



Invitation to the course

CYBER DEFENCE POLICY ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

(ESDC Activity Number 23-24/262/1)

Estonia, Tartu, 18–22 March 2024

Under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), the Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL), a NATO Accredited Education and Training Facility, celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2024, is set to host the course 'Cyber Defence Policy on National and International Levels'. This comprehensive programme is scheduled to take place from Monday 18 March to Friday 22 March 2024, in Tartu, Estonia.

In today's security landscape, cyberspace stands out as a pivotal and defining element. Beyond being a technological construct, it serves as a strategic tool for exploiting and navigating various domains, including air, land, sea, and space. Increasing numbers of both state and non-state actors seek to exploit the vulnerabilities inherent in cyberspace, underscoring its critical role in national and international security. The war in Ukraine further highlights the imperative of considering the cyber aspects in both civil and military contexts for the functioning of digital societies during the conflicts.

In response to the escalating challenges in cyberspace, the Baltic Defence College, in collaboration with the European Security and Defence College, is pleased to announce the organisation of the course entitled 'Cyber Defence Policy on National and International Levels'.

The course aims to provide participants with the conceptual framework to facilitate strategic thinking about cyber defence and develop an understanding of how to integrate cyber considerations into national and international security policy and strategy formulation. Drawing insights from the war in Ukraine, the course will underscore the multidimensional nature of cyber defence. The curriculum is carefully designed to offer participants an integrated overview of contemporary geopolitical affairs and security issues, fostering critical thinking on matters of

strategic significance. Guest speakers representing varied perspectives and opinions from the political, military, academic, and private sectors will stress the importance of the comprehensive approach and cross-sector cooperation for strengthening cybersecurity on national and international levels, irrespective of peace or wartime conditions. Participants will gain fundamental skills and knowledge to analyse and design effective policy frameworks and strategies for cyber defence.

This course specifically targets mid-ranking to senior officials in the defence and security sector, focusing on the strategic aspects of cyber security and cyber defence. Applications should be entered via the ESDC nomination system ENLIST^[1] by designated nominators (see the list [here](#)^[2]).

On behalf of the Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL), we are pleased to invite you to nominate suitable participants for this ESDC course.

Yours faithfully,



Brigadier General Alvydas Šiuparis
Commandant,
Baltic Defence College



Fergal O' REGAN
Acting Head,
European Security and Defence College (ESDC)

Annexes:

- A – Course Administrative Instructions
- B – Tentative Course Agenda

¹ <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>

² <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>



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Annex A

Course Administrative Instructions

- **Target audience:** This course is open to mid-ranking to senior officials from the defence and security sector from EU MSs, relevant EU Institutions and Agencies dealing with the strategic aspects of cyber security and cyber defence.
- Course participants must be available for the entire course and should be ready to bring in their specific expertise and experience throughout the course.
- **Application and deadline:** Applications should be submitted by designated nominators using the ESDC ENLIST Platform <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>, **no later than 20 February 2023**. A list with relevant ENLIST nominators can be retrieved from the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>.
- **Registration will not be completed until confirmation by the ESDC Secretariat.** For any issue concerning the application, registration and nomination processes, please contact course administration: Ms Anna MALEC (ESDC Training Manager, Anna.MALEC@eeas.europa.eu).
- **The selection of participants** will be based on applicant backgrounds, experience, suitability, gender balance and country of origin. The decision on which applications are accepted remains solely with the BALTDEF COL Course Director and the ESDC Secretariat. When the participant list is finalised, the course administration will be in contact with the selected participants and provide more detailed information on the course and logistics.
- **Late registration:** Subject to availability of seats the course is open for late registration. Nevertheless, please contact course administration: Ms Anna MALEC (ESDC Training Manager, Anna.MALEC@eeas.europa.eu) or the Course Director, AMB. Shota GVINERIA shota.gvineria@baltdefcol.org.
- **Mandatory e-learning and attendance:** The course consists of an e-Learning preparatory phase (*online*) done within the ESDC's e-Learning platform ILIAS, a residential part, held in Tartu, Estonia, both parts being compulsory. In order to complete the online part, links will be sent by the ESDC to the selected participants. The participants must have completed the online e-learning preparatory modules before beginning the residential part (i.e., before their arrival in Tartu). The participants' attendance of the residential course in Tartu is mandatory on all days. A certificate will be awarded on the last day to participants who have completed both the e-Learning preparatory phase (online modules) and the residential course.
- **Course venue:** The course will be held mainly at the BALTDEF COL premises located at Riia 12, 51010 Tartu, Estonia. More details about the location, daily transfers and access will be provided to all confirmed participants. GPS Coordinates: 58.37364508188913, 26.72223416841387.

- **Language:** The working language is English, without interpretation.
- **Course fees and per diem:** The course has no registration or tuition fees. Per diems will not be paid by either the ESDC or the BALTDEFCOL.
- **Travel expenses, transfers, accommodation, meals and catering:** Participants must arrange their own travel and accommodation. All costs for travelling to/from Tartu, accommodation, catering and meals (including breakfast), transfers and local transports must be covered by the participants or their sending authorities.

