

**43rd meeting of the Implementation Group
for the European Initiative for the exchange of young officers
inspired by Erasmus**

3-4 September 2019

in Brussels

Draft minutes

1) The chair and the ESDC Secretariat welcomed the 65 participants present from 21 EU Member States and 40 institutions.

2) Adoption of the agenda

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

- a) Briefing by Ernst & Young(EY) about recent developments in the field of European Security and Defence: opportunities for military academic institutions
- b) Polish Naval Academy METOC
- c) Outcomes of EUMACS 2019 and 2020 events by Romanian Land Forces Academy
- d) CM Basic Military English and EUMACS 2021 by Portuguese Military Academy
- e) CM Irregular Warfare by Swedish Defence University
- f) 2019 Marathon 2019 by the Hellenic Army Academy
- g) Evaluation of CM Maritime Security by the Hellenic Naval Academy.

3) Approval of the minutes

The group approved the minutes of the 42nd meeting with an addition regarding the appointment of Lt Col Enrico Spinello as chairman of LoD 8. The approved minutes are available at: <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/872>.

4) Honorary Membership

RAdm Cesare Ciocca of the Italian Navy (ret.), currently Secretary General of Eurodefense Italia, member of the Military Commission of the Italian Atlantic Committee in Rome, and responsible for international education at the Istituto Studi Ricerche Informazioni Difesa, was made the fourth Honorary Member of the Implementation Group.

5) Recent developments in the field of European Security and Defence: opportunities for military academic institutions

EY presented its experience gained from engaging with government and private actors active in the field of security and defence as well as from its interaction and cooperation with academia and universities. EY highlighted the high level of interest of all actors in taking advantage of the opportunities that the implementation of EU security and defence initiatives provide. EY also highlighted the broad range of opportunities that the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 will open to security and defence actors, including through funds which are primarily designed for civilian purposes but which could be considered to be available for other purposes. EY reported on the high interest industry and research institutes had shown in cooperation with military universities due to their direct link with the user and the strong experience provided on research in the defence domain. To anticipate and benefit from such opportunities EY suggested for consideration military universities with the support of the ESDC to consider actions to develop in-house experience and knowledge on how to access relevant EU funding as well as to promote appropriate networking activities. Possible benefits of this could be:

- getting involved in relevant consortia to access EU funding;
- developing or further promoting research within military academic institutions;
- providing graduating military officers with valuable experience in research and knowledge/expertise of EU tools and instruments relevant to security and defence.

This could be considered separately by each military university and/or with ESDC support via a global capacity and networking act. Regarding the latter point, a similar approach was followed by EDA in the past in order to increase awareness and knowledge of defence actors in accessing structural funds.

The LoD 9 chair from MULF Poland will further elaborate on that and inform the IG accordingly.

6) European Universities Initiative

A representative from the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture presented the flagship initiative of the European Education Area and its strong political mandate. The results of the first call were presented: 17 alliances consisting of 114 higher education institutions from 24 Member States will receive EUR 85 million in the next three years.

The second call for applications is scheduled to be announced at the end of October or beginning of November 2019. A high-level conference is scheduled for 7 November 2019 in Brussels; this will act as a kick-off meeting and will include the presentation of the 17 European Universities as well as an extensive information session on the second call for applications.

The IG members expressed their strong interest in this and their desire to look into participating in it.

The ESDC training manager announced that he will participate in the abovementioned conference and will keep the group informed about this. Also, he suggested investigating the feasibility of making a proposal for a European Security and Defence University.

Further information on the high-level conference will be put online soon. (https://ec.europa.eu/education/events_en).

7) Update by the Chair on all LoDs

The Implementation Group (IG) chair presented the respective objectives, achievements and roles of the Member States and their participating institutions for each line of development ('LoD') (all presentations are temporarily available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191>).

