



Hydrodiplomacy: A Tool for Climate and Environmental Resilience, Peace and Security

(Training Activity Number 26-27/PILOT/1)

19 – 23 October 2026
Nicosia, Cyprus

The Cyprus Security and Defence Academy and the Cyprus Institute in cooperation with the University of Balamand and its Climate Diplomacy & Sustainable Peace Hub, under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), have the pleasure of inviting you to the ESDC Pilot Course **“Hydrodiplomacy: a tool for climate and environmental resilience, peace, and security,”** taking place in **Nicosia, Cyprus, from 19-23 October 2026.**

This course explores how water insecurity, climate change, environmental degradation, and increasing competition over natural resources contribute to instability, conflict, and humanitarian crises. As pressures on shared water resources intensify, hydrodiplomacy has emerged as a vital strategic tool for preventing conflict, promoting environmental peacebuilding, and fostering regional cooperation. Against this background, the course examines the role of water security within the wider framework of European and international security. It explores how and under which conditions the cooperative management of transboundary water resources can strengthen resilience, support sustainable development, advance peacebuilding efforts, and help prevent conflict.

The course combines an e-Learning component with a residential session and serves as a critical contribution to raising awareness of the security implications of climate change and environmental degradation:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Understand the strategic importance of water security as a key dimension of human security, environmental security, and international peace and stability.
- Examine the role of hydrodiplomacy, mediation, and negotiation in preventing and managing disputes over shared water resources.
- Analyze the interlinkages between climate change, environmental degradation, water insecurity, and emerging security risks.
- Explore how international water law, multilateral cooperation, and river basin governance mechanisms contribute to regional stability and peace.
- Assess the implications of the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus for sustainable resource management/governance and resilience.
- Enable participants to apply hydrodiplomatic approaches to support conflict prevention, crisis management, and environmental peacebuilding.

The course contributes to the implementation of the EU Strategic Compass (2022) and Council Conclusions on “EU energy and climate diplomacy – strengthening sovereignty and advance the



global clean transition” (2026) by enhancing resilience to climate- and water-related risks, strengthening capacities for conflict prevention and mediation, fostering international partnerships, and promoting cooperative approaches to environmental security and sustainable development.

We welcome all participants to this training activity, “**Hydrodiplomacy: a tool for climate and environmental resilience, peace, and security.**” The course will help build a network of climate-security practitioners from EU Member States, EU institutions, bodies, and agencies, while providing a valuable platform for exchanging practical experiences and gaining policy-oriented insights into hydrodiplomacy, water security, environmental peacebuilding, and climate resilience.

Please find attached the details of the registration process (Annex I) as well as the draft programme (Annex II).

COL Symeon Zambas

Fergal O’ Regan

Head of the
Cyprus Security and Defence Academy

Head of the
European Security and Defence College

ANNEXES

Annex I: Administrative information
Annex II: Draft programme



Annex I: Administrative information

This training will be delivered by the Security and Defence Academy of Cyprus and the Cyprus Institute, in cooperation with the University of Balamand and its Climate Diplomacy & Sustainable Peace Hub, under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC).

Application Procedure

Applications will be filed via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, by designated nominators, under <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>. A list with relevant ENLIST nominators can be retrieved from the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>. Registration will not be final until confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat and upon completion of the requested personal data in ENLIST by the confirmed participants.

Candidates from third countries should be nominated through their Embassies or Permanent Representations in Brussels.

Applications are to be filed no later than **7 September 2026**.

Course description

Water insecurity, climate change, environmental degradation, and growing competition over natural resources are increasingly recognized as key drivers of instability, conflict, displacement, and humanitarian crises. As pressures on shared water resources intensify, hydrodiplomacy has emerged as an important instrument for conflict prevention, environmental peacebuilding, and regional cooperation.

The primary objective of the training is to equip participants with the essential knowledge, tools and skills required to integrate a climate and environmental security perspective into their day-to-day work. Specifically, by the end of the course, participants are expected to be capable of applying a climate and environmental security perspective within their area of expertise.

Aim of the course

The 5-day course examines the role of water security within the broader framework of European and international security and explores how cooperative management of transboundary water resources can contribute to resilience, sustainable development, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention. The outcomes of the training activity can be separated into three different categories: knowledge outcomes, skills outcomes and competence outcomes as detailed below:



Knowledge Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- LO.1. Understand the strategic importance of water security as a component of human security, environmental security, and international peace;
- LO.2. Examine the role of hydrodiplomacy, mediation, and negotiation in preventing and managing disputes over shared water resources;
- LO.3. Analyze the interlinkages between climate change, environmental degradation, water insecurity, and emerging security risks;
- LO.4. Explore the contribution of international water law, multilateral cooperation, and basin governance mechanisms to regional stability;
- LO.5. Assess the implications of the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus for sustainable resource governance and resilience;
- LO.6. Apply hydrodiplomatic approaches in support of conflict prevention, crisis management, and environmental peacebuilding.

