

**48th meeting of the Implementation Group
for the European initiative for the exchange of young officers
inspired by Erasmus (Emilyo)
17 & 18 November 2020
Online via the Big Blue Button (BBB)
Draft minutes**

1) The chair and the ESDC Secretariat welcomed the 59 participants from 16 EU Member States and 34 institutions.

2) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following items:

- a) Presentation and discussion about potential research project (COVID-19)
- b) Nomination and discussion about 6th Honorary IG Member
- c) Presentation about 'EU funding for defence projects' workshop
- d) Presentation of the Norwegian Defence University College (NDUC) and discussion about its request to become IG Associated Member
- e) Information about the upcoming CM: Biosafety & Bioterrorism by HMACSO
- f) Discussion about 2 (new) NCMs from NDAL (LV) to become 'common'
- g) Information about CM Winter Warfare by EMA (EE)
- h) International Spring Semester by MAL (LT)
- i) Presentation from MAL (LT) and discussion on the proposal of 'ESDC as accreditation agency'
- j) Offers by MTA (RO)
- k) Offers by Education and Training Command and School of Applied Military Studies (IT)
- l) Presentation and discussion with Mr Peter Van Der Hijden about European Universities
- m) Presentation about new project: Unification of security, defence and military document templates across Europe
- n) Presentation about the new Erasmus+ programme by Mr Johannes Gehringer (DG Education and Culture)
- o) Request from Lt.-Col. Marcin Bielewicz (Internships at NATO Training centre)
- p) Scheduling the 49th IG meeting
- q) Update on iMAF 2021 and 50th IG meeting

3) Approval of the minutes

The group approved the minutes of the 47th meeting by replacing paragraph 8 with the following: 'Mr Nikos Liolios, Erasmus+ Administrative Officer of the Department of European Educational Programmes, presented to the group the

structure, activities and projects of AUTH. In addition, he conveyed the AUTH Rectorate's strong support for the initiative and its willingness to become a member of the ESDC network, after further consultations with the Vice-Rector for Academic & Student Affairs, Prof Dimitrios Koveos.' The approved minutes are available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/872> .

4) EU funding for defence projects workshop

The ESDC secretariat announced that the workshop will be delivered under a contract of the ESDC with Ernst & Young. Considering the current sanitary conditions, ESDC took early action to conduct the workshop in a purely online format, from 30 November to 3 December 2020.

5) SARS-CoV-2-Magnesium Research project

The chair of the Group announced that the aim of the research is to determine whether there is a correlation between blood magnesium status and the probability of being infected with SARS-CoV-2. This project will be discussed in the margins of LoD-7/9 and LoD-14.

6) The Norwegian Defence University College (NDUC)

The Dean of the NDUC presented the structure and activities of the university and asked the group to accept the NDUC as an associate member. In support of his position, he mentioned that Norway maintains close links with Europe by contributing financially and operationally to the EU. In addition, he communicated the ways in which NDUC could facilitate, contribute to and engage with EMILYO's activities. The chair of the IG thanked the Dean and informed the group that since 2004, Norway has had a Security of Information Agreement with the EU. In that context, NDUC could become an associate member. The IG accepted NDUC's candidacy unanimously.

7) 'ESDC as accreditation agency' proposal from MAL

Kristina Prismantaite from MAL, on behalf of Dr Mantas Bileišis, Vice-Rector of MAL for Studies and Research, proposed to start preparations for the project on accreditation of military institutions. The aim of this project is to adopt best practices and achieve the goal of harmonisation of officer competence development (in reference to EMILYO's mandate).

The chair of the Group underlined that accreditation is normally a national responsibility. A national military institution should be first accredited by the national agency. Otherwise, the learning outcomes could not be recognised. ESDC could act as a supplementary accreditation by providing experts in fields where the national accreditation agencies have no expertise. In addition, the ESDC secretariat highlighted that for the time being ESDC has no mandate to do this type of work. ESDC should address EQAR to investigate whether there is a legal objection to its taking up quality assurance duties in the near future. In view of the scale and nature of the topic, it would need to be discussed at the level of the EUMC and the ESDC Steering Committee, and a decision would probably be needed at the level of Ministers of Defence (as was the case for Emilyo).

8) European Universities

Mr Peter Van der Hijden, an independent higher education strategy adviser, was invited to address the representatives of the military institutions about the possibility of joining the flagship of the EU, the European Universities Initiative. European Universities are a new type of cooperation based on an alliance of higher education institutions that agree to benchmark and integrate important aspects of their missions in education, research, innovation and societal

outreach, including parts of their governance, human resources policy, libraries, data management, incubators etc.

