



S/2498/2026
27 February 2026
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LIVE AGENT TRAINING COURSE FOR EXPERTS ZEMIANSKE KOSTOL'ANY, SLOVAKIA 15 – 26 JUNE 2026

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite States Parties to nominate representatives to participate in a live chemical warfare agent training course, which will take place from 15 to 26 June 2026 in Zemianske Kostol'any, Slovakia.
2. The course is being organised jointly by the Secretariat and the Government of Slovakia, and will provide training for up to 20 qualified participants who may be called upon to respond to chemical emergencies in their home countries.
3. The course will cover the following topics:
 - (a) detection of chemical warfare agents;
 - (b) donning and doffing of chemical protective clothing;
 - (c) preparation of samples for transport;
 - (d) decontamination operations; and
 - (e) appropriate responses and countermeasures in the event of incidents involving chemical warfare agents or toxic chemicals.
4. The course will provide participants with an opportunity to practise advanced contaminated scene operations in the presence of live chemical warfare agents.
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/trainers, or be involved in the development of the chemical emergency response system in their respective countries.
 - (b) All participants must have a 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 for first responders in any previous year.
 - (d) Participants must be physically fit and capable of wearing personal protective equipment for several hours each day and in varying weather conditions.
 - (e) Selected participants will be required to supply confirmation of their health status from their personal healthcare provider, as required by the host facility.
- 6. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraph 5 above, and in line with the objectives of the course and the applicants' stated area of expertise. Only the most suitable applicants will be selected.
- 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, meals, and medical insurance, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses. Further details regarding logistics and other course-specific information will be issued to all confirmed participants at a later date.
- 8. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. In order for the Secretariat to keep costs as low as reasonably practicable, participants are expected to arrive no earlier than Sunday, 14 June 2026, and to depart no later than Saturday, 27 June 2026. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course or resulting from unauthorised changes to travel arrangements. Once the Secretariat has purchased their tickets, sponsored participants will be responsible for making sure they participate in the course. In the event of any unforeseen circumstances, participants should immediately contact the focal points responsible for the course (see paragraph 13 below for contact details).
- 9. All participants are requested to obtain all necessary visas, including transit visas, before travelling to Slovakia.
- 10. Interested applicants are invited to register their nomination online **no later than Tuesday, 31 March 2026** through Eventus, the OPCW event management system. The Eventus registration link is accessible via the OPCW website (<https://eventus.opcw.org/>). Endorsement by the candidates' respective National Authority is a prerequisite for consideration in the selection process, and must also be completed **no later than 31 March 2026**. States Parties and National Authorities are strongly encouraged to support and endorse applications from and nominations of qualified women candidates for this course.
- 11. Please note that all questions marked with an asterisk (*) in the online registration system must be answered in order for the nomination to be received and for the candidate to be considered for this event. A photocopy of the personal identification page of the applicant's passport is mandatory. The personal information provided in the application must match the details as shown in the passport, as this will be used for the issuance of flight tickets should an application be successful. Participants are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of their personal information. Any inaccuracies may result in exclusion from the training course or additional charges that will need to be borne by the participants.

12. Only selected participants with an OPCW acceptance letter will be able to participate in this course. Candidates who have been selected to participate will be contacted no later than two weeks after the submission deadline.
13. The provisional programme for this training course is included as the Annex to this Note, and further details will be issued directly to the selected participants at a later date. Any questions may be addressed to the focal points for this training within the OPCW Assistance and Protection Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division: Ms Toko Okazaki (Email: toko.okazaki@opcw.org) and Ms Aureliarita Marcellus (Email: aureliarita.marcellus@opcw.org).

Annex: Provisional Programme

Annex

**INTERNATIONAL LIVE AGENT TRAINING COURSE FOR EXPERTS
ZEMIANSKE KOSTOL'ANY, SLOVAKIA
15 – 26 JUNE 2026**

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	Activity
<i>Monday, 15 June 2026</i>	
07:00	Blood draw (at the NBC Technical Training Centre)
08:30 – 12:30	Opening, facility presentation, training programme, safety and medical instructions, and presentations on the character of live chemical agents, health effects, first aid, and detection of live chemical agents
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), laboratory demonstration, tour of the NBC Technical Training Centre, demonstration of decontamination control, demonstration of PPE use, gas mask test
<i>Tuesday, 16 June 2026</i>	
08:00 – 12:30	Briefing, detection and decontamination of live chemical agents, self-decontamination, sample transport preparation, rescue exercise, simulants
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Individual training: First contact with live chemical agents, simulants, evaluation
<i>Wednesday, 17 June 2026</i>	
08:00 – 12:30	Briefing, individual training: First contact with live chemical agents, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Detection of simulants and false positives, exercise on preparation of decontamination solutions, exercise on personal decontamination, simulants, evaluation
<i>Thursday, 18 June 2026</i>	
08:00 – 12:30	Briefing, exercise: Live chemical agent detection and decontamination of common surfaces – live chemical agents, decontamination, and hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Complex samples that require preparation, simulants, decontamination, hygiene, evaluation
<i>Friday, 19 June 2026</i>	
08:00 – 12:30	Briefing, team exercise: Complex samples that require preparation, live chemical agents, decontamination, hygiene, evaluation
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 16:15	Exercise: Detection and sampling from improvised explosive devices, detection and sampling from waste incineration residues, simulants, evaluation
<i>Saturday, 20 June and Sunday, 21 June 2026</i>	
08:00 – 18:00	Social programme

Time	Activity
<i>Monday, 22 June 2026</i>	
08:00 – 12:30	Briefing, team exercise: Detection of live chemical agents on vehicles, sampling, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Detection and sampling from collectors of drinkable water, detection and sampling from ammunition, simulants, evaluation
<i>Tuesday, 23 June 2026</i>	
08:00 – 12:30	Briefing, final complex exercise focused on detection of live chemical agents, their sampling and decontamination, sample preparation for transport, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Illegal laboratory detection and sampling, detection and sampling after road incidents, simulants, evaluation
<i>Wednesday, 24 June 2026</i>	
08:00 – 12:30	Briefing, laboratory analysis of samples collected during the training, live chemical agents, decontamination, hygiene
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Team exercise: Collection of samples in conditions of poor visibility, simulants, evaluation
<i>Thursday, 25 June 2026</i>	
07:00 – 12:30	Blood draw (at hotel), PPE cleaning and return, evaluation of training, official closure
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Social activities for participants
<i>Friday, 26 June 2026</i>	
	Activity details to be confirmed