Skills Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- LO.1. Conduct basic assessments of water-related security risks within climate, environmental, and geopolitical contexts;
- LO.2. Apply hydrodiplomatic tools and approaches to analyze disputes and cooperation opportunities related to shared water resources;
- LO.3. Identify and evaluate relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water governance and environmental peacebuilding processes;
- LO.4. Utilize negotiation, mediation, and dialogue techniques in simulated water diplomacy and conflict-prevention scenarios;
- LO.5. Apply the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus approach to support integrated and sustainable resource governance;
- LO.6. Formulate policy recommendations aimed at strengthening climate resilience, water security, and regional cooperation.

Competence Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, participants will demonstrate:

- LO.1. The ability to integrate water security considerations into broader climate, environmental, and security policy frameworks;
- LO.2. The ability to support cooperative approaches to transboundary water governance and environmental diplomacy;
- LO.3. The capacity to contribute to conflict prevention, crisis management, and peacebuilding initiatives through hydrodiplomatic engagement;
- LO.4. The ability to assess and address the security implications of climate change, environmental degradation, and water scarcity in professional practice;
- LO.5. The capacity to engage effectively with governmental, regional, and international stakeholders on issues related to water security and environmental resilience;
- LO.6. The ability to promote multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches that strengthen sustainable development, resilience, and peace.



Target audience

Qualifying as an advanced and specialized course, requiring a foundational understanding of climate security concepts, this course targets persons whose current or future responsibilities relate to water governance, climate security, environmental diplomacy, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, sustainable development, natural resource management, or related policy areas.

Within this context, priority is given to participants with the following job profiles / backgrounds:

- MSc students, PhD students, and Executive MSc participants
- Managers, high-potential executives, and future transformation leaders.
- Civil and environmental engineers.
- Operational and functional directors of urban water and sanitation services.
- Professionals from the public, private, and PPP sectors.
- Water users and specialists of the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs diplomats, ambassadors, and embassy officials.
- Ministry of Defence and Interior Security officers.
- Ministry of Water Resources, Environment, and Agriculture officials.
- WEFE Departments and regulatory authorities.
- University professors and researchers.
- Media representatives and public administration personnel.
- Civil society organizations, NGOs, financing institutions, and donors active in the region.
- Decision-makers including politicians, diplomats, and representatives from international organizations.

Open to participants from:

- EU Member States
- EU Candidate Countries
- EU Institutions, agencies, and bodies
- Third Countries
- Members of International Organisations
- Members of Non-governmental Organisations
- Participants from academic and research institutions

Seats, nominations, and selection

The total number of participants is limited to **30** persons. EU Member States, Third Countries, International Organizations, EU institutions, bodies and agencies, as well as academic and research institutions, are invited to nominate a maximum of **two candidates** each.

Typically, one seat per Member State will be allocated. Depending on the total number of nominations received and the availability of places, additional seats may be allocated. Nominations should target professionals whose current or future responsibilities relate to water governance, climate security, environmental diplomacy, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, sustainable development, natural resource management, or related policy areas.



In the final selection process, the Course Admission Board will seek to ensure an appropriate balance of:

- Gender representation;
- Geographic distribution;
- Institutional affiliation;
- Professional expertise and experience;
- Participation from EU Member States, Third Countries, International Organizations, EU institutions, bodies and agencies, as well as academic and research institutions.

A limited number of places may be reserved for participants from partner countries and relevant international organizations, subject to availability and course objectives.

Kindly note that confirmation of participation will **only become final upon notification from the ESDC Secretariat** and the course organizers.

Application procedure

Qualified candidates who match the above description are asked to complete the online application via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST form and submit it by **7 September 2026 as described below**. All submissions will be reviewed by the ESDC. The selected participants will be notified within 7 days following the application deadline. In their final selection of participants, the course admission board will seek to ensure a balance of gender, nationalities and professional backgrounds.

All applicants must be nominated through the ESDC nomination process as explained below. All applications must be submitted by **7 September 2026, COB**.

- a) Applicants from EU Member States, EU institutions, bodies and agencies, as well as CSDP missions and operations, must be nominated through the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST by their designated national or institutional nominators. Applicants are kindly asked to contact their designated nominator directly, indicating the **relevant Activity number 26-27/pilot/1**. A list of ENLIST nominators is available on the ESDC website: [Course nominators - European Security and Defence College - European Union](#).
- b) Applicants from third countries and international organisations are required to contact their diplomatic representation or their IO's respective representation / Liaison Office to the EU, providing the email address of the course training manager (Esther Breffka; esther.breffka@eeas.europa.eu) and course activity number. The diplomatic representation / Liaison Office to the EU will then contact the relevant training manager to submit the nomination, using the following subject line **"Nomination for ESDC Activity: 26-27/pilot/1"**, and stating: the full name of the candidate; personal email address (functional mailboxes cannot be accepted); institution; and the reason why the applicant would benefit from this course.



