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EUROMIL SURVEY RESULTS

CLIMATE CHANGE: SECURITY AND DEFENCE



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PARTICIPANTS

Country	Military Association
Belgium	ACMP-CGPM
Cyprus	CAOA
Denmark	CS
France	UNION APNM
Germany	DBwV
Greece	PFEARFU
Hungary	HÉSZ
Ireland	PDFORRA, RACO
Luxembourg	SPAL
Malta	GWU
Montenegro	SOVCG
Portugal	ANS
Spain	AUME, AUGC
Sweden	SAMO
The Netherlands	AFMP, MARVER

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is increasingly recognized as a threat multiplier, with its impacts already manifesting in the security and defence sector. Military personnel are frequently tasked with responding to natural disasters and delivering humanitarian aid, while during missions and operations abroad they are often confronted with the challenges that extreme weather conditions pose. Understanding the complex relationship between the military and climate change is paramount in today's world, since the armed forces have a crucial role to play in both understanding the impacts of climate change and taking proactive steps to address them. This involves not only assisting in mitigation efforts to reduce carbon emissions and environmental degradation but also advocating for sustainable practices within military operations and beyond. Furthermore, embracing adaptation strategies and promoting a green transition are essential components of ensuring the resilience and effectiveness of military forces in the face of a changing climate.

International organisations and national governments are starting addressing the interconnected relation between climate and defence; to provide a few examples, Belgium commits to decarbonising the Belgian Armed Forces, as it is also evident by the [Principle no 7 of the STAR Plan](#): “Defence commits itself to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases of its military activities and installations”. Another example is Greece, where recently the Minister of Defence told during an [interview](#) that the Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection of Greece is running a project named AIGIS which will provide the Armed Forces with 200 million euros worth of equipment – to be delivered in 2025 and thus allow military specialised units to assist the civil protection during environmental crisis. . On the international level, NATO has pledged to become a leading organisation in climate and security and in this process the allies have adopted various policies, as the [Climate Change and Security Impact Assessment](#) or the [Compendium for best practises](#). Also, the European Union (EU) through the [Strategic Compass](#) incorporates climate change to various aspects of the defence sector, to name just a few, [the Military Mobility Action Plan 2.0](#), the [Joint Communication on Climate-Security Nexus](#), the [Maritime Security Strategy](#).

Numerous additional initiatives regarding climate and defence are underway, to given an example, the European Defence Agency (EDA) through various initiatives as the [Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in the Defence and Security Sector](#) (CF SEDSS). It should also not be forgotten that climate change represents an area of cooperation between the EU and NATO according to the [3rd Joint Declaration](#).

INTRODUCTION

However, now it is high time to move towards implementation of the various policies. It is essential to have in mind that policies often lack the importance of military personnel and the actual difficulties and tasks they are dealing with due to climate change.

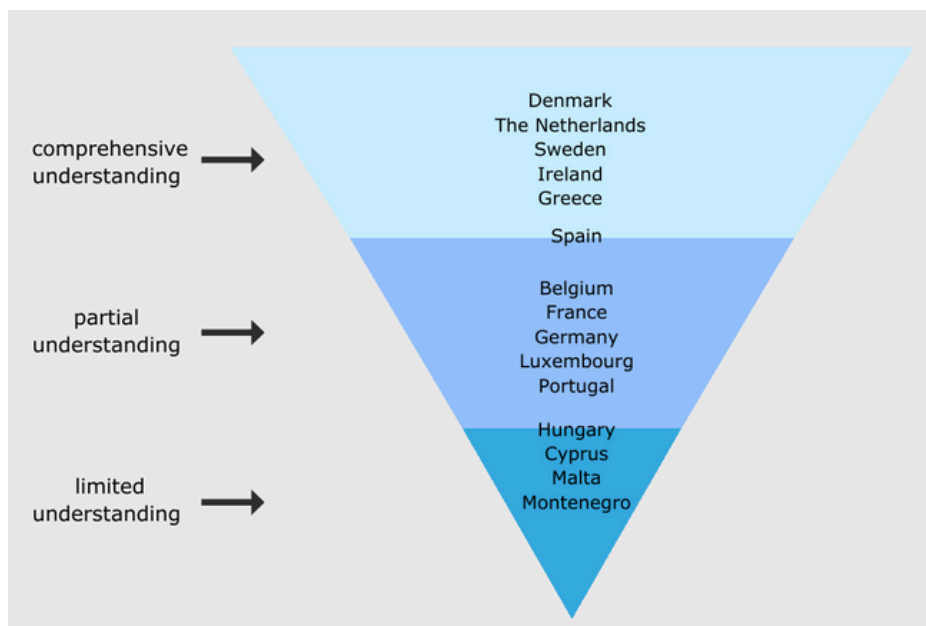
Therefore, EUROMIL launched this survey to better understand what military associations think are the main challenges that military personnel face amid climate change and what the next steps should be for the Armed Forces to be better prepared for the future. To elaborate more, it aims to detect the potential roles that military associations and trade unions can assume in fostering environmental awareness, advocating for mitigation and adaptation measures, and consequently facilitating the transition toward sustainability. **By recognizing the significance of the human factor, it is imperative to underline the necessity of providing proper training for personnel and equipping them adequately.** Only by prioritizing the well-being and preparedness of individuals can the defence sector effectively embrace environmentally friendly practices while also enhancing operational effectiveness in the face of changing environmental conditions.

