Open Innovation Festival: A Hub for responsible and human security in the heart of International Geneva

The field of security is constantly moving. The theatre of operations is changing, the actors are changing, and yesterday's threats are neither today's nor tomorrow's ones. The security challenges are changing. But the rules and standards must remain the same, and respect for human rights must always be at the heart of security practices.

Recent events in the United States have brought to the forefront the issue of police violence and the challenges of responsible human security. This phenomenon that can be observed all over the world, and Switzerland is far from being spared. Frédéric Maillard, a socio-economist, who has been involved in the new management of a dozen Swiss police corporations, has noted a deterioration in police arrests and an increase in police violence.

« The violence committed by public security professionals and the lack of appropriate responses are leading to a breakdown in citizen trust in them and, consequently, to a breakdown in social cohesion. "

Concerning private security companies that provide security services abroad - a dozen services - a legal framework exists, the Federal Law on Private Security Services Abroad (PSSA). According to Article 32 of the PSSA, the personnel of these companies must receive adequate training in international humanitarian law and international human rights law. However, and given the scandals that have affected the practices of these companies, training, awareness-raising, compliance, diligence, and monitoring systems are insufficient.

"Training and awareness-raising for private security companies and their staff is a fundamental issue in the protection of human rights and the preservation of human dignity. "

Today, it is more essential than ever to have a common place for discussion, exchange, and reflection on responsible and human security practices, and to raise awareness among security professionals of the intrinsic link between human rights, ethics, accountability, and security. What city could be better placed than Geneva, a humanitarian, diplomatic, digital, and innovative city?

A human and responsible project

The Security and Human Rights Academy (SHR) will unveil its major project to create a platform on responsible and human security practices as part of the 2021 Innovation Festival organized by Open Geneva. The aim is to reflect, in the form of an online hackathon, on ideas that would enable Geneva to become a central platform for responsible and humane security, and on innovative and impactful solutions that could be implemented within the Hub.
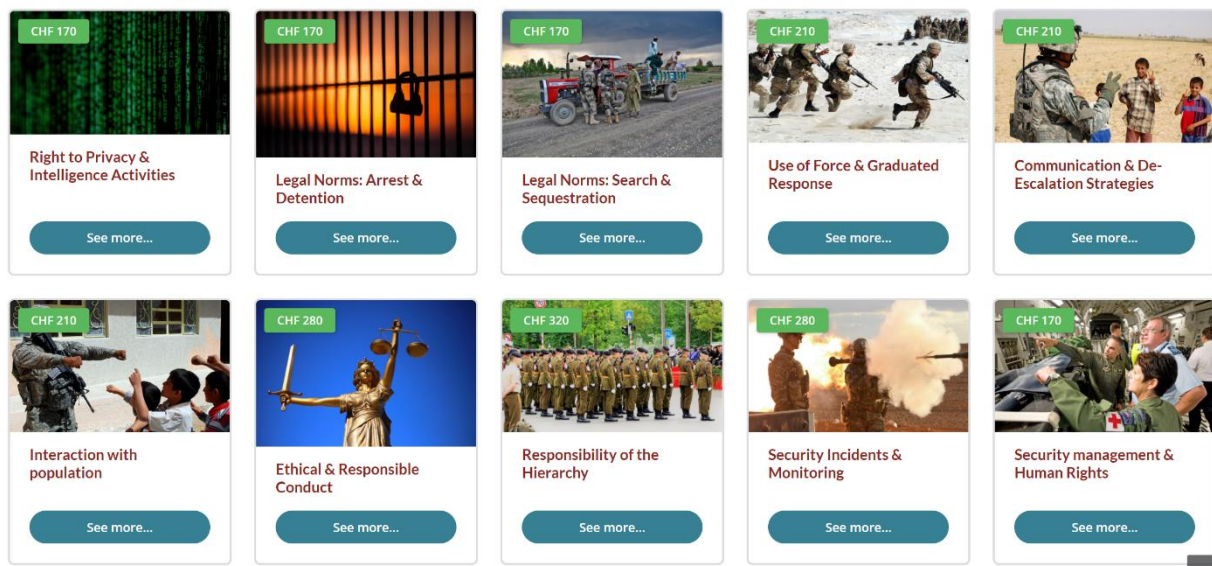
Between **capacity-building**, **awareness-raising,** and **bridge-building**, the Hub aims to:

- Open up exchanges and reflections on security issues
- Support security professionals in implementing humane and responsible practices

- Act as a platform for exchange and interconnection between security and human rights professionals, politicians, experts, think tanks, NGOs, IOs, private actors, and the general public
- Improve public confidence and protect human rights

A flexible and unique training program in Switzerland

SHR is launching a training program in French and English, based on a dozen modules that are entirely accessible online. The modules follow the requirements of the Federal Law on Private Security Services Provided Abroad (PSSA) and deal with the relationship between security practices and human rights, the responsibility of the hierarchy, strategies for reducing tensions, the use of force, legal standards and the right to privacy.

CHF 170	CHF 170	CHF 170	CHF 210	CHF 210
Right to Privacy & Intelligence Activities	**Legal Norms: Arrest & Detention**	**Legal Norms: Search & Sequestration**	**Use of Force & Graduated Response**	**Communication & De-Escalation Strategies**
See more...	See more...	See more...	See more...	See more...

CHF 210	CHF 280	CHF 320	CHF 280	CHF 170
Interaction with population	**Ethical & Responsible Conduct**	**Responsibility of the Hierarchy**	**Security Incidents & Monitoring**	**Security management & Human Rights**
See more...	See more...	See more...	See more...	See more...

Participants can choose to follow the training program, one or more tailor-made modules, depending on their needs. Participants who complete the final examination will be awarded a certificate of achievement by SHR. The comprehensive training enables security professionals to understand and master the legal standards that govern their sector of activity and to implement and deliver responsible and human practices and services.

One Hub, different activities

In addition to the training offer, this hub will offer different activities. This year, the platform focuses on:

- The production of five webinars focusing on private security, corporate responsibility, human rights, and ethics
- The production of five podcasts focusing on public security and its challenges
- The production of an innovative masterclass on responsible and human security
- The broadcasting of three short films in the form of a video-debate on the tension between security requirements and respect for human rights

All these activities pursue the main objectives of the Hub mentioned above, in a desire and need to contribute, especially as young actors, to the construction of a more sustainable, human, and responsible society in a context where change, questioning, and introspection should be at the heart of our actions.

Source : https://shr-academy.ch/