

**EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE COLLEGE
(the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence
and the Austrian Centre for Peace)**

**Invitation to the
Core Course on Security Sector Reform
(25-26/11/3)**

Vienna, from 3 to 9 October 2025
hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence,
the Austrian Centre for Peace and the European Security and Defence College

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence, the Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP) and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) have the honour of co-organising the Core Course on Security Sector Reform (SSR), to be held in Vienna from 3 to 9 October 2025.

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's integrated approach and other related EU policies and concepts, including the EU-wide strategic framework in support of security sector reform, the new civilian CSDP compact and the strategic compass for security and defence. It will comprise the concept of SSR and good governance principles, EU SSR and other international SSR policy frameworks, EU support for the implementation of national SSR programmes and SSR related programmes and cross-cutting issues. 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 and good governance principles and actions.

At the end of the course, participants will have a holistic understanding of SSR, a clear view of different international organizations' 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, and apply their skills regarding planning, implementing, and monitoring of SSR activities to their work.

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 goal of the course, namely providing Member States and EU institutions with knowledgeable personnel, able to work in CSDP-related fields.

The course will be open to participants from EU Member States, EU Candidate States, Third Countries, EU Institutions and International and Regional Organisations.

The ESDC is committed to ensuring an inclusive, gender-sensitive and discrimination-free environment. 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 tentative programme.

Mr Bernhard FRANKL
Course Director
Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence

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

Ms Susanne J. GYÖRÖG
Senior Programme Manager
Austrian Centre for Peace

ESDC Core Course on Security Sector Reform

3 to 9 October 2025

Administrative Information

(25-26/11/3)

- **Target group:** The course is open to mid- to senior level civilian, police and military personnel from EU Member States, relevant EU institutions and agencies, CSDP missions and operations and international organisations who are either involved in or designated to work in the field of security sector reform.
- **Application:** Registrations are to be made by using the online application form on the ACP website over this link: [ESDC Core Course on Security Sector Reform - ACP](#) and are subject to a selection process by the designated course admission board. The total number of participants is limited to 30. Selected participants will be confirmed by the ACP within two weeks after the set application deadline:
- **Registration & deadline:** The registration period will end on **6 July 2025**. **Registration will not be final until 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 starts.
- **Attendance:** The participant's 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 a selected hotel in Vienna, Austria.
- **Costs:** All costs for travel, meals and accommodation are to be covered by the sending authorities or the participants themselves.
- **Travel:** Participants are expected to arrive in Vienna on 3 October by mid-day and may depart on 9 October in the late evening. **Details will be communicated to confirmed participants.**

- **Hotel:** We have made some pre-reservations including a special package price of approx. 150 EUR per day at the designated course hotel in Vienna, Austria; **details will be communicated to confirmed participants.**
- **Hosted Events:** On the evening of the arrival day (Friday 3 October) there will be an icebreaker and on Wednesday 8 October an official networking dinner hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and organised by the Austrian Centre for Peace.
- **Dress code:** Formal dress code for the opening (suit & tie, lady's equivalent, uniforms); civilian dress for the hosted 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.

▪ **POCs:**

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Tentative Programme Overview

ESDC Core Course on SSR from 3 to 9 October in Vienna, Austria

Fri, 3. October	Sat, 4 October	Sun, 5 October	Mon, 6 October	Tue, 7 October	Wed, 8 October	Thur, 9 October
	START 08:45h					
	Introduction to the concept of SSR	SSR in Fragile Contexts	SSR in Political Context	Defence Reform	Justice Reform & Transitional Justice	Penal and Corrections Services Reform
	Good Governance	Advising in SSR	Case Studies	Police Reform	Intelligence Reform	DDR
	LUNCH 60´					
Arrival of participants	SSR and Gender	Non State security Actors	UN Approach to SSR	OSCE Approach to SSR	NATO Approach to SSR	SALW
16:00h Opening & Introduction Course Photograph	Mapping the Security Sector	Role of Civil Society in SSR	EU Approach to SSR	Climate Change and SSR	Integrated Border Management	Building Integrity
Welcome Drinks	END approx. 17:00				Hosted Dinner	END approx. 17:00