In order to provide added value to the existing information the questionnaire focuses on the educational level of military personnel regarding climate change, as well as the connection between climate security and gender. Regarding the latter, climate change often exacerbates gender inequalities, with women being disproportionately affected by its impacts, and especially in vulnerable communities. Thus, it is important for military personnel to become aware about such connection, particularly when deployed for missions or operations abroad. In addition, the survey examines whether members of the Armed Forces of the participating countries are trained to efficiently respond under severe weather conditions, as well as if they are assisting the state during natural disasters and by providing humanitarian assistance. Lastly, participating members provide their point of view on what the next steps should be both at national and international level to better comprehend the issue and work towards solutions.

MAIN RESULTS

To begin with, on the question whether military personnel are well aware about climate and security through the integration of the topic in the educational system, three different trends were observed; an educational system that provides a comprehensive understanding of climate, security and defence to the members of the Armed Forces, one that provides partial understanding and a limited one.

According to the graph below in countries as Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Ireland and Greece, climate and security is well integrated into the military educational system. To provide an example, in Ireland, the curriculum of the training program Command and Staff course (designed for officers at the rank of OF3s) includes instruction on climate change and its effects on global security strategies and the planning of military operations. In addition, an interesting situation is observed in Spain where military personnel are starting to learn more and more about climate security, but for the Guardia Civil personnel climate change is not integrated into the education system. Occasionally there may be training on environmental regulations, but the Guardia Civil focuses more on administrative policing duties.

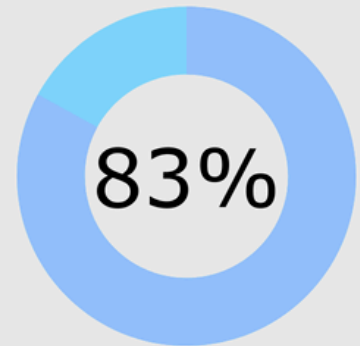


Given the situation in Spain, it is interesting to also provide the example of Italy, where the Carabinieri have set up an [International Centre of Excellence for the Protection of the Environment and the care of Territory](#). The Centre is an advanced training and research facility dedicated to environmental protection and territorial management and is located in Sabaudia, Italy. One of its aims is to provide innovative solutions to environmental challenges through specialised training courses on a variety of topics as wildlife protection, pollution control, waste management and the enforcement of environmental laws.

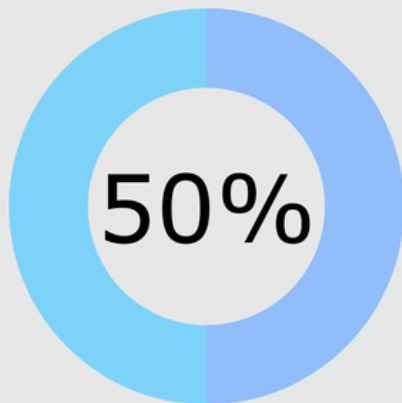
MAIN RESULTS

Overall, the Italian Carabinieri International Centre of Excellence for the Protection of the Environment and the Care of Territory plays a vital role in enhancing global environmental protection efforts through training, research, and international collaboration. Regarding the second category of countries with a partial integration of climate security into the educational system, it is observed that personnel are building an overall awareness on the topic but concrete knowledge is lacking. Lastly, in countries as Hungary, Cyprus, Malta and Montenegro there is none integration of the issue in military education.

