Swiss Peacebuilding Training Course

The course provides interactive training including theoretical and practical aspects of peacebuilding.

Participation Requirements
- English proficiency
- Full attendance (including field activities)

Participation
Participation is by invitation only. Interested candidates must follow the application process outlined in the invitation.

Fees
The costs of the course are covered by the Swiss FDFA, the GCSP and the Swiss Armed Forces. Participants or their sending Institutions are required to cover travel costs to Switzerland.

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Swiss Peacebuilding Training Course for the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding and International Participants

Stans, Switzerland

The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) offers a two-week professional training course on peacebuilding on behalf of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) for members of the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding (SEP) and selected international participants. From 2001 to 2005, the course was run by the FDFA; since 2006, it has been conducted by the GCSP.

This course will be run in partnership with swispeace, the Swiss Peace Foundation, and SWISSINT, the Swiss Armed Forces International Command.

Curriculum

- Conflict Analysis: Causes, Prevention and Transformation
- Transition Management: from Peace Accords to Democratic Institutions
- Security Dimensions of Integrated Field Missions
- Human Rights in Post-Conflict Situations
- Rule of Law and Transitional Justice
- Switzerland and Peacebuilding
- Operational Field Training

Background

The Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding (SEP) aims to reinforce Swiss foreign and security policy in the area of international peacebuilding. Each year, approximately 200 people – about 70 at any given time on average – are deployed in the field. The SEP is composed of volunteers and provides experienced personnel for both bilateral and multilateral missions. Members of the SEP are deployed through a rapid-response mechanism to assist in areas such as human rights, democratisation, the rule of law, election support and security sector reform. The Swiss Expert Pool Training Course, initially created to prepare candidates for their deployment, now provides a holistic approach to peacebuilding training. Due to its positive reputation, the number of participants in the course from governments other than Switzerland, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations has risen significantly over the years.

The Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) provides expert training in comprehensive international security policy for diplomats, military officers and civil servants from ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and others. GCSP courses focus on contemporary security challenges, ranging from new dimensions of security policy to crisis management and conflict resolution.

Methodology

The Swiss Peacebuilding Training Course provides holistic and interactive training including theoretical and practical aspects of peacebuilding presented by trainers who are experienced practitioners and academics. Conceptual inputs are combined with a practical scenario-based exercise. This comprehensive and inclusive approach is designed to meet the training needs for integrated missions. In addition, participants will receive reading material for preparation prior to the course.

Objectives

- To deepen knowledge and analytical skills and the participants’ understanding of the interlinked challenges of peace and security within the peacebuilding environment;
- To enhance capacity to propose and design effective and sound peacebuilding projects and interventions;
- To develop the participants’ skills for their work in peacebuilding missions, either as secondees to multilateral missions, or to assist in the implementation of bilateral projects;
- To develop cross-cultural understanding and instil a greater awareness of gender considerations.

Target Audience

In addition to members of the Swiss Expert Pool, the course is open to international participants, junior as well as more senior, both civilian and military, who already have deployment experience in peacebuilding missions. International participants should be affiliated with:

- Government Ministries: Foreign Affairs, Defence, Interior, Justice, or other;
- Organisations and institutions active in the field of peacebuilding such as UNDPO, UNDPA, EU, OSCE, Council of Europe, OIF, AU, ZIF, regional organisations;
- NGOs and traditional authorities.