

**Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence
and the Austrian Centre for Peace
under the aegis of the EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE COLLEGE**

**Invitation to the
Course on Comprehensive Protection of Civilians
(24-25/30/3)**

Stadtschlaining, from 18 to 22 November 2024
hosted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence,
the Austrian Centre for Peace and the European Security and Defence College

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence, the Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP) under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) have the honour of co-organising the Course on Comprehensive Protection of Civilians, to be held in Stadtschlaining from 18 to 22 November 2024.

International legal frameworks call upon the international community and parties in conflicts to implement far-reaching measures to protect and support civilian populations in situations of armed conflict. The content of this course reflects a broad interpretation of protection, which goes beyond the provision of protection from physical violence, but also includes the creation of larger protective environments and the implementation of activities that enhance the rights of individuals in accordance with international humanitarian law, human rights, and refugee law. The five-day course prepares senior decision-makers from the armed forces, police, political bodies, and non-governmental organisations, as well as individual civilian experts involved in peacekeeping and/or international crisis management at the operational level for the challenges of protecting civilian populations in contexts of armed conflict or post-conflict situations. They will gain enhanced knowledge of actors and their roles and responsibilities related to the subject matter and will subsequently be able to analyse the specific threats, needs and rights of different vulnerable groups of civilians to develop and implement context-sensitive, comprehensive, integrated strategies and measures to improve the situation of civilians in armed conflicts.

The course was developed in close cooperation between the Federal Ministry of Defence and the Austrian Centre for Peace and has furthermore been supported by the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria, the Federal Ministry of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Interior. It confirms Austria's continuous effort to promote the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. Since 2014, the course has been part of the academic programme of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and has furthermore been certified by the Integrated Training Service of the United Nations Department for Peace Operations.

We would be pleased if you could nominate suitable candidates for this training activity, which offers them an excellent opportunity to gain an insight into protection of civilians policies in the international context and CSDP and contribute to achieving the ultimate goal of the course, namely providing Member States and EU institutions with knowledgeable personnel, able to work in CSDP-related fields. The ESDC is committed to ensuring an inclusive, gender-sensitive and discrimination-free environment. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and therefore the ESDC and its partners, realise their true potential. We therefore particularly encourage those applicants who are likely to be under-represented to apply.

Please find attached details concerning the registration process and a tentative programme.
The course (residential formula) will be open to third countries and international organisations.

Mr Maximilian WEITZEL
Head of Section, Department for
Military Policy
Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence

Mr Fergal O REGAN
Head of the European
Security and Defence College

Ms Susanne J. GYÖRÖG
Senior Programme Manager
& Course Director
Austrian Centre for Peace

ESDC Course on Comprehensive Protection of Civilians

18-22 November 2024

Administrative Information

(24-25/30/3)

- **Target group:** The course targets national and international experts and senior decision-makers from the armed forces (from the rank of Major/OF-3 and above), police (equivalent to senior police officers and above), non-governmental/civilian organisations (heads of substantive sections and above), and political/civilian administrations (heads of division/department and above) working with or in the context of peacekeeping operations in complex emergencies requiring the protection of civilians in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations.
- **Application:** Registrations are to be made by using the online application form on the ACP website over this link: [ESDC Course on the Comprehensive Protection of Civilians - ACP](#) and are subject to a selection process by the designated course admission board. The total number of participants is limited to 30. Selected participants will be confirmed by the ACP within two weeks after the set application deadline:
- **Registration & deadline:** The registration period will end on **8 September 2024**. Registration will not be final until confirmed by the ACP.
- **Language:** The working language will be English, without translation.
- **eLearning:** The course will be preceded by a mandatory e-learning module, which needs to be finalised before the residential phase starts.
- **Attendance:** The participant's attendance during the course is mandatory on all days. A certificate will be awarded on the last day to those course participants who have completed the full course, including the e-learning module.
- **Course venue:** The venue for the entire course will be a selected hotel in Stadtschlaining, Austria. A free-of-charge collective bus transfer from Vienna International Airport (VIE) to the course location and back will be offered by the course host.
- **Costs:** All costs for international travel and accommodation (including breakfast and lunch) are to be covered by the sending authorities or the participants themselves. There is no fee for participation in the course itself.

