

Proceedings from the Conference on the European Initiative for the Exchange of Young Officers, Stockholm, November 25 - 27, 2009

Thursday, November 26

1. Introduction by the Conference Chairman, Ambassador Mats Bergquist.
2. Opening address by Director Johanna Gårdmark, MOD, and Professor Mats Ericson, Vice Chancellor SNDC.
(For addresses see attached CD).
3. Presentation of ESDC, the IG (Implementation Group) and the different LoDs, LtCol Dirk Dubois.
(For presentation see attached CD).
 - a) The briefing had two parts. The first was a general presentation of ESDC, with special emphasis on its objectives, structure and roles. The second was various aspects on the European Initiative for the Exchange of Young Officers. Reference was given to the following website which contains more information on young officers' training and education ; www.emilyo.eu As conference participant access can be given to this forum.
 - b) The IG
This presentation contained a work plan, achievements so far and future challenges and opportunities.
 - c) The LoDs (as of April 2009)

• LoD 1	System of equivalences	planning stage
• LoD 2	Comparison of courses based on competences	not started
• LoD 3	Development of IDL specific content	planning stage
• LoD 4	Creation of IT platform	planning stage
• LoD 5	Development of supporting mechanisms	not started
• LoD 6	Encouragement of national implementation	not started

- LoD 7 Military Lifelong Learning Programme not started

3. Conference proceedings

- a) LoD 1 proposal, by LtC Harald Gell, Austria.
Development of “Military ECTS”
(For presentation see attached CD).
- b) ECVET, by Sylvain Paile, University of Liege.
(For presentation see attached CD).
- c) LoD 5 proposal, Administrative and Legal Framework, by Capt. (N) Vergil Chitac, Romania, Chairman of Subgroup 4.
(For presentation see attached CD).
- c) LoD 5, Proposal for a legal basis to the European Initiative for the exchange of young officers, by Julien Cats and Nastasja Schnorfeil-Paute, MoD, France.
(For presentation see attached CD).

4. Conference proceedings

Spontaneous comments on presented proposals, by members of all delegations.

Cyprus identified a problem for independent Member States that don't have military institutions. They experience problems to send their cadets as exchange-trainees to other Host Institutions, through another Member State's Home Institution.

France replied that the exchange takes place in between Home and Host Institutions, not between Member States.

Greece also confirmed that there should be no problem in sending a Cypriot cadet, enrolled at their Home Institution, for exchange to another Host Institution, as long as Cyprus pays for the formation of the student and that there is a written agreement between Cyprus and the Greek institution.

Cyprus proposal is that cadets from Cyprus, Malta and Luxembourg could be enrolled as cadets-of-state, instead of cadet-of-institution, and that exchange can be arranged through bilateral agreement in coordination with Home and Host Institutions.

Belgium said that they avoid sending Luxembourg cadets to e.g. Saint-Cyr in France, as they consider it is a loss of time and experience, as the Luxembourg also sends cadets to St-Cyr directly comparable to Belgian training.

According to Italy a common base agreement would be the best solution.

5. Presentation of ERASMUS, by Mr Jari Rusanen, International Programme Office for Education and Training, Sweden.
(For presentation see attached CD).

6. Formation of and work in working groups, introduced by Ove Lind, Director of Studies, SNDC.

LtCol Dirk Dubois, ESDC, did not want to limit the discussion, but according to him the following points should be included and considered:

LoD 1 : Quality Assurance and how to tackle that? Possible connections to MECTS and LoD 2 regarding competence definition.

Lod 5: The initiative is open for the small nations with no military institutions. Should they be included in the institution funds? There is a need for discussion on high level about the idea of the legal and administrative framework.

7. Accounts of/comments on discussions in working groups.
LoD 1. Introduced by Chairpersons of the working groups.

Working groups 3 and 4 presented the results of their discussions based on the proposed LoD 5 document "Draft Joint Action regarding the European initiative on the exchange of young officers, modeled on Erasmus".

Nastasja Schnorfeil-Paute, France, will send an updated version of the document after agreed changes, and send out the updated version by December 4.

8. Summary of first day's proceedings, made by LtCol Dirk Dubois, ESDC

The day has consisted of presentations of useful topics which will take the initiative forward in general terms, and in particular what forms of exchanges that can be foreseen for the European military officers' training and education system. Now there seems to be a great awareness of the ESDC and its objective. May I also express my hope that this awareness also includes a deeper understanding of the role of the ESDC and its Implementation Group, concretized through the different subgroups. This aspect is of vital importance in order to be able to take the initiative forward according to our initial views

and to synchronize our different projects. I would also like to stress the importance of the communicative aspect of the initiative. In plain English – talk to each other.

In my presentation of the LoDs you discovered that some points in LoD 7 were marked RED, which means STOP until the outcome of other groups' work has been presented. As I see it, time is running short for offering the common modules on a larger scale. It is also important to develop LoD 2, which is closely linked to the mutual agreement. I strongly recommend you to define a way to start this work as soon as possible.

All member states are requested to send comments on the presented material (LoD 1 to Austria and LoD 5 to France) before December 15. Once adopted by the IG, which will convene in Brussels on January 26, the documents will be forwarded to the appropriate Council bodies for adoption.

