

## EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE COLLEGE

(The Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and the Austrian Centre for Peace)

### Invitation to the Core Course on Security Sector Reform (25-26/11/1)

Vienna, from 13 to 19 March 2026

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) and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) have the honour of co-organising the Core Course on Security Sector Reform (SSR), to be held in Vienna from 13 to 19 March 2026.

The course is designed to enhance participants' understanding and capabilities regarding Security Sector Reform (SSR) within the EU's integrated approach and associated policies, such as the EU strategic framework for SSR, the civilian CSDP compact, and the strategic compass for security and defence. It will cover SSR concepts, principles of good governance, EU and international SSR policy frameworks, EU support for national SSR program implementation, and related cross-cutting issues. Additionally, the course will foster the sharing of best practices and equip participants with tools to tackle future challenges and assess SSR needs. Furthermore, it aims to strengthen a network of SSR experts united by a shared understanding of SSR principles and actions.

Upon completion of the course, participants will possess a comprehensive understanding of Security Sector Reform, along with insights into the approaches adopted by various international organizations and familiarity with SSR-related reform processes. They will be equipped to analyse and engage with diverse stakeholders, applying their skills to the planning, implementation, and monitoring of SSR activities in their professional endeavours.

We would be pleased if you could nominate suitable candidates for this training activity, which offers them an excellent opportunity to gain an insight in SSR programmes in the international context and CSDP and contribute to achieving the goal of the course, namely providing Member States and EU institutions with knowledgeable personnel, able to work in CSDP-related fields.

The course will be open to participants from EU Member States, EU Candidate States, Third Countries, EU Institutions and International and Regional Organisations.

The ESDC is committed to ensuring an inclusive, gender-sensitive and discrimination-free environment. 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.



Signed electronically

Mr Bernhard FRANKL  
Course Director  
Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence

Mr Fergal O'Regan  
Head of the European  
Security and Defence College

Signed electronically

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

## ESDC Core Course on Security Sector Reform

13 to 19 March 2026

### Administrative Information

(25-26/11/1)

- **Target group:** The course is open to mid- to senior level civilian, police and military personnel from EU Member States, EU Candidate States, Third Countries, EU Institutions and International and Regional Organisations, who are either involved in or designated to work in the field of security sector reform.
- **Application:** Registrations are to be made by using the online application form on the ACP website over this link: [ESDC Core Course on Security Sector Reform - 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 **18 January 2026**.

**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 Vienna, Austria.
- **Costs:** All costs for travel, meals and accommodation are to be covered by the sending authorities or the participants themselves.
- **Travel:** Participants are expected to arrive in Vienna on 13 March by mid-day and may depart on 19 March in the late evening. **Details will be communicated to confirmed participants.**

- **Hotel:** We have made some pre-reservations including a special package price of approx. 170 EUR per day at the designated course hotel in Vienna, Austria; **details will be communicated to confirmed participants.**
- **Hosted Event:** On the evening of the arrival day (Friday 13 March) there will be a Welcome Reception hosted 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, uniforms); civilian dress for the hosted 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:**

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**Austrian Centre for Peace:** Ms Susanne J. GYÖRÖG

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## Tentative Programme Overview

### ESDC Core Course on SSR from 13 to 19 March 2026 in Vienna, Austria

Fri, 13. March	Sat, 14 March	Sun, 15 March	Mon, 16 March	Tue, 17 March	Wed, 18 March	Thur, 19 March
<b>Arrival of participants</b>	<b>START 08:45h</b>					
	Introduction to the concept of SSR	SSR in Fragile Contexts	SSR in Political Context	Defence Reform	Justice Reform & Transitional Justice	Penal and Corrections Services Reform
	Good Governance	Advising in SSR	Case Studies	Police Reform	Intelligence Reform	DDR
	<b>LUNCH 60´</b>					
	SSR and Gender	Non State security Actors	UN Approach to SSR	OSCE Approach to SSR	NATO Approach to SSR	SALW
<b>16:00h</b> <b>Opening &amp; Introduction</b> <b>Course Photograph</b>	Mapping the Security Sector	Role of Civil Society in SSR	EU Approach to SSR	Climate Change and SSR	Integrated Border Management	Building Integrity
<b>Welcome Reception</b> <b>„Icebreaker“</b>	<b>END approx. 17:00</b>					