- **Travel:** Participants are expected to arrive on Sunday, 17 November around mid-day and may depart on 22 November in the evening.
- **Hotel:** We have made some pre-reservations including a special package price of approx. 150 EUR per day at the designated course hotel in Stadtschlaining, Austria; **details will be communicated to confirmed participants.**
- **Hosted Events:** On the evening of the first course day (Monday 18 November) there will be an ice breaker and official networking dinner offered by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and organised by the Austrian Centre for Peace.
- **Dress code:** Formal dress code for the opening (suit & tie, lady's equivalent, no.1 uniforms) and the closing; civilian dress for the official dinner and the regular course days (smart casual, i.e. no jacket or tie, working dress).
- **Liability and insurance:** In the event of a medical emergency, the costs must be covered by the participant's medical insurance provided by the sending country/organisation. The organisers will not provide health or accident insurance for participants taking part in the event.
- **Visa:** Participants needing a visa to enter Austria are advised to book an appointment at the appropriate embassy as soon as they apply to participate. The ACP will issue a supporting letter along with the confirmation of participation. Obtaining a visa in good time and all related costs are the responsibility of the sending entity/the participant.

▪ **POCs:**

European Security and Defence College: Ms Maria Grazia ROMANO

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Austrian Centre for Peace: Ms Susanne J. GYÖRÖG

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Tentative Programme Overview

20th ESDC Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course (also UN certified)

18 to 22 November 2024 in Stadtschlaining, Austria

Sun, 17 Nov	Mon, 18 Nov	Tue, 19 Nov	Wed, 20 Nov	Thu, 21 Nov	Fri, 22 Nov	
Arrival Day	8:00 – 9:00 Official Opening Course Introduction	8:00 – 8:15 Daily Evaluation	8:00 – 8:15 Daily Evaluation	8:00 – 8:15 Daily Evaluation	9:00 – 10:30 20 ctd. Group Exercise and Presentation 11:00 – 11:45 Official Closing Ceremony 13:00 Departure	
	9:00 – 9:15 Group Picture	8:15 – 9:15 6 Human Rights and Int. Humanitarian Law	8:15 – 9:15 12 Child Protection and POC	8:15 – 9:15 17 Threat Analysis and Risk Assessment		
	09:15 – 09:45 Coffee Break					
	09:45 – 10:30 1 Introduction to the Concept of CPOC	09:45 – 10:45 7 Legal Framework of Peace Operations	09:45 – 10:30 13 Gender Aspects in POC	09:45 – 11:15 18 CPOC Implementation		
	10:30 – 10:45 Q & A	10:45 – 11:00 Q & A	10:30 – 10:45 Q & A			
	10:45 – 11:45 2 CPOC in the Context of UN Peacekeeping Operations	11:00 – 11:45 8 CPOC in the Context of NATO	10:45 – 11:45 14 Protection Role of the Military	11:15 – 11:45 19 Q & A		
	11:45 – 13:00 Lunch					
	13:00 – 14:00 3 CPOC in the Context of UN Peacekeeping Operations cont.	13:00 – 14:00 9 Protection Concept of the ICRC	13:00 – 14:00 15 Protection Role of the Police	20 Final Exercise		
	14:00 – 14:15 Q & A	14:00 – 14:15 Q & A	14:00 – 14:15 Q & A	14:00 – 18:30 20 ctd. Final Exercise		
	14:15 – 15:00 4 CPOC in the Context of EU Crisis Management	14:15 – 15:00 10 Protection Concept of Humanitarian Actors	14:15 – 15:00 16 State Building and Early Recovery Strategies			
	15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Break					
	15:30 – 16:30 5 Carana Mapping Exercise	15:30 – 16:30 11 Protection of IDPs and Refugees	15:30 – 16:00 Introduction to the Final Exercise	Course Evaluation		
	Dinner	18:00 Ice Breaker & Welcome Dinner	Dinner			