



11 April 2024

**European Security and Defence College**  
**Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence, Sofia**

**Invitation to course on**  
**Disaster Relief in the CSDP Context**  
*Sofia, 16 to 19 July 2024*  
*Training activity number 23-24/44/2*

Under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College, the *Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence, Sofia*, in cooperation with the *Romanian National College of Home Affairs*, the *Department for Emergency Situations of the Romanian Ministry of Interior* and the *Diplomatic Institute to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria*, is organising a course on **Disaster Relief in the CSDP Context**.

The course is designed for personnel with civilian (diplomatic/consular, police, judicial, intelligence, and humanitarian NGO staff) and military backgrounds, having expertise and operational experience in civil protection, disaster relief and/or humanitarian assistance, together with selected personnel from international organisations, which are welcome to put forward suitable candidates. Experts from CSDP missions and operations, from EU Member States, relevant EU institutions and agencies and from EU delegations that can be deployed in *fact-finding missions* in disaster-stricken areas as EEAS/EUMS or DG ECHO teams are encouraged to attend.

The course is being held in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 16 to 19 July 2024 and will provide basic knowledge about the impact of man-made, natural and climate-driven disasters on European security (and in particular on the conduct of CFSP/CSDP activities). Participants will learn about the EU institutional structures, mechanisms and instruments employed in disaster relief, rescue and humanitarian activities (with an emphasis on the synchronisation of diverse civilian and military CFSP/CSDP assets in disaster response). Field practitioners will share their experience of disaster relief operations, from diplomatic, civilian and military perspectives. The integrated approach to crisis management (with an emphasis on civ-mil coordination in disaster relief) will be given due consideration. The EU's partnerships and cooperation with stakeholders in the field (UN, NATO, and leading humanitarian NGOs) on policies and practices will also be discussed.

The practical dimension of the course will consist of a teamwork session and a simulation exercise (covering planning templates and techniques for dealing with disasters). Throughout the course, participants will have the opportunity to benefit from the knowledge and experience of specialists from

the European institutions and Member States and to network and share views with professionals in the field of disaster relief, building on the *European security culture*.



It is with great pleasure that we invite you to nominate participants for the ESDC course on ***Disaster Relief in the CSDP Context***.

We look forward to welcoming you in Sofia.

The final programme and detailed information will be provided to all confirmed participants.

The Acting Head of the  
European Security and  
Defence College

Police Quaestor, Prof., PhD  
Director of the  
National College of Home  
Affairs

Colonel, BGR-A  
Director of the  
Crisis Management and  
Disaster Response Centre of  
Excellence

Annexes:

A: Administrative Instruction

B: Tentative Programme



## Annex A

### Course on Disaster Relief in the CSDP Context Sofia, from 16 to 19 July 2024 Administrative Instructions

- **Target group:** The training programme is open to both civilian and military personnel from EU Member States, relevant EU institutions and agencies, CSDP missions and operations and international organisations.
- **Seats and nominations:** The course could host up to 30 participants in all.
- **Application:** EU Member States, EU structures and CSDP Missions and Operations are invited to nominate participants via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, through designated nominators, under <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login> no later than **06 June 2024**. A list with relevant ENLIST nominators can be found on the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>.
- Applications from international organisations should be sent to the ESDC Course Manager at: [stanislava.kraynova@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:stanislava.kraynova@eeas.europa.eu), by the institution/organisation that receives this invitation. The application should indicate the full name of the candidate (as in official documents used for accessing the course venue), personal (business) e-mail address (functional mailboxes will not be accepted), nationality, passport number, validity of passport, date of birth, institution and the reason why this course benefits the applicant.
- **Registration** will not be final until it has been confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat and the registration form has been completed by the nominated participant.
- **Recommendation for enlisted participants:** Do not book flights and accommodation before receiving confirmation of registration.
- **Language:** The language of the CSDP will be English; translation will not be available.
- **E-learning and attendance:** The course consists of an **e-learning** part to be done on the ESDC e-learning platform ILIAS, as well as a **residential session** held in Sofia, both parts being compulsory.
- Attendance of the course is mandatory on all days. A certificate will be awarded to course participants, who have completed the full course, including the compulsory e-Learning phase.
- **The course begins on 17 June 2024 with the e-learning phase.** The residential module of the course will be hosted at the CMDR COE Premises, 34A Toteleben Blvd., Shipka Hotel, Sofia, Bulgaria (details and directions are available on the CMDR COE's website <https://www.cmdrcoe.org>). The topics to be covered in the residential module will be explored interactively in sessions followed by Q&A, panel discussions and teamwork.
- **On Tuesday 16 July 2024**, participants are expected at the Shipka Hotel between 9.00 and 9.45 for registration and the welcome package. Participants will receive a course badge and will be requested to wear the badge during the course. The opening of the course is planned for 10.00. Participants are recommended to arrive in Sofia (Bulgaria) at the latest on Monday, **15 July 2024**.
- **Accommodation:** Participants should make their own arrangements for travel, accommodation and meals. CMDR COE is proposing accommodation at the Shipka Hotel - <http://www.hotel-shipka.com/> or at the Astoria Hotel <https://www.astoriagrandhotel.bg/> (walking distance from CMDR COE). Please note that transport to/from the course venue will **not** be provided.
- **Dress code:** The dress code is formal or service uniform for the opening and closing ceremonies; smart casual or business for the working sessions.

- **Liabilities and insurance:** In the event of medical emergencies, the costs will be covered by the participant's medical insurance provided by the sending country/organisation. The organiser does not provide health or accident insurance for participants taking part in the event.
- **Gender equality:** The ESDC strives for a gender-sensitive and inclusive environment in all its courses, activities and day-to-day work. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and therefore the ESDC and its partners, reach their true potential. We do not and will not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation in any of our activities or operations. The ESDC and the training institutions will not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.
- **Networking event:** official course dinner
- **Course programme:** The programme, workshop scenario, names of lecturers, etc., will be made available on the ILIAS platform after the completion of the selection process.
- **Course fees, per diems, costs:** All costs for international travel, transportation, medical insurance, accommodation and catering/meals during the course are to be covered by the participants' sending authorities from EU Member States, EU institutions and CSDP missions and operations. **NO COURSE FEE IS REQUIRED.** Participants should arrange their own travel, accommodation and meals.

**Contact points:**

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