Climate Change considerations are taken into account when trained for operations and missions abroad



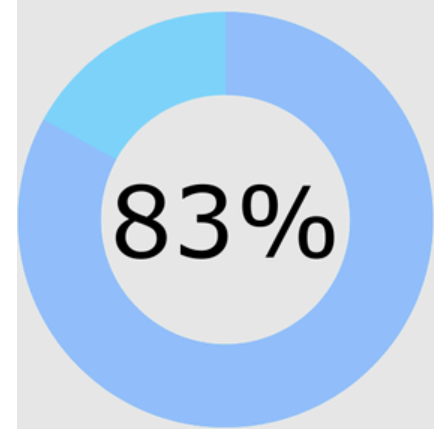
Military personnel are trained to respond and operate under severe climatic conditions.



To continue, it is important to note that the majority (83%) of the participating members indicate that climate change considerations are taken into account when trained for operations and missions abroad, but still there is not a fully-fledged overview of climate and security. In other words, it should not be neglected that climate change has also an increased impact on gender equality, as women and girls are much more negatively affected, and such comprehension should be an important assent for personnel when deployed in affected areas. However, that is the case in only one of the participating countries; The Netherlands.

In today's unpredictable environmental conditions, it is imperative that members of the Armed Forces are well trained and receive proper equipment to be able not only to efficiently operate under severe climatic conditions but also to effectively protect themselves under such circumstances. However, the participants signify that such skills exist only in 50% of the participating countries. On the other hand, 83% of the responders demonstrate that military personnel in their country are supporting the state during natural disasters and provide humanitarian assistance in this regard when needed. The recent years there have been many examples of military personnel assisting during natural disasters in Europe, as during the floods in western Europe in summer 2021, or the wildfires in Greece during the summer of 2023.

Military personnel learn to support the state during natural disasters and to provide humanitarian assistance



MAIN RESULTS

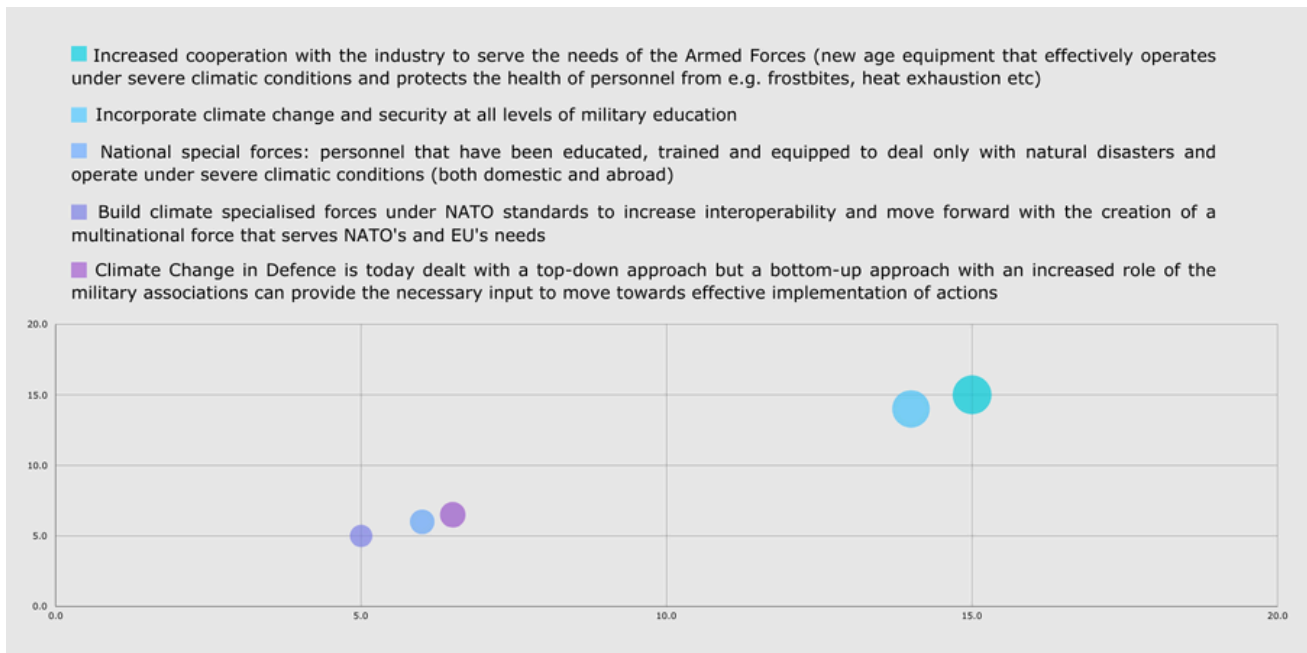
It is imperative for personnel to be well prepared for such situations or to have specialised forces dealing with climate emergencies, in order to avoid incidents and personnel losing their lives, as happened in Greece last summer.

