

INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

Comprehensive Protection of Civilians (CPoC) course

21–25 October 2024

Jable Castle, Loka pri Mengšu, Slovenia

This training course will be delivered by the Peace Operations Training Centre (POTC) under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC).

Application procedure

Qualified candidates are asked to **complete the online application form and submit it by 3 September 2024.**

- Please use the online application form available at the following link:
<https://form.jotform.com/241841735087360>

Course description



Photo credit: Hanna Morris/Unsplash

This 5-day residential course (with an additional 8-hour introductory individual e-learning module) centres around the concept of the protection of civilians (PoC). It relates to the responsibility of states, international organisations and other actors to protect individuals, particularly non-combatants, from harm during armed conflict, natural disasters and other forms of violence. This includes protecting them from physical violence, such as harm caused by weapons, and other forms of harm, such as forced displacement, sexual violence, and denial of access to essential resources and services. The principles of PoC are enshrined in international humanitarian law and human rights law and are considered a crucial aspect of ensuring respect for human dignity in times of conflict and crisis.

Aim of the course

The aim of the course is to understand the three frameworks related to the concept of the protection of civilians:

1. Conceptual framework

Participants will learn about the conceptual approach used in peacekeeping operations for the protection of civilians, the objectives of protection tasks, the main actors and partners, and how the failure to protect civilians undermines the legitimacy and credibility of field missions. Participants will also gain a general understanding of how the UN works overall.

2. Legal framework

Participants will learn about the key legal framework governing mission-specific and cross-cutting thematic mandates in UN peacekeeping. At the end of the course, they will be able to identify the main instruments and content of the legal framework. Participants will be able to understand the provisions, obligations and restrictions of the legal framework for peacekeepers.

3. Operational framework

In the last framework, participants will learn about the relevant documents for tactical planning and mission PoC strategy, guidelines on the protection of civilians for UN Police, and the use of force in the protection of civilians.

In addition to presenting these three frameworks, the course will provide participants with:

- a comprehensive understanding of PoC practice in UN and EU missions and operations;
- effective tools used in UN and EU PoC practice;
- skills and knowledge for working in missions with a PoC mandate;
- an understanding of the basic documents, legal rules, and guidelines for PoC;
- an understanding of UN, EU and NATO operational concepts for PoC.

Target audience

The Comprehensive Protection of Civilians course is primarily designed for police and civilian personnel, including decision-makers, members of non-governmental organisations and individual civilian experts, who are to be deployed to international missions and operations or who are working in civilian crisis management, with no prior knowledge or skills in preventing or responding to violence against civilians. Participants should have advanced English speaking and writing skills, corresponding to at least C1 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Lectures and exercises

Lectures and exercises will be delivered by trainers with a wide range of experience in PoC-related matters.

Date and location of the course

The residential part of the course will take place between 21 and 25 October 2024 (expected travel days: 20 and 25/26 October) at Jable Castle in Loka pri Mengšu, Slovenia. Participants must also complete the mandatory e-learning modules prior to arriving in Slovenia. The online self-paced module takes up to 8 hours to complete, and the ESDC training manager will check progress on the ILIAS platform.

Financial support

Attendance will be free of charge for all selected participants. The POTC will also cover:

- **accommodation costs** in Tivoli Boutique Hotel along with breakfast for the entire duration of the training travel costs;
- **reimbursement of plane/train tickets** for arrival and departure to and from Slovenia in the maximum amount of 1.000,00 € per participant;
- **local transport** costs between the airport and the hotel;
- **local transport** between the hotel and the course venue;
- **all costs** connected with attending any social/cultural events;
- **lunch, beverages** and other refreshments provided during the training course at Jable castle.

The POTC will not pay per diems or any other allowances. The POTC is not liable for any medical/healthcare costs that participants may incur in Slovenia. The POTC will also not be liable for any costs resulting from an unsuccessful visa application. **A limited amount of financial support is available for participants travelling from non-EU countries.** Applicants should request partial reimbursement of travel/accommodation costs in the application form. The POTC reserves the right to allocate the financial support at its own discretion.

Accommodation

The POTC will provide organisational support to all selected participants travelling to Slovenia. Organisational support includes advice on local accommodation (including pre-booking of the hotel to ensure lower price) and travel to Slovenia, help with hotel booking and provision of letters confirming selection. Participants who do not wish to stay in the proposed accommodation are welcome to organise their own accommodation but should be aware that the daily transport between Ljubljana and the training venue (Jable Castle) will be to and from the designated hotel only (Hotel Tivoli Boutique).

Dress code

We recommend business casual attire for civilian participants and service uniform for uniformed personnel.

Entry into Slovenia

Slovenia is a member of the European Union and the Schengen Area, so EU citizens (and citizens from other countries with which Slovenia has bilateral agreements) do not need a visa to enter the country; please see the official entry conditions for your country at this address: <https://www.gov.si/en/topics/entry-and-residence/#e55033>. It is the sole responsibility of the participant to ensure the visa is requested and processed in time to secure a valid visa for the course.

Health insurance

EU citizens should have an EHIC card (European Health Insurance Card) that is valid for the entire duration of their stay in Slovenia. More information on the EHIC card can be found here: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=559&langId=en>. Third-country nationals should have full health insurance to cover their entire stay in Slovenia. The Slovenian visa application procedure requires applicants to have proof of health insurance covering costs of at least €30 000.00 for the duration of their stay.

Application procedure

Qualified candidates who match the above description are asked **to complete the online application form and submit it by 3 September 2024.**

All submissions will be reviewed by the POTC. **The selected participants will be notified within 7 days following the application deadline.** In their final selection of participants, the course admission board will seek to ensure a balance of genders, nationalities and professional backgrounds.

Inclusivity



Peace Operations Training Centre



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 people, and therefore the ESDC and its partners, reach their true potential. 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. The ESDC and the training institutions will not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.

Point of contact

ESDC – Maria Grazia Romano, Training Manager, Coordinator for Civilian CSDP Training, Education & Research – email: maria-grazia.romano@eeas.europa.eu

POTC – Danaja Visković Rojs, Course Organiser – email: danaja.viskovic.rojs@cep.si