

**50th meeting of the Implementation Group
for the European initiative for the exchange of young officers
inspired by Erasmus (EMILYO)
23 and 24 June 2021
Henri Coandă Air Force Academy, Braşov, Romania
Draft minutes**

- 1) The chair and the ESDC Secretariat welcomed 58 participants from 14 EU Member States and 31 institutions.
- 2) **Adoption of the agenda**

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

 - a) approval of NCM 'Unmanned Aerial Systems' by the HAFA (GR)
 - b) offers from the Education and Training Command and the School of Applied Military Studies (IT)
 - c) offers from the MTA (RO)
 - d) presentation on the SPP Implementation of Digitalisation in Defence Higher Education (DDHE) by the AFAHC (RO)
 - e) offers from the Military Academy of Lithuania
 - f) offers from the HAFA (GR)
 - g) feedback on the 3rd Erasmus+ Gender Seminar from the EMA (EE)
 - h) presentation on the SPP Digital Competences for Improving Security and Defence Education by the MUT (PL)
- 3) **Approval of the minutes**

The group approved the minutes of the 49th meeting with a slight change to paragraph 10 iMAF (PMA was included in the list of BOEIs which expressed their interest in becoming iMAF partners). The approved minutes are available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/872>.
- 4) **IG Chairmanship**

The ESDC Secretariat announced that the Austrian MoD had officially communicated its intention of extending the appointment of Colonel Assoc. Prof. Dr. Harald Gell as the Chair of the EAB/IG for the next two academic years. The group discussed and decided unanimously for a two-year extension of the current Chairmanship.
- 5) **Non-Common Modules (NCM)**

A new NCM called Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs) which was under the silence procedure was approved as a common module by the IG members.

In addition, three new NCMs were proposed and presented by the HAFA and PMA: Budget and Finance in the EU Defence Sector, Digital Leadership, and Social Engineering Protection. Further details would be discussed in LoD-8 session.

6) CSDP Olympiad

- a) The representative of the Croatian Defence Academy (CDA) announced that the three winners of the 5th CSDP Olympiad would travel to Croatia on 13-14 July 2021 for a short visit and an awards ceremony.
- b) Due to the absence of the French representative, the chair provided a short update on milestones reached and further steps to be taken. He underlined that the deadline for completing the e-learning part of the Olympiad was 27 August. In addition, he asked representatives of the BOEIs to submit the paper title, the cover page and the names of their cadets to the ESDC Secretariat.

7) iMAF

The representative of the PMA updated the Group on the iMAF 2021, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal at the premises of the PMA from 20 to 23 September. All information would be uploaded to <http://emilyo.eu/node/878>.

iMAF 2022 had already been scheduled to take place in Sibiu (RO) in June 2022. More information would be made available in due course.

In conclusion, the Chair opened the door for the iMAF 2023 and called on the BOEIs to prepare a statement for the 51st IG meeting (Brussels, 6 to 8 September 2021) by expressing their interest in organising the 2023 edition.

8) GAREA 2020-2021

The chair of the group asked the BOEIs to send the GAREA statistics and recommendations as soon as possible. He clarified that they should report only the incomings (students and staff) to their institution, the real dates and be very careful not to duplicate the reports (e.g. if a common module is part of an international semester report one person only one time).

9) 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>):

a) LoD-2 – Development of Competences

At the 49th IG 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 would use the SQF MILOF descriptors. In that context, the Chair of the Group underlined the necessity of re-activating LoD-2 and therefore called on the BOEIs to nominate a chair for this LoD.

b) LoD-3 – Development of e-learning

The Chair informed group members that the updated list of ESDC AKUs was also available on the EMILYO homepage and asked the LoD-7 Chair to update the group on how to obtain the material for both SPP and IMLA.

c) LoD-5 – Legal framework

The Chair asked members to encourage their superiors to adopt the legal framework of the Initiative. He also explained that this could be done through an official statement to the ESDC Secretariat or by notifying the Steering Committee.

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

- The representative of the PMA briefly presented the results of the EUMACS 2021, which took place in Lisbon at the premises of the PMA from 27 to 29 May 2021.
- The EUMACS 2022 would be held at the Orea Congress Hotel in Brno (Czech Republic) from 12 to 13 October 2022. More information would be announced in due course.
- Given the fact that the EUMACS is linked to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the chair requested the representatives of Spain and Sweden to coordinate with their national authorities in order to provide an answer about the EUMACS 2023 during the 51st IG meeting.

e) LoD-7 – Financing the Initiative

The chair made a presentation about means and sources of funding, whether for participation in activities or for organising events. The presentation led to discussion among participants, raised questions and was very productive, with useful and enlightening interventions by the IG Chair and ESDC, together with the chair of the LoD.

