

**56th meeting of the Implementation Group
for the European initiative for the exchange of young officers
inspired by Erasmus (EMILYO)
5-7 December 2022
Gdynia, Poland
Draft minutes**

- 1) The chair and the ESDC Secretariat welcomed 72 participants from 18 EU Member States and 34 institutions.
- 2) **Adoption of the agenda**

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

 - a) offers from the RNDC (BG)
 - b) offers from the EMA (EE)
 - c) offers from the Spanish BOEIs (ES)
 - d) offers from the FASFA (FR)
 - e) offers from the Hellenic BOEIs (GR)
 - f) offers from the Italian BOEIs (IT)
 - g) offers from the LMA (LT)
 - h) international events organised by the PMA (PT)
 - i) offers from the Romanian BOEIs (RO)
 - j) offers from the Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik (SK)
- 3) **Approval of the minutes**

The group approved the minutes of the 55th meeting. The approved minutes are available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/872>.
- 4) **GAREA statistics**

The chair addressed the members on the matter of how to fill in the GAREA templates. He highlighted that they should insert only the incoming students and staff, with the exception of the outgoing personnel to non-IG BOEIs (e.g.: non-EU-MS or internships at institutions, which are not represented in the IG). The number of training days should be also reported as well. He then asked the group to be very careful not to duplicate the reports (e.g. if a common module is part of an international semester, record each person only once). The GAREA statistics template can be found at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/182>.
- 5) **Honorary membership**

Prof. Petros Kotsiopoulos, PhD, former Dean of the HAFA was made the 9th Honorary Member of the Implementation Group.
- 6) **Evaluation of IG events**

The LoD-4 chair presented the evaluation questionnaire which was the result of a very productive work process starting in iMAF 2022. It consists of 15 questions (Appendix A) linked to the learning outcomes and contains an

optional part (17 questions - Appendix A) too. It's up to the institution whether or not to include the optional part. It was discussed and agreed that each module will have up to two (2) learning outcomes for each category (6 in total), unless a module has more than 2 ECTS. More information can be found on <http://emilyo.eu/node/1182>.

7) CSDP Olympiad

The chair officially launched the 7th CSDP Olympiad by announcing that it will be held in Budapest, at the NUPS premises from 2 to 5 July 2024. He then presented the milestones, the way ahead, and the rules of procedure. Most of the time and work within the group were devoted to the selection of the 10 essay topics. The chair presented a list with 15 topics and the group discussed, voted, and decided on 10 of them. Further information can be found at http://www.emilyo.eu/olympiad_csdp.

8) EUMACS

The chair presented the outcomes of the EUMACS 2022 and linked them to the respective LoDs. He also mentioned the need of establishing a new LoD with a focus on train the trainer. The members decided to discuss that issue in detail on the upcoming IG meeting in Sofia.

The SASFA representative updated the group on the 2023 iteration, which would be held in San Javier (ES) from 08-10 Nov 2023 at the premises of the SASFA. More information will be communicated in the upcoming IG meetings.

9) iMAF

The chair informed the group that the new 2021 agreement has been signed by all 24 BOEIs in 2022. He then announced that the 'Carol I' National Defence University (NDU) of Romania has officially expressed its interest in becoming member of the iMAF family. Its' candidacy was unanimously accepted.

The HAFA representative briefly presented the upcoming iMAF 2023, which will be held by the Hellenic BOEIs (HMA, HNA & HAFA) in Athens (GR) from 22 to 23 May 2023. The relevant documentation will be sent out in due time.

The 2024 iteration would be held in Brasov (RO) at the premises of the HCAFA. More information will be communicated in due course.

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

The 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-5 – Legal framework

The Hellenic Army Academy (HAA) proposed reactivating the LoD-5 and nominated Prof. Ioannis Ragies as the new chair. The IG accepted both proposals unanimously. As a result, the LoD-5 reactivated with the primary task of reviewing the existing legal framework. The IG chair asked, once again, the IG representatives to encourage their hierarchical superiors to adopt the legal framework of the initiative. He explained that this could be done through an official statement to the ESDC Secretariat or by notifying the Steering Committee.

b) LoD-6 – Strategic communication

The group finalised the Strategic Communication Plan (SCP) and then discussed the development of a new common module entitled 'Fake news and disinformation in social media'. Apart from that, there was a

proposal from the chair to integrate a small agenda into the IG draft programme linked to the LoD sessions. The proposal will be discussed in the upcoming 57th IG meeting in Sofia.

c) LoD-7 – Financing the Initiative

The chair presented the Handbook 2022 – Financing the Initiative. The main goal of the Handbook was to sum up and present several sources of financing international activities such as students/staff mobilities, common modules, seminars, conferences etc. The handbook was also presented and disseminated by the chair of the IG in the newcomers meeting. The relevant documentation can be found on <http://emilyo.eu/node/1191>.