Hotel reservations: There are various hotels in Tartu area. Nevertheless, it is recommended to stay at Lydia Hotel. Participants can make their own booking arrangements.

- **Liabilities, medical and life insurance:** In the event of medical emergencies or accidents, the costs will be covered directly by the participants' insurance provided by their sending countries, national authorities or organisations. The organiser does not provide health, life or accident insurance for participants taking part in the event, nor during their staying in Estonia.
- **Dress code:** We recommend that participants wear business and smart attire (or dress) for the opening event and closing ceremony. Members of the armed forces, gendarmerie and police are not obliged to wear their uniforms, unless they prefer. During the course, an official networking social dinner will be offered to all the course participants, experts and trainers. For this specific event, course classes, comfortable *business casual* or *smart casual* will be appropriate.
- **Additional info:** The curriculum of the Cyber Defence Policy on National and International Levels can be consulted on the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/curricula/>.
- **Arrival/departure:** Participants are invited to arrive in Tartu, on Sunday 17 March 2024. The course will start at 08:30 a.m. on Monday 18 March 2024 and will finish around 13:00 on Friday 22 March 2024.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** The ESDC is committed to an inclusive, gender-sensitive and discrimination-free environment. 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. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and therefore the ESDC and its partners, realise their true potential. We therefore particularly encourage those applicants who are likely to be underrepresented to apply. The ESDC and the BALTDEFCOL will not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.
- **Agenda:** The final course agenda will be distributed to all selected participants. Nevertheless, for matters regarding the course programme and planned activities, please do not hesitate to contact the Course Director, AMB. Shota GVINERIA.
- **Points of contact:**
 - ✓ **Course Director, AMB. Shota GVINERIA** shota.gvineria@baltdefcol.org
Defence and Cyber Studies, Baltic Defence College, NATO Accredited Education and Training Facility
 - ✓ **ESDC Cyber ETEE Training Manager, Anna MALEC:** Anna.MALEC@eeas.europa.eu
ESDC Representative, ENLIST registration, E-Learning and course information

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Draft agenda / tentative programme

	Monday 18 March	Tuesday 19 March	Wednesday 20 March	Thursday 21 March	Friday 22 March
08:30–08:55	08:30 gathering at the entrance of the BALTDEF COL (12 Riia st.); <i>Registration</i>	Students' prep time	Students' prep time	Students' prep time	Students' prep time
09:00–09:45	<u>Introductory lecture</u> Contemporary security and cyber defence; key concepts and dilemmas	<u>Lecture & discussion</u> Case of NATO – Defence & security aspects of cyber domain; NATO-EU cooperation	<u>Lecture & discussion</u> E-governance & cyber threats to democracy; global cybersecurity trends	<u>Lecture & discussion</u> Cyber capabilities & cyber operations	<u>Group work 2 (Task 3)</u> Presentation of the strategic response and discussion <i>Final group presentations</i>
10:00–10:45	<u>Lecture & discussion</u> Case of Estonia – national security considerations of the cyber defence	<u>Lecture & discussion</u> Case of EU – Cybersecurity framework in a multinational environment	<u>Lecture & discussion</u> Cyber aspects of critical infrastructure protection and energy security	<u>Lecture & discussion</u> Military considerations of cyberspace; Cyber commands & Operational planning	<u>Group work 2 (Task 3)</u> Presentation of the strategic response and discussion <i>Final group presentations</i>
11:00–12:00	<u>Panel discussion</u> National cyber defence policies – interagency coordination & cross-sector cooperation	<u>Panel discussion</u> Cyber in multinational context; international relations & organisations in cyber – laws & norms	<u>Panel discussion</u> Foreign influence & malign activities in and through cyberspace	<u>Panel discussion</u> Technological aspects of cybersecurity and cyber defence – lessons from the war in Ukraine	<u>Conclusions & discussion</u> Resilience in cyberspace
12:00–13:00	LUNCH				
13:00–13:45	Seminar Intro to policy analysis	<u>Group work 1 (Task 1)</u> Analyse cyber policy of assigned actors (continued)	Seminar Threat identification & Intelligence	Seminar Intro to strategy formulation	<u>Closing ceremony</u> Course analysis and debrief / evaluation survey & Official closing certificate ceremony
13:45–15:15	<u>Group work 1 (Task 1)</u> Analyse cyber policy of assigned actors	<u>Group work 1 (Task 2)</u> <i>Group presentations</i> and discussion of the findings	<u>Group work 2 (Task 1)</u> Identify and analyse specific cyber threat to the assigned actors	<u>Group work 2 (Task 2)</u> Develop strategic response to the identified threat	<i>Departure of participants</i>
18:30	<i>Official networking event</i>				