

**49th meeting of the Implementation Group
for the European initiative for the exchange of young officers
inspired by Erasmus (EMILYO)
2 and 3 February 2021
Online via the Big Blue Button (BBB)
Draft minutes**

- 1) The Chair and the ESDC Secretariat welcomed 78 participants from 24 EU Member States and 42 institutions.
- 2) **Adoption of the agenda**

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

 - a) introduction of NCM 'Unmanned Aerial Systems' by the HAFA (GR)
 - b) nomination of the 7th Honorary Member (BrigGen BARSAN)
 - c) presentation of and discussion on new iMAF members/organising the iMAF/statements
 - d) offers from the Education and Training Command and the School of Applied Military Studies (IT)
 - e) offers from the MTA (RO)
 - f) information on the 3rd Erasmus+ Gender Seminar from the EMA (EE)
 - g) aerospace technology internship offered by the MUT (PL)
 - h) information on the project 'Unification of security, defence and military document templates across Europe' from the University Centre for Defence (ES)
 - i) dates for the 50th and 52nd IG meetings.
- 3) **Approval of the minutes**

The group approved the minutes of the 48th meeting with a slight change to the wording of paragraph 10(e) LoD-10 Gender Mainstreaming. The approved minutes are available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/872>.
- 4) **EU funding for defence projects workshop**

The ESDC secretariat presented the outcomes and lessons learned from this workshop, which was delivered as part of a contract between the ESDC and Ernst & Young.
- 5) **Honorary membership**

BrigGen Prof.Eng. Ghiță BARSAN, PhD, Commandant (Rector) of the Nicolae Bălcescu Land Forces Academy in Sibiu, Romania, was made the 7th Honorary Member of the Implementation Group.
- 6) **Project: Unification of security, defence and military document templates across Europe**

The representative of the University Centre for Defence, Spain, updated the group on the project 'Unification of Security, Defence and Military Document Templates across Europe'. The aim of this project is to provide templates for

official documents in the area of security, defence and the military. Further discussions will be held at the LoD-7/9 session.

7) Non-Common Module(NCM)

A new NCM called 'Unmanned Aerial Systems' (UASs) was proposed and presented by the HAFA. Further details will be discussed in the margins of LoD-8.

8) 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-2 – Development of Competences

In a post-IG VTC meeting, it was agreed that the IG would create a matrix combining the LoD-2 descriptors and the SQF MILOF specifications. If appropriate, future module descriptions will use the SQF MILOF descriptors.

b) LoD-3 – Development of e-learning

The Chair informed the group members that the updated list of ESDC AKUs was also available on the EMILYO homepage and asked the LoD-9 Chair to update the group on how to obtain the material for both SPP and IMLA.

c) LoD-5 – Legal framework

The Chair asked the members to encourage their superiors to adopt the legal framework of the Initiative. In addition, he explained that this could be done through an official statement to the ESDC Secretariat or by announcing the intention to the Steering Committee.

d) LoD-6 – National implementation of the strategic communication programme

- The representative of the PMA updated the group on EUMACS 2021, which will take place in Lisbon at the premises of the PMA from 27 to 29 May 2021.
- The representative of the University of Defence (Czech Republic) confirmed that EUMACS 2022 would be held in Brno. More information will be announced in due course.

e) LoD-8 – Common modules/evaluations and offers

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

• LoD-8 meeting outcomes

The Chair briefed the participants on the following topics:

- 1) A new Non-Common Module, 'Unmanned Aerial Systems' (UASs), proposed by the Hellenic Air Force Academy (HAFA), is currently subject to the silent approval procedure for IG members. The updated document can be found on <http://emilyo.eu/node/988>.

2) A revised version of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) CM was prepared in two forms: a regular version (2 ECTS) and a blended one (2 + 1 in e-learning ECTS). This last version is optional and was prepared with the potential future development of the 2021-2027 ERASMUS+ programme in mind, in order to be eligible for blended mobility. It will be approved via the silence procedure for IG members. The updated document can be found on <http://emilyo.eu/node/988>.

3) The evaluation report model with a GAREA statistics annex (released during the last IG meeting) was discussed and is now subject to the silent approval procedure, and a new version to evaluate e-learning mobility will be tested in the upcoming online common modules. In the next LoD-8 meeting, discussion will begin on the e-learning version.

f) LoD-7 – Financing the Initiative and LoD-9 – Future Projects

The Chair of LoD-7 presented and distributed the perspectives and planning for the new programmes and sources of funding planned for the period of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which began on 1 January 2021. It was explained that this would be Portugal's fourth rotating Presidency, succeeding Germany and preceding Slovenia in the three-Presidency team (Trio) of countries, which develops a joint programme for a period of 18 months. It was also mentioned that the pandemic and its socio-economic consequences had, under the circumstances, become a central theme of the Trio, underlining the importance of building a more resilient and better prepared EU to manage crises in the future, while working for a more social, green, digital and global EU.

