

# INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

## ESDC Core Course on Security Sector Reform (SSR)

**17 – 23 MARCH 2023, AUSTRIA**

Activity No: 22-23/11/2

### 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, will be familiarised with the main pillars of SSR such as defence, police, intelligence, judiciary, corrections, and integrated border management. Moreover, cross-cutting issues such as gender, human rights, the role of civil society, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), the NATO Building Integrity programme 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 with support of the International Security Sector Advisory Team of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF/ISSAT) and additional Subject Matter Experts.

## 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 SSG/R. Priority is given to personnel from the EU Member States.

- For detailed 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 15 January 2023**.

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