



DocSch WG

Doc.: ESDC/2024/071

Date: 20/02/2024

Origin: ESDC Secretariat

Charter

Of the European Doctoral School on the Common Security and Defence Policy

References:

1. Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1515 of 19 October 2020 establishing a European Security and Defence College, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2016/2382
2. ESDC/2017/054, Minutes EAB 22-23 February 2017
3. ESDC/2017/091, Minutes SC 24 March 2017
4. ESDC/2017/062, SC Speaking points Head of ESDC, 24 March 2017

Preamble:

The Members of the European Doctoral School on the Common Security and Defence Policy:

Being committed to supporting reflections on the European Union and its Common Security and Defence Policy in the wider context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) by reinforcing a European security and defence culture for all concerned parties.

Acknowledging that this culture can be sustained only with a reliance upon high-level and critical scientific thinking.

Being aware that persons involved in CSDP have expressed strong interest in transforming European experience and expertise into scientific research at the highest level and that doctorate programme serves this purpose.

Noting that the existing offer of doctorate programmes within the European Union does not provide opportunities for all interested parties to engage in doctorate training specifically focusing on CSDP and highlighting the multi-disciplinary and comprehensive approach that characterise it.

Acknowledging that the relevant expertise for accompanying high-level research on CSDP (in the wider context of CFSP) is met in the European Higher Education Area's academic institutes and in non-academic civilian, military and special status bodies.

Taking into consideration the EU's priority to enhance cooperation between education, research and innovation and to develop interaction between European Higher Education Area and European Research Area.

Being confident that institutions accredited to award doctorates and conduct post-doctoral research will benefit from an enhanced connection with specialised and practical expertise found in non-accredited bodies and institutions and that those bodies and institutions will benefit from the accredited excellence of academic institutions to reinforce their actions and make them more visible through scientific channels.

Committing to developing the mobility of knowledge, skills and competence among institutes and bodies that develop and implement expertise on European security and defence, making the best use of the most innovative, inclusive and internationalised education and training methods, and encouraging the recognition of research and learning outcomes across the European Union.

Building on the experience and network of the European Security and Defence College to support the creation of a pool of high-level scientific researchers reflecting on CSDP.

Following the decision to create the European Doctoral School on the Common Security and Defence Policy and the success of the programme during 2019-2024.

Have agreed on the following provisions for the coordination of the project to which they are committing.

Article 1

Objectives and organization

1. The European Doctoral School on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) aims at facilitating the Philosophiae Doctoral (PhD) studies and research on CSDP in the wider context of CFSP, to pool and to share the relevant expertise of the European Higher Education Area's academic institutes and of non-academic civilian and military bodies.
2. It makes this expertise available to scientific research, in the framework of PhD curricula conducted by its network institutions, in the form of supplementary programme of doctoral, postdoctoral and research-related training on CSDP, linked with knowledge, skills and competences. The provisions of the present Charter and its subsequent Procedures only complement those governing the accredited network institutions PhD curriculum.
3. It is based on a virtual network of voluntary military, civilian and special status institutions and European Union agencies and bodies acting in the field, who may or may not be accredited to offer doctoral courses and diplomas.
4. The European Doctoral School on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is coordinated by the European Doctoral School on CSDP Working Group, focused configuration of the Executive Academic Board of the ESDC.

Article 2

Network institutions

1. The network of the European Doctoral School on CSDP consists of:
 - a. Academic institutions from the European Union accredited to offer doctoral diploma / degree (hereafter 'accredited institutions'¹);
 - b. Research, education and training institutions of European Union Member States not accredited to offer doctoral diploma, but which have relevant CSDP expertise and are members of the European Security and Defence College network (hereafter 'non-accredited institutions');
 - c. European Union agencies and bodies that are active in CSDP in the wider context of CFSP (hereafter 'non-accredited institutions');
 - d. academic institutions and entities from non-EU countries that actively contribute to achieving the objectives of the European Doctoral School on CSDP, if they have an active cooperation agreement with one of the existing members of the Working Group (hereafter 'associate members').
2. The network institutions voluntarily commit to the principles and coordination mechanisms contained in the provisions of the Charter after expressing approval of the Charter, following their respective internal procedures, and declaration to the ESDC Secretariat.
3. Any institution described in Paragraph 1 may apply to become a member of the Doctoral School network by transmitting its application together with information on its expertise on CSDP in the wider context of CFSP to the ESDC Secretariat. The Working Group of the European Doctoral School on CSDP examines the applications presented by the ESDC Secretariat and approves membership by consensus. The membership is only valid for the Doctoral Working Group.
4. Any network institution can withdraw its participation in the Doctoral School network simply by declaring its intent to withdraw. Arrangements shall then be taken with any other network institutions which are engaged in doctoral courses involving that institution for the continuation of the activities. If the withdrawing institution is involved in the supervision or mentoring of a CSDP Doctoral School's programme, the withdrawal does not prevent the successful completion of the programme which started in the conditions set forth in the present Charter.