On having specialised forces dealing with climate emergencies, some countries are dedicating their reserve forces to such tasks, but it is still very limited, while it should also be noted that not all countries are currently having active reserve forces. From the participating countries to this survey, the only ones that have active reserve forces that are dealing or starting to deal with climate related hazards are Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands and Hungary. Besides, conscripts are often deployed by the state when it is needed. From the participating countries conscripts exist in Greece, Cyprus, Sweden and Denmark but only in Greece they are educated on the topic of climate change and defence.

The vast majority of the respondents (61%) support the creation of a combined EU-NATO force that assists EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats.

In general, European states are engaging in discussions regarding the various pathways concerning environmental degradation, its impacts on defence, and the need for capacity building within the Armed Forces. It should not be neglected though that since the nature of threats is changing, the Armed Forces are dealing more and more often with highly disruptive threats, which no state can effectively tackle alone. Cooperation is much needed, especially through NATO and the EU. Henceforth, 39% of the participants state that the next step should be an EU force dedicated to crisis management, humanitarian assistance during natural disasters inside the EU and the vast majority of the respondents (61%) support the creation of a combined EU-NATO force that assists EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats.

MAIN RESULTS



As it is shown in the above graph, participating members gave input on what the next course of action should be. Among various proposals the highest-ranking three are:

- Increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc)
- Incorporate climate change and security at all levels of military education
- Climate Change in Defence is today dealt with a top-down approach but a bottom-up approach with an increased role of the military associations can provide the necessary input to move towards effective implementation of actions

Therefore, it is evident that military personnel require specialised equipment to respond to challenges posed by climate change, whether that includes tools for disaster response during extreme weather events, equipment for environmental monitoring and the subsequent effects on infrastructures and during operations, or special equipment to safeguard the well-being of military personnel and ensure their effectiveness, resilience and readiness. Military associations and trade unions also understand that the defence industry is a key component to achieve high-edge results in this matter.

MAIN RESULTS

Another important factor is the common understanding of the threats and challenges that climate change poses by military personnel, as well as how they can be tackled. Thus, participating members are advocating for the inclusion of such courses at all levels of military education. Lastly, but equally important is the role that military associations can play in the active implementation of environmental policies in the Armed Forces. In other words, **associations can provide expertise and a bottom-up approach that is often lacking during policy making.**

Taking under consideration the point of view and needs of military personnel, the men and women that are directly dealing with those challenges can lead towards fundamental solutions

EUROMIL members that are in social dialogue with the national authorities for the topic of climate and defence



28%

Taking under consideration the point of view and needs of military personnel, the men and women that are directly dealing with those challenges can lead towards fundamental solutions. Regrettably, from the participating members only 28% are in social dialogue with the relevant state authorities on the matter. One important example is the one of Denmark, where climate and environmental policy is in place and local cooperation communities composed by employees (union representatives) and management play a vital role in safeguarding the environment and ensuring a safe and healthy workplace for military personnel.

RESULTS BY COUNTRY

Belgium - ACMP-CGPM

Military Academies in Belgium offer to a **very limited** extent courses on climate change for officers, and climate and gender is not part of the courses. On training, military personnel learn how to respond under severe climatic conditions, to operate special equipment, and to support the state when needed. Such considerations are also taken into account when trained for missions and operations abroad. On the other hand, the reserve forces are not neither trained nor educated on climate change, but the state is considering building a specialised force for climate change based on the country's reserve forces.

ACMP-CGPM considers the best next step to be the establishment of a combined **EU-NATO force** that assists EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats, as well as:

- Increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc)
- Incorporate climate change and security at **all levels of military education**

Lastly, the organisation is not in dialogue with the relevant authorities on the topic of climate change, security and defence.

