

25 July 2023

**Invitation to the Common Security and Defence Policy
Orientation Course**
(Activity Number 23-24/3/4)

Sofia, 23-27 October 2023

The Bulgarian Diplomatic Institute to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) have the honour to co-organise the **Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Orientation Course**, which will be held in **Sofia, Bulgaria, from 23 to 27 October 2023**. A special focus of this course will be on the challenges posed by Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine for the European security architecture.

The CSDP Orientation Course is a major component of the ESDC's training activities. It aims to develop and promote a better understanding of CSDP as an integral part of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union. It will provide participants with an overview of the civilian and military aspects of the CSDP, going into more detail as the course progresses.

The course consists of an eLearning part, as well as a residential session held in Sofia; both parts are compulsory. A certificate will be awarded to those participants who have successfully completed the full course.

The ESDC is committed to an inclusive, gender-sensitive and discrimination-free environment. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and hence the ESDC and its partners, realise their true potential. For that reason, we particularly encourage those applicants who are likely to be underrepresented to apply.

Hence, we would like to **invite you to nominate suitable candidates for the CSDP Orientation Course** and thereby support the overarching goal: providing Member States and EU institutions with knowledgeable personnel, able to work in CSDP-related fields.

Holger OSTERRIEDER



Head of the European Security
and Defence College

Tanya MIHAILOVA



Director of the Bulgarian
Diplomatic Institute

Annexes:

1. Administrative instructions
2. Draft programme

Administrative instructions:

- **Target group:** the course is open to both civilian and military personnel, including police and diplomatic staff. EU institutions and agencies, Member States and the CSDP missions and operations are kindly invited to nominate one candidate each. However, more places could be allocated, based on the total number of applications. Third countries and international organisations are also welcome to put forward candidates.
- The European Security and Defence College (ESDC) aims for an inclusive, gender-sensitive and discrimination-free 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 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 institutions will not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.
- **Places and nominations:** there is a maximum of 35 places on the course. Typically, one place per Member State and one per applying third country or international organisation will be allocated. However, depending on the total number of requests, additional places could be offered.
- **Application:** designated nominators have to complete the [application forms](#) via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST **by 29 September 2023**. The list of [designated nominators](#) is available on the ESDC website. Registration will not be final until confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat and upon completion of the registration by the nominated participant. Further detailed information on the course will be sent by email to the course participants as soon as the list of participants is complete.
- Third countries and international organisations that receive this invitation should send their applications to the ESDC Training Manager responsible for this course – email: stanislava.kraynova@eeas.europa.eu with a copy to: jordan.stoitchkov@mfa.bg.
- **The application should indicate:** full name; personal email address (functional mailboxes will not be accepted); nationality; passport number; passport expiry date; date of birth; institution; a brief explanation of how this course would benefit the applicant.

- Registrations will only be complete once the ESDC Secretariat has sent a confirmation and applicants have filled in the registered participants' information in ENLIST.
- **Language:** the language regime is English without translation.
- **eLearning and residential part of the course:** the course consists of two sections – an **eLearning** part to be carried out on the ESDC eLearning platform ILIAS, set to start on **3 October 2023**, to be finalised before the **residential phase** held in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 23 to 27 October 2023. Information on the course venue will be provided in due course to all confirmed participants. Both parts of the course are compulsory. Participants must attend the entire (i.e. all days) residential phase of the course.
- A **certificate** will be awarded to those course participants who have completed the full course, including the eLearning part of the course.
- **Costs:** the sending country/authority/organisation must cover all costs for international travel, accommodation and meals during the residential part of the course.
- **Liability and insurance:** in the event of medical emergencies, the participant's medical insurance provided by the sending country/authority/organisation must cover all the costs. The course organisers do not provide personal health or accident insurance for this course.
- **Additional info:** more information on the course will be sent to participants by email in due course. You can consult the [CSDP orientation course standard curriculum](#) on the [ESDC website](#) (education and training / view curricula).
- **Points of contact:**
 - Course Director, Mr Iordan STOITCHKOV
(iordan.stoitchkov@mfa.bg)
 - ESDC Training Manager, Ms Stanislava KRAYNOVA
(stanislava.kraynova@eeas.europa.eu)

DRAFT PROGRAMME
COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY ORIENTATION COURSE
 “The European Security Architecture in the context of Russia’s
 unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine”
23 - 27 October 2023
 Sofia, Bulgaria

Monday, 23/10/2023	Tuesday, 24/10/2023	Wednesday, 25/10/2023	Thursday, 26/10/2023	Friday, 27/10/2023
08.30-09.00 Registration	08.45-09.00 Overview of the day	08.45-09.00 Overview of the day	08.45-09.00 Overview of the day	08.45-09.00 Overview of the day
09.00-10.30 Opening & intro <i>BDI/MOD/ESDC</i> Group photo	09.00-10.00 CSDP institutional framework	09.00-10.00 Horizontal Issues in CSDP: Hybrid Threats, Cyber Security	09.00-10.00 Humanitarian / Children defence actions <i>UNICEF</i>	09.00-10.00 EUMAM Ukraine <i>CPCC</i>
10.30-10.45 Coffee break	10.00-10.15 Coffee break	10.00-10.15 Coffee break	10.00-10.15 Coffee break	10.00-10.15 Coffee break
10.45 -12.00 EU in the evolving European and global security architecture	10.15-11.15 Decision-making process and planning in European security and defence 11.15-12.15 EU strategic documents (EU Strategic Compass)	10.15-11.15 Horizontal Issues in CSDP: Climate Change and Security 11.15-12.15 Horizontal issues in CSDP: Disaster relief	10.15-12.00 EU-NATO strategic partnership in the context of the evolving European and global security system <i>Participant-expert discussion (topic 2)</i>	10.15 – 11.30 Future prospects of CSDP <i>CPCC</i> <i>Participant-expert discussion (topic 3)</i> 11.30-12.30 Closing remarks Certificate ceremony
12.00-13.00 Lunch break	12.15-13.30 Lunch break	12.15-13.30 Lunch break	12.00-13.30 Lunch break	
13.00-14.00 EU global strategy and strategic autonomy 14.00-15.00 EU strategic partnership: Cooperation with partner organisations and countries 15.00-15.15 Coffee break 15.15-16.30 Bulgarian priorities and participation in CSDP 19.00 – 21.00 Ice breaker	13.30-14.30 EU integrated approach to Crisis management 14.30 – 14.45 Coffee break 14.45 – 16.00 Eastern partnership and CSDP <i>Participant-expert discussion (topic 1)</i>	13.30-14.30 Geopolitical dynamics of the Black Sea region following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine 14.30 – 14.45 Coffee break 14.45 – 16.00 Security challenges in the Black Sea region – implications for CSDP and NATO 16.00 – 18.00 Networking and sharing (Cultural programme)	13.30-14.30 Energy security / Energy diplomacy 14.30 – 14.45 Coffee break 14.45 – 16.00 Multilateral diplomacy in conflict prevention and peace building	