



Federal Academy
for Security Policy

18 September to 6 October 2023

European security policy in a new era

The 2023 Security Policy Course for Senior Officials

The Strategic Significance of the Black Sea Region





==== About the course =====

The Security Policy Course for Senior Officials is targeted at highlevel executive personnel from political institutions, government, science, business, and civil society organisations. Each year, a different geographical region of particular significance for security policy is studied.

The seminar is a central component of the further training offer of the Federal Academy for Security Policy.

Structured strategic questions, along with the special opportunity to enter into direct dialogue with key actors and decision makers in the region, not only help the participants to gain political foresight, but also enhance interministerial strategic thinking and understanding of complex constellations of interests.

Invitations for the nomination of course participants are issued personally by the Head of the Federal Chancellery and Federal Minister for Special Tasks.



Time frame

The Course for Senior Officials will be held from **18 September to 6 October 2023**. It will be conducted in Berlin and at the course trip's destinations in the Black Sea region. The course will be held in German and English, and all participants are required to attend the course for its full three-week duration.

Target group

With the detailed study of the specific crisis and conflict parameters of this region, the course offers a highly exclusive forum for interministerial, interdisciplinary, and cross-sector exchange. It focuses on security-related topics, dialogue with experts and decision-makers, and on-site experience in the region.

Program

The Course for Senior Officials takes three weeks and consists of three phases:

Introduction

In the first part of the course, participants will explore in depth the historical, cultural, political and economic background of the Black Sea region and discuss current developments with experts. In view of the strategic interests on the part of many different stakeholders – including major powers, European states, international organisations and religiously motivated actors – participants will develop their own positions on options for political action.

Experience in the region

The positions developed will provide the basis for discussions in the second part of the course with further experts and decision-makers in the region itself: in Tbilisi, Ankara, Istanbul and Chişinău, the participants will engage directly with the interests, ambitions and constraints of the players involved.



Destinations: Travel is planned to Georgia, Turkey and Moldova.

Reflection

In the third part of the course, participants will critically reflect on their positions once more. The course will end with a discussion between the participants and high-level national decision-makers on what positions and strategies Germany and Europe should adopt and pursue regarding the Black Sea region in the future.



Contents

The Black Sea region is a complex area shaped by the interplay of cooperation and confrontation. Russia's war against Ukraine has once again made it a major point of focus. Regional security along the Black Sea is severely impaired, and it will take the entire international community to restore it. The economic effects of Russia's aggression also extend far beyond the neighbouring countries – e.g. in terms of energy issues or shipping (of grain, for example). Accordingly, many external actors have also long been involved in the Black Sea region. This year's Course for Senior Officials will address the strategic significance of this region, which is shaped in no small part by the actions of Russia and Turkey.

The European Union has been actively involved in the Black Sea region for years. Romania and Bulgaria, which border the Black Sea, have been members of the European Union since 2007. Many other Black Sea countries are pushing to join the EU, at times vehemently: especially Ukraine, but also Georgia and Moldova. This offers the opportunity to promote reforms and systematic development in line with democracy and the rule of law in these countries. However, Turkey's accession process has been at a standstill for years, despite considerable

mutual interests. This means that, now more than ever before, Brussels is faced with the question of how it wants to position itself with regard to the Black Sea countries. The need for alternative routes for transporting goods and energy from Asia to Europe also plays a key role in this context. Centuries-old trade routes are being rediscovered, in part due to Russia's war in Ukraine, and could promote prosperity as they did long ago.

NATO has long since recognised the strategic significance of the Black Sea. It is important to contain the Russian Federation's expansionist ambitions. Not only the current war in Ukraine, but also the many other frozen conflicts over Transnistria, Abkhazia and South Ossetia are destabilising factors. Russia has troops stationed in all of these territories. That is why the Alliance endeavours to strengthen the resilience of its partners in the region. In order to protect its partners, it is also reinforcing coastal protection, air surveillance and airspace management. At the same time, NATO's maritime presence is restricted by the Montreux Convention, which limits the tonnage and duration of stay for ships from non-Black Sea countries.

The course will also examine existing forms of cooperation in the region and systematically analyse the integration of the Black Sea into regional and global cooperation.



Tasks and objectives

Since it was founded in 1992, the Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS) has been a place of strategic thinking and security policy training. The Academy's work is interdisciplinary in its approach and practically oriented. It promotes a broad understanding of Germany's long-term security objectives, and a shared concept of the comprehensive approach to security among individuals from politics, government agencies, academia, business, civil society and the general public.

The Federal Academy for Security Policy's tasks are divided into three areas: teaching/training, expert conferences and public dialogue.

Organisation

Politically, the Federal Academy for Security Policy is led by a board of trustees, which is chaired by the Federal Chancellery and includes members of all federal ministries represented in the Federal Security Council. The board of trustees is supported by an advisory board consisting of key figures in the security policy arena. Organisationally, the Federal Academy for Security Policy falls within the area of responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Defence.

The President of the Academy is Ambassador Ekkehard Brose. The Federal Academy for Security Policy has some 70 employees from all ministries represented in the Federal Security Council. It was established in Bonn in 1992. It has been based on the premises of Schönhausen Palace in Berlin since 2004.



GETTING TO THE FEDERAL ACADEMY FOR SECURITY POLICY (BAKS*)



*German abbreviation

YOUR CONTACT



Dr Norbert Eitelhuber
Course Director

✉ fuehrungskraefteseminar@baks.bund.de
☎ +49 (0)30 400 46-150

Editorial information

Image credits

Guillaume Périgois/Unsplash, Pedro Szekely/Flickr/CC BY-SA 2.0, photobank.md, Levan Gokadze/Flickr/CC BY-SA 2.0, CherryX per Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 3.0), Ezzeldin.Elbacksawy per Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0), fietzfotos/Pixabay, BAKS (6x)

Last updated

January 2023

This brochure is issued for public relations purposes by the Federal Academy for Security Policy. It is distributed free of charge and is not intended for sale. The content of the flyer is subject to copyright law.

Contact

Bundesakademie für Sicherheitspolitik
Schlossanlage Schönhausen
Ossietskystraße 44/45 • DE-13187 Berlin

☎ +49 (0)30 400 46-420
✉ poststelle@baks.bund.de
🐦 twitter.com/baks_bund
📘 facebook.com/baks.bund
🌐 linkedin.com/company/baks-bund

www.baks.bund.de/en