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

- AT, BG, CY, GR, IT, LT, LV, PT, PL and RO reported on past events and announced upcoming offers (www.emilyo.eu/node/878).

- **LoD-8 Meeting outcomes**

The chair briefed the participants on the following topics:

1) Three new NCMs are currently subject to the silent approval procedure for IG members:

- Budget and Finance in the EU Defence Sector, proposed by the Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers (HMACSO) – the updated document can be found at <http://emilyo.eu/node/> ;

- Digital Leadership, proposed by the Portuguese Military Academy (PMA) – the updated documents can be found at <http://emilyo.eu/node/> ;

- Social Engineering Protection, proposed by the Portuguese Military Academy (PMA) – the updated documents can be found at <http://emilyo.eu/node/>.

2) During the discussion in the margins of LoD-8, participants requested the creation of a dedicated workshop on how to organize a common module in their institutes. The first edition of the workshop would be held back to back to the 52nd IG Meeting in Sofia.

3) The SQF-MILOF Working Group completed its task and the official package was released (comprising two volumes and a booklet). Consequently, a first edition of the SQF-MILOF Familiarisation Course (Pilot) would be run by CASD in Rome from 31 June to 1 July. The chair, who would be participating in the pilot course, would brief the IG in the next plenary IG meeting in Brussels. In the near future, it would be necessary to discuss how to create an official relationship between the 51 IG and the SQF-MILOF Advisory Board, the new configuration of SQF-MILOF Working Group that would be officially created.

g) LoD-9 – Future Projects

Due to the absence of the LoD-9 chair, the LoD-7 chair led the meeting and highlighted the plan to create two new databases:

1) The first one would be for gathering the projects in which the institutions are/were involved.

2) The second one would be for information about the areas of knowledge in which institutions would have be particularly interest in participating in or collaborating on. Both databases would be available to all IG members.

These new databases aim to align the institutions' common interests in various areas, to disseminate the work and projects developed, to promote future projects, to facilitate the search for partners for possible future projects and avoid overlapping themes. In that respect, all BOEIs were asked (via email and in person), to forward to the chair any relevant information.

h) LoD-10 – Gender Mainstreaming

The third Erasmus Gender seminar 'How to strengthen gender perspective within the European basic officer education' was hosted virtually by the Estonian Military Academy on 2-3 March 2021. There were 50 participants from 13 countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Portugal, Romania, and Spain. The relevant material (presentations and videos) had been uploaded to <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1445>. The chair thanked the Estonian Military Academy for a very successful event.

The working session continued with a presentation on the progress of the MGS project. The questionnaire prepared was shown to the members of LoD-10 and it was stated that 1,501 cadets from the academies targeted had already filled it out. Then the next step of the project was presented – conducting interviews with cadets interested in sharing their views on the topic. The results of the questionnaires and the processed interviews would be the basis for the MGS handbook. The representative of the PMA explained that, due to the pandemic, the project teams from the four academies did not have the opportunity to hold an in-person workshop, which was replaced by three online workshops. The first in-person TPM is scheduled for July 2021 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The discussion by the LoD-10 group continued with the proposal for an NCM entitled 'Gender Perspectives'. It was presented with the draft module description prepared by the chair. All participants were active in the discussion of the individual elements making up the module. Specific changes were made, in line with the LoD-2 descriptors. Further discussion with other experts in the gender domain would take place in due time. The intention is to complete the module and get the green light from the IG by the end of the calendar year.

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

Due to the absence of the LoD-11 chair, the representative of the Polish Naval Academy (PNA) chaired the meeting. Seven naval academies from seven different EU MSs have officially joined the INS Strategic Partnership: Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Spain. It was agreed that the first draft of the project should be ready in September 2021. PNA is the lead institution and the curriculum had

already been approved at the 49th IG meeting.

For newcomers to LoD-11, the PNA representative prepared a presentation including all relevant information about the strategic partnership. Moreover, the representative of the Bulgarian Naval Academy presented a proposal for a common module for midshipmen.

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

The chair of this LoD provided an update on the progress of the International Air Force Semester, focusing on the first two Intellectual Outputs that are currently under development. In addition, the structure of the first Interim Report, which is expected to be submitted to the Hellenic Erasmus Agency at the end of the first year, was discussed and the internal reporting documents that would be used for collecting data were presented. Next, the list of the international events at which the project was disseminated by the partners in the last three months was reviewed. Finally, the participants discussed the implementation of the International Air Force Semester after the end of the development phase of the project and how other European Air Force Institutions (e.g. from Spain and Poland) can benefit by participating in the student and staff exchanges.

