

	European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus
	Implementation Group The Chairman
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**Implementation Group for the
European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus
Purpose, Objectives, Achievements & Future
at a Glance**

1) Foundation

In November 2008 the European Union Ministers of Defence decided in their Council of the European Union Conclusions on the ESDP (2903rd External Relations Council Meeting) to establish an Implementation Group for the so-called “European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus”, or with other names “Military Erasmus”, “Erasmus Militaire”, “EMILYO” (Exchange of MILitary Young Officers) or just in short “The Initiative”.

2) Objectives

The overall goal of this IG is to harmonize the European Union Basic Officer Education and to increase interoperability, thus to increase Europe’s security. With all its activities the IG shall promote a European Security and Defence Culture, in terms of spreading the idea among the Officer Cadets and Students participating in the Basic Officer Education, that current and future challenges can be better managed together. This goes hand in hand with an education for the Union’s Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

3) Obstacles identified

Each of the European Union Basic Officer Education Institutions is embedded in the national academic education system. In some Member States – as it is in Germany – the education law is even on provincial administration. This fact caused challenges to overcome in a way not to danger the respective national accreditation.

To solve the problems it is foreseen that each EU Basic Officer Education Institution (EU BOEI) sends education experts to the IG meetings. The IG’s working meetings take place on a quarterly basis; meeting location is mainly in Brussels. In doing so, each EU BOEI, which participates in the IG meetings, has a voice to contribute, and is able to implement – step by step on a voluntary basis – the IG’s elaborations.

All the elaborations are in line with the Bologna-Process, the Erasmus+ approaches, the



European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and other pre-conditions for the European Higher Education Area (HEA).

4a) Achievements – the Lines of Development (LoDs)

The IG categorized the challenges into eight so-called “Lines of Development” (LoDs) which are listed with their description in the table hereinafter.

LoD No.	LoD Name	Description/Purpose	Solved (s)/ Ongoing (o)
1	System of Equivalences	In different Basic Officer Education systems different education parts are belonging to either the academic or the vocational education. An education passed abroad may cause disadvantages for recognition purposes. The adopted document describes how to transfer a non-academic education into ECTS and vice-versa.	S
2	Development of Competences	The adopted document describes which competences an Officer Cadet should have – using common descriptors according to the EQF. All the education descriptions (modules) use these descriptors. In doing so, mutual recognition is facilitated.	S
3	Development of IDL (e-learning)	Preparation for certain educations may be conducted via e-learning to be more efficient. A lot of IDL-modules still exist – but everybody is requested to create new ones providing it for Officer Cadets for the purpose of distance-learning.	S + O
4	Create an IT-Platform	A platform is needed to have access to useful documents, latest news, and education offers of EU Member States (www.emilyo.eu).	S
5	Supporting Develop Mechanism/ (Legal) Framework	Exchanges of students and lecturers may cause administrative and legal problems. How to deal with these matters is described in this adopted document. The BOEI just have to use it to facilitate exchanges. Not all Member States have opted in (on-going procedure). So far, just AT, BE, CY, EE, ES, GR, IT, and PL have opted in.	S + O
6	National Implementation of the Programme	National authorities and responsible persons concerning exchanges should know about the Initiative to support it. There are different avenues of approach to fulfil this communication-flow, e.g. Emilyo homepage, Wikipedia pages or briefings during high level conferences (EMACS, ChoD-meetings, IMAF, etc.).	S + O
7	Lifelong Learning	Exchanges may request additional costs. There are possibilities to be supported by existing exchange programmes – such as the ERASMUS+ programme. This LoD should find these possibilities for external funding and provide the information to all persons being responsible for exchanges.	S + O
8	Common Modules	A Common Module is seen as to be important for all European Officer Cadets – either all services or a single service. After being adopted by all representatives of the IG the Common Modules shall be integrated into the national curricula. In doing so – step by step – the European curricula will be harmonized! On the other hand it is not the IG’s goal to abolish the Member States’ special expertise. To give an overview about the existing Common Modules the next point lists all of them with their amount of ECTS.	S + O



4b) Achievements – the Common Modules (CMs)

The module description of a CM undergoes a long procedure until it is adopted. The descriptions have to follow the ECTS rules, use the common descriptors, etc. All education experts have to agree to the final description. As soon as the status of “common” is reached, on national level it is easier to implement it into the national curricula with the argument that all EU Member States agreed to it. All CMs are up-loaded on the Emilyo homepage (<http://www.emilyo.eu/node/988>).

