



# WHAT WE ARE – WHAT WE DO

A manual of the European Security and Defence College







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# 1. FOREWORD



Since its creation in 2005, the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) has grown in terms of the type and quantity of training activities it offers, the number of course participants it caters for and in relation to outreach to countries outside of the EU. It has become the most important training provider on Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), in the wider framework of the Common Foreign and Defence Policy.

At the same time, the ESDC has retained its principle characteristics and strong points, namely: its network structure, its ownership by the 28 EU Member States, its close links to the EU Institutions which guarantees access to expert lecturers, the lessons learnt and new policies, its intrinsic civilian-military integration which makes it the perfect platform to discuss and teach the EU's comprehensive approach to crisis management, its dedication to exploring new technologies and methodologies in its training activities through blended learning and, finally, its cost-effectiveness.

Through its activities, the ESDC network not only trains course participants from the 28 EU Member States and EU Institutions, it also supports the understanding of non-EU countries of how the CSDP functions. It contributes actively to the EEAS's efforts to work more closely with partners across the whole world.

The new Council Decision establishing the ESDC, which came into effect on 1 January 2017, provides a more flexible and sustainable legal basis whilst incorporating existing and new tasks into a consolidated legal framework. In this way, the ESDC is sure to remain a responsive and flexible organisation, capable of responding quickly to emerging training requirements from the EU Member States and Institutions and from the CSDP missions and operations.

This booklet contains some basic information on who we are and what we do, however, since we are a rapidly evolving, flexible and responsive organisation, I would urge readers to consult our webpage (<http://eeas.europa.eu/esdc>) for the most recent information about our College.

Brussels, January 2017

**Dirk Dubois**  
Head of the European Security and Defence College





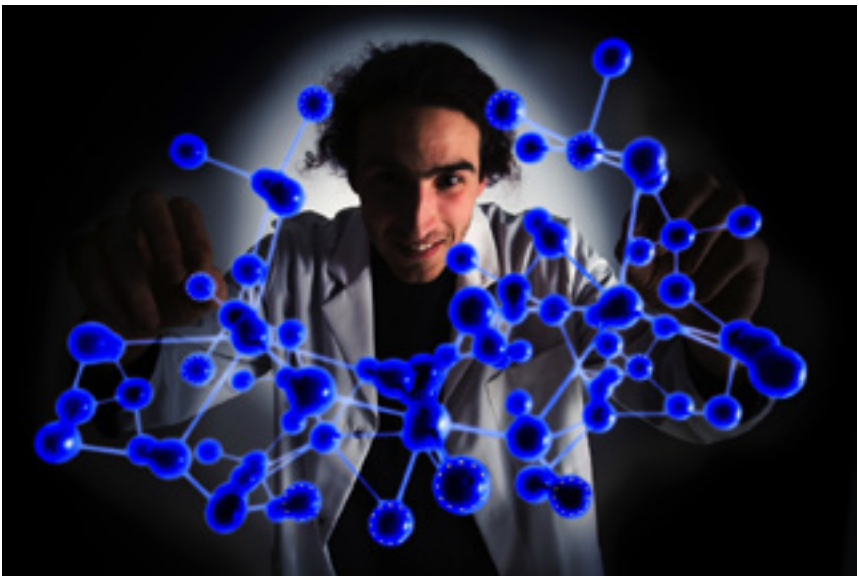


## 2. WHAT WE ARE

## 2.1. ESDC = CFSP/CSDP training at EU level

The ESDC provides training in the field of the Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in the context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) at EU level in order to develop and promote a common understanding

of CSDP among civilian and military personnel, and to identify and disseminate, through its training activities, best practice in relation to various CSDP issues.



© European Union, 2016 / Source: EC - Audiovisual Service / Photo: Alain Schroeder

## 2.2. ESDC = facilitator of a European Security Culture

The EU Member States are the political masters of the college. They convene in a steering committee, which is chaired by a representative of the High Representative and which gives political guidance and strategic direction on issues relating to the academic training programme. The programme encompasses

all the training activities offered in the course of the academic year, which runs from September to July. A small but efficient international secretariat located in Brussels facilitates the conduct of training activities and the organisation of meetings in various formats.