European University Alliances aim to upgrade and upscale their performances locally and collectively and position themselves on a regional, European and global scale. Other academies and organisations can join as associate members. Some 41 alliances have been selected so far. European Universities are not just projects; they are transformational undertakings with a perspective of 10-15 years. Seed money is provided by the Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe programmes (up to 7 million euros), to test cooperation and modernise operations over a three-year pilot phase. Several member states provide top-up money. Other funders are likely to step in as well.

In concluding, he underlined that the military academies of Europe are well placed to launch a successful European University bid in early 2022, building on their strong education cooperation records. An outline bid can be drafted in early 2021 and discussed with the Implementation Group and Rectors-Commandants.

9) Project: unification of security, defence and military document template across Europe

Col. (Res) Antonio Martinez De Baños Carrilo, from the University Centre for Defence, Spain, and Cristina Sáiz Enfedaque, from the Academia General Militar, Spain, presented the project 'Unification of Security, Defence and Military Document Templates across Europe'. The aim of this project is security, defence and military union contribution through official documents. Further discussions will be conducted in the Lod-7/9 session.

10) Update by the IG chair on all lines of development (LoDs)

The Implementation Group (IG) chair presented the roles, objectives and achievements of the Member States and their participating institutions for each LoD (all presentations are temporarily available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191>).

In particular:

a) LoD 5 – Legal framework

The representative of Lithuania asked how a BOEI could opt in to the legal framework of the Initiative. The chair explained that this can be achieved either by an official statement to the ESDC Secretariat or by announcing the intention to the Steering Committee.

b) LoD 6 – National implementation of the strategic communication programme

- The Federal Government of Germany has decided to call off all conferences and meetings scheduled under the German EU Council's Presidency involving personal attendance, so the European Union Military Academies Commandants Seminar (EUMACS) 2020 was cancelled.
- EUMACS 2021 will take place in Lisbon on the premises of the PMA from 27 to 29 May 2021.
- The representative of the University of Defence (Czech Republic) confirmed that EUMACS 2022 will be held in Brno. More information will be announced in due course.

c) LoD 8 – Common modules/evaluations and offers

- CZ, EE, LT, IT, FR, GR, PL and RO announced upcoming offers (www.emilyo.eu/node/878). The residential phase will only take place if the COVID-19 situation allows. A decision will be made before the deadline for registration.

- **LoD-8 meeting outcomes**

The chair briefed the participants on the following topics:

1) Two new Common Modules, the Close Quarter Battle (CQB) and Troop Leading Procedures (TLP) proposed by the National Defence Academy of Latvia, are currently under the silent approval procedure for IG members. All the updated documents can be found on <http://emilyo.eu/node/988>.

2) The revision programme will include additional e-learning content at least for all academic modules in the curriculum format. Consequently, CMs are ready to be offered under the ERASMUS+ program and in line with the new eligibility criteria for Blended Mobility. A minimum of three ECTS is required for this purpose, so one additional ECTS for a one-week residential module will be also calculated while the blended format is considered optional and will be offered in accordance with the capacity of the hosting institute;

3) A regulation on 'How to develop a Common Module' will be issued after the SQF-MILOF Enable Level document is issued;

4) A draft Evaluation Report model with a GAREA statistics Annex will be attached to the IG meeting minutes and will be discussed in the next IG meeting.

d) LoD 7 – Financing the Initiative & LoD 9 – Future Projects

The LoD members continued discussion of European Universities. Mr Van der Hijden was clear, optimistic and suggested a way to move forward. The first step is to organise a group of volunteers, up to ten people, and select a leader institution. The next step is to create a 'Table of Contents' to present the idea in a meeting with Commandants/Rectors. After that, establish a writing team to ask for ideas from partners and create a draft. His personal view is that the Implementation Group has already done good work that will give value to a potential proposal. He kindly informed the group that he is fully available to assist as adviser.

Regarding the proposal from University Centre for Defence, Spain, the representatives announced that the goals of the project are common doctrine in technical writing; cross-cultural awareness enrichment; language learning contribution; and gender perspective vocabulary corpus. The interested institutions are the Rakovski National Defence College (BG), the Nicolae Balcescu Land Forces Academy (RO), the Academia Militar (PT), the Academia General Militar (ES) and the Centro Universitario de la Defensa. This project is open to new participants.