Name of the Common Module	ECTS	Name of the Common Module	ECTS
Advanced Technologies in Borders Surveillance	2	English for Aircraft Maintenance SET P3	3
Aviation English for ICAO LPR	3	English for Aviation Security Personnel	3
Aviation English P1	3	How to meet the Media	2
Aviation English P2	3	Individual Personal Development and Meta-Communication	2
Basic Military English (BME)	2	Interoperability	6
Battle Physical, Mental and Survival Training	3	Irregular Warfare	3
Common Operating Environment	3	Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC)	2
Common Security and Defence Policy	2	Leadership & Agility in Complex Environments	2
Comprehensive Approach	4	Maritime Leadership	2
CMO/PSO (4 Sub-Modules)	12	Maritime Security	2
Cross Cultural Communication	2	Military Instructor Training	3
CSDP-Olympiad	2	Military Leadership (A)	2
Cultural Awareness	2	Military Leadership (B)	2
Cyber Security	2	Military Leadership (C)	4
Defence and Security Economics	4	Military Strategy and Security in the Baltic Sea Region	3
Electronic Warfare	2	Small Unit Tactics	4
English for Aircraft Maintenance SET P1	3	Train the Trainer (approved by the EAB)	1
English for Aircraft Maintenance SET P2	3	Total: 35	103

The following modules are in the developing phase (as of December 2017):

Name of the “Non-Common Module”	ECTS	Name of the “Non-Common Module”	ECTS
Military Ethics – Part I	2	Space Applications for Security and Defence	2
Military Ethics – Part II	2	Total: 3	6

5) Other Projects

The Implementation Group is linked to other projects dealing with the IG’s goals such as:

- **International Military Academic Forum (iMAF):** On an annual basis five EU BOEIs conduct the iMAF which is a conference foreseen (per contract) to deal with challenges of the Implementation Group. All BOEIs are invited to this event.
- **Strategic Partnership Project (SPP):** Five EU BOEIs develop – within the ERASMUS+ frame – an international semester which consists of Common Modules. All elaborations will be provided to all EU BOEIs by the end of 2017.
- **Joint Master Degree on CSDP:** Three EU HEIs develop – within the ERASMUS+ frame – a Joint Master Degree with the focus on CSDP. The Programme consists of a lot of Common Modules and will start most probably in fall 2019.



- **Scientific Papers:** Scientific publication/elaborations, evaluations reports, etc. with a link to the Initiative are collected and up-loaded onto the Emilyo homepage (http://www.emilyo.eu/scientific_publications).

6) Future Projects

- The IG will Encourage Member States to engage more actively in the activities of the Implementation Group, including the organisation of more common modules, especially of those included in the curriculum of the International Semester.
- The IG will encourage Member States to adopt the entire International Semester in their Curricula following the example of the Hellenic Army Academy, the Polish Military University of Land Forces, and the Romanian Land Forces Academy.
- Based on the experience of the still developed International Semester, the IG will promote the creation of such an international semester for Naval and Air Force Academies. Other services are most welcome to follow this example (e.g.: Military Technical Universities, Military Medical Academies, etc.). The development of an International Semester for the Air Force is still on-going and should be finalized in 2018.
- The IG will promote and support the development of Joint Study Programmes on Bachelor level – within the ERASMUS+ frame – in order to strengthen (regional) cooperation among the EU BOEIs.

7) Conclusions

The IG can look back on many years of active life. Within almost 10 years a lot of challenges – linked to the Basic Officer Education, to the academic accreditation, to financial restrictions, etc. – were managed.

Scientific researches proved evidence that exchanges on Officer Cadets' level increase their competences which are needed on a later stage when acting as Officers; that is why the IG's goals are on the right track.

New ideas which are in line with the IG's objectives (e.g.: PESCO) are always welcome and should be introduced to the IG; then because of its long-time experiences the implementation of new ideas will take place faster in order to increase the European Security and Defence Culture – thus – to contribute to the European Security and Defence Policy.



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