



## Invitation to the EU-NATO CIMIC Pilot Course (Activity Number 25-26/PILOT/14)

The Hague, The Netherlands 04 – 08 May 2026

The Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Centre of Excellence (CCOE) have the honor to organize, under the aegis of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and in partnership with the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC), a pilot course focused on the EU and NATO approaches to CIMIC. The pilot course will take place at the CCOE in The Hague, The Netherlands, at the Majoor Jan Linzel Complex, from 04 to 08 May 2026.

In today's complex security environment, threats increasingly transcend national borders and operational domains. Hybrid threats, cyber risks, and challenges in space and maritime security demonstrate the need for robust international cooperation. NATO remains the cornerstone of collective defense of its members in Europe and, as demonstrated again in the context of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine in 2022, EU's strategic partnership with NATO is essential for the Euro-Atlantic security. Since the 2016 NATO Warsaw Summit, both organizations have strengthened cooperation across multiple strategic areas, including countering hybrid threats and terrorism, sharing information to address cyber risks, supporting capacity-building in security and defence, and facilitating military mobility across Europe. This partnership was further reinforced in early 2023 with the third Joint Declaration on EU-NATO cooperation, which emphasized strengthening collective resilience, protecting critical infrastructure, and countering hybrid threats, including foreign interference and disinformation campaigns.

Despite these advances, there remains a pressing need to enhance awareness and understanding of CIMIC and to provide personnel with practical training that enables effective coordination in complex, multinational operational environments. To address these gaps, the CCOE—appointed in 2017 as the European Union Discipline Leader for CIMIC by the European Union Military Committee—is conducting the EU-NATO CIMIC Course. This course aims to establish a shared understanding of EU and NATO CIMIC structures, enhancing interoperability and operational effectiveness. Participants will gain comprehensive knowledge of EU and NATO CIMIC concepts and processes, and learn to apply them in realistic operational settings, building mutual trust, preventing overlaps, and fostering synergy. Through scenario-based exercises, case studies, and interactive lectures, participants will acquire hands-on experience in planning, coordinating, and executing CIMIC activities, with an emphasis on communication, teamwork, and collaboration in multinational and multi-agency environments.



The EU-NATO CIMIC Pilot Course is specifically designed for military and civilian personnel involved in Civil-Military Cooperation. We particularly encourage nominations of participants actively involved in CIMIC functions or aspiring to assume such responsibilities.

We look forward to welcoming you in The Hague.

**Colonel Henk Paape**

Director of the Civil-Military Cooperation  
Centre of Excellence

**Fergal O'Regan**

Head of the European Security and  
Defence College

Annexes:

- A. Administrative Instructions*
- B. Draft programme*



## EU-NATO CIMIC Pilot Course

The Hague, The Netherlands

04 – 08 May 2026

**Training Activity Number 25-26/PILOT/14**

### *Annex A: Administrative Instructions*

**Target audience:** The course is open to both civilian and military personnel from EU Member States, relevant EU institutions and agencies and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations.

**Nomination:** a total number of 27 seats, will be allocated for EU Member States, EU institutions, bodies, offices, and agencies, as well as CSDP missions and operations.

**Application:** applications are to be filed via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, by designated nominators, under <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>, no later than **22 March 2026**. A list with relevant ENLIST nominators can be found on the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>. Registration will not be final until confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat and upon completion of the registration form by the nominated participant.

**Registration & deadline:** the registration period will end on **27 March 2026**. Registration will not be final until it has been confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat and the ENLIST registration form has been completed by the nominated participant.

**Participants will be selected** by training providers and the ESDC Secretariat so as to achieve a suitable balance in terms of background, experience, gender and countries of origin by **3 April 2026**.

**Late registration:** subject to availability of places, late registration may be possible. Please contact the course administration (details below).

**Please do not book flights and accommodation before receiving confirmation.**

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory during the entire course. A certificate will be awarded on the last day to those course participants who have completed the full course. The residential part of the course will be preceded by mandatory e-learning modules, which need to be finalised before the beginning of the residential part of the course. The e-learning part of the course will



be available from **3 April 2026**. Detailed information will be shared with the selected participants.