Concerning the accreditation of military institutions, the participants considered this project an important element of future management. However, it is imperative to create and develop common standards, choose an accreditation model and an accrediting institution. The accreditation preparation mentioned may be an element of the European University project (should be prepared in parallel). All participants agreed to continue the discussion at the next LoD-7/9 meeting.

e) LoD 10 – Gender Mainstreaming

The chair informed the group about the next steps to be taken in the creation of the new common module 'Gender perspectives'. The topics included in the educational offer will be general theoretical framework (key gender concepts and terminology; women, peace and security agenda), Operationalising gender (general setting of peace support operations, gender and operational effectiveness, gender analysis in military education and etc.) and special issues/best practices (gender analysis, lessons learned, national implementation of gender policies). The curriculum of the module will be elaborated further during the third Erasmus gender seminar, titled 'How to strengthen gender perspective within the European basic officer education'. The seminar is scheduled to take place at the Estonian military academy in February 2021. As a Plan 'B', the ESDC will fully support a purely online version of the activity.

Assist. Prof. Sofia Menezes (MA-Portugal) announced some changes relating to the approved project named 'Military Gender Studies Project' (MGS). In that context, the partner countries Portugal-MA (coordinator); Bulgaria-NMU, Italy-UT and Romania-LFA welcomed the Hellenic Air Force Academy (GR), as an associate partner. The duration of the project is 30 months. The main activities of the project were discussed and updated during the meeting.

Given the 20th anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (31 Oct 2020), the chair kindly asked IG members to fill in a questionnaire drafted by the Portuguese Military Academy, in order to identify the factors that influence the implementation of the WPS agenda (link to survey <https://forms.gle/7u4nMVevfWCptL8c7>).

f) LoD 11 – International Naval Semester (INS)

Five countries have officially joined the INS Strategic Partnership: Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, Portugal and Romania. ITNA is going to solve the question related to its status that does not currently allow it to participate as member. The official communication will be issued at the next IG Meeting. Considering the current restrictions, which involve some institutes in partial/full lockdown, postponement of submission of the project until the first quarter of 2022 was discussed. All members agreed.

The ITNA announced its intention to modify ITNA-IFS' 2023. If INS is approved during the 2023 academic year, ITNA-IFS will be offered with the same subjects as INS, in order to test the formula one year in advance. Additional details will be available next year.

g) LoD 12 – International Air Force Semester (IAFS)

The chair of the LoD-12 updated the members of the LoD-12 about the status of the IAFS providing a detailed overview of tasks carried out in the first month of the project. The new logo of the project was presented, as well as the initial media presence in the partners' countries. Next, the final titles of the modules were reviewed and the templates for the syllabus and the syllabus review were discussed. The structure of the dissemination plan and the deliverable templates were then presented and discussed among the partners. Finally, all the participants reviewed the next steps for the project, concluding with a short discussion on how Air Force Institutions that are not currently project partners could

exchange students in the context of the IAFS. For more information, please see <http://emilyo.eu/node/1393>.

h) LoD 13 – European Common Technical Semester for Defence and Security (EuCTS_DS)

The chair informed the participants that the EuCTS_DS has been selected by the Romanian Erasmus+ Agency for funding, as a Strategic Partnership Project for Higher Education (Key Action 203). The organisations taking part in the project are the Ferdinand I Military Technical Academy (MTA-RO), the Military University of Technology (MUT-PL), the Vasil Levski National Military University (NMU-BG) (Faculty of Artillery, Air Defence and Communication and Information System from Shumen), the Hellenic Air Force Academy (HAFA) and the French Air Force Academy (FAFA). During the meeting, the partners discussed the Grant Agreement and the Partnership Agreement, the draft budget, the project logo and the methodology for working on the curriculum design. The next meeting will be organised by the MUT (December 2020), in an online environment.

The representatives of the Military University of Technology updated the group on another new project proposal, Digital Competences for Improving Security and Defence Education (DIGICODE), submitted within the supplementary call for an Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnership for Digitalisation, with MTA Bucharest, NMU (Shumen Faculty) and University of Turin as partners. The announcement of the evaluation results is expected in January 2021. The representatives of the Military University of Technology (MUT) proposed a new non-common module 'Aerospace Technology', to take place over a long period (two months), as practice mobility. The representatives of the French Air Force Academy proposed a future non-common module 'Space and Defence' to be discussed among the military academies, in order to set up a working group on this subject.

i) LoD 14 – Research and Development (R&D)

Discussions were held regarding the format of the documents, questions and concerns were raised on how to fill them in, how to synchronise stakeholders, and language barriers. In addition, a goal was set to have the first co-supervision team ready by May 2021. In addition, a research project was proposed in relation to the correlation between Mg levels and resistance to SARS Covid infection, where two thousand volunteers, with the maximum possible dispersion, would need to be tested twice in a period of six months. The research is to be launched in two weeks, meaning a firm answer for potential participants is needed by then.

