

The Call for Applications: School on the Oversight of Security Sector

Deadline for applications: 24 July 2022

The School on the Oversight of the Security Sector is a training for the researchers and practitioners interested to learn how civil society can keep security institutions (police, military, intelligence services, private security) accountable. It is a unique program delivered by the group of experienced civil society practitioners who have made impact in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and MENA gathered around the [Global Partnership for Security and Peace \(GPSP\)](#). Our approach focuses on learning by doing, with real case studies, in a collaborative environment. Our motivation for organizing this training program is to promote the sustainability and strengthening of democracy, by supporting new leaders ready to systematically address the issue of security governance and its exploitation for the narrowing space for political competition, civic participation, and progress towards greater social equality.

When?

- **26-29 September 2022** In-person Workshop in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- **06-21 October 2022:** Online training on the Oversight of Security Sector.

Program

- What makes security policy unique from other public policies?
- Different approaches by civil society to influence security governance.
- How to adjust priorities to a security, conflict and political context.
- Similarities and distinctive features of key security providers (e.g. police, armed forces, intelligence, border management, justice, penitentiary administration...).
- Confronting crime and other security threats in compliance with human rights standards and democratic principles.
- Security as experienced by different groups: women, youth.
- What are the organizational strategies and tools for the influence of security sector reform and especially for the accountability of security institutions?
 - Researching security institutions.
 - Getting the information about the functioning of security institutions.
 - Monitoring security sector.
 - Budget and financial oversight.
 - Breaking taboos around security and engaging with fear-based politics.
 - Getting public support for democratic oversight of security sector.
 - How to build trust with security institutions and policy-makers? How to manage dialogue in multi-stakeholder platforms?
 - What kind of alliances are useful as a defense in autocratic and hostile environments?
 - How to engage citizens and local communities for their security and protection of rights?

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What do we offer?

- **Live sessions with experienced practitioners** from civil society on security oversight. It is estimated that the sessions will be 2 hours long.
- **Case studies** of real-life strategies and impact made by civil society organizations.
- **Practical exercises** that the participants will do in between the sessions and receive feedback from the course leadership.
- **Peer exchange** among the practitioners working in similar contexts (same priorities) or an exchange of lessons learned between those whose countries advanced more in security sector reform (SSR) and those that are at the beginning of the journey.
- **Networking activities** for the participants to get to know each other, the experts and the facilitators.
- **Background materials:** a background note and a reading list for each module.
- **Ongoing discussion** between sessions with peers and experts through a dedicated social platform.
- 8 people will be selected for a practical face-to-face experience in Buenos Aires.

Trainers

The trainers are current and former directors and senior researchers of leading think tanks, civil society organizations and regional networks specialized in the oversight of security sector.

Who is this course for?

We welcome researchers, activists, practitioners interested to learn about oversight of security institutions and how to counter misuse of security governance to shrink civic space and democratic political competition. The course is designed for early and mid-career people aspiring for future leadership roles. We also welcome people who are interested in setting up a new initiative dealing with accountability of security governance, recent graduates or experienced professionals who are perhaps moving into new roles. The representatives of international organizations, government institutions and philanthropic organizations supporting democracy and peace-building are also invited to join and learn how best to support civil society working on this agenda.

The Scholarships and paid participants:

There are scholarships for those already working in civil society organizations in the regions of Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and MENA. For other participants from these regions that do not get scholarship, the fee is 350 USD, while for the participants from the Global North, the fee is 500 USD.

The costs of the 2022 School on Security include:

- Two-week online programme with live training.
- An online study package.
- Access to an online forum with fellow participations, experts and School's team.
- Diploma upon the competition of a personal learning journal.
- A possibility to get engaged in joint research.

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How to apply?

- Complete the application form
- Send the complete application form to secretaria@resdal.org

The deadline for submitting applications is **24 July 2022**. The selection of the participants will be made by the School on the Oversight of the Security Sector's director Sonja Stojanović Gajić and the RESDAL team. Scholarships are available for a limited number of participants, including travel costs to Buenos Aires. We strive to select a diverse group in terms of organizations, policy areas, demographics, and gender balance.

Working language of sessions: English.

The participants of the 2022 cohort will be announced no later than 5 August, 2022.

About the GPSP:

GPSP's is a collaborative cross-regional civil society partnership for democratic security governance assisting in the development of perspectives grounded in local contexts.

There are three principal objectives:

1. To develop civil society's capacities to work on common issues regarding democratic security governance
2. To facilitate exchange among the members from different regions and institutions through practice of collaborative work in order to overcome fragmented knowledge production.
3. To create and provide a platform for solidarity.

GPSP is founded and hosted by the RESDAL. This year's training workshop is hosted by the Al-Quds Center (Jordan), the Liberia Law Enforcement Association/LINLEA (Liberia), Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency/PILDAT (Pakistan) and the Latin American Security and Defence Network/RESDAL.

This program is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

Global Partnership for Security and Peace



The Buenos Aires Workshop will be done in partnership with