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# Call For Applications: Climate Change and Security – Advanced Course 2026

Autumn Session

✓ ESDC Activity number: 26-27/pilot/3

📅 07–11 September 2026

📍 Carabinieri Centre of Excellence for Environmental Protection (CoEEP), Via dei Forestali 1, 04016 Sabaudia (LT), Italy

The NATO Climate Change and Security Centre of Excellence (CCASCOE), the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Protection (CoEEP) are pleased to announce the Climate Change & Security – Advanced Course 2026.

Climate change is increasingly **reshaping the strategic environment** in which defence and security institutions operate, with direct implications for infrastructure resilience, operational effectiveness, and systemic stability. Climate-related risks now influence planning, resilience development, and decision-making across operational and strategic levels. Security professionals are therefore required to systematically integrate climate-related factors into existing planning, assessment, and decision-support frameworks.

This advanced Climate Change & Security course is **designed for experienced military and civilian professionals seeking to strengthen climate-informed decision-making skills**. It focuses on embedding climate considerations within established planning and decision-support processes. Using a structured scenario-based methodology, the course examines climate-change related events and their consequences as the central operational context within a future-foresight environment, reflecting the increasing frequency, intensity, and transboundary impacts of such occurrences.



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Within this framework, participants assess the **interaction between environmental stressors and operational, political, humanitarian, and infrastructural dynamics**. This includes impacts on critical infrastructure, civil protection–military support coordination, and hybrid threat activity in degraded operational environments.

Emphasis is placed on uncertainty management, vulnerability assessment, trade-off analysis, and the development of decision-relevant outputs.

**The joint engagement of ESDC, CCASCOE, and CoEEP** ensures a coherent examination of climate–security challenges across national and multinational contexts, strengthening shared understanding of key drivers, terminology, and analytical approaches, and enhancing interoperability in joint and coordinated operations.

ESDC, CCASCOE, and CoEEP **invite nominations of suitable participants**. Participation is limited due to the highly interactive nature of the course. Administrative instructions are provided in the following pages.

**Mathieu BUSSIERES**, Director Climate Change & Security Centre of Excellence (CCASCOE)

**Fergal Ó REGAN**, Head of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC)

**Col. Cristina AVANZO**, Commander Centre of Excellence for Environmental Protection – Arma dei Carabinieri (COEEP)

## **Annex I. Administrative Instructions**

## **Annex II. Draft programme**



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## **Administrative Instructions**

### **Course Description**

The Climate Change & Security – Advanced Course is a five-day residential programme developed under the CCASCOE Climate Change and Security Education and Training Framework in cooperation with ESDC and CoEEP.

#### **The course is unclassified.**

Building upon foundational climate-security knowledge, the course examines how climate-related risks interact with operational, strategic, political, and societal systems to create complex security challenges. Through a combination of expert inputs, practitioner engagement, case studies, scenario-based learning, and decision laboratories, participants explore how climate change shapes security environments, influences institutional decision-making, and generates cascading effects across multiple domains.

Using an evolving climate-security crisis scenario as a learning environment, participants develop the ability to interpret climate-security risks, analyse climate-sensitive dependencies, anticipate escalation pathways, make and defend decisions under uncertainty, and identify adaptation priorities.

The course is designed for civilian and military professionals involved in policy development, planning, analysis, operations, capability development, resilience, crisis management, and decision-support functions.

### **Course Aim**

The course develops participants' advanced ability to assess climate-security risks and translate this analysis into informed, rigorous decisions in complex, uncertain, and rapidly evolving security environments. Participants will strengthen their capacity to analyze climate-sensitive dependencies, vulnerabilities, escalation pathways, and cascading second- and third-order effects, while identifying adaptation and resilience priorities.



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## Course Methodology

**INTERPRET → ANALYSE → ANTICIPATE → DECIDE → ADAPT**

Participants progressively learn to:

- Interpret how long-term climate stress can increase vulnerability and create conditions for climate-security crises;
- Examine how climate impacts affect critical systems and expose vulnerabilities across society, infrastructure and operations;
- Anticipate how climate-related disruptions can evolve into broader security challenges through instability, uncertainty and deliberate exploitation;
- Develop and test decisions under conditions of uncertainty, degraded systems and competing priorities;
- Identify lessons learned, resilience gaps and adaptation priorities for future climate-security environments.

## Scenario-Based Methodology

The course is delivered through a structured scenario-based methodology centred on an evolving climate-related crisis in a future operational environment. The scenario reflects the increasing frequency, intensity, and cross-border effects of climate-related hazards and requires participants to assess how such events interact with wider security, governance, and operational dynamics.

Participants analyse interactions between environmental stressors and operational, political, humanitarian, and infrastructural dynamics, including impacts on critical infrastructure, civil protection-military support coordination, and hybrid threat activity in degraded operational environments. The emphasis is placed on uncertainty management, vulnerability assessment, trade-off analysis, and decision-relevant outputs.

## Target Audience

The course is designed for up to 36 military officers (primarily OF-3 to OF-5 and qualified noncommissioned officers (NCOs) OR-6 to OR-9) and civilian professionals working in defence, security, resilience, crisis management, planning, intelligence, policy, or related fields.



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Applicants should possess relevant professional experience, the ability to engage in strategic discussions and collaborative problem-solving, and good working proficiency in English.

