

ESDC EAB SSR & DDR Seminar

Training gaps on navigating non-state justice and security actors in hybrid governance settings

European Union Member States and partner countries are collectively facing an increasingly complex security environment with multifaceted challenges and threats to conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding, which cannot be resolved by military means only. In this setting, the European Security and Defence College Executive Academic Board on Security Sector Reform and Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (ESDC EAB SSR & DDR), organize a seminar to enhance existing training concepts together with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) – the Swedish Agency for Peace, Security and Development.

Date

Wednesday 26 April
2023

Time

09:30 – 12:30

Location

[Online](#) or in-person.

Black Pearl Building,
Rue Montoyer 15,
Room 07/A081,
Brussels

PURPOSE

The aim of the seminar is to address training gaps and/or needs on how to navigate non-state justice and security providers in hybrid governance settings as part of a “whole-of-society” approach to more effectively implement EU support in fragile states, within the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). To this end, academic experts will discuss the need to shift from externally driven and state-centric analysis and implementation of EU models that do not necessarily correspond to *de facto* justice and security provision in hybrid governance settings. EU staff could also benefit from a more nuanced perspective on agency in civilian-armed group interactions, to ensure more context-specific and evidence-based methods for operationalizing EU support in fragile states.¹

CHALLENGE

The report on *Rule of Law/SSR in civilian CSDP missions – overview, achievements, challenges and recommendations*² calls for an even better inter-organizational coordination, alongside a more joined-up approach between diverse (local) justice and security providers in the partner state in order to deliver more effective support. More consideration to the local cultural background and incentives for change is needed, including the lack of such incentives to effectively support sustainable security sector reform processes. Local security dynamics and service provision structures must be specifically taken into account alongside the need to acknowledge the role informal/traditional justice can lay in this holistic approach.

Similarly, the support to reform of justice and security institutions requires an understanding of the actors that *de facto* address human security needs in a specific context³, and the agency of civilians. Formal security and justice actors are generally the primary beneficiaries of EU CSDP mission support, but security and justice provision in fragile states and contested governance settings is much more complex and is delivered by a wide range of security and justice actors, formal as well as informal. There is a growing recognition that non-state actors often are the main provider of key justice and security services in the absence of the state, but at the same time potential “insecurity” providers and perpetrators of human rights violations.

¹ ESDC EAB SSR Report on Training Requirements for Civilian CSDP Missions, Civilian Coordinator for Training in Security Sector Reform (CCT-SSR), ESDC, 17 July 2020, at p 7, 23 ff.

² Rule of Law/SSR in civilian CSDP missions – Overview, Achievements, Challenges and Recommendations, EEAS, 22 Nov 2022, recommendations 1-3, 6-7.

³ Civilian Operations Commander Operational Guidelines on Civil Society Engagement, EEAS, 9 November 2022, at p 7.

How can the ESDC and seconding agencies bridge existing training gaps to enhance and ensure a better implementation of EU support to security and justice reforms? With its substantial engagement in fragile contexts, it is of specific relevance for CSDP pre-deployment and in-mission training providers to include tools to analyze and better understand the role and impact of non-state actors on justice and security provision in an effort to strengthen context-specific, evidence-based and efficient support to conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Members of ESDC EAB SSR and DDR, Member States training institutions and seconding agencies, the EEAS Task force on SSR, as well as other EU officials working on training requirements and related thematic areas.

TO REGISTER

Please note that the Point of Contact for this event is Maria Penedos, ESDC Training and Program Manager. Please specify your attendance, either in-person or online, COB 12 April 2023 with reference EAB SSR and DDR Meeting and Seminar to Maria.PENEDOS@eeas.europa.eu.

Presenting researchers



Dr Ashley Jackson is a researcher and author. She is co-founder and co-director of the [Centre on Armed Groups](#), an organization that supports research on and engagement with armed groups. Additionally, she is a research associate with both [ODI](#) and the King's College London [Conflict, Security and Development Research Group](#).

Ashley's research and policy work broadly focus on armed groups, conflict, peacebuilding, political economy, humanitarianism and international aid. She began her career as an aid worker in southeast Asia and then Afghanistan, with the Red Cross, Oxfam and the UN Department of Political Affairs. She

has written widely on [negotiating with armed groups](#), and advised various UN agencies, NGOs and governments on humanitarian access and conflict mediation.

Ashley holds a PhD from the War Studies Department at King's College London, an MSc in Gender and Development from the London School of Economics, and a BA from Sarah Lawrence College.



Dr Bernardo Venturi is Director and Co-Founder of the [Agency for Peacebuilding](#) (AP), Associate Fellow at the International Affairs Institute (IAI) and Adjunct Professor at the University of Bologna.

He has 18 years of experience as a scholar and a practitioner, publishing extensively on peacebuilding, security, Africa affairs, and European Union foreign policy. He consults for international organizations and NGOs and he lectures in several MA courses and international training programmes.

Bernardo obtained his PhD in 2009 from the University of Bologna, where he also held a post-doctoral research fellowship. Periods of study and research led him to the Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, to the Moldova State University, to the Oslo's Peace Research Institute (PRIO) in Norway, to the United States Institute for Peace (USIP) and to the Sussex University in the UK. Among his past positions, he also contributed to the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) serving as Steering Committee member and he was a Lecturer for five years at the Marist College, Florence Branch Campus.