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

The chair informed the participants from Poland, Greece, Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania about the objectives, the budget and the main activities of the project. The main achievement since the last meeting was the finalization of the curriculum as follows:

1) Basic Engineering modules: Applied Informatics (3 ECTS) and Applied Automation for Engineering Systems (3 ECTS); Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering modules (optional)

2) Propulsion Systems (3 ECTS), Dynamic of Flight (3 ECTS), Mechanics and Material Science (3 ECTS) and Computer-Aided-Design and Numerical Analysis (3 ECTS)

3) Electronic Engineering and Computer Science modules (optional): Computer Networks (3 ECTS), Programming Languages (3 ECTS), Signal Processing (3 ECTS) and Microcontrollers (3 ECTS)

4) Military Science modules: Common Security and Defence Policy for Technical Systems (3 ECTS) and Integrated Weapon Systems (3 ECTS); Interdisciplinary Scientific Project (6 ECTS)

5) Extra Work: Physical Education & Sports (2 ECTS) and Foreign Languages (Bulgarian/Polish/Greek/Romanian/French) (2 ECTS)

The upcoming tasks are the development of the subject description and learning materials. The first Multiplier Event and the third Project Transnational Meeting of the project, would be held in-person on 4-5 October 2021 in Bulgaria, at the Vasil Levski National Military University, back to back with the Defence and Technology Forum (6-8 October 2021: International Scientific Conference and Demonstration on the firing range).

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

The following topics were discussed in the margins of LoD-14: i) Twin thesis case study, ii) Potential KA2 Partnership, iii) Communication Plan, iv) tasks for the next meeting. Half of the session was devoted to a free

discussion. A joint thesis between MUT and HAFA was presented as a case study. Important points raised during the discussion were: i) 'Blended mobility for students' may be an option to fund a one-week students' mobility provided the thesis counts for at least 3 ECTS and ii) the first step towards theses running in parallel may be, simply, co-supervision, before supervisors announce parallel projects. A potential KA2 strategic partnership was viewed as a particularly interesting idea as regards funding the creation of a European Military Higher Education Institutes Research Network or other similar initiatives. It was agreed that the issue should be further discussed at subsequent meetings.

The necessity of a clear communication plan was agreed which would include: i) a presentation to the institutes' international offices, ii) a link to an online form to be filled in giving contact details and stating the field of interest regarding the thesis project and iii) the compilation of a relevant list, available at <http://emilyo.eu/node/161>.

m) LoD-15 – International Medical Semester (IMS)

The chair of LoD-15 presented and distributed HMACSO's Commandant Invitation Letter in order to invite military academies with similar education systems to participate in the regular meetings of LoD-15, starting in September 2021. The majority of EU Member States have almost identical educational systems for military medical cadets. Essentially, the military academy is responsible for providing training (military, sports, etc.), while a civilian university is in charge of coordinating and supporting the academic part of the education process.

In addition, the chair mentioned that the main concept consists of two separate actions:

1) A bilateral agreement or memorandum between military academies willing to take part to the IMS (training, meals, accommodation, etc.) should be signed

2) An inter-institutional agreement between civilian universities responsible for the academic education of military medical cadets, to be established within the framework of Erasmus+ 2021-2027.

Finally, it was requested that institutions not dealing with the medical field forward that letter to the relevant medical military institutions in their country.

10) Work plan

- a) The 51st IG meeting would be held in Brussels from 6 to 8 September 2021. On Monday 6 September from 16.00 to 18.00, a workshop would be held for new IG members; all the necessary administrative details and documents are available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>.
- b) The 52nd IG meeting would be held by Rakovski National Defence College in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 8 to 10 November 2021. On Monday 8 November from 16.00 to 18.00, a workshop would be held for new IG members; on 10 November afternoon (after the end of the plenary session), a workshop would take place on 'how to create a common module'. All the necessary administrative details and documents are available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>.
- c) The 53rd IG meeting would be held in Brussels back-to-back with the EAB meeting in February 2022 (date tbc).

11) AOB

Below is a summary of all requests made at the meeting.

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 those 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 name of 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 own website.</p> <p>(http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>If you wish to have an administrative document posted on the EMILYO homepage, send it in a single PDF file.</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 an LoD that has not yet been assigned one.</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at & ilias.makris@eeas.europa.eu</p>