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Staff members from Allied Command Transformation along with assistance from US JFCOM and the Swiss International Relations and Security Network (ISN) recently completed the 2nd Cooperative Development Team (CDT) training event under ACT leadership. This event, hosted by the Baltic Defence College in Tartu, Estonia had 35 students from NATO and Partner nations as well as NATO institutions.

The training course introduces students to the development and lifecycle process of online learning. The course is designed to take a manager, instructional and multimedia designer which form a CDT and introduce them to the NATO/PfP existing environment and then go into detail of their roles in the production and fielding of ADL courseware for national and/or NATO use. It explains the NATO requirement for all courses to be SCORM (Sharable Content Object Reference Model) compliant, the ADL development tools available and the role of the Learning Management Services in delivering courses.

Although the course is designed to train best practices and the basics, it goes on to train the complete lifecycle “from cradle to grave” and considerations for the development of Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL). It finishes with a full day practical where the teams must develop an online course which this time was based on an ISAF requirement.

The course was attended by the NATO Information Communications Information School (NCISS), NATO Defence College (NDC), JFC Brunssum as well as students from Estonia, Poland, Norway, Lithuania, United States, Slovakia and Czech Republic.

These courses form part of the ongoing partnership between NATO, Switzerland and the United States to create a cooperative environment where ADL development can be encouraged and where nations can assist NATO or share development to ensure best practices, interoperability of courseware and reduction in costs. Dr. Sürsal, head of the ACT training technologies section which ran the event stated; “We have 20 CDT’s so far, and each CDT course brings in new ones or reenergises old ones which in the long term will provide NATO a wide range of education and training packages”.

Following SACT’s visit to the United Nations, liaison work is now underway to share courses and where possible assist each other in new development.