In particular:

a) LoD 2 – Development of competences

IG member Lt Col Timo Vehviläinen of the Finish National Defence University, who is also a member of the **Sectoral Qualifications Framework – Military Officer Profession ESDC SQF-MILOF WG**, will inform the IG at one of its next meetings about the work done by that group with a view to identifying actions needed from the IG in order to harmonize the learning outcomes descriptors and vocabulary of level 6 already carried out under LoD 2 with the upper SQF levels.

b) LoD 4 – IT platform

In the context of LoD 4 the new proposal for the redesign of the EMILYO website was discussed by the members of the group, with the participation of the e-learning training manager of the college, who is responsible for the ESDC website. Based on the detailed discussions, the possibility of the new EMILYO website being put on the same platform as the ESDC's website was also investigated. The overall editing process of the website content will be automated by the new platform supporting the creation of articles by the member institutions; the articles will be then submitted through the platform to the chair of IG for final editing and approval. Furthermore, every effort will be made to use existing IT platforms in ESDC, such as the ILIAS learning platform and ENLIST. This will mean that mechanisms which already exist in such platforms can be shared through or integrated into the new EMILYO website, thus generating economies of scale. A decision concerning the migration to a new platform will be taken after close consultation with our BG partners and a search for the most viable, efficient and effective solution.

c) LoD 6 – National implementation of the Strategic Communication programme

- Briefings about the programme by the chairman and the ESDC secretariat at recent and upcoming international events, namely: the 2019 International Military Academic Forum in Austria; the European Air Force Academies Conference of Commandants in Romania; the 2019 EU Military Academies Commandants' Seminar in Romania and, various ESDC courses.
- The General Annual Report on ESDC Activities (GAREA) 2018-2019. Via GAREA the Member States (MFA/MoD) briefed in detail about the activities of the last academic year and **adopted** the recommendations for next year. IG work is very visible in the report,

which is a reflection of recent achievements. As reported, the previous academic year was a time of record breaking, innovation and reaching the goals set by the previous year's GAREA recommendations. After ten years and 42 IG meetings, the European Initiative for the Exchange of Young Officers inspired by ERASMUS reached maturity and increased its footprint, allowing the group to think and take further action with optimism. 1704 participants in 104 activities and more than 60,000 training days during the last academic year.

The recommendations for the next academic year, **adopted by our Member States** are the following:

- Encourage all Member States to incorporate the existing international semester, preferably in its entirety, into the curricula of their army academies.
- Create an international semester for naval and air force academies, military technical universities and military medical academies in line with the international semester developed for land forces.
- Provide the opportunity for medium- to long-term exchanges of trainers/staff with a view to enhancing the exchange of best practices.
- Develop joint degrees for basic officer education.
- Encourage all Member States to adopt the legal framework which regulates the exchanges of young military officers (cadets).
- Encourage Member States who have military secondary schools to participate in the new EU Military Secondary Schools Forum (EUMSS).

The approved GAREA 2018/2019 would be available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/874> from 18 October 2019.

- Fifth Honorary Member. In his letter to the IG dated 20 June 2019, the ESDC Training Manager Lt Col Symeon ZAMBAS had nominated Dr. Sylvain Paile as the fifth Honorary Member of the Implementation Group. In support of the nomination, he referred to the following points:
 - a. In 2007, as part of research carried out for the Royal Military Academy of Belgium, Dr Paile laid the foundations for what he called, and what one year later became, the Military Erasmus initiative. Based on this scientific research, he supported the 2008 French Presidency of the Council of the EU and collaborated with the ESDC Secretariat on an initial stocktake of European military higher education with a view to implementing the project at European level.
 - b. After the launch of the Military Erasmus initiative by the EU Member States' Ministers for Defence (10-11 November 2008), he continued collaborating with the ESDC on the organisation of the first Implementation Group meeting and the

second and third detailed stocktakes of initial education and training systems for officers in the EU, aimed at identifying possibilities for quantitative and qualitative improvements of mobility (published in 2010 by the Council of the EU and 2011 by Poland's Presidency of the Council).

- c. He has been active and productive as a member or co-chair in several LoDs (e.g. the qualification framework, the IT platform) of the initiative and has, at different points in time, been a representative in the IG of France, the National Defence College of Sweden and the National Military University of Bulgaria, where he was awarded a PhD in 2015 for his thesis on the Military Erasmus initiative (which was published by the ESDC with a foreword by Federica Mogherini).
- d. He has conducted audits and evaluations of modules or curricula for many military institutions, given lectures and spoken at conferences on the Military Erasmus initiative and published 32 books or articles on the topic. He has been awarded several distinctions for his work on the initiative (Golden Ring of the Theresan Military Academy, Honour of the Academic Council of the National Military University of Bulgaria).

