



European Security
and Defence College



LODZ CYBER
HUB
University of Lodz



Cybersecurity and international law



Brussels
Belgium



16-18 February 2026



AIM OF THE COURSE

This course is a non-specialised cyber course at awareness level. It is linked to the strategic objectives of Pillar 3 of the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade, reflects the priority on cyber within the EU's Strategic Compass and supports the European Cybersecurity Skills Framework (ECSF) of ENISA 'Cyber Legal, Policy and Compliance Officer' profile.

This course provides a practical approach to the application of international law in cyberspace, addressing current geopolitical challenges. Topics include state responsibility for cyber operations, cybersecurity due diligence, peaceful dispute resolution, transboundary data flows (GDPR, Big Data), artificial intelligence (AI) and algorithmic accountability, as well as intermediary liability. It also covers ongoing United Nations cyber processes, such as the recent Hanoi Convention, WSIS+20 process, the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention on transnational data access, as well as current dialogues on autonomous weapons systems, and AI liability.

It provides a platform to exchange views and share best practices on critical cyber-related issues. Through expert-led presentations, practical exercises, and interactive discussions, participants enhance their knowledge, skills, and strategic competencies in addressing cyber challenges. By the end of the course, they have practical understanding and tools required to apply international law effectively in cyberspace and strengthen their work in diplomatic, law enforcement, and military settings.

Part of the ESDC's EAB.Cyber/Cyber Education Training Exercise and Evaluation (ETEE) platform, this course is designed for mid-level to senior officials (civilian and military) dealing with cybersecurity issues, and is open to individuals from EU Member States, EU institutions, EU bodies and agencies, candidate countries, third countries, and international and regional organisations.





European Security
and Defence College

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

<https://esdc.europa.eu>

The European Security and Defence College (ESDC) plays a vital role in supporting the EU's efforts to promote peace, security, and stability. As an autonomous EU body, the ESDC provides training and education in the field of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in the wider context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), ensuring that civilian, diplomatic, police and military personnel are fully prepared to adapt to and address existing and emerging security challenges effectively.

The ESDC operates as a network, bringing together civilian and military institutes, universities, academies, public institutions, centres of excellence and other organisations working in the fields of security and defence. This structure enables the ESDC to pool resources, use public funds efficiently without duplicating structures, share and disseminate best practices, and deliver high-quality training tailored to the diverse needs identified in the realm of CSDP and CFSP.

From orientation courses to high-level and senior strategic courses, leadership development, crisis management, cybersecurity, hybrid threats, maritime security and beyond, the ESDC offers a wide range of programmes designed to meet the complex and constantly evolving demands of the modern security environment.

The network now includes over 270 member institutions. In 2024, under the auspices of the ESDC, 153 training activities were organised, bringing together 4610 participants. The training took place mainly within Member States, but also in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Switzerland and Ukraine.

By continually updating and refining its training and education activities, the ESDC supports the development and promotion of a common understanding of CFSP and CSDP among civilian and military personnel across the EU. In line with the EU's integrated approach for peace and security, it ensures that participants gain a comprehensive understanding of all stages of the conflict cycle, including analysis, mediation and early warning, while also enhancing the effectiveness of CSDP missions and operations.

The ESDC's work complements national efforts and strengthens co-operation with international like-minded partner countries, as well as international organisations such as NATO and the UN.

Support to Ukraine is a pivotal element of the ESDC's partnership efforts. This approach reinforces the EU's ability to respond to challenges with agility, while fostering collaboration, shared understanding, and a common European security and defence culture.

Through its commitment to excellence, the ESDC contributes to a more secure and resilient Europe.



LODZ CYBER HUB, POLAND

<https://www.cyber.uni.lodz.pl/>

Lodz Cyber Hub (LCH) is an interdisciplinary research centre of the University of Łódź, Poland, dedicated to **cybersecurity, international law, and Internet governance**. LCH conducts internationally recognised research at the intersection of public international law, emerging technologies, and global governance, with particular emphasis on **satellite infrastructures, AI risk assessment, and the application of international law in cyberspace**, including questions of **responsibility, due diligence, and the governance of outer space activities**. This research is pursued through dedicated international research projects designed to address strategic legal and policy challenges arising from technological transformation. Research undertaken through LCH has supported NATO efforts to counter hybrid threats, including contributions to **NATO hybrid threats curricula** and **Partnership for Peace Consortium** activities. At the institutional level, the University of Łódź is the first higher-education institution admitted to the **national PW eSkills initiative of the Ministry of Digital Affairs**, with LCH serving as the University's designated representative within the programme.

