



EXECUTIVE TRAINING SEMINAR

SCHOOL OF TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

GLOBAL PANDEMICS AND SECURITY: HOW TO ADDRESS THE EU'S HYBRID THREATS

Course Coordinator

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Theatre

Badia Fiesolana, Via della Badia dei Roccettini 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole (Fiesole, Florence)

15-16 APRIL 2021

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this executive training course is to understand and work on the EU's hybrid threats in an interactive manner with the participants. The training increases a deep comprehension and critical analysis of different types of hybrid threats, their backgrounds and root causes and their risk levels for the EU. It opens up their transnational linkages for analysis and debate and facilitates assessment of existing policies and means in tackling them as well as enhances the EU's preparedness for hybrid threats. The EU's Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy (2016) included a comprehensive effort to identify the key threats and challenges existing for the Union's security. The strategy painted a picture of an increasingly complicated political environment with respect to the EU's broad security concerns. Hybrid threats combine conventional and unconventional, military and non-military activities that can be used in a coordinated manner by state or non-state actors to achieve specific political objectives. Hybrid action can be targeted against the political stability, cohesion or democratic structures of the EU and its member states or against their border security, information space or critical infrastructures. The broad field of cybersecurity is another important target for hybrid action.

The EU needs a wide set of policies, instruments and partnerships in order to counter hybrid threats. Apart from an effective EU policy and cooperation with intergovernmental actors such as NATO, the comprehensive character of hybrid threats requires new types of partnerships to be established also with non-state and non-governmental actors. With the EU's policies for countering hybrid threats being still in a developmental phase, there is a lot of room for new innovative ideas concerning how to optimize them. During the past few years the EU has launched new political and legislative instruments as well as new rapid alert mechanisms and mechanisms for improving situational

awareness. The policies for countering hybrid threats are also reflected as new bodies in the Union's institutional machinery.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- In-depth analysis and discussion of the key security threats and the EU's role and possibilities to address them. The focus will be on hybrid threats, which as a large and multi fold group of action challenges the EU's comprehensive security;
- Analysis and understanding of the role of pandemics with a focus on how the COVID-19 crisis has been used as a framework and amplifier for hybrid threats;
- how the strengthening of the EU's resilience necessitates a comprehensive cross-governmental and multilevel effort, whose newest requirements have recently come to the fore in the form of shortcomings in medical supplies and dependencies on external actors in times of crises.
- how to support policy-making by bringing together the key perspectives (scholarly and practitioner, EU-level and MS-level and governmental and private sector level) into a fruitful interactive dialogue.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Officers working in European and national institutions, in charge of issues related to comprehensive security, such as: security policy, communication and media policies, issues related to critical infrastructure etc.;
- Private sector-experts working in the security field, dealing with: security policy, communication and media policies, issues related to critical infrastructure etc.;
- Representatives of national parliaments and European officials working in committees in charge of foreign affairs, defense, communications and internal affairs;
- Researchers and experts of hybrid threats wishing to interact with key practitioners and private sector representatives in relevant fields.

HOW YOU WILL LEARN:

- Analysis of cases of hybrid operations casting light on the forms, as well as on actors, in charge of hybrid action;
- Group works focusing on key issues, such as geopolitical action, action against the democratic institutions and action against the cyber realm;
- Peer to peer sessions in which participants will be actively engaged in the private-public partnership building processes.

PROGRAMME

15 APRIL

DAY 1

09.00 - 09.30

Institutional Greetings

Tour de Table

09.30 - 11.00

The EU's Hybrid Threats: an Overview

The first session addresses the concept and phenomenon of hybrid threats in the current international environment. How does hybrid action differ from the more traditional forms of political influencing and what are the main categories of hybrid action? How has the current pandemic affected the forms and intensity of hybrid action? Concrete examples of cases of hybrid operations cast light on the forms as well as on actors in charge of hybrid action.

11.00 - 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00

Categories of Hybrid Threats

The goal of this training session is to delve into the main categories of hybrid action, their the detailed logic and forms of functioning. Each group will focus on one main category (geopolitical action, action against the democratic institutions and action against the cyber realm). The trainer will help the groups in defining their agenda and a rapporteur will prepare the conclusions to be presented to the whole group later on. (3-4 groups with group leaders).

13.00 - 14.00

Lunch

14.00 - 15.30

The EU's Policies for Hybrid Threats

The session addresses the EU's policies and instruments in countering the multiple hybrid threats. What kinds of new instruments have been launched and how do they relate to the division of competences between the EU and the MS? How to increase the EU's resilience and raise public awareness about the new forms of foreign influencing without creating unnecessary alarmism? Has the pandemic changed the needs and possibilities for common EU policies? How has it changed the forms of resilience needed?

15.30 - 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 - 17.30

How to Address in the Most Effective Way the Different Nature of Hybrid Threats

The goal of this training session is to discuss the EU's policies existing and being planned for each of the 3-4 main categories of hybrid threats. The trainers will support the groups in addressing issues related to the coherence and sufficiency of the EU's preparedness and countermeasures taken for hybrid action. A rapporteur will prepare the conclusions to be presented to the whole group.

16 APRIL

DAY 2

09.30 - 11.00

Establishing Partnerships to Address the EU's Hybrid Threats

This session addresses the EU's cooperation with intergovernmental and non-

governmental actors in addressing hybrid threats. The forms of EU-NATO-cooperation with their successes and shortcomings will be discussed as well as cooperation in intelligence sharing, sharing of good practices and in creating joint forms of preparedness with other partners. How can the EU engage with private actors who are mainly in charge of the instruments needed for building resilience (critical infrastructures for example)? What kinds of new needs for partnerships has the current pandemic brought to the fore?

11.00 - 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00

How to Strengthen and Build New Partnerships to Address the's EU Hybrid Threats

This training session discusses the key forms of partnerships existing for the EU in addressing hybrid threats. How could they be made still more efficient and targeted? The trainers will help the groups to find new innovative solutions in strengthening partnerships with private/governmental actors. (2-3 groups with group leaders).

13.00 - 14.00

Lunch

14.00 - 15.30

The Lessons of the COVID-19 Pandemic for the EU's Comprehensive Security: How to Plan the Present and the Future

The on-going pandemic has pointed out new vulnerabilities in the EU's comprehensive security. A simultaneous health crises in all EU members has put medical supplies and services into a test. What are the lessons learnt of the crises for the Union's resilience, its supply systems and coordination of resources?

15.30 - 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 - 17.30

Addressing the Outcomes of Training Sessions and Concluding the Training (speakers & group leaders)

This concluding final session brings the conclusions of the three main sessions and the two training sessions together. It aims to give a comprehensive picture of how the participants view the challenge of hybrid threats and where the emphasis should be in countering them. What kinds of new partnerships and cooperation is necessary to weaken the effects of political influencing and to safeguard the Union's resilience? The concluding session will be attended by the whole group including all the trainers.

TRAINERS

Isabel De la Mata

Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis Management, European Commission, Belgium

Antonio Missiroli

Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO, Belgium

Roderick Parkes

Head of the Alfred von Oppenheim Center , German Council on Foreign Relations, Germany

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