The group held a vote and unanimously decided to appoint Dr Sylvain Paile as the fifth Honorary Member of the IG.

d) LoD 8 – Common modules/evaluations and offers

- AT, BE, GR, HR, IT, PL, PT, RO and SE presented results of their exchange events and/or announced upcoming offers (<http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191> & <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>).
- The draft curriculum developed by Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers (HMACSO) of the CM 'Biosafety and Bioterrorism' is considered adopted as a 'common' module since no one broke the silence procedure. HMACSO scheduled the first organization of the CM during February 2020 in Greece. Further information will be uploaded soon on the EMILYO website.
- LoD 8 under the new chair analysed the CMs database, the evaluation report format and examined the procedure for CM review in accordance with the different categories involved. The detailed presentation is temporarily available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191>.

e) LoD 9 – Future projects

The members had the opportunity to share past and on-going experiences and practices and to discuss the European University project and identify the core elements/possibilities to be further explored:

- IG as the program board;
- combine all existing initiatives into one project;
- use of Sectoral Qualification Framework;
- network-type organization;

- willing Partners (at least five higher education institutions);
- 80/20 financing rule;
- all levels of education (BA, MA, PhD);
- include the CSDP DocSchool.

The Polish Military University of Land Forces (MULF) invited all interested parties to attend the first LoD 9 meeting on 18 September in Wrocław, Poland, to further discuss the topic.

f) LoD 10 – Gender mainstreaming

LoD 10 members discussed the results of the questionnaire sent out and defined their tasks as follows:

- Collect information from European military academies concerning the presence or absence of gender topics in cadet education and the possibility of incorporating gender-related issues into different academic disciplines.
- Prepare recommendations to the military academies to train specialists and academic staff for gender equality training by using the ESDC courses.
- Look for opportunities to prepare the common projects regarding gender equality education and research in the different military institutions.
- Use IG events and meetings to increase sensitivity to gender issues in armed forces and to attract more participants to LoD 10.
- Collect information from all military academies, universities and institutions using the questionnaire.
- Participation in common projects including research, scientific conferences, cadets seminars, training for trainers course, etc.
- Work on preparation of new common module entitled 'gender perspectives'.

The LoD 10 chair informed the meeting that she had not received adequate responses to the questionnaire. She underlined the importance of this basic information for enabling further steps and requested that the group respond to her as soon as possible at nevena_atanasova@abv.bg.

In the context of LoD 10 the second Erasmus+ Gender Seminar will take place from 9-11 October 2019 in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria.

g) LoD 11 – International Naval Semester

At the end of an exciting planning process, which began on 19 February 2019, the delegations of the Naval Academies agreed to finalize the study program of the International Naval Semester (INS), developed under LoD 11. In line with the provisions of the roadmap, in the next meetings the learning outcomes of the individual subjects will be discussed, in order to allow individual academies to modify their curricula and study plans, where necessary.

At the same time, the creation of a strategic partnership is underway,

within the framework of Erasmus+, between the abovementioned academies. The leadership of the partnership will be defined in the next IG meeting.

The IG chair mentioned that it is better to create a 30 ECTS semester in order to fulfil the requirements of the Bologna process and ensure better conditions to be approved by the National Erasmus Agency.

Barring unforeseen events, the first edition of the INS will be held during 2023-2024 academic year.

h) LoD 12 – Air Force International Semester

At the internal meeting of LoD 12, its chairperson welcomed officially a newcomer to the project, the French Air Force Academy and expressed his desire and hope of continued fruitful cooperation. He announced that the ESDC received Letters of Intention from Bulgaria, France, Greece, Portugal and Romania. The Polish Air Force University officials decided not to join the project at this moment, due to many differences in their curriculum and the intense nature of the training path of Polish cadets. However, they expressed their support for the International Air Force Semester and they are hopeful about the success of the project.