Article 3

Generic principles and focus

1. The Working Group of the European Doctoral School on CSDP (hereinafter the 'Working Group') is a task-orientated configuration of the Executive Academic Board

¹ Only accredited institutions can be designated as 'leading institutions' for supervising candidates' PhD research and award doctoral degrees.

(EAB) of the ESDC. It will report back to the EAB at least once a year on the occasion of the Annual Report on ESDC Activities.

2. The Working Group oversees:
 - a. The European Doctoral School on CSDP;
 - b. Post-Doctoral Research;
 - c. Annual PhD prize;
 - d. Other research related projects performed under the auspices of the ESDC and assigned to the Working Group.
3. The Working Group is composed of representatives of the network institutions to have applied for membership. It makes recommendations to the EAB by consensus. One representative per institution has the right to vote when consensus cannot be met. In such cases and excepting amendments presented hereafter, a simple majority is needed to adopt a decision. The voting right can be delegated to an other representative present at the meeting. Associate members do not have voting rights.
4. Two elected representatives of the PhD Fellows participate in the WG with one vote.
5. The Working Group meets at least twice per academic year. At least one of these meetings shall be organized in Brussels. Other meetings may be virtual meetings.
6. The Working Group designates a Chair by consensus or by simple majority if consensus is not met, for a renewable term of two years. The Chair of the Working Group will be invited to attend EAB meetings and is requested to be present for the presentation of the Annual Report. The Working Group may decide to appoint a vice-chair and define his/her role in the rules of procedure.
7. The Chair of the Working Group is also the Chair of the European Doctoral School on CSDP.
8. The strategic orientations of the Working Group are proposed by the Chair and the Coordinator from the ESDC and adopted by the Working Group.

Article 4

Tasks of the Working Group

1. The tasks of the Working Group include:
 - a. Together with the EAB and EEAS, identifying scientific themes that can be proposed to the PhD students interested in CSDP and for the definition of Doctoral School's activities.
 - b. Establishing the procedures of the European Doctoral School on CSDP and the overall research framework.
 - c. Keeping the platform of CSDP expertise of the Doctoral School up-to-date.
 - d. Determining the number of candidates to be accepted into the European Doctoral School on CSDP programme and publishing the calls for applications.

- e. Examining and deciding on PhD / other programmes` candidates' applications for the European Doctoral School on CSDP`s training programmes.
 - f. Being informed of CSDP PhD Fellows' annual progress reports and having the right to ask questions to the members of the PhD committee.
 - g. Holding discussions on and promoting best practices of innovative, inclusive and international doctoral education and training, such as recognition and quality assurance.
 - h. Identifying lessons learnt for the European Doctoral School on CSDP after a PhD curriculum is completed.
 - i. Approving new network institutions and associate members.
 - j. Designing, elaborating and implementing initiatives for contributing to the curriculum of the European Doctoral School on CSDP`s PhD Fellows on CSDP.
 - k. Developing, following consultations with the High Representative/ Vice President of the European Commission and the EEAS relevant counterparts, the thematic areas and framework for post-doctoral research.
 - l. Managing the annual PhD Prize competition.
 - m. Elaborating and keeping up-to-date a document taking stock of the funding possibilities for the activities in the domain of the European Doctoral School on CSDP and supporting its network institutions in their application to funding programmes for European Doctoral School on CSDP -related activities.
 - n. Amending the present Charter by a qualified majority of two thirds of votes.
 - o. The Working Group may decide to create tasks-oriented lines of development to which it assigns a specifically defined mandate under the responsibility of a member of the Working Group, with the support of the Secretariat and the supervision of the Chair.
2. The ESDC Doctoral School Coordinator performs the duties of the Secretariat of the European Doctoral School on CSDP on behalf of the ESDC. These include:
 - a. Receiving and transmitting the applications and progress reports from the leading institutions to the Working Group.
 - b. Administering the Working Group platform.
 - c. Organizing the meetings of the Working Group.
 - d. Supporting the work of the Chair.
 3. The daily / executive management of the Working Group`s tasks is ensured by the Chair, supported by the Working Group Coordinator. All executive decisions shall be communicated to the Working Group in due time.
 4. The Working Group may create subsidiary structures as deemed necessary for the implementation of its missions.

