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9 December 2024
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR AN INTERNATIONAL LIVE-AGENT TRAINING COURSE FOR EXPERTS
KRUŠEVAC, SERBIA
24 – 28 MARCH 2025**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite States Parties to nominate representatives to participate in a live-agent training course, which will take place from 24 to 28 March 2025 in Kruševac, Serbia.
2. The course is jointly organised by the Secretariat, the Government of Serbia, and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Centre of the Serbian Armed Forces Command, and will provide training for up to 15 qualified participants who may be called upon to respond to chemical emergencies in their home countries.
3. The purpose of this course is to provide participants with standardised skills and abilities in order to work confidently in personal protective equipment in a toxic environment contaminated with chemical agents.
4. The objectives of the course are to understand:
 - (a) the protection measures to take against chemical agents;
 - (b) the detection of chemical agents;
 - (c) the process of individual decontamination; and
 - (d) the components of safe CBRN training.
5. Given the purpose of the course and its technical nature, candidates will be carefully selected according to the following criteria:
 - (a) All participants should be first responders and/or instructors or trainers, or be involved in the development of the chemical emergency response system in their respective countries.
 - (b) All participants must have good oral and written command of English, as all activities during the course will be conducted in English and no interpretation services of any kind will be available.



- (c) Preference will be given to individuals who have demonstrable competency in the principles of chemical scene operations, including, but not limited to, completion of the OPCW assistance and protection training cycle.
 - (d) Participants must be physically fit and capable of wearing personal protective gear for several hours at a time.
- 6. Selected participants will be required to supply confirmation of their health status from their personal healthcare provider, as required by the host facility. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraph 5 above. Only the most suitable applicants will be selected. The course is exclusively for selected participants, no companions are allowed.
- 7. The Secretariat expects to be able to sponsor a limited number of participants from States Parties. For sponsored participants, it will cover the costs of transportation, accommodation, and meals. Further details regarding the venue and other course-specific arrangements will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
- 8. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs to a minimum, sponsored participants are expected to arrive no earlier than Sunday, 23 March 2025, and to depart no later than Saturday, 29 March 2025.
- 9. Sponsored participants must bear all costs not related to the course or resulting from any itinerary changes made without explicit approval from the Secretariat. All participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas before travelling to Serbia, including transit visas.
- 10. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online **no later than Sunday, 19 January 2025** through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org/>). Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) must be answered in order for the nomination to be received, and for the candidate to be considered for this event. States Parties and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to seek, support, and endorse applications from and nominations of suitable women candidates for this course. Those who have been selected to participate will be contacted no later than one week after the submission deadline.
- 11. Additional information may be obtained from Mr Miguel Albaladejo, Programme Officer (Tel.: +31704163451; Email: miguel.albaladejopomares@opcw.org) of the Assistance and Protection Branch, International Cooperation and Assistance Division.

Annex: Content of the Live-Agent Training Course

Annex

CONTENT OF THE LIVE-AGENT TRAINING COURSE

1. Protection against toxic chemicals:

- (a) protection measures against toxic chemicals;
- (b) medical signs and symptoms of poisoning and medical countermeasures;
- (c) evacuation of casualties and incident management in a contaminated zone;
- (d) personal protection equipment;
- (e) infrastructure for training with toxic chemicals; and
- (f) operational procedures for working in zones contaminated with toxic chemicals.

2. Detection of toxic chemicals:

- (a) characteristics of toxic chemicals;
- (b) detection in areas with simulated conditions of contamination (laboratory conditions);
- (c) detection in areas contaminated with toxic chemicals (laboratory conditions);
- (d) detection in field conditions in areas contaminated with toxic chemicals (various surfaces)—basic station;
- (e) detection in field conditions in areas contaminated with toxic chemicals (various surfaces)—advanced station; and
- (f) reconnaissance in areas contaminated with toxic chemicals.

3. Chemical decontamination:

- (a) decontamination of areas contaminated with toxic chemicals.