Cyprus - CAO A

In Cyprus the majority of military personnel are not aware about the challenges posed by climate change. According to CAO A, personnel are mostly informed about energy saving measures but not for climate security challenges. As a result the members of the Armed Forces are not trained to respond under severe environmental conditions. But, they are able to support the state during natural disasters or to provide humanitarian assistance. Also, both the reserve forces and the conscripts in Cyprus are not focusing on climate change, but there are considerations by the state for it to change.

CAOA also supports the creation of a combined EU-NATO force that will assist EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats, while also advocates for:

- Increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc)

RESULTS BY COUNTRY

- Incorporate climate change and security at all levels of military education
- Climate Change in Defence is today dealt with a top-down approach but a bottom-up approach with an increased role of the military associations can provide the necessary input to move towards effective implementation of actions

The organisation is not in dialogue with the relevant authorities for climate and defence.

Denmark - CS

In Denmark, the Armed Forces prioritize **environmental sustainability** and **workplace safety** through a multifaceted approach. One key aspect of this approach is the establishment of **cooperation committees** at various duty stations, which are composed of employees (union representatives) and management. To elaborate more, the Armed Forces have a comprehensive climate and environmental policy in place. This policy encompasses initiatives aimed at reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, promoting energy-conscious practices, implementing recycling measures, and minimizing the use of materials and energy sources that are harmful to the environment. Additionally, the local cooperation committees play a vital role in safeguarding the environment at the public level. Each military unit also appoints a local representative dedicated to ensuring a safe and healthy work environment for personnel.

But in general, the soldiers do not receive any special education or knowledge about climate change and the environment through their basic training. An exception is the **National Emergency Management Agency**. It is the unarmed part of the Armed Forces that provides assistance in the event of disasters and major accidents, including disasters caused by climate change and environmental pollution. The effect of climate change on gender is not part of the education system. Apart from the Agency, the reserve forces in Denmark are also specialising in dealing with climate related hazards. But, conscripts are not dealing with environmental aspects despite being considerations to add climate change in their training.

For CS, a next step should be a combined EU-NATO force that assists EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats, while it also supports the:

- Increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc)
- Incorporate climate change and security to individual selected units or groups in the Armed Forces

RESULTS BY COUNTRY

Lastly, CS **is in dialogue** with the relevant authorities about the topic of climate and security in the Armed Forces as represented in the local 'cooperation committees' by the union representatives.

France - UNION APNM

In France the Armed Forces are trained to support the state and to operate under severe environmental conditions, also for missions and operations abroad. However, and congruent with UNION APNM, there's a gap in awareness among military personnel regarding the implications of climate change. Hence, it is imperative to incorporate climate change and security courses at all levels of military education.

For APNM it is also important that partners move forward in a coordinated manner and build an EU force dedicated to crisis management, humanitarian assistance during natural disasters inside the EU, while increasing cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces should also be a priority. In addition, the organisations supports the stance that climate change in defence is today dealt with a top-down approach but a bottom-up approach with an increased role of the military associations can provide the necessary input to move towards effective implementation of actions.

The organisation is not in dialogue with the relevant authorities for climate and defence.

Germany - DBwV

In Germany, military personnel generally understand the risks and challenges posed by climate change. However, the specifics of their knowledge and awareness might be limited due to differences in the educational system. As a result military personnel are not trained and do not acquire specialised skills to respond under severe climatic conditions. On the other hand, they receive training for supporting the state during natural disasters and for providing humanitarian assistance. Such considerations are also taken into account when trained for missions and operations abroad. Considering reserve forces, they are not focusing on climate change, but the state is considering building such force.

Our member association also encourages the creation of a combined EU-NATO force that will assist EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats, while is also recommending for:

- Increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc)

RESULTS BY COUNTRY

- Incorporate climate change and security at all levels of military education
- Build climate specialised forces under NATO standards to increase interoperability and move forward with the creation of a multinational force that serves NATO's and EU's needs

Lastly, the association is not in dialogue with the relevant authorities on the topic.

Greece - PFEARFU

In Greece, according to our member association PFEARFU, climate change education is integrated into foundational courses at military academies, supplemented by advanced courses for career advancement and additional specialized training opportunities. Conscripts are also well educated on the topic of climate change. But, none of the above educational modules touches upon the topic of the effects of climate change on gender.