Course format

Language of the training

The working language of the course will be English, and no translation services will be provided. We expect all participants to be able to communicate in English fluently.

Residential phase of the course

The residential part of the course will take place from 19-23 October 2026, at: Andreas Mouskos Auditorium, José Mariano Gago Hall, The Cyprus Institute (Cyl), Nicosia, Cyprus. The course is expected to start **at 09:00 on Monday October 19th 2026**; and will finish **at 15:30 on Friday October 23rd 2026**, at the following address:

Andreas Mouskos Auditorium, José Mariano Gago Hall, The Cyprus Institute, 20 Konstantinou Kavafi Street, 2121 Aglantzia, Nicosia, Cyprus.

The **Andreas Mouskos Auditorium** is a modern conference and event venue located within the **José Mariano Gago Hall** at The Cyprus Institute's Athalassa Campus in Nicosia. Inaugurated in 2021, the facility is designed to host international conferences, policy dialogues, scientific seminars, workshops, public lectures, and hybrid events, providing a professional environment for academic and diplomatic gatherings, with the following facilities:

- Auditorium suitable for conferences, seminars, and high-level meetings.
- Hybrid-event capability with livestreaming support.
- Modern audiovisual and presentation infrastructure.
- On-site registration and networking spaces.
- Located within the main research campus of The Cyprus Institute.

Further details regarding access procedures, security requirements, and transportation arrangements will be communicated to confirmed participants prior to the course.

E-Learning phase

The Course will be preceded by a mandatory e-learning phase, set to start on **30 September 2026** on the ESDC e-Learning platform ILIAS, which needs to be finalized before the beginning of the residential phase in Nicosia, Cyprus on 19 October 2026.

Attendance

Participants' attendance is mandatory on all days during the entire course (5 full days with approximately 8 to 10 hours of programme per day). On the last day, a certificate will be awarded to those course participants who have successfully completed the full course, including the e-Learning modules.

Costs and Financial Support

Attendance at the course is free of charge for all selected participants. No tuition or registration fees will be charged. Sending authorities need to cover all costs for their participants' travel and



accommodation (including breakfast) during the residential part of the course. Participants and their sending authorities are expected to cover the costs of:

- International and local travel to and from Nicosia, Cyprus;
- Accommodation during the residential phase of the course;
- Daily subsistence expenses, dinners and personal expenses;
- Travel, medical, and health insurance;

During the residential phase, the organizers will provide:

- Training facilities and course materials;
- Official Dinner on the 22nd of October 2026 and Ice Breaking Event on the 19th of October 2026 as indicated in the programme;
- Refreshments, lunches and coffee breaks during the official programme;
- Transportation (Kapnos/Taxi) related to official course activities, including site visits and cultural events, where applicable;
- Participation in official networking, social, and cultural activities included in the programme;
- Transportation from the two recommended hotels to the Venue and vice versa. The pick-up points and the details will be communicated in due time.

The organizers **will not provide** per diems, allowances, or reimbursements for accommodation, travel, insurance, visa costs, or any other personal expenses incurred by participants.

Dress code

We recommend business attire for all participants.

Accommodation and logistics

To facilitate planning, the organizers recommend the following hotels, both conveniently located in central Nicosia and within easy reach of the training venue.

1) Semeli Hotel

Semeli Hotel is a modern boutique hotel located in Nicosia's business district, only a few minutes from the city centre and major commercial areas. The hotel offers comfortable accommodation, conference facilities, high-speed internet access, and a professional environment suitable for both business and leisure travellers. Its central location, quality services, and meeting facilities make it a convenient choice for course participants.

Address: 10 Petraki Yiallourou Street, 1077 Nicosia, Cyprus.

Telephone: +357 22 452121

Email: hotel@semelihotel.com.cy

2) Cleopatra Hotel

Cleopatra Hotel is a centrally located four-star hotel situated in the heart of Nicosia, within walking distance of government offices, business districts, restaurants, shopping areas, and the historic city centre. The hotel provides a wide range of facilities for business and leisure travellers, including meeting and conference spaces, dining options, and complimentary parking. Its prime location makes it particularly convenient for participants wishing to explore the city during their



stay.

Address: 8 Florinis Street, 1065 Nicosia, Cyprus.

