



Brussels, 6 March 2026

**PILOT course**  
**A comprehensive approach to defence and security capacity-building assistance**  
**Rome, Italy, 23-25 June 2026**

(Act. N. 25-26/PILOT/17)

**INVITATION**

In recent years, the European Union and NATO have developed close collaboration in various areas such as military mobility and strategic communication, maritime security, the cyber domain and the exchange of classified information at tactical level.

In the field of security force assistance (SFA), current situations oblige the European Union to give more serious consideration to building a stronger partnership with NATO. According to military experts and scholars, SFA is considered the future method of warfare. Consequently, it is necessary to raise awareness among the main military and political stakeholders of the importance of the SFA doctrine and the ways in which to implement and enforce it.

In that regard, this course aims to improve the knowledge and competences of the personnel deployed in CSDP missions and operations. In particular, the main aim of the course is:

- to develop experts' capacity in the security domain, in the context of security sector reform (SSR) and defence capacity-building (DCB);
- to ensure a theoretical understanding of the fundamentals, skills, techniques and tools to advise on the security domain, on security sector reform (SSR) and on defence capacity-building (DCB) with a view to stabilising and democratising national security structures in the fields of security and defence in crisis management areas or re-establishing peace and security;
- to streamline the instruments used and the behaviour adopted by EU mission operators/experts and to ensure that participants are adequately prepared so that they can operate as part of a comprehensive and integrated approach;
- to improve security sector reform of the counterpart by providing an insight into the latest policies, instruments and tools available to fulfil the mandate, with a focus on the mission environment, and to provide a sense of common EU identity and purpose.

We would like to invite you to nominate participants for this pilot course, which offers an excellent opportunity to contribute to the primary objective of the ESDC, i.e. providing Member States and EU institutions with knowledgeable personnel able to work efficiently in CSDP-related fields.

*Head of the ESDC*  
*Fergal O'REGAN*

NATO SFA COE DIRECTOR  
Col. Massimo MONCADA

PCOSC DIRECTOR  
Col. Paolo MAZZUFERI



## Administrative remarks

- **Target group:** the course is open to civilian, diplomatic, police and military personnel from EU Member States and relevant EU bodies and institutions.
- **Places and nominations:** around 40 places will be available to international participants. Typically, one or two places are allocated to each EU Member State, but depending on the total number of requests, one additional place may be offered. Our objective is to put together a group that is balanced in terms of both gender and professional background.
- **Applications:**  
applications from EU Member States and relevant EU bodies and institutions are to be submitted via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, by designated nominators, at <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login> no later than **25 May 2026**. A list of ENLIST nominators can be found on the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>.
- **Registration:** registration will not be final until it has been confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat and the accepted participants have provided the requested personal data in ENLIST.
- **Attendance:** attendance is mandatory on all days of the course. A certificate will be awarded to course participants who have completed the entire course. This course will not be offered in hybrid format.
- **Language:** the working language is English (no interpretation will be provided), without translation.
- **E-learning:** the course will be preceded by mandatory e-learning autonomous knowledge units (AKUs), which will be available on the ESDC e-learning platform ILIAS. Course participants will have to complete the AKUs before the residential phase begins (on 23 June 2026). Information on how to connect to the e-learning platform will be provided in due course to all confirmed participants.
- **Residential part of the course:** this part of the course will take place from **23 to 25 June 2026** (from 08:30 on Tuesday to 16:30 on Thursday) on the premises of CUFA, Villa Savorgnan di Brazzà, Via XX Settembre, 2, 00187 Roma.
- **Costs:** no tuition fee is charged. The sending authorities must cover all costs for travel, accommodation and meals (including breakfast) for participants. Transportation will not be provided by the course organisers. Lunch on the first day of the course (23 June 2026) will be hosted by the NATO SFA COE as an ice-breaker event; on the subsequent days, those wishing to have a standing lunch at CUFA will need to purchase it in advance, following specific instructions that will be provided to the confirmed attendees.
- **Dress code:** business attire (jacket and tie mandatory, no jeans or trainers) or female equivalent; class A uniform for military personnel (jacket and tie).



- **Liabilities and insurance:** in the event of a medical emergency, participants' medical insurance, provided by the sending country/organisation, will cover all costs. The organisers will not provide course participants with any health or accident insurance.
- **Additional info:** confirmed participants will receive further detailed information about the course (e.g. schedule, precise location, etc.) in good time.
- **Inclusivity:** the ESDC strives to create a gender-sensitive and inclusive environment in all its courses, activities and day-to-day work. Only in an inclusive environment can all individuals, and hence also the ESDC and its partners, achieve their true potential. We do 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.

**Please do not book any accommodation or make any travel arrangements before receiving the confirmation message from the ESDC Secretariat.**

- **Point of contact:**

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