To continue, military personnel are trained to be able to respond under severe climatic conditions and learn how to operate special equipment. Their training also involves state support during environmental hazards and for providing humanitarian assistance in this regard. Such skills are also taken under consideration during pre-deployment training for missions and operations abroad. In relation to the reserve forces in Greece, they are not focusing on climate change, but the state is moving towards that direction.

PFEARFU also supports the creation of a combined EU-NATO force that will assist EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats, in addition to:

- Increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc)
- National special forces: personnel that have been educated, trained and equipped to deal only with natural disasters and operate under severe climatic conditions (both domestic and abroad)
- Build climate specialised forces under NATO standards to increase interoperability and move forward with the creation of a multinational force that serves NATO's and EU's needs

Lastly, the organisation is in dialogue with the relevant authorities regarding the needs of personnel in relation to dealing with climate change. In details the organisation negotiates with the MoD for proper training, specialised equipment and special allowances for members of the Armed Forces that are dealing with natural disaster's response.

RESULTS BY COUNTRY

Hungary- HÉSZ

In Hungary, climate-related topics are not specifically incorporated into the education system for military personnel. Consequently, HÉSZ advises for the inclusion of climate change and security courses at all levels of military education. On practical terms though personnel can well operate under severe environmental factors and are able to support the state during natural disasters; skills that are also needed for missions and operations abroad. Despite that personnel are not educated on climate change challenges and threats, the Hungarian reserve forces are becoming the specialised ones to cope with climate hazards.

HÉSZ also supports the creation of an EU force dedicated to crisis management, humanitarian assistance during natural disasters inside the EU, while also advocates for an increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc). Lastly, the organisation is in dialogue with the relevant authorities for climate and defence.

Ireland - PDFORRA and RACO

In Ireland, Commissioned Officers, represented by RACO, are mostly aware of climate issues but through social engagement and awareness and not much by formal military education.

That training program called **Command and Staff course** (designed for officers at the rank of OF3s) touches upon climate change. In this particular section, referred to as the Defence and Strategic Studies block, the curriculum includes instruction on climate change and its effects on global security strategies and the planning of military operations. Essentially, the course aims to educate officers about how climate change influences various aspects of national and international security, as well as how it factors into the planning and execution of military operations. But the connection of climate and gender as in the above examples not educated. Moreover, military personnel are trained to be able to respond under severe climatic conditions and learn how to operate special equipment and they also attain skills to support the state during natural disasters and provide humanitarian assistance. Besides, such considerations are taken into account when trained for missions and operational abroad. The reserve forces in Ireland though are not focusing on climate change, but the state is considering building such force.

EUROMIL member associations in Ireland, both RACO and PDFORRA advice for an EU force dedicated to crisis management, humanitarian assistance during natural disasters inside the EU and also both recommend for:

RESULTS BY COUNTRY

- Increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc).
- Incorporate climate change and security at all levels of military education.

RACO also advises for specialised national forces in which personnel have been educated, trained and equipped to deal only with natural disasters and operate under severe climatic conditions (both domestic and abroad). PDFORRA underlines the need for climate change in defence to not be dealt with a top-down approach but a bottom-up approach with an increased role of the military associations can provide the necessary input to move towards effective implementation of actions.

Regarding Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) education and training, PDFORRA states that climate is not part of the curriculum. Still, there is a [Civil Defence Agency](#), where citizens come under the Department of Defence as volunteers and support the frontline emergency services, as for instance in dealing with severe weather or providing first aid cover at both local and national events.

Lastly, it is important to note that none of the organisations are in dialogue with the relevant authorities on the topic.

Luxembourg - SPAL

SPAL gives insight on the education of personnel and underlines that climate change is not really part of the system, but personnel are informed through **dedicated campaigns**. However, the relation between climate and gender is still not well explored. Regarding training, members of the Armed Forces are able to respond under climate change challenges and such consideration are taken into consideration for missions and operations abroad, but they are not trained for supporting the state during natural disasters.

SPAL also suggests the creation of an EU force dedicated to crisis management, humanitarian assistance during natural disasters inside the EU, in line with

- Incorporating climate change and security at all levels of military education
- Building climate specialised forces under NATO standards to increase interoperability and move forward with the creation of a multinational force that serves NATO's and EU's needs

The organisation is not in dialogue with the relevant authorities on the topic of climate security and defence.