LCH serves as a platform for advanced academic training and policy dialogue. It hosts the **Summer School on Internet Governance and International Law (SSIGIL)**, a unique international programme for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers, recognised by the **UN Internet Governance Forum**. It also plays a key role in **Sino-European expert working group on the application of international law in cyberspace**, hosted by the **EU Institute for Security Studies**, the **Geneva Centre for Security Policy**, and the **China Institute of Contemporary International Relations**, contributing sustained expertise to this dialogue since its inception.

COURSE DIRECTOR - TRAINING MANAGER



Giuseppe ZUFFANTI

ESDC Coordinator for Cyber issues and for the Cyber ETEE Platform – Project Manager/Training Manager for Cyber
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Giuseppe ZUFFANTI, Senior Technical Director, is seconded from the Italian National Police of State to the European Security and Defence College (ESDC). He is the 'Coordinator for Cyber issues and for the Cyber Education Training Exercise and Evaluation (ETEE) Platform', Project Manager and Training Manager for Cyber and his responsibilities cover, among others, the coordination between ESDC Cyber providers. His main goal in the field of the Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP): contributing to the training programme and conceptual documents, supporting the implementation of ESDC courses with a focus on cyber security/cybercrime/NIS/external relations, cooperating with relevant services in the EU-Institutions, the EEAS, the EU Agencies and NATO. Furthermore he is the focal point for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation and for the 'European External Action Service Knowledge Management Working Group - Peace, Security and Defence (PSD) lessons process' and he is responsible for the 'ESDC internal Lessons Learnt process, annual meetings and ESDC Team Building'. Since 1992, he has worked with the Italian Ministry of Internal Affairs - National Police, holding various roles in public safety, including Director of the Digital Forensic Lab in Piedmont and Aosta Valley. He also managed IT security at the Immigration Office in Turin and fought cybercrime with the Postal and Communications Police. He holds a Master's in Information Treatment Systems, a BSc in Computer Science, and an MSc in Engineering Management of Public Security. His research focused on mobile robots in AI.

Joanna Kulesza is a public international law scholar whose work examines the structure of international responsibility, the function of due diligence obligations, and the operation of institutions in the contemporary international legal order. She serves as Assistant Professor of Public International Law at the University of Łódź and holds a professorship at the University of Vilnius, where she teaches cybersecurity within a broader public-law framework. She has undertaken postdoctoral research at the University of Cambridge and at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, and has acted as expert reviewer for leading European institutions, including the University of Oslo.

Her monograph *Due Diligence in International Law* (Brill, 2016) is recognised as a foundational study of due diligence in international law. Professor Kulesza has contributed to the work of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights and to expert processes addressing emerging regulatory challenges, and she engages widely in academic and policy debates on the evolution of the international legal system.



Dr. Joanna Kulesza

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**LODZ CYBER
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GUEST OF HONOUR



Fergal O'Regan

Head of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC)



Fergal Ó Regan is a senior EU civil servant and academic. Currently, he is the Head of the European Security and Defence College, the EU body that provides military and civilian training and education in the field of the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in the wider context of the European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).

Prior to joining the European Security and Defence College in April 2023, Fergal Ó Regan was Head of Unit and then Chief Legal Expert at the European Ombudsman, the EU body which carries out inquiries in relation to allegations of maladministration by European institutions and agencies. Before becoming an EU civil servant in 2006, he worked at a major Brussels-based law firm, specialising in EU law.

He has been a visiting professor at the College of Europe in Bruges from 2012 until 2022 and also gives lectures at a number of other third level institutes, primarily on EU law. Mr Ó Regan holds a Master's degree in European Law from the College of Europe in Bruges, as well as law degrees from the Université d'Aix-Marseille (Maîtrise in International Law) and the Universidad de Deusto, Bilbao ("Licenciatura" in Law).