## 2.3. ESDC = 28 EU Member States

The EU Member States are the political masters of the college. They convene in a steering committee, which is chaired by a representative of the High Representative and which gives political guidance and strategic direction on issues relating to the academic training programme. The programme

encompasses all the training activities offered in the course of the academic year, which runs from September to July. A small but efficient international secretariat located in Brussels facilitates the conduct of training activities and the organisation of meetings in various formats.



© European Union , 2016 / Source: EC - Audiovisual Service / Photo: Etienne Ansotte

## 2.4. ESDC = 120 training providers

The ESDC was created as a network college and therefore relies on certified national training institutes, which provide training on a “costs lie where they fall” basis. In general, the courses can be attended cost-free, insofar as the ESDC does not charge tuition fees. The sending authority covers participants’ travel and accommodation costs.

The college is currently composed of around 120 national training institutes

(including military academies within the military Erasmus programme) with various areas of expertise and backgrounds. Network members range from national defence academies to peace universities, from police colleges to diplomatic training institutes. Some of the college’s activities are hosted by ministries or permanent representations, others by EU institutions or other EU entities including the European External Action Service.



Graphic: Jochen Rehl

## 2.5. ESDC = number one CFSP/CSDP training provider

The college has several advantages over other training providers:

1. The ESDC is embedded in the EU structures, hence able to quickly identify new training needs and include them in its programming cycle and curricula.
2. The ESDC provides first-class training, thanks to its network structure, its broad variety of lecturers including practitioners, academics and officials, its use of

participants with a wealth of expertise and professional experience as resource persons, its eLearning tool and its standardised, annually updated curricula.

3. The ESDC awards its students a certificate, which is signed by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and legally recognised by all EU member states and EU institutions.



Graphic: Jochen Rehl

4. The ESDC follows an inclusive approach, inviting civilian, police, military and diplomatic staff to its courses, and ensuring that training groups are balanced. This approach allows for exchanges of views on CFSP and CSDP from a variety of vantage points.

5. The ESDC supports the regional policies of the EU by providing tailor-made

training for partners such as the Asia Regional Forum and the Arab League.

6. The ESDC evaluates all training events and includes its findings in the annual revision process. This ensures that shortfalls can be limited, good practices can be shared and a high quality of training can be guaranteed for future training activities.



Graphic: Jochen Rehr

## 2.6. ESDC = embedded in the EEAS

The structure of the college is as unique as its setting within the EU structures. The ESDC is embedded in the crisis management structures of the European External Action Service. It is therefore not a CSDP agency, unlike

the European Defence Agency or the Institute for Security Studies in Paris. It has limited legal capacity and is able to provide first-hand training to meet real-time training needs and requirements.



Source: <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/>



## 2.7. ESDC = 13.000 alumni

In 2017, the ESDC can look back on a 12 year success story. More than 13.000 students have been trained in more than 350 training sessions, seminars and conferences. All EU Member States, institutions and agencies have sent staff to ESDC events. ESDC training is also recognised as an important part of pre-deployment and in-mission training. Thanks to its success, the ESDC is well known by EU partners within and beyond Europe.

Within its current mandate, which is framed by the 2016 Council Decision, and with the unanimous support of all the actors involved, the ESDC is well equipped to provide high-quality training to tackle the challenges of tomorrow's missions and operations. The ESDC facilitated the development of a European Security Culture over the past 12 years and will build on its efforts in the future.





