

Invitation to the EU Integrated Crisis Management Course

(Activity Number 26-27/37/1)

taking place in Helsinki, Finland, 21-25 September 2026

The EU Integrated Crisis Management Course provides participants with insight into the EU integrated approach to external conflicts and crises. This approach serves as a means of implementing the EU Global Strategy and its accompanying documents as part of the EU's foreign and security policy. The course contributes to building resilience and sustainable peace, as one of the initiatives through which the EU brings together its institutions, expertise and wide-ranging instruments for the purposes of prevention, peacebuilding, crisis response and stabilisation in fragile and conflict-affected areas.

The integrated approach to external conflicts and crises links up different EU instruments and actors in a coordinated way, and encompasses a wide range of relevant policy areas, including diplomatic engagement, common security and defence policy (CSDP) missions and operations, justice and home affairs, development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. The course is therefore designed for all civilian, military and police personnel who are already working or will be involved in crisis management activities or in delivering support as part of a CSDP mission or operation, or through an EU delegation.

The course is organised jointly by the Finnish Defence Forces International Centre and the Crisis Management Centre Finland, the Finnish centre of expertise on comprehensive crisis management, as part of the academic programme offered by the European Security and Defence College (ESDC).

The aim of the course is to strengthen knowledge and understanding of crisis management within the context of the EU integrated approach, the basis for all activity in this area being a common understanding of the CSDP. This understanding is essential when the European Union is challenged by geopolitical changes and an environment presenting multi-dimensional threats. The training has therefore been specifically designed to cover the roles and tasks of various external levers of power within the multi-dimensional, multi-phase, multi-lateral and multi-level context, and to explore possible synergies between them. The course aims to strengthen crisis management planning skills from the political-military perspective as part of the EU integrated approach. In particular, it seeks to increase information sharing, collaboration and cooperation between both the various military and civilian bodies active in crisis management, and other organisations providing humanitarian and development aid in the wider context of either common foreign and security policy or common security and defence policy.

The course focuses on the practical aspects of crisis management, and participants will have the opportunity to work on concrete case studies and a scenario-based exercise, thus allowing them to:

- develop an accurate picture of the institutional set-up of the EU as regards crisis management, and its relevant operating procedures;
- familiarise themselves with the concept of the EU integrated approach and acquire the skills needed to implement it in practice;
- learn how to contribute more effectively to joint analysis and integrated action through cooperative problem-solving and teamwork.

By the end of the course, participants will have acquired a holistic understanding of the key principles guiding the EU integrated approach to crisis management and will be able to apply them in their respective areas of competence. The course seeks in particular to convey the importance of cooperation and networking with the various actors in the institutions and more widely within the field.

Please find attached the practical information relating to registration for the course together with a draft programme.

The ESDC is committed to ensuring an inclusive, gender-sensitive and anti-discriminatory environment. Only in an inclusive environment can all people, and therefore the ESDC and its partners, reach their true potential. We therefore particularly encourage applicants who are likely to be under-represented to apply.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Finnish Defence Forces International Centre!

Fergal Ó Regan
Head of the European
Security and Defence
College

Esapekka Vehkaoja
Commandant
FINCENT

Timo Hämäläinen
Director
Crisis Management Centre
Finland

Annexes:

A. Practical information

B. Draft programme

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Practical information

Target group and requirements for attending the course

1. The course is open to both civilian and military personnel, including members of government administrative bodies and the police currently working in or aspiring to work in areas related to crisis management in the context of CFSP/CSDP, including in the EEAS, CSDP missions and operations, EU delegations and the European Commission, as well as those working for other organisations in a crisis or fragile area. Priority is given to applicants from EU Member States.
2. The ESDC strives to ensure a gender-sensitive and inclusive environment at all of its courses, in its 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 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 do not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.
3. English being the working language of the course, participants must have a good command of this language in order to be able to engage in discussions and benefit fully from the training offered.
4. The course will be preceded by a mandatory e-learning module (available from 1 July 2026 on the ESDC e-learning platform, ILIAS), which needs to be completed no later than 21 September 2026. The residential course will take place from 21 to 25 September 2026 and will be hosted by the Finnish Defence Forces International Centre (FINCENT). Course participants may arrive at FINCENT from 20 September 2026. Given the intensive nature of this programme, it is not possible for participants to engage in any additional activities during the day.

Security clearance

5. UNCLASSIFIED.

Selection of participants

6. The bodies organising the course are seeking to select a highly diverse group of participants in terms of professional and organisational background, age and nationality, and are conscious of the need for gender balance. The total number of applicants who can be accepted is, however, limited (27 in total).
7. The EU Member States, EU institutions and agencies, and CSDP missions and operations are kindly invited to nominate a maximum of two (2) participants each. Additional places may nonetheless be allocated subsequently, depending on the total number of applications.