Within the specific context of Higher Education, the intention is to highlight EU-Africa cooperation in I&I, together with space. The expansion of Higher Education to new audiences will also be promoted, through the acquisition of new skills and the updating of skills in adult education, as well as the reinforcement of Higher Education networks, with emphasis on the networks of 'European Universities' and 'Universities of the Future' and special focus on mobility in education, including higher education and research activities. Emphasis will also be placed on the creation of the European Education Area by 2025, the development of a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training, and on initiatives under the New Skills Agenda for Europe and the new Digital Education Action Plan.

Portugal intends to double participation in the EU's financing programmes, attract two billion euros for Research and Innovation and triple the number of mobility students' in HEA. The strategy to increase participation in the Horizon Europe 2021-27 programme is coordinated and disseminated through the PERIN (Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network) network. PERIN includes the main funding agencies and promoters, namely the Education and Training Agency ERASMUS+, and the Portuguese agencies ANI, FCT, AICIB, PT Space and DGES, in close collaboration with the offices for the promotion of European programmes in academic and research institutions, companies, business incubation centres and interface centres.

Finally, Horizon Europe was launched on 2 February 2021 by the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU and the European Commission. This event was live-streamed, bringing together speakers

from all over Europe, and included interventions by researchers, business leaders, politicians and government officials, with the aim of mobilising the whole of Europe for the Horizon Europe 2021-27 programme.

g) LoD-10 – Gender Mainstreaming

The Chair announced the official start of the strategic partnership project ‘Military Gender Studies’ (MGS). The duration of the project is 30 months. The project’s main priority is to develop a Military Gender Studies model, devised specifically to be taught in European Army Institutions. An MGS army handbook will be created for use at partner institutions.

Assist. Prof. Sofia Menezes (MA-PT) informed the participants about the first stages of the project’s development. The kick-off transnational project meeting, held online on 15 December 2020, was presented and the prepared MGS questionnaire was shown to the members of the LoD-10 group. This questionnaire is the first task in the project and must be filled in by the end of February 2021 by the cadets of all the partner academies, so that the results can be used as a basis for the MGS handbook. The logo and the updated timeline of the project were shared with the participants of the meeting.

Birgit Kerb from the EMA presented the invitation as well as the draft programme of the 3rd Erasmus Gender seminar entitled ‘How to strengthen gender perspective within the European basic officer education’ (online). All relevant documents have already been uploaded onto the EMILYO homepage <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>.

The Chair recalled the need to continue to disseminate and complete the “Gender mainstreaming questionnaire” with the gender-disaggregated education data from the EU military universities and academies. The questionnaire is available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1445>.

h) LoD-11 – International Naval Semester (INS)

The ITNA reported that the issue related to its status, which meant that it could not participate as a partner, has been solved. As a result, six countries have officially joined the INS Strategic Partnership: Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Romania. Poland will present the INS Strategic Partnership Agreement in February 2022 and, if approved, it will begin in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Romania, Poland and Italy announced their willingness to offer the INS as a whole at national level, starting from the 2022-2023 academic year. More details will be available at the upcoming LoD-11 meetings. ITNA-IFS 2021 will be the last in the current format. From 2022, it will run in the same period (October-December) but new INS subjects and educational material will be offered in order to develop and test INS modules.

i) LoD-12 – International Air Force Semester (IAFS)

The Chair of LoD-12 provided a short update on the progress of the International Air Force Semester, summarising the work of the first two intellectual outputs and then briefly presenting the syllabi that had been developed. In addition, a discussion followed regarding the number of contact hours and the respective ECTS per day during the implementation of the modules. In that respect, it was decided that the appropriate number of daily contact hours would be five or six, i.e. 25 to 30 contact hours per week. Afterwards, the project’s new website was presented and the quality

management and communication plan for the project were demonstrated. Subsequently, tentative dates for the project's first multiplier event were discussed and it was decided that the organisers (AFAHC) should inform the other participants one month in advance (i.e. by 17 May) as to whether the event would take place physically or virtually. Finally, the participants discussed the copyright issues surrounding the work produced during the project and whether copyrighted material could be used or not. The Chair of the Implementation Group shared his previous experience from the corresponding Strategic Partnership for the Land Forces academies and suggested using royalty-free images - if there was a need to use copyrighted materials then written permission from the owner should be sought. For more information, please see <http://emilyo.eu/node/1393>.

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

The Chair informed the participants that the grant agreement between the Romanian National Erasmus+ Agency and the Ferdinand I Military Technical Academy for the strategic partnership project 'KA203 European Common Technical Semester for Defence and Security' had been signed. The goals of the project are the development, design and test of a new modular curriculum for an international technical semester for defence and security. 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), the French Air Force Academy (FAFA) and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) as an associate partner.