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

- BG, EE, ES, FR, GR, IT, LT, PT, RO and SK reported on past events and announced upcoming offers (www.emilyo.eu/node/878).

- **LoD-2 & LoD-8 meeting outcomes**

The chairs informed the participants about the procedure and documents regarding Common Modules, SQF-MILOF and the new ERASMUS + programme called Blended Intensive Programme (BIP). A new proposal was presented by the National University of Public Service (NUPS) named 'EU Secure', while the University of Turin and IT-Army ETC & SAMS announced the transformation of some CMs into BIP versions (it will be possible to offer them both in a traditional way and BIP): LOAC, Biosafety and Bioterrorism and a pilot one named 'Problem Solving and Critical Thinking'. The group will elaborate on them to be ready for discussion in the next IG plenary session.

e) LoD-9 – Future Projects

The meeting started with an update on the state of play and the way ahead of the European Military University Network (EMUN) project. The group then discussed the content of the letter to the Rectors/Commandants. It was agreed to be supplemented with a questionnaire developed by the group during the session.

f) LoD-10 – Gender mainstreaming

The session started with a discussion on the pilot edition of the Common Module "Gender Perspectives in Security and Defence" held at the TMA from 21 to 25 November 2022. The chair presented the main parts of the module, emphasising on the feedback from the audience, which led to a fruitful discussion about future changes.

The meeting then continued with an update on the progress of the MGS project. The partners shared the last events related to the teaching activities and the way ahead.

Finally it was announced that the future train the trainer seminars will be held by the University of Turin-IT (January 2023) and the National Military University in Veliko Tarnovo, BG (February 2023).

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

The meeting started with an overview of the INS curriculum. The following actions have jointly agreed:

- The group unanimously decided to include the CSDP common module to the INS curriculum, thus contributing to the Common Security and Defence culture of the Union;
- The partners have agreed and approved the draft versions of the INS courses as proposed by the responsible institutions. The final versions will be checked and endorsed at the 57th IG meeting in Sofia;
- The partners committed to apply in the upcoming call of strategic partnerships in March 2023, under RNA coordination. The project title is set up, namely: “International Naval Semester curriculum framework development, valuing the intelligent technologies and the innovative tools in European Defence System - Joint Curriculum Harmonisation for Military Navy Education”. The following institutions have expressed their intention to be part of the consortium: Romanian Naval Academy (coordinator), Polish Naval Academy, Italian Naval Academy, Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy and Hellenic Naval Academy. Spanish Naval Academy will follow up the project results as observer and project beneficiary.
- The Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy proposed to take over the coordination of the second application form to be submitted on the call of 2023 on Erasmus+ strategic partnerships, preparing the application of the following project: “Joint Naval Training Network to Value the Common Curricular Frame for European Navy cadets”.

Concluding the actual status of INS implementation, the next priorities have been reaffirmed: to conclude the joint curriculum as planned in final version; to increase the curricular flexibility for incoming offer; to initiate new joint projects among the partners, as strategic partnerships under Erasmus+ framework, focused on training/education and research development.

The partners also agreed upon the following deadlines for INS further actions and measures:

- by 20 January 2023 – the partners will decide their official involvement as partners in INS strategic partnership;
- by 1 March 2023 – the RNA team will present the INS strategic partnership project in draft, to be validated by the partners;
- by 24 March 2023 – the INS project will be submitted under Romanian Naval Academy coordination;
- by September 2023 – the partners should organise the INS modules as joint courses.

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

Since the LoD-12 chair was absent due to unexpected professional commitments the session didn't take place. A very first feedback on the IAFS will be presented on the upcoming IG meeting in Sofia.

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

The chair updated the participants on the achievements and the future activities of the project. The representatives of MUT presented the results of the following activities: ‘Armament and missile technology’ and ‘Aerospace technology’. In addition to that, the results and activities

developed within the KA206 project “Digital Competences for Improving Security and Defence Education” were officially presented to the group.

It was also discussed the possibility to apply for another KA2 project entitled “Digital Mathematics Applied in Security and Defence Education” (BG NMU, RO MTA, PL MUT, IT UNITO and GR HAA).

