

## Mission

CESS is an independent institute for training, education, and coaching based in the Netherlands. Its aim is to promote transparency, accountability, and effective governance. CESS seeks to advance democracy and the rule of law, help governments and civil society face their respective challenges, and further the civilised and lawful resolution of conflict.

CESS is international, multidisciplinary and collaborative. Its work is part of the European quest for stability, prosperity, and democracy both within and outside Europe. CESS encourages informed debate, empowers individuals, fosters mutual understanding on matters of governance, and promotes and sustains democratic structures and processes.

## Types of Training

CESS can deliver training on various issues such as:

- ✓ Democratic governance in the security sector
- ✓ Fighting corruption and promoting integrity
- ✓ Optimising work processes within parliamentary committees
- ✓ Negotiation and consensus-building in politics
- ✓ The legislative process
- ✓ Parliamentary oversight of the security sector
- ✓ Human rights in the Armed Forces (incl. the gender issue)
- ✓ Conducting parliamentary research and composing policy papers
- ✓ Defence budgeting and auditing
- ✓ Community policing
- ✓ Integrated Border Management
- ✓ Fight against organised crime
- ✓ Fight against terrorism



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## Distinctive Features

- ✓ We are independent, but work closely with national governments and international governmental organisations
- ✓ We have a rich and wide-ranging international network of associate experts and instructors
- ✓ We have nearly 25 years of experience in supporting young democracies in their transition processes
- ✓ We conduct policy research on issues of governance in the security sector
- ✓ We provide training for mixed groups of practitioners from government, media, and civil society
- ✓ We provide parliamentary staffers with the necessary skills, tools, and techniques to facilitate effective and accountable oversight
- ✓ We work in country and in the local language
- ✓ We seek the help of local partners and provide them with support
- ✓ We provide teaching material and training for local trainers, so that local people can carry on the training effort
- ✓ We implement intensive training programmes for parliamentary staffers to better enable them to more effectively assist parliamentarians in the committees
- ✓ We raise awareness amongst parliamentarians on exercising effective oversight by means of tailor-made coaching trajectories
- ✓ We help to raise awareness among parliamentarians on lobbying, agenda-setting, debating, communicating, consensus-building, negotiations, and building up strategic relationships

## Training Methods

Our training courses usually last three consecutive days where participants are expected to be present all days. For training purposes, each group of trainees should not be larger than 20 persons.

All our training modules are delivered in an interactive fashion, i.e.: not lecturing, but active participation by the trainees. When possible, break-out groups will be formed to discuss topics in order to avoid passivity and to stimulate participation by all and to promote the exchange of views. Also small exercises may be added to each module with the same goal. At the heart of all our training courses we schedule a full-day simulation game which takes place in a fictitious country, using a fictitious case. Simulation allows for the trainees to apply the lessons they have learned during the other training days. In our opinion, the best way to learn is to compose a varied training programme where technical sessions are alternated with break-out groups, simulation games, icebreakers and discussions.

## Financing and Contact

CESS is a budget-driven organization, i.e. all training programs need to be subsidized by external parties.

With great pleasure we will discuss your interests and wishes and match it with our possibilities and capabilities. We are also more than happy to give you the precise breakdown of costs in terms of running a training course. Please feel free to ask for more non-binding information by e-mail: [info@cess.org](mailto:info@cess.org) or [merijnhartog@cess.org](mailto:merijnhartog@cess.org).