

Capability Development Plan



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The 2018 Capability Development Plan as a key reference for capability development.

The Capability Development Plan (CDP) provides a full capability picture that supports decision-making processes at EU and national levels regarding military capability development, thus contributing to increased coherence between Member States' defence planning. It addresses security and defence challenges from the perspective of European capability development, looks at the future operational environment and defines EU Capability Development Priorities agreed by Member States.

The revised 2018 CDP has been developed in the framework of the European Defence Agency (EDA) in close cooperation with Member States and reflects key contributions from the EU Military Committee and the EU Military Staff. It benefits from several inputs such as the Headline Goal Process, studies on long-term trends, lessons identified from CSDP operations and missions, as well as information on Member States' current plans and programmes.

As a result, the CDP is a shared EU reference informing national capability planners on capability requirements over time. Member States' defence planners are encouraged to use it to identify priorities for capability improvement and exploit opportunities for cooperation.

Background

The 2016 EU Global Strategy (EUGS) called for "strengthening the CDP" and "assisting Member States to develop capabilities stemming from the political goals of this strategy". To meet this objective, the 2018 CDP revision took into account new developments in the wider European security and defence environment, including the necessity to counter hybrid threats, as well as the new EU Level of Ambition agreed by Member States.

The 2018 CDP and the derived EU Capability Development Priorities were approved by Member States on 28 June 2018.

The CDP prioritises military capabilities that need to be addressed and developed by Member States and underpins the identification of cooperative activities that can be implemented by Member States in the cooperation framework of their choice, including under the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the European Defence Fund (EDF).

The CDP provides the reference and general orientation for a more coherent development of the European capability landscape and will notably serve as a key reference for ongoing and future activities related to capability development in the EU framework, such as the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), PESCO and the EDF.

Scope

The CDP was developed using four different strands of inputs, all validated by Member States. All strands contributed to identifying the EU Capability Development Priorities.

SHORT-TERM PERSPECTIVE

Through a comparison of military requirements in the CSDP framework and Member States' declared capabilities, the CDP includes the CSDP shortfalls and the associated operational risks. In addition, from a short-term perspective, the CDP takes into account lessons identified from operations and their analysis from the capability perspective to benefit from recent military experience of CSDP operations and missions.

These two short-term inputs were provided by the EU Military Committee with the support of the EU Military Staff.

MID-TERM PERSPECTIVE

The mid-term perspective assesses the potential for cooperation by analysing relevant activities that Member States intend to engage in between 2018 and 2030. Main sources were the EU Collaborative Database (CODABA, hosted and managed by EDA) and national plans and programmes. Other ad-hoc and landscaping reports contributed to complete the picture for each capability.

LONGER-TERM PERSPECTIVE

The CDP finally offers an analysis of capability trends (2035 and beyond) and potential associated requirements for each capability, by linking long-term technology perspectives to future capability environments, resulting in long term requirements and related R&T needs. This long-term assessment was conducted under EDA's responsibility.

The content of all four CDP strands was discussed with Member States before being introduced into the web-based application, permanently available to them. All strands contributed equally to the prioritisation process, resulting in agreed EU Capability Development Priorities.

The R&T and industrial perspective

The Research & Technology dimension and industrial perspectives, relevant for capability development, are also included in the CDP providing a view into the shortfalls and opportunities of related research activities and the current state of the European defence industry for each capability.

Output oriented

The CDP is output oriented and this will be further reinforced by the development of Strategic Context Cases and corresponding implementation roadmaps as of the second half of 2018, with a view to supporting Member States in the implementation of the 2018 EU Capability Development Priorities.

Subsequently, the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) will help operationalise the CDP by reviewing Member States' implementation of the 2018 EU Capability Development Priorities and identifying additional opportunities for cooperation. In addition, the coherence between capability, R&T and industrial domains will be reinforced by the interaction between the CDP, the Overarching Strategic Research Agenda, Key Strategic Activities and the engagement with industry.

2018 EU CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Based on the identified trends and information gathered from Member States and the EU Military Committee, a set of EU Capability Development Priorities was proposed by EDA and approved by Member States. On the one hand, they address main capability shortfalls for deployed operations (land, maritime and air capabilities as well as logistic and medical support) with a reinforced focus on high-end warfare. On the other hand, they also cover other focus areas of Member States, such as the adaptation of military capabilities required for territorial defence and security or cyber defence, as required by the EU Global Strategy published in 2016.



Enabling capabilities for cyber responsive operation

- » Cyber cooperation and synergies;
- » Cyber R&T;
- » Systems engineering framework for cyber operations;
- » Cyber education and training;
- » Specific cyber defence challenges in the air, space maritime and land domain.



Space-based information and communication services

- » Earth observation;
- » Positioning, navigation and timing;
- » Space situational awareness;
- » Satellite communication.



Information superiority

- » Radio spectrum management;
- » Tactical CIS;
- » Information management;
- » Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities.



Ground combat capabilities

- » Upgrade, modernise and develop land platforms (manned/unmanned vehicles, precision strike);
- » Enhance protection of forces. (CBRN, CIED, individual soldier equipment).



Enhanced logistic and medical supporting capabilities

- » Military mobility;
- » Enhanced logistics;
- » Medical support.



Naval manoeuvrability

- » Maritime situational awareness;
- » Surface superiority;
- » Power projection.



Underwater control contributing to resilience at sea

- » Mine warfare;
- » Anti-submarine warfare;
- » Harbour protection.



Air superiority

- » Air combat capability;
- » Air ISR platforms;
- » Anti-Access Area Denial (A2/AD) capability;
- » Air-to-air refuelling;
- » Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD).



Air mobility

- » Strategic air transport;
- » Tactical air transport including air medical evacuation.



Integration of military air capabilities in a changing aviation sector

- » Military access to airspace;
- » Ability to protect confidentiality of mission critical information;
- » Coordination with civilian aviation authorities;
- » Adaptation of military air/space C2 capability.



Cross-domain capabilities contributing to achieve EU's level of ambition

- » Innovative technologies for enhanced future military capabilities;
- » Autonomous EU capacity to test and to qualify EU developed capabilities;
- » Enabling capabilities to operate autonomously within EU's LoA.