Geneva Centre for Security Policy
Maison de la paix
Tel. + 41 22 730 96 16
Email: a.thiry@gcsp.ch

Course Director Module 3 (Vienna)

Sandra Kick
Austrian National Defence Academy
Phone: + 43 50201 10 28005
Email: conference@bmlv.gv.at



Annex 4

Application Form to the

12th ESDC Advanced Course for Political Advisors in EU Missions and Operations

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TO BE FILLED IN ELECTRONICALLY BY THE APPLICANT

1	Family Name		3	Nationality	
2	First Name(s)		4	Date of Birth (yyyy/mm/dd)	

Personal Details

6	Place of Birth	
7	Passport Number	
8	Address	
	Street	
	Postal Code + City	
	Country	
9	Telephone (at least one number where we can reach you during the day!)	
	Mobile	
	E-mail (compulsory)	

Higher Education

10	Name and Location of University or Institution	Length of Studies (in years)	Diploma or Degree Obtained

Attendance at relevant training and seminars

11	Year	Country	Institution	Type of Training, Seminar, etc.

Professional Experience (Starting from the most recent)

12	Date (from mmyy to mmyy)	Country	Organisation – Company	Title of Position	Main Tasks (Short Description)

Outline former mission experiences and / or other relevant skills.

13	
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Language Skills (Please Start with Your Native Language)

14	Language	Scale 1 – 3 (1 = Basic; 2 = Good; 3 = Excellent;)			
		Understood	Spoken	Written	Read

Participant Biography (not more than 200 words)

Please provide a paragraph-length biography (200 words) of yourself, written in the 3rd person (he/she). These biographies will be shared with fellow participants, course staff and guest speakers.

The paragraph should include:

- your current post and responsibilities;
- your past professional experience;
- your areas of expertise;
- any personal information you would like to share

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Declaration by the Applicant

By submitting this 'Application Form' -I confirm that all of the information given in this form is correct and complete. I also confirm that I agree to the following conditions of participation:

- ◆ I will not arrive late or depart early.
- ◆ I accept that the intensive character of the programme does not allow for any additional commitments for the duration of the course.
- ◆ I understand that the training institution reserves the right to exclude participants from the course if information given in the form proves to be incorrect (i.e. insufficient language skills).
- ◆ Pictures taken during the training event may be used by the organising institutes.

Privacy Note: We are concerned about privacy, and we are therefore committed to respecting your privacy by using any personal information gathered in the most responsible manner. The personal data provided in this form will be used for internal purposes only.