SECTION I – EUROPEAN DOCTORAL SCHOOL ON CSDP

Article 5

Candidates, supervisors and mentors

1. Every year, the Working Group determines the number of candidates to be accepted into the CSDP Doctoral School and publishes it in the calls for applications. The Working Group can decide to have one or more calls of application per year.
2. Candidates for the European Doctoral School on CSDP programme are eligible if they:
 - a. Are enrolled PhD students of a European Doctoral School on CSDP's accredited member institution
 - b. Have completed a scientific higher education degree worth at least 300 ECTS or gained professional experience in a relevant topic, which is recognised as equivalent to this level of degree within the European Higher Education Area;
 - c. Can produce evidence that they master English to level CEFRL C1;
 - d. Fulfilling the conditions for 'EU Confidential' security clearance may be requested for certain activities.
3. Selection of the new PhD Fellows is made by the Working Group taking into consideration the EEAS Gender Equality and Diversity guidelines and the European Doctoral School on CSDP Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan.

1. The PhD committee is composed and meets according to the rules and regulations of the leading institution(s) and is responsible for the follow-up of the doctoral research and curriculum. The thesis' jury is the jury that is composed according to the rules and regulations of the leading institution(s) for evaluating the doctoral thesis during its defence.
2. For the completion of the CSDP Doctoral School-related obligations, the PhD committee and thesis' jury of a candidate shall be composed of (cumulative conditions):
 - a. At least one professor/expert registered on the CSDP Doctoral School's platform;
 - b. At least one of the professors/experts involved must have a different nationality / jurisdiction than the organizing institution from the EU Member States.

In the composition of the PhD committee and the jury, a particular attention is paid to the balanced representation of institutions from different European Union Member States, and the possible representation of European Union agencies and bodies.

Article 6

Platform of CSDP expertise

1. An internet-based platform is in place, administered by the ESDC Secretariat and made available to PhD applicants intending to research on CSDP in the wider context of CFSP, network institutions, the Working Group and associated members, with a view:
 - a. To identifying relevant expertise available from the network institutions in specific areas of CSDP;

- b. To allowing experts who are available to supervise or manage CSDP Doctoral School's candidates to exchange contact details;
 - c. To presenting the scientific work of the relevant experts;
 - d. To keeping a record of the PhD on CSDP, progress reports and theses.
2. The platform is kept up to date by the members of the Working Group, supported by the Secretariat.
 3. The platform shall contain restricted areas in order to protect personal information as defined by the Working Group.

Article 7

Selection procedure

1. The PhD Fellows must be registered in an EU Member State accredited institution.
2. The selection, admission into the European Doctoral School on CSDP and subsequent rights and obligations are established by separate documents implementing the principles contained in the present Charter and titled "Rules of Procedure".
3. In the selection process, the Working Group gives priority to research proposals involving joint PhD degrees, in conformity with the practices of the European Higher Education Area, between several lead institutions from the network of the European Doctoral School on CSDP.
4. The negative decisions of the Working Group must be adequately reasoned.

Article 8

Rights and obligations of the CSDP PhD Fellows

1. The fellows admitted in the European Doctoral School on CSDP have access to the training and internship possibilities offered by the Doctoral School in compliance with the rules and regulations of their lead institution(s) and as a supplement to the obligations they contain.
2. The admitted PhD Fellows receive the status of the "ESDC PhD Fellow" after the completion of the first training activity provided by the ESDC Doctoral School.
3. In order to obtain the certificate of the European Doctoral School on CSDP and before the defence of their PhD thesis, the ESDC PhD Fellows shall be recognized by their PhD committees or supervisors as having successfully completed *a minimum 8 ECTS for each year of progress under the Doctoral School* (calculated from the date of the admission) in total in minimum two of following pillars:
 - a. Learning and training: the ESDC PhD Fellow shall complete residential and/or internet-distance learning courses or training. It shall include courses or training

from the Doctoral School's network institutions and courses or training from the ESDC training programme.

