

Partners and Trainers – SSR Core Course

1. General Background



This course was developed in 2009 on the initiative of the Austrian MOD, bringing a number of international experts and stakeholder together. It has since been continuously reviewed and improved and is now a highly demanded comprehensive training on SSR for mid-level practitioners, bringing extensive expertise and allowing an excellent learning experience for the participants through a very interactive training methodology.

2. Austrian MOD Trainers

Kurt Meissner is the Head of the Security Sector Reform and Defence Sector Reform Section in the Austrian Ministry of Defence Implementation Office for Arms Control and International Stabilization Measures. He attended various international courses and seminars in the fields of SSR, Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR), Building Integrity and Leadership Training, Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Arms Control. He has taught as facilitator and instructor on several SSR courses and seminars and is co-moderator on the ESDC SSR Core Course and the President of the Executive Academic Board on SSR Training in the European Security and Defence College. Prior to his current posting he was instructor in the Austrian Armed Forces Peace Support Operations Training Centre. He served altogether four years in international peace-keeping missions in the Middle East, Cambodia, and Rwanda.



Alois Preineder, Col, is an Armament Policy Expert at the Austrian Ministry of Defence. He started his career at the Ministry as a desk officer for CIMIC and International Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief at the Military Policy Division, before moving to Brussels for 8 years to support the Austrian EU and NATO representations as a Counsellor for Security, Defence, and Armaments Policy. Alois has a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Vienna and was trained at the Austrian Military Academy, where he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. He has served in UN peace support operations in Cyprus and the Western Sahara.

Depending on availability, the Austrian MOD may change or add experts assigned to the course.

3. DCAF/ISSAT Trainers

For the first part of the course, which aims at recapitulating the whole of the SSR concept and ensure that standards and concepts are reviewed, the AUT MOD has a partnership with DCAF/ISSAT to bring in additional subject matter expertise.



DCAF/ISSAT is a key stakeholder in SSR subject matter expertise and provides support to the international community to reinforce and strengthen their individual and collective efforts to improve security and justice, primarily in conflict-affected and fragile states. For more information, please click here: <https://issat.dcaf.ch/>

For our course, the following experts are usually made available:

Sami Faltas, PhD, is from Egypt but grew up in the Netherlands. A former academic, he now working as a consultant and trainer, using English, German, Dutch and French. Security Sector Reform, DDR, democratic governance and political negotiation are currently his main topics. His work has taken him all over Africa, Western and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Caucasus, as well as the Middle East and Central Asia. His clients include the European Union, the United Nations, the OSCE and the governments of Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK. He has been teaching at the University of Groningen at the department of International Relations. Originally from Egypt, he grew up in the Netherlands and worked in Germany for several years.



Heather Huhtanen is currently based in Geneva, Switzerland where she works to promote gender equality in the context of international development, security and justice reform and peace and transition processes. She is a regular course facilitator and presenter for DCAF-ISSAT. Presently Heather is serving as an (independent) advisor for DCAF under the auspices of the Canadian Elsie Initiative, *Reducing Barriers for Uniformed Women UN Peace Operations Project*. Her role is to provide dedicated support and technical assistance to the Ghana Armed Forces and Zambia Police Service on gender equality and security sector governance/development. Heather holds a master's degree in International Development with a specialization in Women, Gender and Development from Erasmus University, Institute of Social Studies in The Netherlands.

4. International Subject Matter Experts

In the second part of the course, we bring in several international experts who have significant first-hand experience in various aspects of an SSR process. Depending on availability, the experts may change, but usually including the following capacities:

EU Expert from the European External Action Service covering the EU Approach to SSR

OSCE Expert from the OSCE Head Office in Vienna covering the OSCE Approach to SSR

NATO Expert from the NATO HQ in Brussels covering the NATO Approach to SSR

UN Expert covering the UN Approach to SSR

International Expert talking about Defence Reform

International Expert talking about Police Reform

International Expert talking about Intelligence Reform

International Expert covering Transitional Justice and Reconciliation

International Expert covering DDR and SALW (two separate modules)

NATO Expert talking about the NATO Building Integrity Programme

EU Expert from FRONTEX covering Integrated Border Management