Proposed curriculum: The chair gave a detailed analysis of the Strategic Partnership Project's general rules. Then the representatives from the Bulgarian, Hellenic, Portuguese, and French Air Force Institutions discussed issues concerning the curriculum as well as the administrative part of the project. As a result, it was decided to provide time to the French Air Force Academy to work on the proposed curriculum in order to identify possible paths of cooperation and bring to negotiation their proposal about the semester. The curriculum will be finalized during the December IG meeting in Bucharest.

The IG chair mentioned that it is better to create a 30 ECTS semester in order to fulfil the requirements of the Bologna process and ensure better conditions to be approved by the Hellenic National Agency.

Pending approval of the learning outcomes, it is expected that the courses that make up IAFS will be approved at the 44th IG Meeting.

i) LoD 13 – Establishment of an International Technical Semester

After several discussions and bilateral meetings at the previous IG meetings and at iMAF 2019 between military technical institutions, a new line of development, that is LoD 13: International Technical Semester was officially launched.

Capt-Cdr. Assoc. Prof. Eng. Cristian Emil Moldoveanu, PhD, vice-rector for interuniversity relations at the Military Technical Academy Ferdinand I, Bucharest, Romania, was nominated and accepted as chairperson of LoD 13.

The participants identified the main challenges, objectives, a general structure of the international semester, potential partners, the next steps and meeting opportunities.

The LoD 9, 10, 11, 12 13 presentations and/or meeting minutes are temporarily available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/970>.

8) Fifth CSDP Olympiad

The Croatian Defence Academy (CDA) representative updated the group on the state of play of the Fifth CSDP Olympiad.

The 50 participating cadets, from 16 Member States, had almost completed the e-learning phase and selected the topic of their essay.

The Cover page competition is on-going and the cadets wishing to participate should send their design by **November 15, 2019** to: SECRETARIAT-ESDC@eeas.europa.eu.

The ESDC Secretariat underlines the following lessons learnt and best practices from previous Olympiads:

- Send the participating cadets to a CSDP common module abroad as an incentive and as a great opportunity to increase their knowledge of the CSDP.
- Make it clear to the cadets that plagiarism is unacceptable and the main reason for immediate exclusion.

9) Proposals for the agenda for the 44th IG Meeting at the Romanian Police Academy and Military Technical Academy in Bucharest

The group proposed including the following items on the agenda: updates on the CSDP Olympiad, quality assurance procedures, European universities, presentations on modules and common projects.

10) Work plan

- The next meeting (44th) would take place at the Romanian Police Academy and Military Technical Academy in Bucharest from 9 to 12 December 2019. On Monday 9 December, from 17.00 to 18.00, there would be a workshop for new IG members; all necessary administrative details and documents are available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>.
- The 45th IG meeting would take place in Brussels from 18 to 19 February 2020.
- The 46th IG meeting would take place in Sibiu Romania back to back with iMAF 2020 from 18 to 19 June 2020.

11) AOB

To provide a better overview, all requests are summarised in the table below:

Request:	Send to:
<p>The "5th Common Security and Defence Policy Olympiad" Cover Page Competition. Encourage cadets to participate sending their design by November 15, 2019.</p>	<p>Symeon.ZAMBAS@eeas.europa.eu & SECRETARIAT-ESDC@eeas.europa.eu</p>
<p>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 started, try to get an answer from those responsible. (See http://www.emilyo.eu/node/982 - LoD 5)</p>	<p>Symeon.ZAMBAS@eeas.europa.eu or announcement in the Steering Committee</p>
<p>Mark in blue and red the autumn/winter and spring/summer academic semesters of your institution. Create new lines if necessary. (http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>Create a 'pool of lecturers' list for your institution, listing lecturers who are willing to teach abroad, preferably under Erasmus+. (http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>If you want 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 homepage. (See http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>If you want to post any documents on the EMILYO homepage, send them in a single PDF document.</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>Encourage cadets or students to write a report on an event with international participants. Please include pictures. (See http://www.emilyo.eu/exchange_experience)</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at</p>
<p>Nominate a chairperson for a Line of Development, which has no chairperson so far.</p>	<p>harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at & Symeon.ZAMBAS@eeas.europa.eu</p>