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

Discussions were held on how to stimulate further thesis co-supervision, given the fact that under certain prerequisites a five-day student mobility can be funded from the Erasmus budget. Moreover, it was identified the need of covering very specific research requirements for ongoing projects, could be fitted against students’ placements’ needs. Finally, most of the time was invested on discussing the launch of a K2 project to support the creation of a research network platform. The group agreed as follows:

- Prepare a short newsletter explaining how cadets could find collaboration abroad.
- Organise placements to fit existing ongoing project needs.
- Post the Journal list on the EMILYO web site.
- Study and propose changes for the K2 project outline.
- Collaborate with Doc School.

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

The chair updated the group on the state of play of the project. The BOEIs’ and civilian universities database creation are still ongoing. Furthermore, the chair informed all participants about the feedback on the letter sent out to the respective MoDs of all EU MSs via the Steering Committee delegates. This letter had not led to the expected outcomes. Only Hungarian medical services responded, expressing their willingness to participate in the project. Finally, the group discussed the ways IMS could be organised and the framework to be used. As agreed, a hybrid approach should be followed in order to initiate medical cadets’ exchanges. The academic part shall be performed by the civilian universities under the Erasmus+ programme (inter-institutional agreement), while the military medical academies shall be in charge of providing logistical support (accommodation, meals, etc.) A bilateral agreement shall be signed to clarify all the pending issues.

l) LoD-16 – European Union Armed Forces Academy

Following the different steps for fulfilling the overall goal – established during the 1st meeting – the group discussed the first stage, the establishment of an EU Leadership Model for young Officers. The group agreed onto the following next steps:

- Use the 8 learning areas of the SQF MILOF document.
- Contact Col Alin Bodescu and kindly request further advice concerning the links to the SQF MILOF document.
- Create a matrix (by the chair) with the 8 learning areas (SQF MILOF) at tactical/ low-tactical level, integrate into this matrix existing common modules referring to the learning outcomes in case they fit, identify the gaps, and propose the creation of new common modules eventually.

- The entire approach is to organise “exchanges as usual” and integrate additional education – if needed (according to the gaps of the matrix).
- There shall not be any exclusion of any basic officer education in terms of level of education – meaning, it shall not exclude the various EU-MSs’ BOEIs at bachelor’s or master’s levels.
- The future education of an officer shall not exclude any NATO-approaches (the education must fit to both, EU and NATO officer education – if there is any differences identified).
- The entire approach is a strategic one. Therefore, at a crucial stage discussions within the IG plenary would take place – during the iMAF 2023 at the latest.

m) LoD-17 – International Air Defence Semester (IADS)

The chair updated the audience on the status and the way ahead of the project. It was agreed to elaborate and submit the application in March 2023. In addition to that, the group decided to establish a PoC list in order to better communicate and distribute the tasks.

11) Work plan

- The 57th IG meeting would be held in Sofia (BG) at the RNDC from 28 February to 2 March 2023 alongside the ME of the HELPSec. On Monday 28 February (evening) a workshop would be held for new IG members. One week prior to the meeting (20 Feb 2023 at 18:00 CET) a VTC will be organised with the LoD chairs. Invitation will follow in due time.
- iMAF 2023 would be held in Athens (GR) from 22-25 May 2023, back to back with the 58th IG meeting and the 2nd ME of the EuCTS_DS.
- The 59th IG meeting would be held in Brussels from 4-6 September 2023. On Monday 4 September (from 16.00 to 18.00) a workshop would be held for new IG members.
- EUMACS 2023 would be held at the San Javier Air Force Base (ES) from 8 to 10 November 2023.
- The 60th IG meeting would be held in Riga (LV) at the NDAL premises from 20 to 22 November 2023. On Monday 20 November (evening) a workshop would be held for new IG members, in parallel with the LoD chairs’ meeting.

12) AOB

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

Request	Send to
Presentations for the IG meeting: if you would like to present anything during the forthcoming IG meeting (plenary session), please send your presentation seven days prior to the meeting . Each presentation should not last longer than 5 minutes!	harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at & ilias.makris@eeas.europa.eu
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 obtain an answer from those responsible.	ilias.makris@eeas.europa.eu or announce in the Steering Committee

(See http://www.emilyo.eu/node/982 – LoD-5)	
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)	harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at
Draw up a pool of lecturers for your institution, indicating the names of those willing to teach abroad, preferably under Erasmus+. (http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191)	harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at
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. (http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878)	harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at
If you wish to have an administrative document posted on the EMILYO homepage, send it in a single PDF file .	harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at
Encourage cadets or students to write a report on an event with international participants. Please include pictures. (http://www.emilyo.eu/exchange_experience)	harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at
Nominate a chair for a LoD that has not yet been assigned one.	harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at & ilias.makris@eeas.europa.eu