He has been admitted to the Bar in Bilbao and Brussels.

He has also been Chair of the Brussels Branch of Ireland's primary think tank on EU integration, the Institute of International and European Affairs.



Plamen Angelov

Mr Plamen Angelov is Head of Sector for Justice and Home Affairs at the Policy & Consultation Unit of the European Data Protection Supervisor. Before the EDPS, he has worked for the data protection authority, the Ministry of Interior and the judiciary of Bulgaria.

Mr Angelov has 10 years of experience in the field of data protection and 20 years in the area of internal security, borders and migration, on various legal and management positions, including as JHA Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the EU in Brussels, Home Affairs Attaché at the Bulgarian Embassy in London and Deputy Minister of Interior.

He has a Master degree in Law from Sofia University and CIPP/E certification from the IAPP.

Paolo Bargiacchi

Paolo Bargiacchi (Rome, 1971) is Professor of Public International Law at the Department of Economic and Legal Sciences of Kore University of Enna (Italy). He also teaches International and EU Cyber Law and International and European Security Law (at the Interagency Law Enforcement Academy of Advanced Studies of the Italian Ministry of the Interior). Expert member in the Sino-European Expert Working Group on the Application of International Law in Cyberspace. Author of three books on international law, a treatise on EU law and co-author of a treatise on public international law. He also writes on topics concerning cybersecurity, critical infrastructure and EU legislation.



Romain Bosc

He is a Senior Public Policy and Governance Officer at the RIPE NCC, based in Brussels. He engages with a wide range of partners and stakeholders including the European Union institutions, national authorities, civil society organisations, and academia. Romain's expertise and interests focus on global Internet governance, digital policy development, and cyber diplomacy. Before joining the RIPE NCC in 2023, he held various positions in EU public affairs and policy research, notably at the German Marshall Fund (GMF) and the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). He graduated with a degree in Political Science and International Relations.

Patrizio Lupi



Mr. Patrizio Lupi, born in Rome, Italy, in 1983, graduated from the Italian Air Force Academy in 2007 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Italian Air Force. He served as a career officer until August 2019.

He holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Law from the University of Naples "Federico II," and a Master's degree in Leadership and Strategic Analysis from the University of Florence. He is currently a PhD Candidate in Public International Law at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata."

Since September 2019, Mr. Lupi has served as a Legal Advisor in the International Law Branch of the NATO Allied Command Operations Office of Legal Affairs, where he is currently the Acting Branch Head. From 2017 to 2019, he served as Deputy Head of the SHAPE Special Litigation and Investigation Team.

Throughout his military career, Mr. Lupi held several positions within the Italian Air Force, including Legal Advisor to the 4th Brigade (2013–2016), Deputy Legal Advisor, Financial Controller, and Head of the Contracting Branch. In 2016, he was deployed to the Combined Air Operations Center in Al Udeid, Qatar, as Legal Advisor for Air Operations in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria. He had previously served in 2012 in Shindand, Afghanistan, with the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, advising the Afghan National Army.

Mr. Lupi completed the Italian Air Force Staff College, graduating first in his class, and became the first Italian officer to qualify as a Legal Advisor for Air Operations following specialized training and participation in major NATO and national exercises.

He is a licensed lawyer, registered with the Madrid Bar Association, with professional experience in civil, administrative, and commercial law.

His awards and decorations include the Silver Cross for Long Military Duty, the Silver Medal of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George, the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal for Afghanistan, and the Medal for the Campaign in Afghanistan.

Anastasiya Kiseleva



She is Privanova's Senior Ethics, Regulatory & Policy Lead, providing expertise on legal and ethics matters in EU projects and beyond. Anastasiya has an extensive background in both research and industry. She holds PhD degrees in two disciplines (law and computer science) in two countries (Belgium and France). She was also recognised as one of the 2025 "Rising Stars of AI Ethics" by Women in AI Ethics. With expertise in AI policy, data governance, privacy, and IT law, she contributes to multiple EU projects and also acts as a researcher at Vrije Universiteit Brussels.

