

**EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE COLLEGE
(Austrian National Defence Academy
and Austrian Centre of Peace)**

**Invitation to the
Senior-Level Course on Recovery and Stabilisation Strategies**

Stadtschlaining, from 2 to 5 September 2025

The Austrian National Defence Academy, the Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP) and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) have the honour of co-organising the **senior-level course on recovery and stabilisation strategies**, to be held in Stadtschlaining from 1 to 5 September 2025.

The senior-level course on recovery and stabilisation strategies is a specialisation course which is part of the ESDC's training activities and aims to develop and promote a broad understanding of policies and strategies that can be used to promote recovery and stabilisation as an integral part of the EU's common security and defence policy (CSDP). The main aim of the course is to contribute to the further development of a European security culture, as well as cooperation between the EU and non-EU partners in the global security environment. The course provides a general overview of the relevant policies and presents several case studies for joint analysis. The course is aimed at senior-level participants with a minimum of ten years' work experience in post-conflict environments, working in either civilian, police or military environments, whether in the field or at desks in ministries or other planning entities. Participants will become part of a network of people working in the field of CSDP.

We would be pleased if you could nominate suitable candidates for this training activity, which offers them an excellent opportunity to gain an insight into recovery and stabilisation policies in the international context and CSDP and contribute to achieving the ultimate goal of the course, which is to provide Member States and EU institutions with knowledgeable personnel able to work in CSDP-related fields. The ESDC is committed to ensuring an inclusive, gender-sensitive and discrimination-free environment. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and therefore the ESDC and its partners, realise their true potential. We therefore particularly encourage those applicants who are likely to be under-represented to apply.

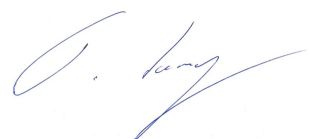
Please find attached details concerning the registration process and a draft programme.
The course will be open to third countries and international organisations.



GenLt Erich CSITKOVITS
Commandant, Austrian
National Defence Academy



Mr Fergal O'REGAN
Acting Head of the European
Security and Defence College



Mr Tobias LANG
Director,
Austrian Centre for Peace

Annexes:

- Administrative remarks
- Tentative programme overview



Administrative remarks

- **Target audience:** The course is open to senior civilian, police and military personnel from EU Member States, relevant EU institutions and agencies, CSDP missions and operations, third and candidate countries and international organisations, who are either involved in or designated to work on common security and defence policy (CSDP) matters in the field of recovery and stabilisation strategies and have at least 10 years of relevant work experience.
- **Nomination:** EU Member States, EU institutions/agencies, international organisations, third and candidate countries may nominate participants. The total number of participants is limited to 25. Course places will be attributed on a 'first come first served' basis.
- **Application:**

Applications from the EU Member States and EU institutions and agencies are to be made via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, by designated nominators, under <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>. A list of relevant ENLIST nominators can be found on the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>.

Applications from non-EU entities, third countries or candidate countries are to be made using the online application form on the ACP website and are subject to a selection process by the designated course admission board.
- **Registration & deadline:** The registration period will end on **10 June 2025**. Registration will not be final until confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat AND upon completion of the ENLIST registration form by the nominated participant. Special rules will apply for all non-EU applicants. Non-EU participants who apply via the ACP website will be registered if their admission is confirmed by the ACP.
- **Language:** The working language will be English, without translation.
- **eLearning:** the course will be preceded by a mandatory e-learning module, which needs to be finalised before the residential phase in Stadtschlaining starts.
- **Attendance:** participants' attendance during the course is mandatory on all days. A certificate will be awarded on the last day to those course participants who have completed the full course, including the e-learning module.
- **Course venue:** the venue for the entire course will be the premises of Schlaining Castle in Stadtschlaining, Austria.
- **Costs:** sending authorities must cover all costs for international travel and accommodation (including breakfast).



