

To
Chief Master Sargent Kathrine Kiourtsidou,
Secretary General of the Gender Equality Office,
Greek Federation of Military Personnel

Dear Chief Master Sargent Kiourtsidou,

We would like to inform you that the Cyber security, Corporate security & Crisis Management initiative Republic of North Macedonia (C3I Initiative-Skopje, <https://www.c3initiative.com/en/>) and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina are organizing NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme sponsored Advanced Training Course (ATC) event entitled "**Gender Mainstreaming in Counter-terrorism Efforts in Western Balkans**". The co-directors of this NATO SPS ATC will be D-r. Metodi Hadji Janev C3I -Skopje and D-r. Vedada Baraković the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tuzla.

This ATC (envisioned as five-day training) will bring together experts and decision-makers from the relevant state institutions in the Western Balkan Region and NATO countries, and will provide a forum for discussion and sharing best practices for the incorporation of gender approaches in counter-terrorism (CT) and Countering violent extremism - CVE, but also for the promotion of equality women in defense and security sectors in Western Balkans. The goal of this project is to promote the gender-related issues in the region of Western Balkans, to increase understanding about the valuable role of women in enhancing the CT and CVE efforts and to contribute to wider and more substantial responsibilities of women in these processes.

The event was planned to take place in Ohrid, North Macedonia, but due to the restrictions as the result of Covid-19 pandemic, the event will be held mainly online with the organizing team being placed in Ohrid as originally planned. It will be held from 16th May 2021 to 21st May 2021.

Given your valuable research and expertise in the field, it would be our immense pleasure if you would be interested to participate as a speaker/lecturer in the upcoming ATC event and make a presentation on the following topic: "**The roles of women in Greek Urban Warfare compared to the experiences of women in Jihadi terrorism, as experienced in Syria and Iraq**". Please note that the topic could be modified at your request and can be scheduled in accordance with your availability.


In addition, as an end-product, the NATO SPS publication (more info <https://www.nato.int/science/publication/results.htm>) is expected to be published after the conclusion of the event. In this vein, we will be pleased if you would also like to contribute to this effort with an article reflecting your presentation and research/work in the field.

The trainees of the ATC event will be military and civilian experts employed in the institutional and NGO sector, administrative staff, young researchers and young professionals in the field of social sciences (security, politics and law) predominantly from Western Balkan countries, but also from the broader South-East Europe region including from North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, Albania and Bulgaria.

Should you need any additional information, please let us know.

Sincerest Regards,

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Crisis Management initiative-C3I
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