



*Folke Bernadotte Academy (SE) &
European Security and Defence College*

INVITATION

Pilot Course on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration within the EU Integrated Approach

Brussels, 11-13 October 2022

Contemporary conflicts see increasingly fragmented armed groups with fluid command structures, transnational dimensions and links to organised criminal and terrorist organisations. Within this context, processes of **Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration of former combatants (DDR)** are often left without their traditionally required frameworks, including lasting ceasefires and viable peace agreements. Furthermore, other key conditions for DDR, such as the conflicting parties' mutual trust in the peace process, their willingness to engage, and minimum levels of security, may be eroded. Thus, local communities as well as individuals and groups exiting armed conflict may require assistance and support not only when there is a peace agreement in place, but in all stages of conflict.

These current challenges and developments within the field have challenged the traditional view of DDR as a linear post-conflict process. Responding to this, the EU updated its policy and strategic approach in support of DDR in 2021, drawing on the EU Global Strategy and the EU Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crises (the EU Integrated Approach), for the support to better suit contemporary challenges of peacebuilding environments. This revised policy emphasises the many ways that the EU can engage to support DDR processes within the framework of the Integrated Approach and highlights the importance of strengthening the capacity within the EU system and its member states to support processes of DDR through training and professional development.

In light of the above, the Swedish Governmental Agency for Peace, Security and Development; Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) has the honour to organize, under the aegis of European Security and Defence College, a pilot course on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration within the EU Integrated Approach, to be held in Brussels in residential format from 11 to 13 October 2022.

Stefan Åström
Head of DDR programme
Folke Bernadotte Academy

PURPOSE

The course aims to enhance the knowledge, skills and competencies of participants in relation to DDR as part of the EU Integrated Approach. It will additionally deepen participants' understanding of the role of DDR processes and related interventions during post-conflict transitions, as well as peacebuilding and stabilization initiatives before, during and after armed conflict.

The course offers an opportunity for participants to evaluate and apply the EU approach to DDR to their own roles and mandates. It will provide details on the EU's strategic role and comparative advantages in DDR, as well as outline tools to EU's DDR engagements. It will also develop examples of good practice through the collective sharing of experiences, meanwhile providing an opportunity to strengthen the network of EU's DDR expertise.

COURSE CONTENTS

During this three-day-long course, the participants will explore the concept of DDR and gain a deeper understanding of its role within the international peacebuilding architecture. The course will additionally explore the EU approach to DDR, the role of the EU in the international DDR community, and how support to DDR processes can be strengthened within the EU Integrated Approach. Furthermore, the course will cover a number of DDR-related tools and tangent thematic areas. After completing the course, the participants are expected to be able to:

- Outline and explain key components and activities of DDR processes
- Describe the new EU approach to DDR and relate the EU Integrated Approach to the support to, or implementation of, DDR processes, underlining the different EU tools for engagement
- Identify needs and opportunities of men, women, boys and girls as participants and beneficiaries of DDR processes, as well as ways to address specific needs and opportunities for different individuals based on dimensions such as gender, age, and physical and mental health, etc.
- Explain the conceptual evaluation of DDR, and provide examples of differences and similarities between different policy documents of multilateral organisations
- Discuss the political dimensions of DDR
- Explain how the integration of a gender perspective in all phases of programming relates to rights-based and sustainable DDR processes
- Outline key legal frameworks of relevance for DDR
- Discuss how different elements of DDR processes relate to other peacebuilding or stabilization activities

COURSE STRUCTURE

This three-day residential course will take place in Brussels between the 11th and 13th of October 2022. Prior to the residential component of the course, the participants are expected to have gone through a mandatory, self-paced, e-learning module. Successful completion of the e-learning and full attendance in the residential phase is mandatory to obtain the certificate. Participants will receive a follow-up message 3-6 months after the course for an opportunity to reflect on learning and the relevance of the course.

METHODOLOGY

The course adopts an interactive, learner-centred, pedagogical approach combining presentations, discussions, group work and scenario-based exercises. Individual and group-based reflections are incorporated to support knowledge-sharing and promote the learning experience, and the course also provides a space for participants to share their own relevant experiences and to reflect on their own learning.

This course puts a specific emphasis on the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all phases of DDR programming, and stress the importance of equal participation of men, women, boys and girls in order to ensure the implementation of rights-based and sustainable DDR processes. All sessions and exercises are therefore gender-responsive and provide space for dialogue on different preconditions, opportunities and needs of men, women, boys and girls throughout a DDR process, and how the EU as an international actor can support the integration of a gender perspective.

TARGET GROUP

Participants should preferably be professionals involved in the programming, programme management and/or in political/policy dialogue in the wider context of DDR, SSR, long-term post-conflict development, or other relevant aspects of peacebuilding.

Invited participants include civil servants, diplomats, police, military personnel and representatives from academic institutions as well as from civil society organizations. Priority is given to representatives from the EU Member States, EEAS and Commission staff, personnel in – or about to be deployed to – CSDP missions and operations, as well as EU Delegations. Specific weight will be put on achieving a gender-balanced participation. Fluency in English is a requirement as the course will be conducted completely in English.

APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Interested institutions are encouraged to nominate applicants through the designated national nominator via the [online application form](#). **Deadline for application is September 5th 2022**, after which selected participants will be contacted. Upon confirmation of attendance, participants will gain access to the ILIAS e-learning system. As we expect to receive a high number of applications, we encourage applicants to carefully explain their professional experience and motivation for applying to the course.

Participants are expected to arrange for their own accommodation in Brussels for the length of the course. FBA will provide lunch and other refreshments during the hours of the course, but all other meals, visa expenses and travel costs should be covered by the individual participants themselves.

For further information, please contact:

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