Regarding the Common Thesis the following conclusions were reached:

Virtual meetings between supervisors and cadets will run in the English language. The final exam in most cases could also be held in English. The thesis document itself usually has to be written in the country's native language; however, the cadet could be asked to write a short technical report of his findings in English, which could be accessible by all supervisors. It should not be much of a concern at this initial phase. Supervisors could join, even informally, at any stage, give their input and prepare subjects for collaboration for the following year.

11) CSDP Olympiad

- a) The representative of the Croatian Defence Academy (CDA) was not present at the meeting. Therefore, the chair of the group promised to provide an update as soon as possible. According to the latest information received by CDA after the IG meeting, the 5th CSDP Olympiad for the period 8-12 March 2021 is cancelled. Whether and under what circumstances the 5th CSDP Olympiad can be postponed will be discussed at the 49th IG meeting.
- b) The representative of the French Air Force Academy (FAFA) informed the group that her institution is willing to organise the 6th CSDP Olympiad (2022). Further information and the final confirmation will be communicated in due course.

12) iMAF 2021

In line with the political guidelines provided by the Polish government, the Military University of Land Forces (MULF) in Wroclaw decided to cancel this event. The iMAF partners will have a VTC in January 2021 to discuss the possibilities of postponing it. The IG chair will inform the group during the 49th IG meeting.

13) Opportunities in the future Erasmus programme in higher education

Mr Johannes GEHRINGER from the European Commission's DG EAC updated the group on the new programme for 2021-2027, which has an almost doubled budget, presents more opportunities and is more flexible than its predecessor. He emphasised the new blended intensive programmes with a view to promoting short-term physical group mobility (5-30 days) combined with a compulsory virtual component. More info on the <http://emilyo.eu/node/1191>.

- 14) **Honorary membership:** Lt.-Col. Marcin Bielewicz of the Polish Armed Forces, currently serving in the NATO Joint Force Training Centre in Bydgoszcz, Poland, was made the sixth Honorary Member of the Implementation Group.

15) Work plan

- a) The 49th IG meeting will be held in a blended format in Brussels from 1 to 3 February 2021. On Monday 1 February, from 16.00 to 18.00, a workshop will be held for new IG members; all the necessary administrative details and documents are available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>.
- b) The venue for the 50th IG meeting will be discussed at the February IG meeting.
- c) The 51st IG meeting will be held residentially in Brussels from 6 to 8 September 2021. On Monday 6 September, from 16.00 to 18.00, a workshop will be held for new IG members; all the necessary administrative details and documents are available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>.

16) AOB

To provide a better overview, all requests are summarised in the table below:

Request:	Send to:
<p>Presentations for IG meeting: If you would like to present anything during the upcoming IG meeting (plenary session), please send the presentation five days prior to the meeting.</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at & ilias.makris@eeas.europa.eu</p>
<p>Comment on the LoD-5 paper (framework). The goal for your institution or country is to provide the ESDC with an official statement. If this has not yet been done or initiated, try to get an answer from those responsible. (See http://www.emilyo.eu/node/982 – LoD 5)</p>	<p>ilias.makris@eeas.europa.eu or announce in the Steering Committee</p>
<p>Mark the autumn/winter and spring/summer academic semesters of your institution in blue and red. Create new lines if necessary. (http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>Draw up a 'pool of lecturers' list for your institution, indicating the names of lecturers who are willing to teach abroad, preferably under Erasmus+. (http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>If you wish to post a mobility offer on the Emilyo homepage, send the dates and a short description (in PDF format) – or a link if you post it on your homepage. (See http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>If you wish to post any administrative documents on the Emilyo homepage, send them in a single PDF document.</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>Encourage cadets or students to write a report on an event with international participants. Please include pictures. (http://www.emilyo.eu/exchange_experience)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>Nominate a chair for a line of development which has not yet been assigned one.</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at & ilias.makris@eeas.europa.eu</p>
<p>Proposals on the European Universities Initiative</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at & ilias.makris@eeas.europa.eu</p>