Application procedure

8. Applications are to be submitted by designated nominators via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST (<https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>) no later than **18 June 2026**. A list of ENLIST nominators can be found on the ESDC website at [List of Nominators - European Security and Defence College - European Union](https://www.esdc.europa.eu/training-and-education/list-nominators_en) (https://www.esdc.europa.eu/training-and-education/list-nominators_en).
9. Successful candidates will receive a message confirming their place on the course by **25 June 2026**. Registration will not be final until it is confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat and the Course Director, and the requested personal data has been provided in ENLIST by the participant.

Costs

10. No tuition fee.

Accommodation and other expenses

11. The authorities responsible for applications must cover all costs relating to travel, accommodation and meals. FINCENT can accommodate participants in single rooms from Sunday 20 to Friday 25 September 2026. The cost of accommodation is EUR 65 per night, totalling EUR 260 (Sunday 20 September will not be charged). Students from Finland are exempt from paying the accommodation fee. Given the location of FINCENT, it is highly recommended that accommodation be reserved for participants on site.

The average price of three meals is estimated at EUR 25 per day.

General

12. General information and detailed instructions concerning travel arrangements, accommodation, clothing, the course programme, etc. will be included in the course confirmation letter, which will be sent to the confirmed participants by FINCENT sufficient time ahead of the start of the course.

CONTACT

- a. For registration of participants and general administrative matters, please contact the ESDC: Jessica.GUSSARVIUS@eeas.europa.eu
- b. For questions relating to the course content and administrative matters in Finland, please contact FINCENT: fincentsstudent@mil.fi



More information about FINCENT can be found at www.fincents.fi.

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Draft Programme

FINCENT EUICM 2026		WEEKLY SCHEDULE 21-25 September 2026			
Timings are local time (UTC+3)					
Mon 21 Sep	Tue 22 Sep	Wed 23 Sep	Thu 24 Sep	Fri 25 Sep	
07.00-08.00 Breakfast service at National Defense	07.00-08.00 Breakfast service at NDU Dining hall	07.00-08.00 Breakfast service at NDU Dining hall	07.00-08.00 Breakfast service at NDU Dining hall	07.00-08.00 Breakfast service at NDU Dining hall	07.00-08.00 Breakfast service at NDU Dining hall
09.00-09.45 FINCENT introduction and Admin brief	08.30-09.00 Syndicate work debriefing	08.30-09.00 Syndicate work debriefing	08.30-09.00 Syndicate work debriefing	09.00-09.50 Course evaluation	
10.15-11.00 ESDC presentation EUICM- course presentation					
11.15-12.45 <i>Lessons</i> <i>The theme of the day:</i> <i>CSDP Strategic Environment</i> <i>Topics:</i> <i>-EU's Strategic Environment</i> <i>-EU's support in Ukraine</i> <i>- Syndicate work</i>	09.00.-12.45 <i>Lessons</i> <i>The theme of the day:</i> <i>Elements of Integrated Approach</i> <i>Topics:</i> <i>-The Role of EU institutions in Integrated Approach.</i> <i>-The Integrated Approach in Crisis Management Pol-Mil level planning with the Institutions and Member States</i> <i>- EU Security Strategy</i> <i>- Civilian Compact</i> <i>- Syndicate work</i>	09.00-12.45 <i>Lessons</i> <i>The theme of the day:</i> <i>Interoperability in Integrated Approach</i> <i>Topics:</i> <i>-EU Delegation</i> <i>- EU interests in CSDP missions and operations</i> <i>- Strategic Partnerships</i> <i>-EUAM Ukraine</i> <i>-Syndicate work</i>	09.00-12.45 <i>Lessons</i> <i>The theme of the day:</i> <i>Sustainability in Integrated Approach</i> <i>Topics:</i> <i>- Crisis Management Missions and Operations update</i> <i>- Strategic Review</i> <i>- Crisis Management Evaluation</i> <i>- Hybrid Threats in Crisis Management</i>	10.00-11.00 KEY NOTE SPEECH	
11.00 – 11.30 Closing ceremonies of EUICM 2026					
12.30 Transportation to airport					
Lunch break 12.45-13.45	Lunch Break 12.45-13.45	Lunch break 12.45-13.45	Lunch break 12.45-13.45		
13.45-15.45 Lessons	13.45-14.45 Lessons	13.45-14.30 Lessons	14.15-17.00 Visit to Hybrid CoE		
16.00-18.30 Syndicate Work	15.15– 17.30 Syndicate Work	15.00 – 17.30 Syndicate work			
18.30-20.00 Icebreaker at FINCENT lobby	17.30-18.00 Dinner in NDU Dining hall (optional)	17.30-18.00 Dinner in NDU Dining hall (optional)	18.00-21.30 Course Dinner at Helsinki City Centre		
Course Director MAJ	Vesa JUNTUNEN		FINCENT Duty Officer: +358 299 540 109		Puolustusvoimat Tilintalouden ja - The Finnish Defence Forces