

# EEAS training on economic, social and cultural rights

Wednesday 20 June 2018 – Brussels – EEAS building, room LOI 04-372

*In co-operation with: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights & Council of Europe*

## Outline:

As an advocate of the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated nature of all human rights, the EU considers that economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) are part and parcel of its external human rights policy.

According to the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019) objective 17, the EU is committed to "fostering a comprehensive agenda to promote Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR)".

In order to further enhance EU engagement on economic, social and cultural rights in line with the Action Plan, there is a need for more knowledge and awareness about ESCR among staff in the EU institutions and Delegations across the world. While working with partner countries on economic, social and cultural rights, the EU is aware of the need to pursue the coherence with its internal policies.

This basic one-day training course answers to the increasing need of EU officials to acquire know-how and enhance their capacity and knowledge in order to effectively contribute to the EU's policy on economic, social and cultural rights.

## Who should join?

This course aims to suit the needs of colleagues from both political and operational sections of EU Delegations, officials from the External Relations family and Council Secretariat, EU MS officials from MFAs. This course is also open to colleagues from Commission line DGs in charge of thematic issues such as education, water, food security, climate change...

## At the end of the training, participants will be:

- Familiar with the content of economic, social and cultural rights;
- Able to retrieve and analyze international sources on the state of implementation of economic, social and cultural rights in a specific country;
- Able to devise realistic actions for the EU to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights, in partnership with inter-governmental and non-governmental actors, including human rights defenders.

## Methodology

A dynamic combination of presentations and practical work with active involvement of all participants.

## How to enroll

Direct application through EU LEARN : [Click here to enrol](#)

## Draft program

09.15 - 09.30 **Introduction** by Mercedes Garcia Perez, Head of the EEAS Human Rights division

09.30 - 09.45 **Film: Indigenous Views - Water**

09.45 - 10.30 **Introduction on economic, social and cultural rights** (*Claude Cahn, Human Rights Adviser, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*)

10.30 - 10.45 **EU External Action in the field of ESCR** (*Ingrid Thorsnes, Policy Officer, EEAS Human Rights*)

10.45 - 11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00 - 11.30 **Focus on selected ESCR, human rights defenders and their challenges at country level** (Sylvain Schultze, Desk Officer EEAS Americas and Nieves Coterio, Policy Officer, EEAS Human Rights)

11.30 - 12.45 **How to monitor implementation of economic, social and cultural rights**

1) at the United Nations level: - (*Leonardo Castilho, Human Rights Officer, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*)

2) at Council of Europe level: - (*Diana Balanescu, Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe*)

12.45 - 13.00 Q&A

13.00 - 14.30 *Lunch break*

14.30 - 15.45 **How to better integrate economic, social and cultural rights** in EU foreign policy and external assistance/development co-operation - Discussion in working groups Facilitators from the EEAS, DEVCO and Front Line Defenders

WG 1: ESCR in multilateral fora

WG 2: Human rights defenders in the field of ESCR

WG 3: ESCR in development cooperation

15.45 - 16.00 *Coffee break*

16.00 - 16.30 **Presentation of the working groups' conclusions and discussion**

16.30 - 17.00 Closing remarks