Telephone: +357 22 844000

Email: info@cleopatra.com.cy

Participants are encouraged to make their reservations as early as possible, as hotel availability in Nicosia may be limited during the course period.

Transportation

Airport Transfers – Kapnos Airport Shuttle

Participants arriving at Larnaca International Airport may use the services of Kapnos Airport Shuttle Nicosia, Cyprus' principal airport shuttle operator, providing direct and reliable connections between Larnaca Airport, Nicosia, and other major destinations across the island. The company operates a modern fleet of air-conditioned buses with luggage storage facilities and has been providing airport transfer services in Cyprus since 2008. Services operate throughout the day with frequent departures and a journey time of approximately 40–45 minutes between Larnaca Airport and Nicosia.

Nicosia Shuttle Station: Kyrenias Avenue 200, Aglantzia 2112, Nicosia, Cyprus.

Telephone: +357 24 008718 / +357 77 771477

Indicative Fares (subject to change): Larnaca Airport ↔ Nicosia: approximately €9 one-way per adult;

Tickets may be purchased online in advance or directly at the Kapnos Airport Shuttle counter located in the arrivals area of Larnaca International Airport. Participants are encouraged to consult the latest schedules and fares before travelling, as routes and prices may be amended by the operator without prior notice.

Taxi Services in Nicosia

Taxis are readily available throughout Nicosia and operate 24 hours a day. Participants are advised to use licensed taxi operators or pre-booked services for transportation within the city and between Nicosia and Larnaca's International Airport.

1.) Prime Cyprus Taxi

Prime Cyprus Taxi is one of the most established taxi operators in Nicosia, providing 24-hour transportation services, airport transfers, business travel, and pre-booked journeys throughout Cyprus. The company is known for its professional drivers, modern vehicles, and reliable service for both local and international travelers. Advance booking is recommended, particularly for airport transfers and early-morning departures.

Address: Kyriakou Matsi 8, 1082 Nicosia, Cyprus.

Telephone: +357 22 263000.

2.) EUROTAXI DMKTAXI LTD.

Transportation service company based in Nicosia, Cyprus. It operates as a limited company



providing taxi and passenger transfer services across the city and nearby regions. The business is part of the local mobility sector that supports daily commuting, airport transfers, and tourism-related transport in the capital.

The company's registered address is Lordou Vyronos 46-1096, Nicosia 1096, Cyprus. It is associated with D.M.K. TAXI LIMITED, an active Cyprus-registered entity (HE 133299) established on October 2, 2002, headquartered in Nicosia. D.M.K. TAXI LIMITED lists Dimitris Konstantinou as Director and Doros Poupas as Secretary, indicating long-term local management and regulatory compliance within the Cypriot transport sector.
Telephone: +357 22 513 000

Entry into Cyprus

Travelers to Cyprus may enter only through the legal points of entry: Larnaka International Airport. It is the sole responsibility of the participant to ensure the visa is requested and processed in time to secure a valid visa for the course.

Liabilities and (health) insurance

In case of medical emergencies, the costs should be covered by the participant's medical insurance provided by the sending country / organisations. The organiser does not provide health or accident insurances for participants taking part in the event. EU citizens should have an EHIC card (European Health Insurance Card) that is valid for the entire duration of their stay in Cyprus. More information on the EHIC card can be found here:

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559&langId=en>. For nationals from third countries, it is recommended to have full health insurance coverage for their entire stay in Cyprus.

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 the ESDC and its partners, reach their true potential. We do not and will not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, colour, religion, gender, gender identity, 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.

Registration is not final until confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat. Please do not book flights and accommodation before receiving the confirmatory message and logistical recommendations.



Further information

The training will be carried out under the supervision and support of the ESDC. Additional information such as the course programme, directions and other relevant information will be provided in due time to confirmed participants.

Points of contact

- Colonel Symeon Zambas – Head of the Cyprus Security & Defence Academy:
szambas@mod.gov.cy
- Prof. Fadi Georges Comair, Course Director, The Cyprus Institute:
f.comair@cyi.ac.cy
- Prof. Fadi Georges Comair, Course Director, The CDSP Hub at The University of Balamand:
Fadi.Comair@balamand.edu.lb
- Chantal Akoury – Assistant of Prof. Fadi Comair – The CDSP Hub:
Chantal.Akoury@balamand.edu.lb
- Esther BREFFKA, Climate Security Coordinator, ESDC: Esther.breffka@eeas.europa.eu
- Prof. Chrysanthia Leontiou – Head of the office of Graduate Studies at the Cyl:
head.school@cyi.ac.cy

Annex II: Draft programme

¹ Participants must complete the mandatory e-learning modules prior to arriving in Cyprus. The online self-paced module takes up to 2 hours to complete, and the ESDC training manager will check progress on the ILIAS platform.