

**51st meeting of the Implementation Group
for the European initiative for the exchange of young officers
inspired by Erasmus (EMILYO)
7 and 8 September 2021**

Brussels

Draft minutes

- 1) The chair and the ESDC Secretariat welcomed 62 participants from 19 EU Member States and 35 institutions.
- 2) **Adoption of the agenda**

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

 - a) international spring semester 2021: exchange experience by the MAL
 - b) offers from the HMA (GR)
 - c) offers from the HAFA (GR)
 - d) 2nd Erasmus Military English Week for Students by the PMA
 - e) 1st International Conference on Languages and Communication in the Military by the PMA
 - f) Academia Militar International Spring Semester 2022 by the PMA
 - g) international events organised by the LFA (RO)
 - h) presentation on the DIGICODE project questionnaire by the MUT (PL)
- 3) **Approval of the minutes**

The group approved the minutes of the 50th meeting. The approved minutes are available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/872>.
- 4) **CSDP Olympiad**
 - a) The representative of the Croatian Defence Academy (CDA) informed participants about the visit of and the awards ceremony for the three winners of the 5th CSDP Olympiad.
 - b) The chair provided a short update on milestones reached and further steps to be taken. He presented an email from the French Air and Space Force Academy (FASFA) in order to clarify issues of an administrative nature. In addition, he underlined that the deadline for finalising the e-learning part and submitting the cover page had already passed (August 27th). He then asked the representatives of the BOEIs to vote in a fair-play procedure for the best cover page, which would be used by the Initiative and the FASFA for all documents related to the 6th CSDP Olympiad. Officer Cadet Georgios KOURMOUSIS from the HAFA was the winner of the cover page competition. Since the writing phase of the Olympiad had already started, the chair highlighted that all essays must be submitted to the ESDC TM and FASFA PoC by 26 November 2021.

5) **iMAF**

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

Thinking a bit further ahead, the chair opened the door for iMAF 2023 and called on the BOEIs to express their interest in organising the 2023 edition. All statements would be welcome at the 52nd IG meeting.

6) **GAREA 2020-2021**

The chair thanked the BOEIs for providing the requested data. As a follow-up, he presented the already clustered recommendations and asked the group to go through them one by one in order to get a green light. The IG members agreed to the recommendations without specific changes.

7) **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**

'Nikola Vaptsarov' Naval Academy (BG) nominated Capt (N) Assoc. Prof. Nedko Dimitrov, PhD, as the chair of the LoD-2. The IG accepted his candidacy unanimously. As a result, the LoD-2 was re-activated during the 51st meeting of the IG, with the primary task of merging the existing LoD-2 descriptors with the SQF-MILOF specifications and creating a repository for competences to be used for the purpose of CM development and competence referencing.

b) **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.

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

The representative of the Spanish Air Force Academy announced the intention of her institution to organise EUMACS 2023 in San Javier, Spain. This would be confirmed at the 52nd IG meeting.

d) **LoD-7 – Financing the Initiative**

The main goal of the meeting was to collect information about various sources of funding for the activities under the umbrella of the IG. This was ongoing work, to be concluded at the end of the calendar year. The chair made a presentation about means and sources of funding:

- internal sources: institutions' own budgets, usually integrated with the annual budget (Army, Navy, Air Force, Technological Institution etc);
- external sources: primarily Erasmus+ funds, through the KA-103. Bilateral agreements with other civilian or military institutions on a reciprocal basis were also considered external sources.

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

- AT, BG, GR, HR, LT, LV, PT, PL and RO reported on past events and announced upcoming offers (www.emilyo.eu/node/878).
- **LoD-8 meeting outcomes**

Due to the absence of the LoD-8 chair, the new LoD-2 chair led the meeting and briefed the participants on the following topics:

1) Three new NCMs (Budget and Finance in the EU Defence Sector (GR / HMASCO), Digital Leadership (PT / PMA) and Social Engineering Protection (PT / PMA)) were approved as common, under the silence procedure by the IG members. The updated documents can be found at <http://emilyo.eu/node/988>.

2) A dedicated workshop on how to organise a common module was scheduled to take place in the margins of the upcoming 52nd IG meeting in Brussels.

3) The question of how to create an official relationship between the IG and the SQF-MIL Executive Group, the new configuration of SQF-MILOF Working Group that would be officially launched on 9 December 2021, was also discussed.

f) LoD-9 – Future Projects

Twenty-four participants attended the meeting, which started with a statement about the great importance of exchanging information among universities (in particular about planned projects and their potential participants). It was agreed that the tables posted on <http://emilyo.eu/node/1443> should once more be forwarded to the IG members. Feedback should be sent to the chair (marta.wincewicz-bosy@awl.edu.pl) to be uploaded to the password-protected area on <http://emilyo.eu>.