**Prior climate change and security experience and knowledge is mandatory;** participants should possess an advanced understanding of defense, security, resilience, or crisis-management processes and be prepared to engage with complex strategic and operational challenges.

### **Residential Phase**

The residential phase of the course will take place from 07 to 11 September 2026 at the Carabinieri Centre of Excellence for Environmental Protection (CoEEP), Via dei Forestali 1, 04016 Sabaudia (LT), Italy

### **Pre-Course Online Workshop and E-Learning Phase**

The course is preceded by a mandatory **one-day online workshop (31 August 2026)** and an e-learning phase. The workshop provides initial framing of the course approach, scenario structure, and analytical expectations.

Participants will complete preparatory e-learning modules to establish a common baseline and ensure readiness for the residential phase. Completion of both components is required.

### **Language**

The course language is English. No interpretation services will be provided. Participants are expected to have sufficient proficiency to actively participate in discussions and exercises.

### **Attendance and Certification**

Attendance is mandatory for all five training days. A certificate of completion will be awarded to participants who successfully complete the pre-course, the e-learning and the residential phase.



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## Costs and Financial Arrangements

The course is **tuition-free**.

Participants bear their own travel and accommodation costs. No per diems are provided. The organisers are not responsible for travel disruptions, medical costs, or visa-related expenses.

Participants are encouraged to arrive during the weekend preceding the course. Transport between Rome Fiumicino Airport and Sabaudia will be organised by CoEEP.

## Accommodation

Participants are kindly requested to make their own accommodation arrangements in Sabaudia and to cover any associated costs individually. To support this process, the following nearby hotels are provided for consideration:

1. **Mami Hotel**, single room 55 euro per night, breakfast included. Distance from CoEEP: 150 meters. Web site: <https://www.mamisabaudiahotel.it/>
2. **Hotel il Gabbiano**, single room 65 euro per night, breakfast included. Distance from CoEEP: 150 meters. Web site: <https://www.ilgabbianosabaudia.it/>
3. **Hotel il Gioiello**, single room 50 euro per night, breakfast included. Distance from CoEEP: 1 km. Web site: <https://www.ilgioiello.it/>

## Meals

Participants will have access to the on-site dining facilities throughout their stay. Meal costs are not included and must be covered by participants individually. Additional information on meal arrangements will be provided once the logistical arrangements have been confirmed. Coffee and light refreshments will be available during scheduled course breaks.

## Dress Code

Military participants will attend in battle dress uniform for on-site and classroom activities. Business casual is mandatory for civilian participants. For activities conducted outside the compound, civilian attire is required for all participants.



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## Liabilities and (Health) Insurance

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

## Application Deadline: 24 July 2026, COB

All applicants are required to be nominated through the ESDC nomination process and to complete the CCASCOE online application form. Only applications that follow below described 2-step application process (ESDC nomination and submission of CCASCOE application form) can be considered complete:

### 1. ESDC Nomination Process

All applicants must be nominated through the ESDC nomination process as explained below. All applications must be submitted by **24 July 2026, COB**.

- a) Applicants from EU Member States, EU institutions, bodies and agencies, as well as CSDP missions and operations, must be nominated through the ESDC secure internet system ENLIST by their designated national or institutional nominators. Applicants are kindly asked to contact their designated nominator directly, indicating the **relevant Activity number 26-27/pilot/3**. A list of ENLIST nominators is available on the ESDC website: [Course nominators - European Security and Defence College - European Union](#).
- b) Applicants from third countries and international organisations are required to contact their diplomatic representation or their IO's respective representation / Liaison Office to the EU, providing the email address of the course training manager (Esther Breffka; [esther.breffka@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:esther.breffka@eeas.europa.eu)) and course activity number. The diplomatic representation / Liaison Office to the EU will then contact the relevant training manager to submit the nomination, using the following subject line **"Nomination for ESDC Activity: 26-27/pilot/3"**, and stating: the full name of the candidate; personal email address (functional mailboxes cannot be accepted); institution; and the reason why the applicant would benefit from this course.



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## 2. CCASCOE Application Form

In addition to the ESDC nomination, all applicants are required to complete and submit the CCASCOE online application form:

### [Application Form](#)

The CCASCOE online application form collects information on the applicant's professional background, current responsibilities, relevant experience, and motivation for attending the course. This information will be used as part of the participant selection process.

### **Selection**

Applications will be reviewed jointly by ESDC, CCASCOE, and CoEEP. Participants will be selected based on their professional experience, current responsibilities, and relevance to the course objectives. The selected participants will be notified within 10 working days following the application deadline. In their final selection of participants, the course admission board will seek to ensure a balance of gender, nationalities and professional backgrounds.

**Registration is not final until confirmed by the organizers. Please do not make travel arrangements before receiving official confirmation.**

### **Points of Contact**

For inquiries related to applications, registration, and nominations, please contact:

Benedikt BRAMMER, Course Director: [education@ccascoe.org](mailto:education@ccascoe.org)

Esther BREFFKA, Climate Security Coordinator, ESDC: [Esther.breffka@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:Esther.breffka@eeas.europa.eu)

Additional logistical information, including transportation arrangements, accommodation details, dress code, and arrival instructions, will be provided to selected participants following confirmation.

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2026 Climate Change and Security Advanced Course in Sabaudia, Italy





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## **Annex II. Draft programme**

The draft program is provided in the attached tentative agenda.