



European Security
and Defence College



Università degli Studi
Guglielmo Marconi



Rome
Italy



12 - 16
May 2025

14th Advanced course for Political Advisers in CSDP Missions and Operations Module 1



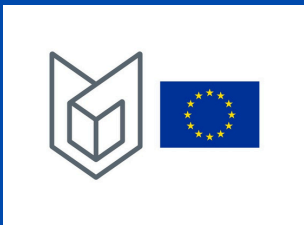
AIM OF THE COURSE

The course aims to provide participants with a broader knowledge of the tasks and challenges that political advisers are likely to encounter in a CSDP mission or operation, both at the operational and strategic level. It provides a detailed overview of the core principles of the EU's external action, as well as the framework, skills and working techniques for political advisers both in capital cities and in the field. Enhancing participants' existing skills through practical training exercises will further support the goal of fostering the formation of networks among individuals working in an advisory position.

The course consists of three modules which will take place during the 2024-2025 academic year. Module 1 (12-16 May 2025) on engaging with the strategic context will take place in Rome. Module 2 (10-13 June 2025) focusing on political analysis, negotiation and mediation techniques will be held in Geneva. The third module (7-11 July 2025), with an emphasis on current and future deployment of political advisers in CSDP missions and operations, will take place in Vienna.

Effective crisis management requires a combination of adequate capabilities and well-trained personnel. To help meet this need, one of the key tasks of the European Security and Defence College is to contribute to the development of human capital and build a pool of crisis management experts with a wide range of knowledge. The forthcoming 14th advanced course for political advisers in CSDP missions and operations aims to complement this effort.





**EUROPEAN SECURITY AND
DEFENCE COLLEGE (ESDC)
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

<https://esdc.europa.eu>

The European Security and Defence College (ESDC) plays a vital role in supporting the EU's efforts to promote peace, security, and stability. As an autonomous EU body, the ESDC provides training and education in the field of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in the wider context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), ensuring that civilian, diplomatic, police and military personnel are fully prepared to adapt to and address existing and emerging security challenges effectively.

The ESDC operates as a network, bringing together civilian and military institutes, universities, academies, public institutions, centres of excellence and other organisations working in the fields of security and defence. This structure enables the ESDC to pool resources, use public funds efficiently without duplicating structures, share and disseminate best practices, and deliver high-quality training tailored to the diverse needs identified in the realm of CSDP and CFSP.

From orientation courses to high-level and senior strategic courses, leadership development, crisis management, cybersecurity, hybrid threats, maritime security and beyond, the ESDC offers a wide range of programmes designed to meet the complex and constantly evolving demands of the modern security environment.

The network now includes over 270 member institutions. In 2024, under the auspices of the ESDC, 153 training activities were organised, bringing together 4 610 participants. The training took place mainly within Member States, but also in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Switzerland and Ukraine.

By continually updating and refining its training and education activities, the ESDC supports the development and promotion of a common understanding of CFSP and CSDP among civilian and military personnel across the EU. In line with the EU's integrated approach for peace and security, it ensures that participants gain a comprehensive understanding of all stages of the conflict cycle, including analysis, mediation and early warning, while also enhancing the effectiveness of CSDP missions and operations.

The ESDC's work complements national efforts and strengthens co-operation with international like-minded partner countries, as well as international organisations such as NATO and the UN.

Support to Ukraine is a pivotal element of the ESDC's partnership efforts. This approach reinforces the EU's ability to respond to challenges with agility, while fostering collaboration, shared understanding, and a common European security and defence culture.

Through its commitment to excellence, the ESDC contributes to a more secure and resilient Europe.

COURSE DIRECTOR - TRAINING MANAGER



Prof Andrea UNGARI

University Guglielmo Marconi



Andrea Ungari is a Full Professor on Contemporary History at the Guglielmo Marconi University, in Rome, where he teaches also History of International Relations. He is adjunct professor on History of Political Parties at Luiss Guido Carli University, where he taught History of Italy, Comparative European History and History of International Relations. His main topic is the history of Italy, from a political, culture and military point of view. He studied the Italian monarchist movement in the Second post-war Republic and recently (last eight years) he dedicated his studies to the Italian liberal State, focusing on the role of Monarchy of Savoy. He gave every time particular attention to the International framework and its influence on domestic policy. Actually, he is working on a book concerning the attitude of the Monarchy towards the crisis of the Liberal State (1919-1925).

Recent publications are a book on the role of Italian Monarchy during World War I (La guerra del re. Monarchia, Sistema politico e Forze armate nella Grande guerra, 2018) a volume dedicated to the capture of Rome in 1870 (Roma Anno Domini 1870, 2020) and an ebook, with Francesco Anghelone, on the crisis of UE after Covid-19 pandemic influence (Ultima chiamata. Da Ventotene al Covid-19 l'Europa in bilico, 2020). He edited, in the last year, these two volumes: Atlante Geopolitico del Mediterraneo 2020, a volume in which are analyzed from a geopolitical point of view the difficult situation in the Mediterranean sea and Dal Piave a Versailles, proceedings of an international conference held in Padua on June 2018, dedicated to the events from the defeat of Caporetto to the victory of Vittorio Veneto, published by the Historical Office of the Italian Army.