**Language:** The working language will be English; interpretation will not be provided.

**Location:** Civil-Military Cooperation Centre of Excellence (CCOE)  
Brasserskade 227A | 2497 NX The Hague | The Netherlands

**Arrival and departure:** The course starts on Monday 4 May 2026 at 08:00 and will end on Friday 8 May 2026 at 14:00.

**Accommodation:** Upon registration, students may request accommodation on the CCOE compound. All rooms are single bedrooms equipped with a private toilet and shower. Each room includes a TV, a refrigerator, and internet access (Wi-Fi). The accommodation building also provides shared facilities such as a washing machine, a dryer, and microwaves. The dining facility, bar, sports facilities, and classrooms are located in close proximity to the accommodation. Accommodation is provided free of charge.

**Course fees, daily allowances, costs:** as usual for ESDC courses, there is no course fee. Kindly note that neither the ESDC nor the training providers will pay daily allowances to participants. The sending authorities should cover all travel, accommodation and catering costs.

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the dining facility (Paresto) on the compound. The costs depend on your selection (costs for a daily full board approx. €10-15). Coffee, Tea and a selection of fruit are complimentary during our courses.

**Social event:** Details will be communicated to the confirmed participants.

**Dress code:** daily uniform for military personnel and business casual for civilian personnel, with business suit expected for the photo session and certificate presentation.

**Diversity and inclusion:** the ESDC strives for 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, fulfil 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 institutes do not tolerate any conduct that violates these values.



**Liabilities and insurance:** Any costs arising from medical emergencies 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.

## Points of contact:

### CCOE Course Director(s):

- **OF-4 Ciska BOTH**  
E-mail: [Both.C@CIMIC-COE.org](mailto:Both.C@CIMIC-COE.org)
- **OF-3 Alessandro ORLANDI**  
E-mail: [Orlandi.a@CIMIC-COE.org](mailto:Orlandi.a@CIMIC-COE.org)

### CCOE Course Assistant:

**Ms. Francesca FERRO**  
E-mail: [Ferro.f@CIMIC-COE.org](mailto:Ferro.f@CIMIC-COE.org)

### ESDC Training Manager:

**Dr Jugoslav JOZIC**  
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## Annex B: Draft Programme

Monday - 04 May 2026		
08:00	08:30	Inprocessing
08:30	10:00	Admin introduction and welcome address by CCOE and ESDC
10:00	10:15	Break
10:15	11:10	Command structures and decision-making processes in NATO
11:10	12:00	Command structures and decision-making processes in EU
12:00	13:00	Lunch break
13:00	14:30	An introduction to NATO CIMIC
14:30	14:45	Break
14:45	16:00	An introduction to EU CIMIC
16:00	16:30	Comparative analysis of EU and NATO CIMIC approaches
Tuesday - 05 May 2026		
08:00	08:30	Start of the Day
08:30	10:15	Integrating CIMIC in operational planning
10:15	10:30	Break
10:30	11:45	EU and NATO in the field of logistics
11:45	12:00	Course picture
12:00	13:00	Lunch break
13:00	14:45	Understanding DG ECHO and the ERCC
14:45	15:00	Break
15:00	15:45	Building Resilience through Civil Preparedness: NATO perspective
15:45	16:30	Building Resilience through Civil Preparedness: EU perspective
Wednesday - 06 May 2026		
08:00	08:30	Start of the Day
08:30	10:00	Hybrid threats and the role of CIMIC in countering them
10:00	10:15	Break
10:15	11:30	International Humanitarian Law & Human Rights
11:30	12:30	Lunch Break
12:30	13:45	Protection of Civilians (PoC) in NATO and EU Operations
13:45	15:00	The EU presence within NATO structures
15:00	15:15	Break
15:15	16:30	Civil Factor Integration: Understanding the Civil Environment
Thursday - 07 May 2026		
08:00	08:30	Start of the Day
08:30	09:30	NATO Crisis Response Operations (CRO)
09:30	10:45	EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP): Framework, Missions and Operations
10:45	11:00	Break
11:00	12:00	EU financial instruments in operations
12:00	13:00	Lunch break
13:00	16:30	Wargame Exercise
Friday - 08 May 2026		
08:00	08:30	Start of the Day
08:30	09:45	The role of EUFOR
09:45	10:00	Break
10:00		EU Good Practices and Security Capacity Building
	11:00	Open discussion - Student Briefing
11:00	11:10	Break
11:10	11:30	Course Evaluation
11:30	12:00	CCOE developments, publications and events
12:00	13:00	Closing Remarks and Certificates Ceremony