

## INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

### 19<sup>th</sup> ESDC Course on the Comprehensive Protection of Civilians

13 – 17 NOVEMBER 2023

#### Course Description

UN Security Council Resolution 1894 calls upon the international community and conflict parties to implement far-reaching measures to protect and support civilian populations in situations of armed conflict. The content of this course reflects a broad interpretation of protection, which goes beyond the provision of protection from physical violence, and includes the creation of larger protective environments and the implementation of activities that enhance the rights of individuals in accordance with international humanitarian law, human rights and refugee law. The five-day course prepares senior decision-makers from the armed forces, police, political bodies and non-governmental organisations, as well as individual civilian experts involved in peacekeeping and/or international crisis management at the operational level for the challenges of protecting civilian populations in contexts of armed conflict or post-conflict situations.



**Participants will be provided with a comprehensive understanding of the multiple dimensions and meanings of the protection of civilians. They will gain enhanced knowledge of actors and their roles and responsibilities related to the subject matter and will subsequently be in a position to identify options for coordination and synergies in the implementation of protection for civilians. They will be able to analyse the specific threats to and the needs and rights of different vulnerable groups of civilians affected by armed conflict in order to develop and implement context-sensitive, comprehensive, integrated strategies and measures to improve the situation of civilians in armed conflicts.**

The course was developed in close cooperation between the Federal Ministry of Defence and the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution and has furthermore been supported by the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria, the Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Interior. It confirms Austria's continuous effort to promote the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. Since 2014, the course has been part of the academic programme of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and has furthermore been certified by the Integrated Training Service of the United Nations Department for Peace Operations.

**The course takes place from 13 to 17 November 2023 and will be held at Burg Schlaining in Stadtschlaining, Austria. It will be hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and implemented by the Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP).**

## Requirements for participation

The course targets national and international experts and senior decision-makers from the armed forces (from the rank of Major/OF-3 and above), police (equivalent to senior police officers and above), non-governmental/civilian organisations (heads of substantive sections and above), and political/civilian administrations (heads of division/department and above) working with or in the context of peacekeeping operations in complex emergencies requiring the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

- For further information on the conditions and costs of participation, please see Annex 1, Administrative information.

## Application procedure

Qualified candidates matching the profile as outlined above are requested to complete the online application form and submit it by the deadline of 1 October 2023.

The designated Course Admission Board will select the course participants from the applications submitted by the deadline while balancing affiliation, professional background, gender, nationality and working contexts to achieve the desired quality and standard of the course. The selection process is committed to an inclusive, diverse, gender-sensitive and anti-discriminatory environment.

Applicants will be informed of the decision of the Course Admission Board within two weeks of the application deadline.

- To apply, please use the online application form which is available via this link:  
[ESDC Course on the Comprehensive Protection of Civilians - ASPR](#)

## Attachments:

- Annex 1     Administrative information
- Annex 2     Tentative programme overview