Due to the delay in signing the grant agreement, the first project transnational meeting will be held online in March 2021. The representatives of the Royal Military Academy (RMA-BE), the Bulgarian Air Force Academy and the Armed Forces Academy (SK), expressed an interest in the project's development. The group discussed and decided on the next steps to be taken, i.e. signing the partnership agreement, designing the curriculum and preparing the first project transnational meeting.

k) LoD-14 – Research and Development (R&D)

The following topics were discussed: i) reconfirmation of the LoD's goals and the need for documents and ii) practical implementation issues. A free discussion concluded the session. The participants agreed to focus on putting together the first collaborative thesis projects. Regarding the first topic, it was agreed that a working document would be issued, probably an online form. The relevant link would be distributed to as many trainers and instructors as possible through the Erasmus offices in order to facilitate the completion of the thesis list. During the free discussion, two important points were raised. First, it was pointed out that LoD-14 could complement LoD-9 'New Projects' since small research groups would gradually form with an obvious interest in seeking funding through relevant research calls. The second point was an important observation that the list of theses could also act as a list of research interests, which members of the academic community could consult in order to identify and contact other members of academic staff with common research interests.

9) CSDP Olympiad

- a) The representative of the Croatian Defence Academy (CDA) proposed the cancellation of the residential phase of the 5th CSDP Olympiad due to the ongoing pandemic. The results for the 5th CSDP Olympiad should be decided on the basis of the results already available (essay competition and cover page competition). He proposed that the winners of the Olympiad be invited to Croatia in summer/autumn 2021 for a short visit and an awards ceremony. The group agreed.
- b) The representative of the French Air Force Academy (FAFA) informed the group that her institution had taken on responsibility for organising the 6th CSDP Olympiad (2022). The Chair thanked the FAFA and initiated the procedures for the 6th CSDP Olympiad. In that context, he presented a list of 15 proposed topics and called on the members of the group to select 10 of them. Furthermore, he analysed the milestones and further steps to be taken. The group agreed on the proposed road map and chose 10 of the 15 topics. Further information as well as the dates of the residential phase would be communicated in due course.

10) iMAF

During their meeting on 13 January 2021, the iMAF partners decided to extend the invitation to join the forum to all institutions, which are members of the IG. Five Basic Officer Education Institutions (BOEIs) expressed an interest in joining the forum: the Hellenic Army Academy (HAA), the Hellenic Air Force Academy (HAFA), the 'Georgi Benkovski' Bulgarian Air Force Academy, the Portuguese Military Academy (PT MA) and the Romanian Military Technical Academy (MTA). In addition, the ESDC Secretariat stated that the ESDC intended to become an iMAF partner and furthermore to co-organise the iMAF each year in close cooperation with the respective institution (rotational principle). The ESDC's proposal also included a financial contribution to the iMAF, which is still under discussion. The Chair thanked the 'new' iMAF partners and asked whether any of them would be willing to organise iMAF 2021 (autumn 2021). At that point, many BOEIs requested more time to reflect on the proposal and provide an official answer. The group agreed to extend the deadline for joining the iMAF to the end of the second week of March.

iMAF 2022 is already scheduled to take place in Sibiu (RO) in June 2022. More information will be available in due course.

In conclusion, the Chair highlighted the importance of opening the door to the institutions that are represented at the IG meetings, and mentioned that this was a unique chance to formally link the iMAF with the IG and its activities (LoDs). Moreover, he underlined the need for a new agreement (he volunteered to work on it himself, in collaboration with the ESDC Secretariat) and a new rotational sequence. All the issues related to the integration of new members would be discussed in a future VTC meeting (which would probably take place at the end of March 2021 when all the institutions concerned had expressed their interest). To become a potential iMAF-partner, an official letter – signed by the Commandant/Superintendent – must be sent to the IG Chair.

11) Work plan

- a) The 50th IG meeting will be held in Brasov (RO) at the premises of the Henri Coanda Air Force Academy (AFAHC) from 23 to 24 June 2021. On Tuesday 22 June 2021, the first IAFS multiplier event will also be hosted by the AFAHC. All the necessary administrative details and documents will be available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>.

- b) The 51st IG meeting will be held 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>.
- c) The 52nd IG meeting will be organised by Rakovski National Defence College in Sofia (BG) from 8 to 10 November 2021. On Monday 8 November 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>.
- d) The 53rd IG meeting will be held in Brussels back-to-back with the EAB meeting in February 2022 (date tbc).

12) AOB

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

Request:	Send to:
<p>Presentations for the IG meeting: if you would like to present anything during the upcoming IG meeting (plenary session), please send your 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.</p> <p>(See http://www.emilyo.eu/node/982 – LoD-5)</p>	<p>ilias.makris@eeas.europa.eu</p> <p>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.</p> <p>(http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>Draw up a 'pool of lecturers' for your institution, indicating the names of lecturers who are willing to teach abroad, preferably under Erasmus+.</p> <p>(http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>Send the Press Information Officer (PIO)' according to the uploaded list.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(http://www.emilyo.eu/exchange_experience)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>Nominate a Chair for a line of development that 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>