Alena Muravska



Alena Muravska is the Programme Manager for Public Policy & Internet Governance at the RIPE NCC. In this role, she engages with a broad range of stakeholders, including EU institutions, national authorities, intergovernmental organisations, industry and academia. With a background spanning engineering and public affairs, she brings both technical insight and policy expertise to global discussions on Internet governance. A committed advocate for capacity building, Alena actively contributes to Internet governance schools and industry events. Alongside her role at the RIPE NCC, she serves as Chair of the Global Internet Standards Testing Community, where she focuses on strengthening and expanding the international users of the internet.nl testing platform, the initiative from Dutch Internet Standards Platform. Alena holds an engineering degree from the National Technical University of Ukraine and a Master's in Policy and Public Affairs from Leiden University.



Julia Schütze

Julia Schuetze is the founder and director of Cyber Policy Haus, a Ghent-based design & events studio translating cyber policy and law into practice through interactive and game-based formats.

Working as a researcher for interface between 2017-2023 (former Stiftung Neue Verantwortung), she became a specialist in EU cyber diplomacy, international cooperation, cybersecurity of cities, NIS2 implementation, and cyber incident governance. She has designed and facilitated policy exercises in 13 countries across four continents. Recent work includes a crisis blueprint exercise in Armenia, a hybrid threats exercise with Ukraine, and a regional diplomacy exercise in ECOWAS. Cyber Policy Haus partnered in 2025 for example with the Federal Academy for Security Policy, EU CyberNet, Federal Office for Information Security (BSI), GIZ and the German Energy Agency (dena).

Julia is a Fellow at the German Wargaming Center & an external researcher at the University of Cincinnati's Center for Cyber Strategy and Policy (CCSP) under Prof. Richard Harknett.

Jamal Shahin



Jamal Shahin is the Programme Director of the Advanced Master European Integration and Chair in Digital Sovereignty at the Brussels School of Governance. He is also a Senior Lecturer at the University of Amsterdam and Professorial Fellow at the United Nations University-CRIS in Bruges. He holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Hull (2005). His teaching concerns the governance of the contemporary EU, research methods and skills, and the importance of linking theory and practice to inform better research and policy.

His research interests focus on: digital sovereignty, global internet governance, political participation in democratic systems and EU governance. Jamal is keen to explore how new forms of social and political organisation at the global and local levels influence effectiveness and legitimacy of decision making, often linking into debates on sustainability and policy transfer. He is particularly interested in the way in which the EU attempts to communicate its role in both domestic and international venues in different policy fields. Jamal is also intrigued by the relationship between science and society, and has carried out research with colleagues at the IES on how to optimise dialogue between disciplines to ensure relevant and useful research can help critique, design and improve policy.

Michele Socco

From 2013 He is a Policy Officer - Member of the Cybercrime Unit of Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME). Before he was Policy Assistant within the personal office of Maria Damanaki, Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, responsible for Communication, Health & Consumers Protection, Enterprise & Industry, Research. In the past he worked as Communications Officer, Policy Assistant at the European Commission. He has a Master degree in EU Policies.





DAY 1 (CET)	<u>Monday, 16 February 2026</u>
08:30 – 09:00	<i><u>Registration</u></i>
	SESSION 1 – WELCOME INTRODUCTION
09:00 – 09:30	<p><u>Opening and welcome address, the European Security and Defence College and the Cyber ETEE activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mr. Fergal O’Regan, Head of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), Brussels · Dr. Joanna Kulesza, Assistant Professor, Dpt of International Law and Lodz Cyber Hub Executive Director, University of Lodz, Poland · Mr. Giuseppe Zuffanti, Coordinator for Cyber issues and for the Cyber ETEE Platform – Project Manager/Training Manager for Cyber - National Expert, European Security and Defence College (ESDC), Brussel
	<p><u>Informal Tour-de-Table and group photo</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Presentation of participants
	SESSION 2 – NATO SHAPE THEMED SESSION
09:30 – 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · “Establishing a Collective Legal Framework for NATO Cyber Operations: Balancing Sovereignty, Consent, and Alliance Coordination”, Mr. Patrizio Lupi - Acting Branch Head International Law Branch ACO Office of Legal Affairs – Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) – 75’ presentation including Q&A
10:45 – 11:15	<i><u>Coffee break</u></i>
	SESSION 3 – DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY
11:15 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Dr. Jamal Shahin, Programme Director and Associate Professor at the Brussels School of Governance (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Senior Lecturer at the University of Amsterdam, and Professorial Fellow at UNU-CRIS in Bruges. 90’ presentation including Q&A
12:45 – 14:30	<i><u>Course lunch and ice-breaker hosted by the ESDC</u></i>
	SESSION 4 - International Law in Action: The Cyber Governance Game
14:30 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · “Team building exercises”, Ms. Julia Schütze, Cyber Policy Haus, 120’ presentation Including Q&A <p><i>In this interactive session, participants will apply international law in cyberspace to real historical cyber incidents. Working in teams, participants will identify the actors, institutions, and governance mechanisms involved in each case. The game demonstrates how international law, UN cyber norms, law enforcement cooperation, and crisis diplomacy are applied or deliberately not applied in practice. A short facilitated reflection will link the cases to the forthcoming content of the course.</i></p>
16:30 – 17:00	<i><u>Closing remarks Day 1</u></i>