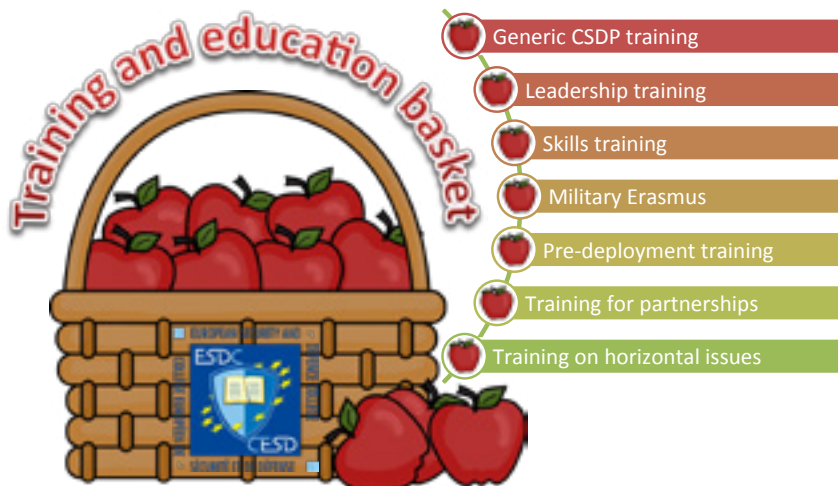


### 3. WHAT WE DO

## 3.1. ESDC = 40 different training courses

Over the years, the ESDC has developed over 40 different training activities, most of them with a regional or horizontal focus. Two of the more general courses are on the Common Foreign and Security Policy itself, at newcomer level in the case of the CSDP Orientation Course and at strategic leadership level in the case of the CSPD High Level

Course. The other courses/seminars/conferences focus on horizontal (e.g. peacebuilding) and regional (e.g. Western Balkan) issues. Specific training programmes for partners (e.g. Eastern Partners) and skills based courses (e.g. mediation) complement the academic programme of the college.



*Graphic: Jochen Rehl*

## 3.2. ESDC = support to EU missions and operations

The latest discussions on CSDP in various Council bodies (inter alia CIVCOM) has put pre-deployment training, in-mission-training and other mission related training on the ESDC agenda. More and more CSDP missions and operations involve a role for the college

in providing training for staff. The first such training course was an eLearning course for newcomers in EUNAVFOR Somalia and more recent courses have included an in-mission-training course on Security Sector Reform.



*Source: various CSDP missions and operations*

### 3.3. ESDC = three handbooks and several other publications

Since 2010, the ESDC has published three handbooks on the Common Security and Defence Policy. A total of about 15000 copies of these publications have been distributed to date, primarily to facilitate the college's various training activities. The handbooks were as follows:

1. Handbook on CSDP: This handbook, published in 2010, was the first in the series of CSDP-related handbooks. It gives an overview of procedures, structures and policies. The third edition of the handbook was published in 2015.

2. Handbook for Decision Makers: The second handbook was developed for decision makers. It provides comments and analysis on current CFSP/CSDP issues such as sanctions, cyber security and

non-proliferation. The first edition was published in 2014.

3. Handbook on CSDP missions and operations: This latest handbook was published in 2015 and focuses on operational aspects of the Common Security and Defence Policy.

The three handbooks were published by the Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports. Other publications, including an electronic newsletter, were issued in the margins of the military Erasmus programme, either by the Polish and Cypriot Presidencies or by the ESDC itself. The handbooks and other publications have contributed greatly to both expertise development and brand visibility.



## 3.4. ESDC = recognised high quality training

As a network college, the ESDC has a presence in Brussels and across all 28 EU Member States. Besides the classical national training institutes, ministries and national permanent representations also provide training at EU level. In order to guarantee a minimum level of quality, all training delivered under the aegis of the ESDC

must follow a standardised curriculum, which is developed by the host country or institute and agreed by the Member States. These curricula are revised annually by the relevant bodies of the European External Action Service and by the national institutes and other external experts active in the field, amongst others.



### **Article 20** **Participation in ESDC training** **and education activities**

4. A certificate signed by the HR shall be awarded to a participant who has completed an ESDC course. The modalities of the certificate shall be kept under review by the Steering Committee. The certificate shall be recognised by the Member States and by the Union institutions.

**COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP)**  
**2016/2382 of 21 December 2016**  
**establishing a European Security**  
**and Defence College (ESDC) and**  
**repealing Decision 2013/189/CFSP**

## 3.5. ESDC = young officers exchange scheme

Since 2008, the college has been actively involved in and leading the young officers exchange scheme. The main goal of this initiative, which is modelled on its civilian counterpart ERASMUS, is to instil European officers with a common security culture and therefore

render the armed forces 100 % interoperable. Within the ESDC framework, military, navy and air academies across the Member States work towards the achievement of this ambitious political goal.



