
Invitation

for

Course on Security Sector Reform (5 days)

2-6 March 2026 in Stans, Switzerland

Background

The Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS) cordially invites you to this course on SSR for both military and civilian personnel. The five-day course will be organized together with DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance and will take place at the SWISSINT Training Centre of the Swiss Armed Forces in Stans-Oberdorf, from 2 to 6 March 2026 (arrival on 1 March 2026).

Course description

This five-day course aims to provide participants with knowledge and practical tools for Security Sector Reform (SSR). It touches upon the holistic nature of SSR and covers dimensions related to human security, human rights, access to justice, and good governance, with a focus on gender equality and inclusivity. The course will be held in English.

Target audience

The course will target practitioners working on the provision, management and oversight of SSR programmes. It is also aimed at people involved in programme design, management and implementation, mission planning and delivery and/or policy dialogues. This includes state and non-state actors: civilian, military and police personnel.

Course objectives

- Demonstrate understanding of SSR processes including principles, objectives, actors and tools;
- Recognize the relevance of SSR in different contexts and settings (mission and non-mission settings), making use of case studies based on past operations, successful and less successful.
- Illustrate the linkages between SSR, human security, human rights, and access to justice;
- Apply a gender and inclusivity lens to SSR processes;
- Design an SSR related intervention through a strategic planning group exercise;
- Reflect on international approaches to SSR.

Learning methodology

The course will be facilitated by DCAF staff with SSR knowledge and expertise, as well as extensive experience in facilitation. The five-day programme will help participants understand the challenges related to SSR in practice. The course methodology is aimed at adult learning, which means that it focuses on participant engagement, experience sharing, and practical application. The interactive and peer-learning setup includes a series of hands-on exercises, simulations, and group activities. An inductive approach throughout the course places participants at the centre of the learning experience. Therefore, all participants will be required to dedicate each day fully to the course.

The course includes the following components:

Before the course

- Participants need to complete a pre-course survey.

During the course

- Participants will complete a daily evaluation form.
- Social and networking opportunities will be offered to participants, alongside the communal meals.

At the end of the course

- A certificate of attendance will be provided upon course completion.
- On the last day, participants will complete an end-of-course survey to evaluate the course. Approximately 6 months later, participants will be asked to complete a long-term follow-up survey.

More details on the course program will be provided after completion of the selection process.

Application and selection process

- Up to 25 participants will be selected. The course aims to form a group with diverse professional, organizational, and personal backgrounds.
- Please fill out the [online application form](#) and send an updated resume by **5 December 2025** to: issat.training@dcaf.ch.

Logistics and Accommodation

Full board accommodation will be provided at the **SWISSINT Training Centre**, located at **Kasernenstrasse 4, 6370 Oberdorf, Canton Nidwalden, Switzerland**.

The course will begin on **Monday, 2 March 2026, at 08:00**, and end on **Friday, 6 March 2026, at 13:00**. Participants are requested to **check in at the SWISSINT Training Centre on Sunday, 1 March 2026**. Accommodation at the SWISSINT Training Centre is provided **from Sunday, 1 March to Friday, 6 March 2026**.

Travel and visas

Travel expenses, visas (if required) and insurance remain the responsibility of the sending institution/participants. Visas should be requested no less than six weeks prior to the training. The DDPS can provide a letter of support to complement your visa application. If you need a letter of support or have questions about your visa request, please contact the DDPS once your participation has been confirmed (see hereunder).

More details about logistics will be provided after the selection process.

Contacts

For any questions on the course organization and logistics, please contact:

DDPS/SWISSINT

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For any questions related to the course's content, please contact:

DCAF's Professional Development and Training team

E-mail: issat.training@dcaf.ch

You can reach us via our generic email above, or contact:

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