DAY 2 (CET)	<u>Tuesday, 17 February 2026</u>
09:00 – 09:30	<u>Registration</u>
	SESSION 5 - INTERNET GOVERNANCE
09:30 – 11:00	· Mr. Romain Bosc and Ms. Alena Muravska , European IP Networks – Network Coordination Center (RIPE NCC) - 90' presentation including practical exercises and Q&A
11:00 – 11:30	<u>Coffee break</u>
	SESSION 6 – CYBERCRIME
11:30 – 13:00	· Mr. Michele Socco , Member of the Cybercrime Unit of Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME), European Commission, Brussels – “CoE Budapest convention on cybercrime” – 90' presentation Including Q&A
13:00 – 14:30	<u>Lunch break</u>
	SESSION 7 – INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION
14:30 – 16:00	· “International Law and Critical Infrastructure Protection”, Prof. Paolo Bargiacchi - University of Enna "Kore" Professor of Public International Law in the Department of Economic and Legal Sciences - 90' presentation including Q&A
16:00 – 16:30	<u>Closing remarks Day 2</u>



DAY 3 (CET)	<u>Wednesday, 18 February 2026</u>
09:00 – 09:30	<u>Registration</u>
	SESSION 8 – DATA PROTECTION
09:30 – 11:00	· Mr. Plamen Angelov , Head of Activity for JHA Matters - Policy & Consultation Unit, European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), Brussels – 90’ Including Q&A
11:00 – 11:30	<u>Coffee break</u>
	SESSION 9 – Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) Projects Cluster
11:30 – 12:15	· “Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) Projects Cluster”, Dr. Anastasiya Kiselova , Senior Ethics, Regulatory & Policy Lead, Privanova, LEA Projects Cluster , 45’ Including Q&A
	SESSION 10 – The ESDC CYBER ETEE Platform
12:15 – 12:45	· “Cyber Capacity Building: Lessons Learnt and Future Directions from the ESDC’s Cyber ETEE Initiative.”, Mr. Giuseppe Zuffanti , Coordinator for Cyber issues and for the Cyber ETEE Platform – Project Manager/Training Manager for Cyber - National Expert, European Security and Defence College (ESDC) , Brussels
	SESSION 11 - KEY TAKEAWAYS: A COURSE RECAP
12:45 – 13:30	· Dr. Joanna Kulesza , Assistant Professor, Dpt of International Law and Lodz Cyber Hub Executive Director, University of Lodz , Poland
	SESSION 12 – CERTIFICATE CEREMONY
13:30 – 14:00	· Mr. Fergal O’Regan , Head of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) , Brussels · Dr. Joanna Kulesza , Assistant Professor, Dpt of International Law and Lodz Cyber Hub Executive Director, University of Lodz , Poland · Mr. Giuseppe Zuffanti , Coordinator for Cyber issues and for the Cyber ETEE Platform – Project Manager/Training Manager for Cyber - National Expert, European Security and Defence College (ESDC) , Brussels
14:00 – 14:30	<u>Closing Remarks - End of the Course</u>

NOTES



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YEARS

European Security and Defence College