For more information, visit the website <http://www.emilyo.eu/>



©2016 by the MoD Cyprus, leadership development training  
within the Military Erasmus project



## 3.6. ESDC = using synergies for mutual benefit

Other initiatives aim at identifying and using synergies between various actors in the field of CFSP and CSDP to support the regional priorities of the EU Member States and the European External Action Service. Building on these efforts, strong ties have been established between the ESDC and the newly created Directorate General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement negotiations (DG NEAR). TAIEX, a European Commission Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument

managed by DG NEAR, finances ESDC training activities directed at the implementation and facilitation of accession efforts. The Eastern Partnership platform, also within DG NEAR, provides similar support to ESDC activities for the Eastern Partnership countries. Other Commission directorates also provide support to meet specific training needs. They include DG HOME (counterterrorism), DG MOVE (maritime security) and DG DEVCO (fragility, security, development).



## 3.7. ESDC = Four tier structure

The ESDC is organised as a network bringing together civilian and military institutes, colleges, academies, universities, institutions and other actors dealing with security and defence policy issues within the Union as identified by Member States. The College is embedded in the European External Action Service, but has its own legal capacity.

The European Security and Defence College is organised in a four tier structure:

(1) The Steering Committee draws responsible for the overall coordination

and direction of the ESDC training activities;

(2) The Executive Academic Board ensures the quality and coherence of the ESDC training activities;

(3) The Head of the ESDC is responsible for the financial and administrative management of the ESDC, as well as assisting the Committee and the Board in organising and managing ESDC activities;

(4) The ESDC Secretariat assists the Head of the ESDC in fulfilling his tasks.





## 4. TRAINING PROGRAMME 2017

For an updated programme, please visit our website

<https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/common-security-and-defence-policy-csdp/4369>

From	To	Training Activity	Location	ESDC Secretariat Support
12/01/2017	12/01/2017	Train-the-Trainer	Brussels	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
18/01/2017	19/01/2017	CSDP High Level Conference EaP	Yerevan, Armenia	Jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
23/01/2017	27/01/2017	CSDP OC EaP TP	Brussels	Jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
29/01/2017	03/02/2017	Protection of Civilians Course	Stadtschlaining	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
31/01/2017	03/02/2017	PDT for CSDP Missions	Brussels	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu
13/02/2017	17/02/2017	Advanced POLAD Course Mod1	Brussels	Jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
28/02/2017	03/03/2017	PDT for CSDP Missions	Brussels	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu
13/03/2017	17/03/2017	Building Integrity	Maynooth	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
13/03/2017	17/03/2017	CSDP OC Common Module	Turin	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
13/03/2017	16/03/2017	CSDP OC	Vienna	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu
15/03/2017	17/03/2017	CSDP Course on Crisis Management Capability Development	TBC	mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu
24/04/2017	26/04/2017	Course on Cyber Security with CEPOL	Budapest	mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu
28/03/2017	31/03/2017	PDT for CSDP Missions	Brussels	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu
29/03/2017	06/04/2017	EU Core Course on SSR	Stadtschlaining	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
03/04/2017	07/04/2017	CSDP High Level Course Mod3	Paris	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
04/04/2017	07/04/2017	Strategic Planning Process of Missions and Operations	Vienna	mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu
22/04/2017	28/04/2017	EU Comprehensive Crisis Management Course	Helsinki	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu

