

## *FBA's annual course, in collaboration with BIPC, on* **Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of former combatants (DDR)**

*Following violent conflict or serious political and social crisis, a successful post-conflict transition is key in the peacebuilding and reconciliation process. Within this post-conflict transition, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants (DDR) is instrumental, seeking to increase security levels locally and nationally, but also enabling those associated with armed groups to (re)join mainstream society following the end of conflict.*

Contemporary challenges and developments within the field have challenged the traditional use of DDR as a post-conflict tool. Responding to these challenges, the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on DDR has initiated a revision of the Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS) for the standards to better suit contemporary challenges of peacebuilding environments. In light of this revision, the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) revised its global course on DDR, which was re-launched in November 2019 in Stockholm. A second round of the course will be completed between the **9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 in Barcelona, Spain**, in collaboration with the Barcelona International Peace Center (BIPC)\*.

**\*Please note:** Given the current and ongoing worldwide pandemic and the unpredictability of future developments concerning regulations, restrictions and protective measures on global and national levels, the course may at any given time before or during its implementation, be postponed, modified or moved elsewhere. In this case, enrolled participants are guaranteed seats in the consecutive course, and will be duly informed of future developments. Enrolled participants will also have the choice to ask for a full refund of the course fee, may that be needed.

### **PURPOSE**

The course aims at deepening participants' understanding and knowledge of the role of integrated DDR processes and related interventions during post-conflict transitions and peacebuilding and stabilization initiatives during ongoing conflict. After completing the course, the participants are expected to be able to:

- Discuss the conceptual evolution of DDR
- Analyse the differences between national DDR initiatives and UN-led integrated DDR processes
- Explain key components and activities of an integrated DDR process
- Connect and distinguish integrated DDR processes to other peacebuilding, or stabilization, interventions
- Apply and combine different elements of integrated DDR processes to differing conflict- and post-conflict settings
- Plan and assess a context specific, differentiated and evidence based integrated DDR process

## **COURSE CONTENTS**

During this ten-day course, the participants will explore the concept of DDR and gain a deep understanding of its role within the international peacebuilding architecture. Furthermore, the course will cover a number of DDR-related tools and tangent thematic areas.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The course adopts an interactive, learner-centered pedagogical approach combining presentations, discussions, group work and scenario-based exercises. Individual and group-based reflections are incorporated to support knowledge sharing and promote the learning experience. With facilitators and participants of multiple professional and geographic backgrounds, this course offers a dynamic and synergetic learning environment with extensive networking and peer-learning opportunities.

## **TARGET GROUP**

The participants are expected to have an intermediate knowledge of peacebuilding mechanisms and/or structures, dynamics of internal armed conflicts, and a need or strong interest to learn about DDR. Invited participants are civil servants, diplomats, police, military personnel, academics and representatives from international and non-governmental organizations. FBA strives to have a gender balanced participation as well as participants with a mix of institutional and geographic backgrounds and experiences. Participants will be selected by means of professional background and personal motivation in order to create a dynamic and interactive group. Additionally, in order to fully assimilate the contents of the course, participants are expected to actively engage with trainers, the course material, and with other participants, devoting their full attention to the course for these ten days. As the course is taught fully in English, fluency is a requirement.

## **COST AND LOCATION**

The course will take place in **Barcelona, Spain, between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of November**. The course has a course fee of 1 800 euros, which covers accommodation, breakfast, lunches and refreshments during the scheduled hours, social activities as well as a welcoming reception and a closing dinner - if and as permitted by the Spanish regulations on the pandemic. Participants are expected to cover their own travel expenses and food and beverages outside of the training hours. A limited number of scholarships can – in exceptional cases – be offered, covering parts of these expenses, for qualified participants who otherwise would not be able to attend. If you are interested, please indicate this on your application form, including a motivation statement. FBA will not be in a position to provide admitted participants with visa assistance in excess of a formal letter of invitation.

### **ON COVID-19 AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

In the light of the current pandemic, FBA and BIPC have implemented precautions for the safety of all involved. Facial masks and disinfectant hand gel will be available and distributed in the training hall, and seating will be arranged with the ambition of keeping social distance as much as possible during the course. In addition, many activities will be taking place outside. Participants are also required to:

- On demand, display proof of existing and valid health and travel insurances
- Comply with the Spanish authorities COVID19 prevention requirements for foreign travellers entering Spain (more information will be provided in due course)
- Assure that they free from Covid-19 related symptoms before traveling and immediately report to the course management symptoms that might arise during the duration of the course
- Act responsibility once in Barcelona by following current restrictions and guidelines communicated by the Spanish government

Please keep this in mind when applying for the course as neither FBA nor BIPC assume responsibility for the actions of individual participants, nor are has the possibility to grant financial assistance in the eventuality of a participant's worsened health. In addition, FBA and BIPC encourages all applicants to keep updated with current developments which may come to affect their travel arrangements to and from Barcelona. International developments and national immigration restrictions may lead to participants being excluded from the course.

### **ON REFUND OF COURSE FEES**

In the event that the course is cancelled, or that a participant needs to withdraw from the course, the following apply:

- If the course fees have been paid and FBA cancels the course to which the student has applied before it begins, the student is entitled to have the course fees reimbursed in their entirety.
- Participants who withdraw before the start of the course due to own health issues will be reimbursed in their entirety.
- Participants who withdraw from the course no later than 22 days before the start of the course for other reasons than health issues will reimbursed in their entirety.
- Participants who withdraw from the course 21-8 days before the start of the course will be reimbursed 50% of the course fee if the place cannot be filled with a new participant.
- Participants who withdraw from the course less than 8 days (one week) before the start of the course for other reasons than health issues will not be refunded if the place cannot be filled with a new participant.

## APPLICATION

Applicants are welcome to submit their application until 20 October 2020. Please do however note that participants will be enrolled on a rolling basis until the limited spaces on the course are all filled. Applicants are therefore encouraged to apply as soon as possible, especially applicants in need of visas. As we normally receive a high number of applications, we encourage applicants to carefully explain their professional experience and motivation for applying to the course. In addition, CVs are welcome.

Applicants are kindly requested to use the [online application form](#).

For further information please refer to <https://fba.se/en/how-we-work/courses/upcoming-courses/> and <https://bcnpeacecenter.org/> or contact FBA's DDR Course Administration: **ddr@fba.se**.



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