

Invitation

FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE (FIMI) COURSE

Activity no. 23-24/PILOT/9

The European Security and Defence College, in partnership with 'Mihai Viteazul' National Intelligence Academy, has the honour to organise and to invite participants to the first edition of the course entitled **Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI)**. The course will take place from 5 to 8 December 2023, in residential format, in Brussels.

The course will approach issues regarding the EU strategic environment; the multi-layered threats against the EU; emerging technologies employed in information warfare; the EU integrated approach to situational awareness; resilience, response and cooperation against FIMI; key FIMI actors and priority regions and an analysis of the practitioners' toolkit to managing the information security ecosystem. Furthermore, it will feature practical sessions designed to develop the participants' abilities to detect and appropriately respond to FIMI events.

The final goal of this FIMI course is to foster and develop an understanding of FIMI framework, modus operandi and appropriate response measures so as to assist in developing societal resilience to such actions and to help to consolidate European democracies.

The ESDC is committed to an inclusive, gender-sensitive and anti-discriminatory environment. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and therefore the ESDC and its partners, reach their true potential. We therefore particularly encourage applicants who are likely to be under-represented to apply.

We kindly invite both member states representatives to enrol in the course, using the respective lines of communication.

Head
of the European Security and Defence



Holger OSTERRIEDER

Head
of Doctoral Research
'Mihai Viteazul' National Intelligence
Academy



Irena CHIRU



Administrative Information

05-08.12.2023- 23-24/PILOT/9

- **Target group:** representatives (civilian, diplomatic, police, military) from EU Member States as well as institutions, agencies, missions and operations.
- **Places and nominations:** *one seat per Member State will be available, together with up to ten seats for staff from EU institutions (one per entity) and five seats for personnel from EU Missions. Due to course specifics and format of practical exercises, no additional seats can be allocated.*
- **Applications:** are to be submitted via national ESDC nominators (<https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>), no later than **10 November 2023**;
- **Attendance:** participants' attendance on all days of the course is **mandatory**. A certificate will be awarded on the last day to those course participants who have completed the entire course. This course will not be offered in a hybrid format.
- **Language:** the working language is English, without interpretation.
- **Costs:** participants or their respective sending institution will bear the costs related to their participation.
- **Inclusive environment:** the ESDC strives for 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 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.
- **Dress code:** formal for the opening and closing ceremonies, smart casual for the working sessions.
- **Liabilities and insurance:** the participant's medical insurance is supposed to cover all costs in case of a medical emergency. The organiser does not provide health or accident insurance for participants.
- The activity will start on Tuesday, 5 December (09:00) and end on Friday, 8 December (14:00). It is recommended to travel to Brussels on 4 December and to book return tickets for 8 December in the evening.
- **Additional info:** further detailed information on the course will be forwarded via email directly to the course participants in due time, including information directly linked to developments concerning travel restrictions or the health situation in Belgium and/or the EU.
- **Points of contact:** Course directors, Mihai Viteazul National Intelligence Academy
Dr Irena Chiru
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Training manager from the ESDC Secretariat,
Dr Georgică PANFIL
(Georgica.PANFIL@eeas.europa.eu)

FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE DRAFT SCHEDULE

DAY 1 05.12.2023	
09:00-09:30	Introductory remarks
09:30-11:00	The EU integrated approach to FIMI The EU perspective and priorities in countering FIMI
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Theories and concepts that can help map and understand information-based threats and warfare
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Introducing Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference - main components and modus operandi
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:00	Practical exercise
DAY 2 06.12.2023	
09:30-11:00	Emerging technologies and their impact on the informational environment
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Main challenges ahead – AI impact and changing strategies in information manipulation
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Key FIMI actors and priority regions
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:00	Practical exercise
DAY 3 07.12.2023	
09:30-11:00	The need for a structured approach: describing disinformation behaviours in order to identify and record disinformation attacks Understanding the psychological aspects of FIMI
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Data analysis framework and methodologies to collect evidence on FIMI

	Introducing the DISARM framework
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	Practical exercise
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:00	Practical exercise
18.00-22:00	Official dinner
DAY 4 08.12.2023	
09:00-12:00	Exercise presentations
12:00-13:00	Concluding remarks Feedback session Way forward
13:00-14:00	Lunch break