From	To	Training Activity	Location	ESDC Secretariat Support
18/04/2017	21/04/2017	CSDP reflection seminar (CSDP TP EaP)	Chisinau	jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
24/04/2017	28/04/2017	CSDP OC Common Module	Athens	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
25/04/2017	28/04/2017	PDT for CSDP Missions	Brussels	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu
27/04/2017	28/04/2017	eLSE conference PILOT	Bucharest	Jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
01/05/2017	05/05/2017	Pilot Course on Conflict Analysis	Maynooth	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
02/05/2017	04/05/2017	Press and Public Information Seminar	Brussels	jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
02/05/2017	05/05/2017	Advanced POLAD Course Mod2	Geneva	Jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
07/05/2017	12/05/2017	Peacebuilding Course	Stadtschlaining	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu
08/05/2017	12/05/2017	CSDP OC Common Module	Athens	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
08/05/2017	12/05/2017	Pilot New Peacekeeping Operations as a Stabilizing factor	Rome	mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu
15/05/2017	19/05/2017	CSDP OC ASEAN	Rome	mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu
15/05/2017	19/05/2017	CSDP OC Common Module	Athens	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
15/05/2017	19/05/2017	CSDP OC Common Module	Rome	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
22/05/2017	26/05/2017	CSDP Mediation and Dialogue	Maynooth	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
22/05/2017	26/05/2017	CSDP OC	Brussels	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
29/05/2017	02/06/2017	CSDP High Level Course Mod4	Vienna	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
05/06/2017	09/06/2017	Core Course on SSR	Helsinki	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
19/06/2017	23/06/2017	Advanced POLAD Course Mod3	Vienna	Jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
27/06/2017	30/06/2017	PDT for CSDP Missions	Brussels	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu

From	To	Training Activity	Location	ESDC Secretariat Support
10/07/2017	14/07/2017	Strategic Planning Process of Missions and Operations	Brussels	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
19/09/2017	22/09/2017	CSDP OC for BiH	Sarajevo	
20/09/2017	28/09/2017	EU Core Course on SSR	Stadtschlaining	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
25/09/2017	29/09/2017	CSDP High level Course	Brussels	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
26/09/2017	29/09/2017	PDT for CSDP Missions	Brussels	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu
30/09/2017	29/09/2017	CSDP OC SAP TP	Brussels	Jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
30/09/2017	29/09/2017	Cross-Cultural Competence for EU Missions and Operations	Warsaw (TBC)	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
09/10/2017	13/10/2017	CSDP OC	Thessaloniki	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
09/10/2017	13/10/2017	International Course for Military Legal Advisers	Fleg (AT)	
09/10/2017	13/10/2017	Basic Course on SSR	Brussels	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
17/10/2017	18/10/2017	Basic Course on SSR	Brussels	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
23/10/2017	27/10/2017	CSDP OC	Rakitje	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
24/10/2017	26/10/2017	European Armament Course- Awareness	Brussels	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
24/10/2017	27/10/2017	PDT for CSDP Missions	Brussels	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu
02/10/2017	05/10/2017	Maritime Security Course	Constanta	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
12/06/2017	16/06/2017	CSDP RS SAP TP	Tirana	Jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
23/10/2017	27/10/2017	CSDP OC EaP	Kyiv	jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
06/11/2017	11/11/2017	CSDP OC	Bucharest	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
06/11/2017	11/11/2017	CSDP OC Common module	Pozzuoli	
13/11/2017	15/11/2017	Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management	Rome	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu

From	To	Training Activity	Location	ESDC Secretariat Support
20/11/2017	24/11/2017	International Course for Military Legal Advisers	Vienna	
22/11/2017	24/11/2017	Cyber Security Course	Brussels	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
28/11/2017	01/12/2017	PDT for CSDP Missions	Brussels	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu
28/11/2017	01/12/2017	Disaster relief in CSDP context	Sofia	mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu
30/11/2017	29/11/2017	Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management	Brussels	irene.eich@eeas.europa.eu
30/11/2017	29/11/2017	CSDP High Level Conference EaP	TBD	Jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
04/12/2017	08/12/2017	CSDP High level Course	London	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
06/12/2017	08/12/2017	EU facing "hybrid warfare" challenges	Brussels	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
		A Comprehensive Approach to Gender in Operations		charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
		SSR in-Mission training		charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
		ESDC Alumni meeting	Brussels	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
		Maritime Security Course	Athens	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
		SSR Seminar 1		charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
		EU Course on fragility, security and development in the context of external action	Brussels	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
		The Challenges Facing the CSDP in Space	Brussels	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
		Civil Military Cooperation in CSDP Operations	Brussels	mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu
		A Comprehensive Approach to Gender in Operations	Madrid	



