



MAIN THESIS FOR THE MILITARY ERASMUS CONFERENCE, WARSAW 12-14 OCTOBER 2011

1. The History of the Initiative

At the beginning, the suggested area dealt with the following issues: a short history of the Initiative, the existing LoDs (working groups) and the compendium presented by Sylvain PAILE. During further discussion everyone agreed to focus more on aims and objectives that could be achieved by the Initiative. What is more, creating new modules may give to the project a new stimulus for the future. Harmonization of efforts, not standardization of contents, aimed at defining training needs within the Initiative, will be also crucial.

2. The Exchange of Cadets and Lecturers / Instructors

The idea of exchanging cadets and lecturers / instructors is of course indisputable. In addition, the concept of exchanging specialists / experts / people responsible for developing and implementing training programmes is also considered of primary importance. Such mobility should be based on people mostly from the ministries of defence, general staffs or scientific – research institutions / institutes responsible for creating new policies in this respect. The legal – administrative aspects of the exchanges (including methods/criteria for mutual recognition of studies, such as ECTS) could also become a major topic in this area however keeping in mind the voluntary character of the initiative (please note that the various forms of incentives are included in the topics under point 4 below).

3. The Enlargement of the Initiative

The possibility of extending the Initiative became a matter of discussion involving two approaches: one is the natural tendency to adopt the same spirit of the Erasmus programme for the Universities (open also to non- EU states adopting the Bologna process and pertinent EU standards). The second stems from some reservations related to the fact that the project is too new (only 3 years old) and it has to deal with a number of matters that remain unresolved so far.

The better option would be to establish EU-internal regulations first and then to invite other countries outside the EU (e.g. Norway, Iceland) but which comply, as mentioned above, with the provisions of the Bologna Process. The Chairman highlighted a slightly different aspect of this area – the need to define the conditions of the exchanges. Opening the Initiative to non-EU countries should not touch on the decision-making process (which will remain an EU-only

responsibility) and, more generally, should not violate existing regulations and procedures. Training modules are a good example of this. That is why the participation of decision-makers / high-level officials (with specific expertise and responsibility in their respective national higher education system) in the conference will be especially significant.

4. Ways of Supporting the Initiative

The Warsaw Conference, according to Dirk Dubois, could be a good forum to launch or to continue the discussion on possible ways of supporting the Initiative.

This support should consider a wide range of options at political-institutional level, including the adoption of bonuses for the careers of both young officers and teachers/instructors.

For further perspective – the project will require financial aid/assistance if its is to operate. What is more, the support of other national and international entities such as institutions, organizations or public administrations should also be warmly welcomed.

The governance/coordination of the Initiative and its various detailed projects remains of primary importance for many actors/officials at EU and national level. This function/responsibility could be assumed by the IG itself, with the support of each national authority.

An in-depth discussion on these topics during the Conference will be very important in order to have a clear, shared vision and guidance.

5. Way Ahead

The organizers of the conference decided not to touch on this topic due to the fact that in all above mentioned areas, the issue of the future perspectives (way ahead) is included.

It could in any case remain open if some Member States or Institutions propose any relevant/major project or initiative for the future.

A short description of the future activities of the IG will be provided.