



Name of the event	<b>Common Module Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)</b>
Institution, which organised the event	<b>Theresan Military Academy</b>
Country of the organiser	<b>Austria</b>
Year of the event	<b>2024</b>
Date of the event (from-to)	<b>2024 10 21 – 2024 10 25</b>
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Authors' institution	<b>Theresan Military Academy</b>
Authors' country	<b>Austria</b>



**Picture 1:** Participants of the Common Module  
**Photo:** Theresan Military Academy

From October 21 to 25, 2024, the Common Module "Common Security and Defence Policy" took place at the Theresan Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt under the direction of Col Assoc. Prof. Hon. Sen. Harald Gell, PhD, MSc, MSD, MBA. 102 participants of various nationalities took part in the course. These included 54 Austrian officer cadets of the promotion "Generaloberst Josef Roth" and 48 international

officer cadets and guests from Bosnia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Spain, and the USA. The event therefore offered a unique opportunity for exchange and further training in the international military field.

### **Preparations**

The Austrian cadets were already involved in the organisation of the course. They contacted the lecturers in advance, prepared the rooms and organised various events that were held during the week. By being involved in the preparation and execution of the course, all participants were also able to actively participate in the design of the Common Module.

### **Presentations and group work**

Over the course during the week, the relevant topics of the CSDP were dealt with systematically and in a structured manner. Starting with the political aspects, moving on to military strategic issues and ending with concrete experience reports from multinational missions, a comprehensive approach could be emerged.



**Picture 2:** Ceremony for the „Syndicates' Sports Competition"  
**Photo:** Cdt Tobias HAUSTEINER



The week began with a visit from the Austrian Secretary General Dr. Arnold Kammel, who prepared the participants for the upcoming content with a military political presentation on the CSDP. Over the week, numerous presentations by experts and officers from Austria, Poland, and Romania enriched the programme. The speakers' operational experience in Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Iraq gave the cadets an insight into the various missions and challenges of international deployment as part of the CSDP. In addition, the participants worked in small groups on various issues in order to present their findings to the experts. For the Austrian cadets in particular dealing with maritime aspects was an exciting opportunity to think outside the box.



**Picture 3:** Participants at the syndicate-work  
**Photo:** Lech Marian TILLACK

### Highlights

The week offered a number of special highlights that further promoted exchange and cooperation. On Monday, a sports challenge was held in the form of a “Syndicates' Sports Competition”, which served as a team-building activity and helped the participants to get to know each other better. This was followed on Tuesday by a joint visit to a winery, where traditional Austrian specialties were served in order to be able to exchange ideas in a relaxed atmosphere away from the official

programme. This evening was rounded off with an award ceremony for the winners of the “Syndicates' Sports Competition”. On Wednesday, everyone visited the United Nations in Vienna, which was a special experience for many, as it was the first time they have seen the United Nations at work. The visit included an exclusive guided tour as well as a presentation that provided deep insights into the work of the UN.

### Farewell

On Friday, the final ceremony took place, during which the week was reviewed and gifts were exchanged. The week ended in a festive atmosphere and left the participants with a valuable and instructive experience. Overall, the course at the Theresan Military Academy provided a valuable platform for international cooperation and the exchange of experiences. The participants were not only able to deepen their knowledge, but also make international contacts and benefit from the perspectives of others.



**Picture 4:** Visit of the Vienna International Centre  
**Photo:** Vienna International Centre