From	To	Training Activity	Location	ESDC Secretariat Support
		Maritime Security Course	Brussels	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
		CSDP Olympiad	Liptovsky Mikulas	symeon.zambas@eeas.europa.eu
		CSDP OC	Brussels	mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu
		Basic Course on SSR	Brussels	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
		Europa Forum	Vienna	Jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
		ESDC Network Conference	Brussels	ovidiu.simina@eeas.europa.eu
		Strategic Planning Process of Missions and Operations	Vienna	mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu
		CSDP Negotiation techniques, Pilot	Brussels	Jochen.rehrl@eeas.europa.eu
		A Comprehensive Approach to Gender in Operations	Amsterdam	
		Conflict prevention, Peacebuilding and Mediation Training in support of CSDP Action	Brussels	charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
		Scenario-Based Civilian Capability Development course		mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu
		Gender integration in CSDP		charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
		SSR Seminar 2		charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
		SSR Seminar 3		charlotta.ahlmark@eeas.europa.eu
		CSDP Orientation Seminar China		mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu
		CSDP OC EU -Latin America	Buenos Aires (TBC)	mario.marmo@eeas.europa.eu





## 5. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## 5.1. Where to find out about courses and seminars

ESDC training activities (e.g. courses, seminars) are advertised

(a) on the ESDC website (<http://eeas.europa.eu/esdc>),

(b) via the Schoolmaster system and the JHA matrix,

(c) on the EEAS training intranet site (EEASzone).

All EU Member States, institutions and agencies, including CSDP missions and operations are invited to every training event through their nominated points of contact. Where third States or organisations are invited, course details are sent via their missions, delegations or other offices in Brussels.

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EEAS homepage > The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) > European Security and Defence College (ESDC)

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- ▼ Training Programme
- ▼ ESDC network

**LATEST**

15/07/2016  
Release of the upgraded Goalkeeper/Schoolmaster website

06/06/2016  
ESDC: 12th CSDP High Level Course 2016-2017 'Anna Lindh'

14/01/2015  
Archive of news 2015 - 2016

MORE

Find us at <http://eeas.europa.eu/esdc>

## 5.2. How to register for an ESDC event

The main ESDC target group is made up of officials from EU Member States and EU institutions/agencies, including CSDP missions and operations. For registration, the ESDC uses a secure electronic registration system called ENLIST. Each relevant entity nominates a responsible person, who registers and ranks participants from his or her institution. You will find a complete list of ENLIST nominators on the ESDC website (<http://eeas.europa.eu/esdc>). The ESDC Secretariat performs the role of ENLIST nominator for candidates from Third countries and organisations.

For some courses such as the Senior Mission Leader Course or the Advanced Political Advisor Course, the training host may prefer to use a more personalised registration system. In these cases, candidates are requested to fill in an application form. Based on the data provided, the training host, together with the ESDC Secretariat, performs a selection process to identify the most suitable participants.

Some training courses require that participants have a personal security clearance (PSC).



*Source: European Security and Defence College/  
Eastern Partnership Programme*

## 5.3. ESDC = Six national experts in the Secretariat



**Symeon Zambas**

is a Cypriot national expert with specific expertise in the military field. He acts as the main point of contact for the military exchange programme and the CSDP Military Advanced Training.



**Ovidiu Simina**

is a Romanian national expert dealing with general coordination tasks in the Secretariat. He acts as the front desk for the CSDP High Level Course and the alumni association.



**Charlotta Ahlmark**

is a Swedish national expert on civilian aspects of EU crisis management, incl. Gender and EU/UN relations. She is coordinator for the Executive Academic Board on Security Sector Reform.



**Irene-Maria Eich**

is a German national expert with responsibility for pre-deployment and in-mission training with a civilian focus. She is the coordinator for the Working Group on CSDP Missions and Operations.



**Mario Marmo**

is an Italian national expert with a police background. He is responsible for bringing the link between CSDP/FSJ into all relevant ESDC training activity.



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