

12 December 2024

**Training Invitation**  
**HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS TRAINING (HEAT)**  
(Training Activity Number 24-25/48.a/5)

*Gotenica Police Training Centre, Slovenia, 16/02/2025- 21/02/2025*

The **Peace Operations Training Centre (POTC)** in Slovenia, and the **European Security and Defence College (ESDC)** are co-organising “Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT)” training activity in the period 16/02/2025- 21/02/2025 in Gotenica, Slovenia.

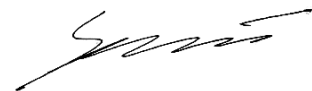
This training activity contributes to security and situational awareness, reinforces a safety and security awareness mind-set, and develops confidence in hostile situations. In addition, the training provides guidance on individual and team behaviour to help deter, detect and react during and after threatening events thus increasing the overall personal safety and security of participants while serving in hostile environments.

The training is specifically designed for police and civilian personnel deployed or planning to be deployed to high-risk environments. The maximum number of participants is 20. Priority will be given to participants already selected for international missions and operations, especially those earmarked to work or working in CSDP-related posts within Member States, the EEAS crisis management structures and other relevant military and civilian institutions at the European and national level.

ESDC is committed to providing an inclusive, gender-sensitive, and discrimination-free environment. Only in such an inclusive environment can all individuals, including ESDC and its partners, realise their true potential. For this reason, we particularly encourage applicants who are likely to be underrepresented to apply.



**Fergal O'Regan**  
Acting Head of the European Security  
and Defence College



**Samo Selimović**  
Coordinator  
Peace Operations Training Centre

# HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS TRAINING (HEAT) – INFORMATION PACK

**16 – 21 February 2025**

Gotenica Police Training Centre, Slovenia

## AIM OF THE TRAINING

This training activity contributes to security and situational awareness, reinforces a safety and security awareness mind-set, and develops confidence in hostile situations. In addition, the training provides guidance on individual and team behaviour to help deter, detect and react during and after threatening events thus increasing the overall personal safety and security of participants while serving in hostile environments. The full curriculum including all learning outcomes can be found at <https://esdc.europa.eu/curricula/>

## METHODOLOGY

The training will include lectures, structured presentations, practical sessions, role-playing and immersive scenarios. Emphasis shall be given to practical security skills taught by skilled and experienced trainers.

## TARGET AUDIENCE and PRIORITISATION

The course is open to civilian, police and military staff from EU Member States, EU institutions and agencies, CSDP missions and operations as well as international organisations involved in a CSDP context. The maximum number of participants is 20. Priority will be given to the personnel who are already selected to take part in high risk CSDP missions and operations.

## REQUIREMENTS and EXPENSES

**English proficiency** is a precondition for attending as the training program is conducted in English. A **valid driving license** for cars with manual transmissions is required. There is no participation fee for attendees. All costs related to training delivery (registration, accommodation and food) are covered by the organiser, except participants' travel costs and other costs related to entry into Slovenia.

## APPLICATION and SELECTION

Applications are sent to POTC by using [this link](#).

Deadline for submitting the application is **10 January 2025**. The selection of participants is done by ESDC and POTC after the deadline, both selected and not selected applicants will then be notified.

## CERTIFICATION and MANDATORY E-LEARNING

The organisers expect participants to be fully dedicated to participation in the training program from the beginning (16<sup>th</sup> of February 2025, at 18:00) to the end (21<sup>st</sup> of February 2025, at 14:00) of the training activity. Selected participants should complete the mandatory online courses on CSDP Missions Safety and Security: **MISSION-WISE and SAFE**. <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eeas/security-e-learning/> prior to arriving to the Gotenica training centre. The certificates for both E-Learning lessons shall be sent to the Course Organiser. The participants are expected to clear their schedules of any activities not related to the training in this period. The demands of this training are intense, **especially in winter conditions**, requiring participants' full dedication and concentration. Participants are expected to actively participate in all training activities throughout the week to receive a certificate of successful participation.

## ENTRY TO SLOVENIA

Slovenia is a member of the European Union and the Schengen Area, so EU Citizens (and citizens from other countries that Slovenia has bilateral agreements with) do not need a visa to enter the country; please see the official entry conditions for your country at [this address](#). **The responsibility to process the visa request timely to secure a valid visa for the training participation is the sole responsibility of the participant.**

## HEALTH INSURANCE

EU citizens should have an E-Card (European Health Care Insurance) valid for the entire duration of their stay in Slovenia. More info on the E-card can be found [here](#). Third-country nationals should be covered by full medical insurance for their entire stay in Slovenia. The Slovenian visa application procedure requests the applicant have proof of medical insurance covering the planned visit for a total premium of at least 30.000,00 €.

## ACCOMMODATION AND VENUE

All participants will be staying at the Gotenica Police Training Centre facilities in double rooms. Depending on the availability, there might be some single rooms available, but you should expect having roommates during your stay in Gotenica. Bed linen is provided by the training Centre. Rooms are clean, and warm, but please note that **Gotenica does not provide for hotel commodity. The winter conditions should be taken into account.** There are no shops around, so make sure to bring all your necessary items with you. The nearest town is 10 km away and no public transport is available.

Additionally, Gotenica is a closed and protected area in a forested and wild region. We ask you not to leave the training ground village and wander around the unmarked roads as it is common to encounter bears in the vicinity of the training centre. Please also refrain from taking photographs of other training participants or trainers in the village or its facilities.

At all times during the training please carry your accreditation badge, which you will receive on Sunday, February 16 after your arrival.

## MEALS

All meals will be organised for you. Specific times of the meals will be defined in the agenda. **If you have any special needs (medical, dietary, etc.), do not forget to indicate them in the application form.** Coffee breaks with small snacks will be organised twice a day. Water in Gotenica is safe to drink and will be available throughout the training. There is one bar in the village open until 22.00 that accepts cards.

## INTERNET & MOBILE SIGNAL

Wireless internet is available in the training room and at the bar. Please note that signal for mobile phones is limited in this area.

## WEATHER FORECAST

Keep in mind that the training will be held in wintertime. Temperatures at the training site in February vary from -4°C to 6°C, with the average being 0°C. Snow and ice are expected in this part of the year.

For current weather information click [here](#) and for the official Slovenian weather portal click [here](#).

## DRESS CODE AND EQUIPMENT

Dress code for all training activities is practical; **dress for the cold outdoors and comfortably as the training days will be long.** As a lot of training will be conducted outdoors, please make sure to bring the following equipment:

- ❖ winter jacket,
- ❖ thermal clothes and underwear,
- ❖ winter gloves and hats,
- ❖ winter footwear,
- ❖ hiking shoes,
- ❖ sports clothes (a gym is available on the training grounds),
- ❖ head lamp,
- ❖ personal water bottle,
- ❖ rain jacket or other rain-proof clothing,
- ❖ smaller backpack (for packing the equipment),
- ❖ personal hygiene items (shower gel, shampoo, towel, toothpaste, etc.).

## CONTACT

For any additional information please contact:

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