

5 November 2025

Training Invitation
HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS TRAINING (HEAT)
(Training Activity Number 25-26/48.a/6)

Gotenica Police Training Centre, Slovenia, 8/03/2026 - 13/03/2026

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 from **8 March to 13 March 2026**, in Gotenica, **Slovenia**.

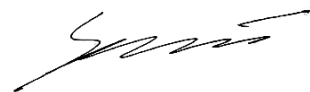
This training activity contributes to security and situational awareness, reinforces a safety and security awareness mind-set, and develops confidence in hostile situations. In addition, the training provides guidance on individual and team behaviour to help deter, detect and react during and after threatening 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
Head of the European Security and
Defence College



Samo Selimović
Coordinator
Peace Operations Training
Centre

Annexes:

- Administrative Information
- Application Form

HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS TRAINING (HEAT) – INFORMATION PACK

8 – 13 March 2026

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://www.esdc.europa.eu/training-and-education/course-catalogue-and-curricula_en.

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

Deadline for submitting the application is **15 January 2026**.

Applications shall be submitted via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, by designated nominators, under <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>, no later than **15 January 2026**. A list with ENLIST nominators can be found on the ESDC website at https://www.esdc.europa.eu/training-and-education/list-nominators_en.

***Please be aware that you must also submit the completed Application Form (in annex) to your nominator. Without the form, the application is not considered complete.**

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 (8 March 2026, at 18:00) to the end (13 March 2026, 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](#) prior to arriving to the Gotenica training centre. The certificates for both E-Learning lessons should be sent to the Training 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.

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 participants should mainly expect having roommates during their stay in Gotenica. Bed linen is provided by the training Centre. Rooms are clean, and warm, however 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 training centre.

At all times during the training please carry your accreditation badge, which you will receive upon your arrival to the training centre.

MEALS

All meals will be provided at the training centre. Specific times of the meals will be defined in the agenda. Coffee breaks with small snacks will be organised twice a day. Tap water in Gotenica is safe to drink and will be available throughout the training. There is a bar in the training centre 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 March vary from 0°C to 9°C, with the possibility of temperatures below 0°C as well. Snow and ice are possible in this part of the year, as well as the rain. For updated 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.).

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

In the event of medical emergencies, costs should be covered by the participant's medical insurance provided by the sending country/organisation. The organiser does not provide health or accident insurance for participants.

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 €.

CONTACT

For any additional information please contact:

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Hostile Environment Awareness Training “HEAT”

8 – 13 March 2026

Gotenica Police Training Centre, Slovenia

Application Form

PERSONAL DETAILS

First Name:		Last Name:	
Rank/Function:		Ms/Mrs/Mr:	
Profile:	Civilian	Police	Military
Country:			
Organisation:			
Office phone:		Mobile phone:	
Email:			
Date of Birth:			
Have you been selected to an EU CSDP Mission?	Yes:	No:	
Mission/Operation			
Position to be assumed			
Deployment date			
Status	Seconded:	Contracted:	
If not selected to EU CSDP Mission please provide the rationale why you need a HEAT training			
Pre deployment training completed?	Yes:	No:	

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