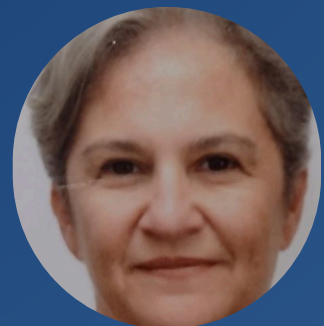
In September 2021, Maria Grazia Romano was seconded to the European Security and Defense College where she is currently working as a Training Manager dealing mainly with Courses outside the European Union.

Since February 2010 to September 2021, she has worked at the NATO Defense College as a Faculty Advisor in the Academic Operations Division. Her main activities were to direct and monitor the academic activities of a 10-person working group from various countries; to provide guidance and assistance to Course Members on academic and logistical matters; to prepare and present lectures and briefings on topics included in the Course Syllabus; to assist in planning, organising and conducting College-sponsored activities (symposia, meetings and conferences). Her last employment was in the Middle East Faculty where she served as a Faculty Advisor for an English-speaking Committee.

In December 1994, she served as a translator for the Italian Ministry of Defense where she translated texts into English, French and Italian on subjects mainly related to defense and security issues.

Maria Grazia Romano also has delivered lectures as a guest speaker at the John Cabot University in Rome and at the LUISS University and organised several workshops in Italy and abroad.

She speaks English and French at a proficient level.



Maria Grazia ROMANO

ESDC Training Manager





Day 1

Monday, 12 May 2025

13:00 - 13:30 Registration

13:30 - 13:45

Opening remarks

Prof Andrea UNGARI, University Guglielmo Marconi, Full Professor
Course Director

13:45 - 14:00

Presentation on the European Security and Defence College (ESDC)

Maria Grazia ROMANO, ESDC, Training Manager

14:00 - 14.30

Group photo and coffee break

14:30 - 15:30

The EU Strategic Environment

Prof Nicola PEDDE, Dr Nicola PEDDE, Italian Ministry of Defence, Political Adviser to the Chief of Defence

15:30 - 16:30

The Strategic Compass/ The Civilian CSDP Compact

Dr Marcello CIOLA, PhD in Political Science from the IEP - Fontainebleau and UCLouvain

16:30 - 17:00

Introduction to group work

Maria Grazia ROMANO, ESDC, Training Manager



Day 2	Tuesday, 13 May 2025
09:00 - 10:00	Political Analysis Dr Nicola PEDDE, Italian Ministry of Defence, Political Adviser to the Chief of Defence
10:00 - 10:30 Coffee Break	
10:30 - 11:30	The Crisis Response System of the EEAS, from political decision-making to operational planning Filippo MANGIONE, European External Action Service (EEAS), CivOpsH, Policy Support Officer
11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break	
12:00 - 13:00	The EU Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crises Michael MERKER, European External Action Service (EEAS), CivOpsHQ, Policy Officer
13:00 - 14.00 Lunch Break	
14:00 - 15:30	The Importance of Addressing Cyber Threats in CSDP Missions and Operations Giuseppe ZUFFANTI, ESDC, Coordinator for Cyber issues and for the Cyber ETEE Platform
15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break	
16:00 - 17:00	Group work All participants
20.00 - 22.00	Hosted social dinner



Day 3

Wednesday, 14 May 2025

09:00 - 10:00

PsyOps Threat Awareness and Foreign Influence in CSDP Missions and Operations

Prof Sabrina MAGRIS, President of the Ecole Universitaire Internationale

10:00 - 10.30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 11:30

The Role of the Political Adviser, UN Experience

Dr Francesca CITOSI, Centre for High Defence Studies, Researcher and analyst

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:00

The Role of the Political Adviser, NATO Experience

Prof Laris GAISER, University of Ljubljana, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law and Economics, Security studies and macroeconomics

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:30

The EU and the Middle East

Prof Daniele CAVIGLIA, University of Enna "Kore", Full Professor of History of International Relations

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:00

Group work

All participants



Day 4

Thursday, 15 May 2025

09:00 - 10:30

The EU and the Balkan Puzzle

Prof Laris GAISER, University of Ljubljana, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law and Economics, Security studies and macroeconomics

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:00

The EU and the Mediterranean

Dr Francesco ANGHELONE, Researcher at Istituto di Studi Politici "S Pio V"

12:00 - 13:30 Coffee Break

13:30 - 14:30

Why Cultural Diversity Matters in CSDP Missions and Operations

Prof Camilla PAGANI, University of Trento, Post-doctoral research fellow

15:00 - 17:00

Cultural Visit

Day 5

Friday, 16 May 2025

09:00 - 10:30

Presentations of each working group

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:00

The Future of CSDP

Dr Ricardo SCALAS, The Netherlands' Defence College, Senior Tutor

12:00 - 12:30

Feedback from participants

Closing Remarks

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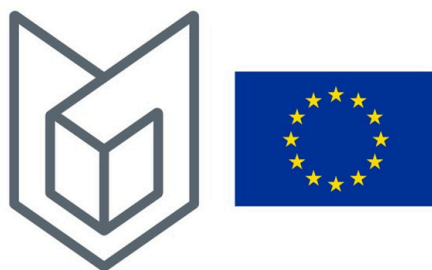


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