



Name of the event	Common Module Common Security and Defence Policy
Institution, which organised the event	Theresan Military Academy
Country of the organiser	Austria
Year of the event	2023
Date of the event (from-to)	23rd - 27th October 2023
Name(s) of the author(s)	Cdt DASIC Andrea & Cdt KLOIBÖCK Ines
Authors' institution	Theresan Military Academy
Authors' country	Austria

Common Module Common Security and Defence Policy

The Theresan Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt became the centre of the international CSDP module from 23 to 27 October 2023. In this annual event, topics related to the EU security and defence policy are being discussed, current areas of tension and conflict are being addressed, and ways to strengthen the security situation are being discussed. The organisation of this international module, which 13 nations participated in, was the responsibility of the Austrian 3rd year cadets with the name "*Major General Sommer*". The trip started with a day of getting to know each other, an interesting castle tour, and an exciting lecture by Dr. Arnold Kammel, the Secretary General of the Austrian MoD who highlighted the current conflicts and challenges from an EU perspective. In the afternoon a sports competition between the syndicate groups took place, which not only promoted team building, but also ended with a final award ceremony and a social gathering.





The second day included presentations of the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, the concept of EU battle groups, civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) and the EU's integrated approach. The students were tasked preparing presentations on important topics within the syndicate groups and discussing among them. The day ended with an impressive as well as inspiring presentation by Lieutenant General Jennie Carignan about her personal career and as the first female general of the Canadian Armed Forces leading a combat force.



Wednesday started with an interesting insight from Colonel Pilles, who shared with the auditorium his experiences and challenges as a battalion commander in a multinational operation in Bosnia and Hercegovina. After a brief welcoming speech by Brigadier General Tracey Poirier and Deputy U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Mario Mesquita, they invited the audience attending an informative and educational presentation and asking questions on the topic of "*Women and Diversity in Senior Positions.*"

During Austria's National Day, the international participants explored the capital city of Vienna. The day started with a visit to the Museum of Army History and continued at the city centre where the Austrian Armed Forces presented their various capabilities.





With an informative and eventful week, the CSDP module finally came to an end on Friday. The closing ceremony rounded up not only the end of an educational and intense week, but a possible collaboration between the participants in their future.



Pictures by OCdt Kornfeld
and Theresan Military Academy