Friday 27 November

1. Accounts of/comments on discussions in working groups.
LoD 1. Introduced by Chairpersons of the working groups.

Working groups 1 and 2 presented the results of their discussions based on the Proposed LoD 1 document "Development of Military-ECTS" worked out by Austria.

It was unanimously agreed that the result of LoD 1, the credit transfer system MECTS, should be linked to LoD 2, Comparison of courses based on competences. Sweden volunteered to be in charge of the work and promised to start a group as soon as possible. The idea is to use material from the EMACS conference in October with the expressed ambition to have some tentative results in the spring of 2010.

2. Presentation concerning LoD 7, by Col. Jaroslav Prucha, Czech Republic.
Military Lifelong Learning Programme.
(For presentation see attached CD).

3. The Way Ahead. (All delegations)

Austria: Thank you Sweden.

LoD 1 – final paper available at next meeting in Brussels, January 26.

Information on modules/courses on offer in Austria will be available by the end of February.

Work in progress on a Peace Support Operation Module, consisting of four different submodules.

Belgium: We sustain the LoD 1 and LoD 5 initiatives.

Page 5 (7)

We will try to implement MECTS within the next few months and see the outcome. It is a good way to realize the exchange concept. The idea of creating small modules, will make the system feasible and compensate possible shortcomings. We consider the result of the meeting a big step forward.

Cyprus: Thank you Sweden as host nation, and members of the working group. The result of the conference is good for us.

Czech Republic: This is a big step forward for Military Erasmus. Thanks for your support of LoD 7.

Estonia: Thank you Sweden. We sustain LoD 1 and LoD 5. We will make our comments to the presented proposals before December 15.

Finland: Thank you for a very productive meeting. Finland will keep on working on LoD 1 and 5.

France: This conference has really meant a breakthrough. Please send comments on LoD 5 as soon as possible. Invitation given to a course on Peace Support Operations, 21-22 April 2010.

Germany: Thank you Sweden. We will be active both in LoD 1 and LoD 5. Ask ESDC Secretariat to place the presentations on the ESDC server for everyone to see.

Greece: Thank you Sweden. We agree with all our colleagues on what has been said about LoD 1 and 5. We promise to send requested comments in time. In parallel, we work on organizing a module for November 2010 and hopefully it will be announced after the Spanish module.

Italy: As a representative for the Legal Part: Find solution to legal parts for teachers and students. As Chairman for Italy: We also support LoD 5, there are formal contact possibilities on the financial side. Only for individuals, not institutions.

Netherlands: Thanks to France for work on the Joint Action document. Some important concrete steps have been taken. Still in the accreditation process for Erasmus charter. Invitation to an e-learning conference in the Netherlands, April 21-23.

Poland: Urgent request for an agenda for next year's meetings, in order to facilitate planning.

Latvia: Thank you Sweden.

Romania: Hard work in Stockholm, thank you. Mission accomplished with the proposed legal framework. Important to find a suitable name of our programme, as Emilyo is not approved by all MS.

Slovakia: Thank you Sweden and group members.

Slovenia: Thank you Sweden. We find Erasmus fruitful. We have no military faculty, i.e. limited opportunity to offer modules in the initiative. But two will be offered next year.

Spain: The Bologna system will be introduced in our academies in 2010. Our new module will match this initiative and be part of LoD 3. We have participated in LoD 1 and LoD 5, and we will also participate in LoD 2 (to be confirmed).

3. Incoming Presidency's Remarks, by Capt (N) Federico Supervielle, Spain.

Spain will support the Military Erasmus initiative, and we are well on track. Under our presidency focus will be on more practical aspects.
(For full remarks see attached CD).

4. Summary of conference, by Commander Cesare Ciocca and LtCol Dirk Dubois, ESDC.

According to Commander Cesare Ciocca there are four conditions necessary for the continuation of the initiative:

- Coordination of efforts
- Reciprocal understanding
- Flexibility and possibility to adapt
- Full support of ESDC Secretariat, IG, and Academic Board

He concluded by urging all delegates to make all efforts to push the initiative forward adding that "If next seminar will be half as successful as this one, the job will be done".

Final remarks by LtCol Dirk Dubois:

The progress report of the seven lines of development is as follows:

- | | | |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|
| • LoD 1 | System of equivalences | finishing stage, chaired by Austria |
| • LoD 2 | Comparison of courses based on competences | initial stage, chaired by Sweden |
| • LoD 3 | Development of IDL | Planning stage |

- | | | |
|---------|--|---|
| • LoD 4 | Creation of IT platform | Planning stage |
| • LoD 5 | Development of supporting mechanisms | finishing stage, chaired by Romania |
| • LoD 6 | Encouragement of national Implementation | initial stage, chaired by Belgium |
| • LoD 7 | Military Lifelong Learning Programme | planning stage, chaired by Czech Republic |

He also promised that agenda and work plan for 2010 will be distributed shortly.

He concluded by thanking the Member States in general and the delegates in particular for their contributions which have taken the initiative a big step forward.

5. Presidency's concluding remarks, Professor Mats Ericson, Vice Chancellor SNDC. (For full remarks see attached CD).

6. End of conference

The Conference Chairman, Ambassador Mats Bergquist, summed up the conference by thanking all participants for productive discussions in a friendly atmosphere.