RESULTS BY COUNTRY

Malta - GWU

In Malta, military personnel are not aware about climate and security challenges as it is not integrated into their educational system, as well as the connection between gender and climate. As a result, members of the Armed Forces are not trained to respond under severe weather conditions either domestically or during missions and operations abroad. But, they learn to support the state during natural disasters and to provide humanitarian assistance when needed. Consequently, the member association advocates for the creation of an EU force dedicated to crisis management, humanitarian assistance during natural disasters inside the EU, while also stressing out the need to:

- Increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc)
- National special forces: personnel that have been educated, trained and equipped to deal only with natural disasters and operate under severe climatic conditions (both domestic and abroad)
- Climate Change in Defence is today dealt with a top-down approach but a bottom-up approach with an increased role of the military associations can provide the necessary input to move towards effective implementation of actions

It is also important to note that the organisation is not in dialogue with the relevant authorities.

Montenegro - SOVCG

In Montenegro our member association does not have access to information about education of the Armed Forces. In general, the Armed Forces respond under severe climatic conditions and support the state when needed. For SOVCG in order to move forward a combined EU-NATO force that assists EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats is needed.

The organisation also suggests to:

- Incorporate climate change and security at all levels of military education
- Have national special forces: personnel that have been educated, trained and equipped to deal only with natural disasters and operate under severe climatic conditions (both domestic and abroad)

Lastly, SOVCG is not in dialogue with the relevant authorities on the topic of climate security and defence.

RESULTS BY COUNTRY

Portugal - ANS

According to EUROMIL's member association, ANS, military personnel in Portugal are in general aware of climate change matters, but the military institutions are not providing training on the topic. But, personnel have specialised skills to be able to operate under severe climatic conditions and learn how to operate special equipment. On the other hand, members of the Armed Forces are not trained into supporting the state during natural disasters and neither for providing humanitarian assistance if needed. Also, personnel that are deployed for missions and operation abroad are not educated on the topic.

ANS also believes that the next step should be a combined EU-NATO force that assists EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats, and then to also:

- Incorporate climate change and security at all levels of military education
- Climate Change in Defence is today dealt with a top-down approach but a bottom-up approach with an increased role of the military associations can provide the necessary input to move towards effective implementation of actions

The organisation is not in dialogue with the relevant authorities for climate and defence.

Spain - AUME and AUGC

According to our member association, AUME, in Spain military personnel are aware about climate and security challenges, but, they are just starting the process of integrating climate change into training and operations. Climate Change has also an increased impact on gender equality, as women and girls are much more negatively affected, but such connection is not part of the education system for military personnel. Moreover, members of the Armed Forces are trained into supporting the state during natural disasters (e.g. floods, wildfires) and providing humanitarian assistance (e.g. evacuation of citizens), but such considerations are not taken into account when trained for missions and operations abroad. To continue, today reserve forces can also play a vital role in fighting climate change by becoming a specialised force in dealing with such challenges. However, the Spanish reserve forces are not focusing on climate change, but the state is considering building such force. But, Spain has created an Emergency Military Unit which deals with natural disasters.

Overall, the nature of threats is changing, the Armed Forces do not only face conventional threats but also emerging and highly disruptive ones, as climate change which acts as threat multiplier.

RESULTS BY COUNTRY

Hence, no state can effectively tackle such challenges alone; hence, according to our member association the next step should be building an EU force dedicated to crisis management, humanitarian assistance during natural disasters inside the EU.

In order to ensure that the Armed Forces have the necessary capabilities to effectively respond to the treats and challenges climate change is posing, AUME recommends:

- Increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc)
- Incorporate climate change and security at all levels of military education
- National special forces: personnel that have been educated, trained and equipped to deal only with natural disasters and operate under severe climatic conditions (both domestic and abroad)

The organisation is not in dialogue with the relevant authorities about the topic of climate and security in the Armed Forces.

AUGC, representing the Guardia Civil personnel describes a different situation than in the Armed Forces, where climate change is not integrated into the education system. Occasionally there may be training on environmental regulations, but the Guardia Civil focuses more on administrative policing duties. Thus, personnel do not learn how to respond under severe climatic conditions. For AUGC, the next step should be a combined EU-NATO force that assists EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats. AUGC also recommends:

- Incorporate climate change and security at all levels of military education
- National special forces: personnel that have been educated, trained and equipped to deal only with natural disasters and operate under severe climatic conditions (both domestic and abroad)
- Climate Change in Defence is today dealt with a top-down approach but a bottom-up approach with an increased role of the military associations can provide the necessary input to move towards effective implementation of actions

Lastly, it is important to note that both organisations (AUME and AUGC) are not in dialogue with the relevant authorities regarding personnel and climate change.