- **Hotel:** We have made some pre-reservations at Burghotel Schlaining (Klingergasse 2-4, 7461 Stadtschlaining, Austria; zeit@burghotel-schlaining.at, www.burghotel-schlaining.at) for a package price of EUR 149.50 per day (incl. overnight accommodation with breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet). Kindly make your own booking by emailing the address provided no later than 15 August 2025, using the reservation code: 'ESDC RSS Course'.
- **Local transportation** for arrival by plane/train/bus. Participants are expected to arrive in Vienna by midday on Monday 1 September 2025. Transport from Vienna International Airport to the course premises will be arranged and covered by ACP. Details will be communicated to confirmed participants in due course.
- **Meals:** All meals will be provided by Burghotel Schlaining and have to be booked with the reservation (see above). On the evening of the arrival day (Monday 1 September) there will be an icebreaker and on Thursday 4 September an official networking dinner offered by the Austrian National Defence Academy and organised by the Austrian Centre for Peace.
- **Dress code:** formal dress code for the opening and closing events (suit & tie, ladies' equivalent, no.1 uniforms); civilian dress for the official dinner and the regular course days (smart casual, i.e. no jacket or tie, working dress).
- **Liability and insurance:** in the event of a medical emergency, the costs must be covered by the participant's medical insurance provided by the sending country/organisation. The organisers will not provide health or accident insurance for participants taking part in the event.
- **Visa:** participants needing a visa to enter Austria are advised to book an appointment at the appropriate embassy as soon as they apply to participate. The ACP will issue a supporting letter along with the confirmation of participation. Obtaining a visa in good time and all related costs are the responsibility of the sending entity/the participant.
- **Inclusivity:** The ESDC strives to create a gender-sensitive and inclusive environment in all its courses, activities and day-to-day work. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and therefore also the ESDC and its partners, achieve their true potential. We do not and will not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status or sexual orientation in any of our activities or operations. The ESDC and the training institutions will not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.

PoCs:

ESDC

Maria Grazia Romano

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DRAFT PROGRAMME (OVERVIEW)
ESDC Course on Recovery and Stabilisation Strategies
1-5 September 2025, Stadtschlaining - Austria

Mon 1 September	Tue 2 September	Wed 3 September	Thu 4 September	Fri 5 September
ARRIVALS & OPENING	KEY PLAYERS AND THEIR POLICIES	CASE STUDIES: LONG TERM PROCESSES	CASE STUDIES: MID-TERM CASE STUDIES AND ONGOING CONFLICTS	OVERALL ANALYSIS
Individual arrivals and organised bus transfer to the course location		08.15-08.30 Evaluation of previous day Introduction to the day's theme	08.15-08.30 Evaluation of previous day Introduction to the day's theme	<i>! later start!</i>
	09.00-10.00 1 Opening and Introduction Introduction of Participants & Trainers, Information on the course Course Photograph	08.30-10.00 5 Case Study 1 – Security Sector Reform Expert Panel - Rwanda	08.30-10.00 9 Case Study 3 – Ukraine Expert Panel	09.00-10.30 13 Wrap Up and Final Review Joint review of daily findings, evaluation & feedback
	10.00-10.30 COFFEE	10.00-10.30 COFFEE	10.00-10.30 COFFEE	
	10.30-12.00 2 Keynote Address	10.30-12.00 6 Case Study 1 – Discussion; Q&A	10.30-12.00 10 Case Study 3 – Discussion; Q&A	10.30-11.00 COFFEE 14 Final Address Official Closure & Certificates
	12.30-13.30 LUNCH	12.00-13.30 LUNCH	12.00-13.30 LUNCH	12.00 LUNCH
	13.30-15.00 3 PANEL: Roles and Policies of the United Nations, the European Union and the OSCE	13.30-15.00 7 Case Study 2 – Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Expert Panel – Bosnia, Rwanda	13.30-15.00 11 Case Study 4 – Columbia Expert Panel	13:00 Individual departures and organised bus transfer to the airport
	15.00-15.30 COFFEE	15.00-15.30 COFFEE	15.00-15.30 COFFEE	
	15.30-17.00 4 UN, EU and OSCE Roles in Stabilisation and Recovery – Discussion; Q&A	15.30-17.00 8 Case Study 2 – Discussion; Q&A	15.30-17.00 12 Case Study 4 – Discussion; Q&A	
	Wrap Up and Review of the Day Record of Key Findings	Wrap Up and Review of the Day Record of Key Findings	Wrap Up and Review of the Day Record of Key Findings	
	18.00 Ice Breaker			
19.00 DINNER	19.00 DINNER	19.00 DINNER	19.00 OFFICIAL COURSE DINNER	
	Movie Night & Discussion	A Local Case Study: Rechnitz		