



Research Methodology Course on the CSDP

entitled 'European Security and Defence in a World of Rising Complexity'

Piraeus, Greece

1-4 April 2025

INVITATION

The University of Piraeus has the honour to organise, under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College and its Doctoral School on the CSDP, the Research Methodology Course bearing the title 'European Security and Defence in a World of Rising Complexity', to be held in Piraeus, Greece, in residential format, from 1 to 4 April 2025. The aim of the course is to enhance researchers' theoretical and empirically-based knowledge, analytical competences and skills in conducting methodical investigations of current CSDP-related issues.

The course consists of three parts: lectures, research methodology seminars and workshops. Lectures by experts from the ESDC, EEAS/EU bodies, civilian and military missions and academics will provide the framework for various topics and dimensions with regard to the evolution of the CSDP in a world of rising complexity and uncertainty. Speakers will touch upon contemporary developments and complex issues within a contested global order, which are or which may become threats to the EU's security and stability.

Specifically, discussions will focus on matters such as international and European developments, the conflict in Ukraine, the growing rivalry between the USA and China, the USA's commitment to NATO and the increasing instability in Africa and the Middle East, all of which are reshaping the security environment. Internal EU dynamics and the rise of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, drones, and cyber capabilities, will be explored with regard to the EU as a plausible autonomous security and defence provider. For this reason, a panel will be dedicated to the European defence industry and innovation. Moreover, based on new and past institutional developments and the various dimensions of the integrated approach (civilian, military, economic, environmental, AI and technological, etc.), the emerging complex governance architecture of the CFSP/CSDP will be examined.

At the research methodology seminars, academics will provide insights into theories and methodology in order to adopt a constructive approach to the multidimensional and interdisciplinary character of the above-mentioned issues. EU executives and practitioners will



shed light on perspectives in the field, explaining the EU control and machine rooms and crisis management mechanisms. During the workshops, PhD fellows will present and discuss their research designs, and will enrich their skills with regard to primary and secondary data collection methods and sampling and interviewing methodology, as well as in terms of securing publication in high-impact journals. Throughout the course, participants will have an opportunity for networking and for sharing their views and perspectives with peers and professionals from the CSDP field.

We would like to invite you to nominate participants for the CSDP Research Methodology Course and to support the accomplishment of the course's objective: *to provide Member States and EU institutions with knowledgeable personnel capable of working in CSDP-related fields.*

Administrative information

The course will be provided in English from **1 to 4 April 2025 in fully residential format** in Piraeus, Greece. Participants must attend the course on all days. A certificate will be awarded on the last day to those course participants who have completed the full course.

The course is open to ESDC doctoral school fellows, researchers, academics and doctoral/postdoctoral fellows from EU Member States, relevant EU institutions and agencies and CSDP missions and operations who are either involved in or designated to work on Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) matters. The course will also be open to researchers/experts from the countries of the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkans.

Applications from the EU Member States and the EU institutions and agencies are to be submitted via the ESDC's secure internet system, ENLIST, by designated nominators, using the link <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>, **no later than 28 February 2025**. A list of the competent ENLIST nominators can be found on 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 registration form by the nominated participant.

All international travel, transportation and accommodation costs during the course must be



borne by the sending authorities. Participants should make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Further information will be sent to participants following registration.

The dress code is business attire for both civilians and military personnel.

Supporting services: all administrative information, programmes and material will be emailed directly to the course participants in due time.

Diversity and inclusion

The ESDC seeks to create a gender-sensitive and inclusive environment in all its courses, activities and day-to-day work. Everyone – including the ESDC and its partners – can reach their true potential only in an inclusive environment. 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 institutes do not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.

Course points of contact

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| <p>The acting Head of the European Security and Defence College Fergal O'REGAN</p> | <p>The Rector of the University of Piraeus Michael SFAKIANAKIS</p> |
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