RESULTS BY COUNTRY

Sweden - SAMO

In Sweden, members of the Armed Forces are well educated for the climate change effects, but the gender connection is not yet on the curriculum. In addition, military personnel are trained to be able to respond under severe climatic conditions and learn how to operate special equipment. Military personnel learn to support the state during natural disasters (e.g. floods, wildfires) and provide humanitarian assistance (e.g. evacuation of citizens). All these considerations are taken into account during preparations for missions and operations abroad.

For the reserve forces, our member association indicates that they are specialised in climate change disasters, while on the other hand conscripts are not dealing with climate change but there considerations to add climate change in their training.

For SAMO, the next step should also be a combined EU-NATO force that assists EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats, as well as:

- Increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc)
- Incorporate climate change and security at all levels of military education

To conclude, the organisation is not in social dialogue with the authorities on the topic of climate and defence.

The Netherlands - AFMP and MARVER

EUROMIL's two members AFMP and MARVER imply that the Dutch MoD includes the topic of climate change, sustainability and security and the effects of climate change on gender in training and educational courses for military personnel.

Consequently, military personnel are well trained to effectively react under challenging environmental conditions, operate the necessary equipment and assist the state during disasters and in the need of humanitarian assistance. Such skills and knowledge are also considered when preparing personnel for operations and missions abroad. Besides, Dutch reserve forces are also specialising in dealing with climate related challenges.

For AFMP and MARVER a combined EU-NATO force that assists EU Member States and NATO allies into dealing with climate change threats should be next step alongside with:

RESULTS BY COUNTRY

- Increased cooperation with the industry to serve the needs of the Armed Forces (new age equipment that effectively operates under severe climatic conditions and protects the health of personnel from e.g. frostbites, heat exhaustion etc)
- Incorporate climate change and security at all levels of military education
- Build climate specialised forces under NATO standards to increase interoperability and move forward with the creation of a multinational force that serves NATO's and EU's needs

The unions are in dialogue with the authorities also regarding climate and defence. Overall, the Netherlands are committed to climate neutrality. In details, the MoD climate change statement, which is in place since 2022, underlines that the average temperature has risen sharply worldwide, the country is experiencing more and more frequently heavy rain and extreme weather conditions. Thus, to respond to this it aims to reduce greenhouse gases by 49% by 2030 and by 2050 by 95%.

AFMP and MARVER also highlighted that overall the Armed Forces are preparing for the green transition, and broadly speaking the MoD must be able to operate under diverse circumstances and that is why it work towards making the Armed Forces more sustainable together with its European and NATO partners. In this way, the MoD also takes its social responsibility by contributing to the goals of the Climate Agreement.

CONCLUSION

Lastly, Military Associations and/or Trade Unions have an important role to play by advocating for the needs that the men and women in the Armed Forces face, how the educational system can better serve such needs as well as the increased cooperation between European states with the defence industry.

To summarize, climate change poses numerous challenges that can impact the health, safety and operational effectiveness of military personnel. Thus, the integration of climate change considerations into military planning and policy-making can help mitigate risks and enhance the overall wellbeing of personnel, as well as the effectiveness, resilience and readiness of the Armed Forces.

However, it is still of high importance to enhance collaboration between EU Member States, NATO allies and like minded partners to avoid duplication and fragmentation. A common understanding of the threats posed by climate change is essential to foster a more common strategic culture that will allow the various policies and initiatives to flourish.

Lastly, Military Associations and/or Trade Unions have an important role to play by advocating for the needs that the men and women in the Armed Forces face, how the educational system can better serve such needs as well as the increased cooperation between European states with the defence industry. Next steps could also include further research on the issue by examining the topic of climate and defence from different perspectives, as the connection with mental health, since the need to respond more and more often to climate related disasters can have long term psychological effects as PTSD and other mental health issues. Overall, it has become evident that climate change, security and defence requires a multi-faceted approach to proactively address the plethora of challenges that climate change and environmental degradation pose to the Armed Forces in an also increasingly unpredictable world.



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