



Brussels, 16 March 2026

## INVITATION

to the ESDC Doctoral School Annual Conference  
(Activity number 25-26/DOC/6)

Bucharest, Romania, 20 - 22 of May 2026

Within the framework of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) Doctoral School on Common Security and Defence Policy, the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest and the Romanian National College of Home Affairs (CNAI), will organise the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Doctoral School Annual Conference focused on *“Disruptive Technologies for Defense and Security Sciences: Strategic Perspectives for CSDP”*, in Bucharest, Romania, from 20 to 22 May 2026. The conference will be supported by the “Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova.

The purpose of the conference is to provide a dedicated environment for presentations, debates, and brainstorming among participant institutions, academics, experts, researchers, and professionals from the CSDP/CFSP domains and interlinked fields. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange ideas related to the evolving security environment and the challenges ahead.

We invite interested participants to submit abstracts for presentation at the conference. The abstracts should be related to the conference theme and provide insightful perspectives on current challenges and developments in European security and defence. Further details on the submission process and deadlines can be found in the Administrative Instructions.

Deadline for registration is 15 April 2026.

We look forward to your participation in this important event.

Please find below the details concerning the registration process and administrative instructions.

Fergal O’ REGAN

HEAD of the EUROPEAN  
SECURITY AND DEFENCE  
COLLEGE

Mihnea COSTOIU

RECTOR of the National University  
of Science and Technology  
POLITEHNICA Bucharest

Cătălin ANDRUȘ

Police Quaestor, Prof. PhD  
DIRECTOR of the NATIONAL  
COLLEGE OF HOME AFFAIRS

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Target audience:** the conference is with priority opened to the PhD Students of the ESDC Doctoral School on CSDP. Further other PhD Students, academics, experts, researchers, and professionals from the CSDP/CFSP domains and interlinked fields are welcomed.

**How to apply:**

applications from EU Member States participants are to be filed via the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST, by designated nominators, under <https://esdc.europa.eu/enlist/login>, no later than 30 April 2026. A list with relevant ENLIST nominators can be found on the ESDC website at <https://esdc.europa.eu/nominators/>.

applications from ESDC Doctoral Fellows should be sent to the ESDC training manager, Maria Grazia Romano, at [maria-grazia.romano@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:maria-grazia.romano@eeas.europa.eu), no later than 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2025.

**Registration:** registration will not be final until is confirmed by the ESDC Secretariat and upon completion of the requested personal data in ENLIST by the confirmed participants.

**Abstracts:** will be sent until 15<sup>th</sup> of April at this email address [teodor.petreanu@upb.ro](mailto:teodor.petreanu@upb.ro), mentioning the intention to present the paper during the conference. The abstract will be verified for academic/research rigour and impact by a Scientific Committee appointed by the organisers. We will explore the possibility to publish a paper after the conference, but this information will be provided during the conference.

**Language:** working language is English, translation services will not be provided.

**Location:** the Conference will take place in Bucharest, Romania from 20 to 22 May 2026 and will be hosted by the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest (address: Splaiul Independenței 313, 060042 București, Romania <https://www.upb.ro>).

**Cost:** no tuition fee will be charged. The sending authorities must cover all costs relating to travel, accommodation and meals (including breakfast) for participants who are not Doctoral School fellows. No transportation will be provided by the course organisers.

**Inclusivity:** 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 also the ESDC and its partners, achieve their true potential. We do 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.

## **Draft Agenda**

### **20 May 2026**

10.00 – 11.00 - Registration and arrival of participants  
11.00 – 13.00 - Official Opening and keynote speeches  
13.00 – 14.00 - Lunch Break  
14.00 – 17.30 - Panels

### **21 May 2026**

09.00 - 12.30 - Panels  
12.30 - 13.30 - Lunch break  
13.30 - 17.30 - Panels  
18.00 - Official Reception

### **22 May 2026**

08.30 - 13.30 - Presentations  
13.30 - 14.30 - Lunch break  
14.30 - 17.00 - Presentations, concluding remarks and closure

*Detailed agenda will follow.*

**Please do not book any accommodation or travel before receiving the confirmation message from the ESDC Secretariat.**

### Accommodation in Bucharest

For your convenience, Hotel ibis Bucharest Politehnica (Splaiul Independenței 313A, 060042 Bucharest, Telephone +40 374 458 600) is located just across the Politehnica University and no transfer should be applicable. Booking can be made through [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com) or directly on their website. Participants are recommended to arrive to Bucharest (via Henri Coandă International Airport – Otopeni – IATA code BUH/OTP) the latest on Tuesday, May 19th. Ridesharing companies can be used for transportation in Bucharest.

### Points of contact

European Security and Defence College

Maria Grazia Romano, Training manager/Doctoral School coordinator

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