- b. Dissemination: the ESDC PhD Fellow shall disseminate products of her or his researches over the course of the PhD curriculum either through:
 - at least one contribution in a relevant publication indexed in a scientific database over the course of the PhD;
 - and/or the presentation of his or her work at one scientific conference at least, of which the proceedings are published in a publication indexed in a scientific database;
 - and/or demonstrate that he or she is giving regular teaching or training in connection with the research topic.
 - c. Mobility: the ESDC PhD Fellow shall perform scientific or academic tasks, to be defined with the appropriate institutions including in the form of a visiting fellowship, in one or more of the non-leading institutions represented on the PhD committee or in any European Union institution, body or agency. The mobility shall amount a minimum of 10 working days, including 5 in a different European Union Member State than that of the leading institution (five in the case of a European joint diploma with two or more leading institutions). The European mobility requirement can also be fulfilled by participating in and completing ESDC courses, the CSDP Summer School or any other learning or training initiative the Doctoral School would decide to create. In its effort to enhance European mobility among CSDP PhD candidates, the European Doctoral School on CSDP is based on the contributions of its network institutions for implementing the activities proposed and shall make use, to the greatest possible extent, of the mobility programmes and subsequent financial support proposed by the European Commission.
3. The ESDC shall encourage / enhance ESDC PhD Fellows', and possibly supervisors and mentors', research by allowing an adequate number of seats on its courses, including the CSDP High-Level Course.
 4. The ESDC PhD Fellows fellow must submit and present annually a progress report - signed by their supervisors - on the doctorate training completed and the research carried out in preparation for the final thesis to the PhD committee, based on the template published by the Working Group. The report must be submitted till the 31st of August. The presentation should take place at the first Working Group of the academic year either during a dedicated Doctoral School Activity. The Working Group takes note of the progress and may hold a debate on substantial or formal aspects of the curriculum.

Article 9

Status of the Doctoral Fellows

1. The ESDC PhD Fellows can have the status of "active", "dormant" or "suspended".
2. The *active* fellows are those who have attended at least two Doctoral School's activities in the course of an academic year and have presented their progress report as prescribed by the Charter. The progress report Working Group meeting described in Article 8 counts as an activity.

3. At the end of each academic year, the Working Group will take note on the progress and decide which fellows have not attended the activities / submitted their report, on a case by case scenario, decide on the *dormant* status, informing their leading institution in this aspect. The ESDC PhD Fellows that are “dormant” during two consecutive years will automatically lose their status of Fellow of the European Doctoral School on CSDP at the beginning of the next academic year. The decision will be announced to the leading institution through the ESDC Secretariat.
4. The *suspended* ESDC PhD Fellows are those for which the leading institution informs the Working Group on the occurrence of a cause to determine the suspension (and based on an existing decision from the parent institution). Such causes can include medical contexts or personal decisions of the CSDP PhD Fellow. The maximum suspension period is 2 years and is cumulative.
5. ESDC PhD Doctoral Fellows that conclude the defence of their thesis without following the procedures described in article 10 will have their status as Doctoral fellows, as well as all benefits resulting from it, automatically terminated.

Article 10

Defence of the doctoral thesis

1. When the ESDC PhD Fellow has completed his obligations in the framework of the European Doctoral School on CSDP and that the leading institution has authorized the Fellow to defend his or her thesis, the institutional representative (legal representative or PhD coordinator / supervisor) notify ESDC Working Group of the decision and the details of the organisation of the defence. The official notification must occur at least one month before the scheduled defence. The Working Group coordinator will inform the members of the Working Group, while its members take note of the defence.
2. The defence of the thesis shall take place either at the leading institution, at one of the non-leading institutions or in Brussels in a residential or a hybrid format. Special arrangements shall then be made for hosting the audience as needed and permit the presence of the PhD supervisors and ESDC / Working Group representatives. The defence is public and takes place, in full, in one of the official languages of ESDC (currently English or French), virtually or physically, in accordance with the internal regulations of the leading institutions.
3. After the defence, the candidate may submit his or her thesis in English or French to the ESDC PhD Prize competition.
4. The thesis, written in one of the official working languages of the ESDC (English or French) may be submitted for publication by the European Publication Office, in accordance with the instructions received from ESDC. A foreword from either the defense jury or the Working Group or both will be attached to the final format.

