



Implementation Group

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**Meeting of the Implementation Group
for European initiative for the exchange of young officers
(inspired by Erasmus)
on 21 September 2010, 09:30 hrs in Larnaca (CY)
(all day meeting)**

Draft Minutes

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously

2. Minutes of the previous meeting - Adoption

The Group adopted the minutes of the Implementation Group meeting of 25 May 2010.

3. Information by the Chairperson of the Implementation Group

The Chairperson informed the Group about the EUAFA Commandants meeting in the second week of June in the Italian Air Force Academy in Pozzuoli. Among the possible points of interest for the IG work is the announcement by the EUAFA coordinator that their web site is containing the exchange activities catalogue and contact list both aimed to encourage/facilitate decisions/plans on future exchanges. A second relevant aspect concerns the interest from the Commandants raised on how teach the so called "core values" (i.e. exemplarity, respect, integrity,...). Developments in this matter are interesting for conceiving or updating future common modules.

The Chairperson also informed the IG on the presentation made jointly with Mr. Paile last July in Brussels to the EU Military Representatives to update/make them aware on the progress of the Initiative

4. State-of-Play of the Initiative

a. LoD 2

The LoD 2 Chairperson gave an overview of the information that he has received to work out LoD 2. A subgroup meeting is planned for 04 October in the Justus Lipsius building in Brussels. The Secretariat will distribute the agenda.

The findings of this subgroup, possibly in the form of a matrix, should serve as a basis for the development of the database in LoD 4.

b. LoD 5

The Secretariat reminded the Group Members that if they want to use the Framework arrangement, they can do so and simply need to inform the Secretariat.

c. LoD 7

The Czech delegation reported on the meeting held in June in Brno in which 6 academies were present from 5 different Member States. They concluded during the meeting that the Erasmus Programme of the Commission can be used for exchanges between the military training Institutes. They also exchanged detailed programmes to further these exchanges. During the meeting they also recommended to increase the number of modules given in English to further facilitate exchanges amongst the institutes.

d. **Revision of the detailed stocktaking**

Mr Paile gave an overview of the replies he received concerning the review of the detailed stocktaking and will inform the Group on further steps to be taken.

e. **Database of lecturers**

The French delegation and Mr Paile reported on the creation of a database under the form of an Excel file, that they will distribute amongst the Member States, inviting them to identify appropriate lecturers.

5. **Current and future exchange activities**

Greece and Austria reported a relatively low interest so far in the common modules they organize in October and November. Registrations are still possible. Austria reminded the Groups that all the relevant information on all exchange programmes that they offer, can be found on their website. The Chair reminds that the Common Modules already serve a purpose in themselves as they help course curricula in different Member States to grow closer together. The exchange opportunities that they offer is an additional bonus.

6. **Subgroup meeting**

The Group members split up in two subgroups in order to take forward the following Lines of Development.

a. **LoD 1**

The Secretariat gave an overview of the development of this LoD until now. It reminded the subgroup of the task given to the Implementation Group, more specifically concerning the task to study the possibility to use ECTS for the mutual recognition of training done in other Member States.

The Chairperson of Subgroup 1, assisted by Mr Paile, then explained in detail what is the specificity of military training and where the challenges were that the Implementation Group identified for the use of ECTS. The Chairperson then continued to present the so-called MECTS system.

The Commission representative and the ECTS expert from Italy, Professor Damiani, explained that the recognition of training done in a Member State that does not allocate ECTS to a specific form of training is not a problem: if the student comes back to his sending Institute, that Institute is fully authorised to allocate the appropriate number of ECTS. The expert underlined that therefore the calculation by a simple division of the workload by 30 as was foreseen in the MECTS guideline is not necessary and can only lead to confusion. On the other hand, the forms that were proposed in the Guideline to describe the activities and the workload during the exchange, provide an excellent basis for the allocation of ECTS to the student upon his return.

The Subgroup concluded that in the light of the explanation provided by the expert, there was no longer a need to use a separate system. The Austrian Subgroup 1 Chair will revise the Guideline and present it in due time to the Implementation Group.

b. **LoD 6**

(1) Introduction by the IG chair

He explained the need to develop and implement a communication strategy that should in principle be aimed to:

- spread the right, precise and simple information on the Initiative at all levels, decision makers at national and EU level, Commandants and Deans of the Academies, teachers, instructors and young officers/cadets;
- establish and/or encourage a constant feed back from the academies to have a clear vision on how the Initiative is developing;
- encourage national authorities to increase the level of exchanges, their duration and typology.

