

INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

18th ESDC Course on the Comprehensive Protection of Civilians (also UN-certified)

8 – 12 MAY 2023

Course Description

The 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 training course reflects a broad interpretation of



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protection, which goes beyond the provision of protection from physical violence, but also 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 training course prepares senior decision-makers of armed forces, police, political bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as individual civilian experts involved in peacekeeping and/or international crisis management at the operational level for the challenges in protecting civilian populations in contexts of armed conflict or post-conflict situations.

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

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 conflict. Since 2014, the training is part of the framework 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 8 – 12 May 2023 and will be conducted at the premises of the castle of Schlaining in Stadtschlaining, Austria. I. It will be hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and be implemented by the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR).

Requirements for Participation

The course targets national and international experts and senior decision-makers of armed forces (from rank of Major/OF-3 and above), police (equivalent senior police officers and above), non-governmental/civilian organizations (heads of substantive sections and above), and political/civilian administration (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 conflict.

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

Application Procedure

Qualified candidates matching the set participants profile as outlined above are requested to fill the online application form and submit it strictly by the deadline of 19 February 2023.

The designated Course Admission Board will select the course participants from the timely 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 Course Admission Board within 2 weeks after the set application deadline.

- For applications, please use the online application form which is available over this link: [ESDC Course on the Comprehensive Protection of Civilians - ASPR](#).

Attachments:

- Annex 1 Course Information
- Annex 2 Tentative Programme Overview