The next point on the agenda was the flagship European Universities Initiative. Various possibilities for participating in the project should be carefully identified. It was also necessary to develop joint proposals for solutions that would take into account the special nature of military institutions. Furthermore, there was a proposal to establish a group within the LoD-9 to deal with the development of proposals to be presented at the LoD-9 meeting. Participants discussed the possibility of inviting the authorities of their universities to take part in the group sessions. Those interested in participating in an online meeting in October 2021 to discuss further details should send their applications to the LoD-9 chair.

g) LoD-10 – Gender Mainstreaming

The working session started with a presentation on the progress of the MGS project. The MGS handbook was being developed by the four partner countries based on the questionnaires and interviews previously analysed. The first residential transnational project meeting would be held in Portugal at the PMA on 23 and 24 September.

The LoD-10 group then discussed the creation of the NCM ‘Gender Perspectives’. The draft module description prepared by the chair and previously commented on by some members of the LoD was under debate. All participants were active in the conversation on each part of the module. Specific changes were agreed upon, and there would be a further

exchange of information amongst the LoD members before the next IG meeting in Brussels. The group also considered rethinking the number of working hours and, implicitly, the number of ECTS credits awarded for the common module. The intention was to rearrange the module descriptors and get the green light from the IG by the end of the calendar year.

h) 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. The group agreed to establish a strategic partnership for naval academies, the INS. Poland (leader of the project), Bulgaria and Romania were 100% committed to the partnership. Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece needed to confirm their interest by the end of September. Further steps would be taken during iMAF 2021 in Lisbon to integrate more naval institutions into the project.

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

The chair provided an update on the progress of the IAFS, focusing on the first two intellectual outputs currently under development. The members also discussed the structure of the first interim report, which would be submitted to the Hellenic Erasmus+ Agency at the end of November at the latest. The chair also presented the internal reporting documents that would be used for collecting data. Next, the list of the international events at which the project had been publicised by the partners in the last three months was reviewed. Finally, the participants discussed the implementation of the IAFS after the completion of the development phase of the project and how other European Air Force Institutions (e.g. from Spain and Poland) could benefit by participating in the student and staff exchanges.

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

The chair informed the participants from Poland, Greece, Bulgaria and France about the achievements and future activities of the SP Project KA203 EuCTS_DS. The upcoming tasks were the finalisation of the subject description and the development of the learning materials. The representative of the Artillery, Air Defence, Communication and Information System Faculty of 'Vasil Levski' NMU, Shumen, announced that because of the COVID-19 situation in Bulgaria, the 1st Multiplier Event and the 3rd Transnational Meeting of the project, scheduled to take place in October 2021 in Shumen, would be postponed to spring 2022. In the coming months, the project partners would finalise the curriculum's subject description and start developing the learning materials.

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

The 5th LoD-14 meeting took place in the margins of the 51st IG meeting. Twelve participants from six institutions attended the meeting. The following topics were discussed: i) developments since the last meeting in Brasov, ii) final parallel thesis form, iii) communication plan, iv) K2 partnership, v) in-house journals.

A second joint thesis between MUT and HAFA was launched this year and presented as a new case study during the meeting.

In terms of participants and content, attendees agreed to shape a KA2 strategic partnership to fund the creation of a European Military Higher

Education Institutions Research Network or a similar initiative. They agreed to bring consolidated proposals to the table at the upcoming IG meeting.

Attendees discussed ways to collect and share information on in-house journals (under specific criteria: indexed, etc.) and organise a communication strategy to encourage participants to publish therein.

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

The chair of LoD-15 invited military academies with similar education systems to participate in the regular meetings of LoD-15, starting in November 2021. He highlighted the fact that a number of EU Member States (Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, Poland, Czech Republic, France and Belgium) had almost identical education systems for medical cadets. Normally 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.

Finally, participants were asked to fill out and return the LoD-15 templates (description of education system for medical cadets in EU member states) to the chair by the end of November 2021.

8) Work plan

- a) The 52nd IG meeting would be held in Brussels 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, in the 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>.
- b) The 53rd IG meeting would be held in Brussels from 21 to 23 February 2022, back to back with the EAB meeting.
- c) The 54th IG meeting would be held in Larnaca, Cyprus, from 3 to 5 May 2022, back to back with the LoD-10 / 4th Erasmus+ Gender Seminar.
- d) iMAF 2022 was scheduled to take place in Sibiu (RO) from 13 to 15 June 2022. More information would be made available in due course.
- e) The 55th IG meeting would be held in Brussels in September 2022, back to back with the EAB meeting.
- f) EUMACS 2022 would be held at the Orea Congress Hotel in Brno (Czech Republic) on 12 and 13 October 2022.
- g) The 56th IG meeting would be held in Gdynia at the Polish Naval Academy at the end of November / beginning of December 2022.

9) 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 is for your institution or country 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 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 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>