Article 11

Certificate

1. The European Doctoral School on CSDP encourages the use of inter-institutional configurations, such as the joint diploma, for CSDP PhD curricula. The use of inter-institutional agreements based on the European Commission's programmes for the integration of higher education is recommended.
2. The Philosophiae Doctor (PhD) graduate who successfully completed the European Doctoral School on CSDP's obligations will receive, together with her / his PhD diploma:
 - a. The diploma(s) supplement(s) issued by the leading institution(s) according to the rules applicable in the European Higher Education Area and the national regulations shall include details of the graduate's achievements and mobility events in the framework of the European Doctoral School on CSDP.
 - b. The European Doctoral School's on CSDP certificate, confirming the completion of ESDC Doctoral Programme, issued by the network institutions represented on the PhD committee and the ESDC, on behalf of all the Doctoral School's network institutions. The certificate will be issued after the official communication from the leading institution (and attached copy of the diploma / degree).

3. The diplomas, certificate and the diploma supplement(s) shall be recognised by all network institutions as conferring the status of PhD on the graduate. The network institutions individually, the Working Group, the ESDC, the European CSDP agencies and bodies, in collaboration with the relevant national authorities, shall promote the qualification and diploma's value and their recognition in all European Union Member States as reflecting the highest scientific standards in the field of CSDP.

SECTION II – POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH

Article 12

Post-doctoral candidates

1. Candidates for the Post-doctoral programme are eligible if they:
 - a. Are citizens of the EU Member States;
 - b. Have successfully defended a PhD thesis on a topic related to CSDP/CFSP and can produce proof of having received their PhD title in accordance with their national regulations;
 - c. The candidate has successfully defended his / her PhD thesis in an institution from ESDC network.

Article 13

Organisation of the Post-doctoral programme

1. The Working Group shall initiate, on an yearly basis, consultation with the European External Action Service, in order to identify thematic areas of interest / research. The thematic areas will provide the ground for each Post-doctoral call of applications.
2. Based on the topics identified, the Working Group will launch, subject to budget availability and ESDC strategic priorities, calls for applications. The shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by a mixed committee.
3. The validated candidates will receive the status of Post-doctoral researchers of the European Doctoral School on CSDP.
4. The task of the Post-doctoral researchers will include:
 - a. Writing the post-doctoral research on the topic on which the researcher has been selected;
 - b. Supporting, when possible, the training, research and mentoring activities of the European Doctoral School on CSDP and the College.
5. The modalities, templates and rules regarding the research will be decided by the Working Group on an annual basis.
6. Post-doctoral researchers can be appointed by the Working Group for up to one year.

Article 14

Post-doctoral committee

1. The Post-doctoral committee is responsible for the follow-up of the research progress for the Post-doctoral Fellows. It is composed of one PhD supervisor from the ESDC network, one ESDC staff member and one representative from the European External Action Service.
2. The composition of the committees will vary depending on each research topic.

SECTION III – PhD ANNUAL PRIZE

Article 15

Organisation

1. Every year, the Working Group publishes a call for selection for the PhD Annual Prize.
2. The Selection committee is composed of one PhD supervisor, one ESDC staff member and other representatives of the Academic community / EU institutions.
3. The Working Group will designate, on an annual basis, an Institution based in Brussels to oversee the overall procedure.
4. All procedural aspects and decisions will be subject of the approval of the Working group.

SECTION IV - ALUMNI

Article 16

Doctoral School Alumni

The European Doctoral School on CSDP supports the integration of the PhD graduates - they can be invited as observers or contributors in its activities.

Article 17

Costs

1. The European Doctoral School on CSDP and its implementation do not bear any additional cost to those associated with the network institutions' regular PhD programmes. It is based on the principles of 'costs lie where they fall' and reciprocity.
2. The network institutions and the Working Group are encouraged to identify and make use of existing possibilities of external funding to support work in the area of the PhD studies in order to cover costs borne by institutions or CSDP PhD candidates in relation to the completion of the curriculum and the defence of the thesis.

Article 18

Final provisions

1. Two years maximum after its amendment according to the rules and procedures of the ESDC, the Working Group shall review the present Charter and propose the amendments that are deemed necessary.