He also suggested to focus the discussion on possible instruments, mentioning some options already available like the existing seminars of the EU presidencies, the

Conferences among Commandants and Deans of the Academies, the emilyo web site, articles on the Council newsletter, etc.

He concluded underlining the need to have a dedicated chairperson, who will work in close contact with the IG chair particularly for the more sensitive matters, and to adopt an "effect oriented" modality of working.

(2) Discussion

The French delegate presented his point of view on the possible development and practical implementation of the communication strategy. He identified possible options, like better develop the emilyo web site together with the Bulgarians (former QW2-3) to include in it a guidebook, with FAQs, real stories from the students (a storytelling dedicated part), an autonomous newsletter to be sent to a wide list of recipients (through the ESDC network, single service academies networks, etc.). In addition the emilyo should be made much more visible by putting links everywhere possible (newspapers, magazines, other websites, etc.), include it in google system and create a page in Wikipedia (containing information, definitions, links, videos, photos,...). In a longer perspective it can be also envisaged the use of mobile i-phone and propose to create multinational race(s) in EU involving cadets and young officers.

He concluded underlining the need to have as soon as possible some communication specialists inside the subgroup, better define the targets and take in consideration the absence of a budget that can imply in the future limitations in implementing effective strategies.

In the general discussion, the members identified some relevant issues to be taken in consideration. In primis, it is essential to recognise all existing exchanges among cadets/young officers and teachers/instructors under the so called military Erasmus initiative, as currently many activities are not included simply because of a lack of information.

It is also essential to focus on the possibility to have/identify appropriate forms of budget to support the individuals making exchanges, the academies, and the IG particularly for implementing this communication strategy. The EU Commission could play an important role by actively contributing to the definition of feasible way to sustain the Initiative.

A third aspect has been identified in the name of the Initiative: in a communication perspective the present long definition is considered an obstacle for a clear and wide understanding of its nature. The members are aware of the past debates on this issue and are convinced on the need to maintain a clear link with the Erasmus programme for Universities. This debate nevertheless should be made in the wider context of the IG, with the support of legal experts.

Fourth main aspect raised is concerning the coordination with the LoD 7 and 8, as the communication strategy should in priority base its messages on the progress made by the other two subgroups and enhance/diffuse as appropriate their findings.

Last aspect is the need to develop a coordinated programme of meetings in order to facilitate the participation of all members either for the meeting in plenary either for the meeting by subgroups (may be same day for both) and plan them close or even included in the Seminars organised by the EU presidencies.

(3) Agreed actions

At the end of the debate the following concrete actions and proposals have been identified/adopted:

- (a) the next Seminar of the EU presidency (espected for first semester next year) should be co-organised with the IG; the subgroup will be available for contacts with the organisers of the seminar;
- (b) the extended use of emilyo web site should be conceived and implemented together with the Bulgarian team having concluded the QW2-3;
- (c) an autonomous newsletter of the IG can be adopted as a major instrument of the IG to spread information at all level and emphasise the added value of any concrete actions implemented by all actors;
- (d) a list of definitions of the most commonly used terms should be elaborated, obtaining the approval of the MSs and EU Institutions; this list will be regularly used by all IG members and diffused by appropriate means;

- (e) prepare a page for Wikipedia and include links with the emilyo website in all websites concerned by the basic education of officers (i.a. the sites of all academies and related conferences, EMACS, SIC,EUAFa).

(4) Way ahead

- consultation/contacts will be taken with the subgroups in charge of LoD7 and 8 to create synergies between respective initiatives;
- there is a common need to define the IG work plan considering the opportunity to identify the same dates for IG meetings in plenary and meetings by subgroup(s);
- a chairperson for the subgroup should be proposed by the IG members; he/she will work in close contact with the IG chair particularly for the more sensitive matters.

7. Work Plan

The Secretariat update the work plan according to the developments of the LoDs.

Next IG meeting will be tentatively on 14 December. The Secretariat will confirm the exact date taking in account other relevant ESDC events in the same period.

8. AOB_

No topics were treated under this agenda point.
