

1st CSDP Olympiad in Paphos / Cyprus – Austrians top!

From 3rd to 5th October, 2012 the 1st CSDP Olympiad took place in Paphos, Cyprus. About 50 young Officers and Officer Cadets participated in this project, which was developed by Maj ZAMBAS from Cyprus according to the principles of the European Initiative on the exchange of young officers inspired by ERASMUS.

Eleven Member States of the European Union followed the invitation and took the chance for their Officer Cadets to increase interoperability and intercultural competence; among them four Austrian Officer Cadets from the class “Hackher zu Hart” who are students of the Bachelor Studies of Applied Science in Military Leadership at the Theresan Military Academy in Austria accompanied by Col(GS) Mag. WIEDNER and Col Dr. GELL.

An impressive opening ceremony took place in the very nice and historical interesting Odeon in Paphos under the auspices of the Cypriot Minister of Defence, Demetris ELIADES. It gave a first impression on the great hospitality of Cyprus which lasted until departure.



Opening ceremony of the CSDP-Olympiad in Paphos/Cyprus.
(Source: <http://www.cy2012.eu/index.php/en/gallery/gallery-166?fromSearch>)

Previous to the CSDP-Olympiad all the Officer Cadets had to write an essay concerning CSDP. Those ones which were evaluated as the best ten ones, among them two Austrian essays, were to present the elaborations on the second day of the Olympiad. The points of the essay, the evaluation by the whole auditorium and the evaluation of a jury were added together to assign a winner.

The best presentation won Officer Cadet HAUBNER from Austria, winner of the day was Officer Cadet PATRIGNANI from Italy. The day ended with a very interesting culture visit and a typical Cypriot dinner.

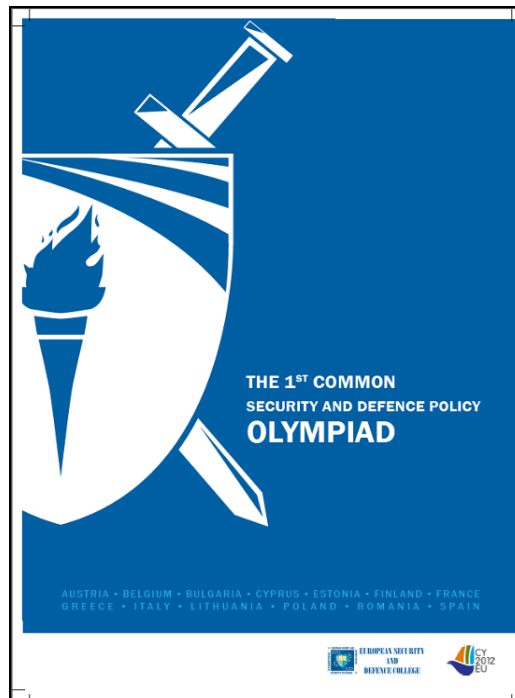


Participants of the CSDP-Olympiad during the presentation of essays.
(Source: <http://www.cy2012.eu/index.php/en/gallery/gallery-166?fromSearch>)

The last day of the CSDP-Olympiad was designated to a competition on knowledge of CSDP. In a first round six multinational syndicates had to compete against each other, in a second round the members of the winner-syndicate as well as the winner of the first day had to compete as single persons. The winner of this competition was Officer Cadet Thomas van HOECKE from the Royal Military Academy Brussels followed by Officer Cadet Martin ENGLEITNER from the Theresan Military Academy who won a one-week-trip to France.

Previous to the residential-phase all the Officer Cadets could participate in a competition for creating a cover-page for publication of the essays. This competition was won by the

Austrian Officer Cadets HAUBNER and ENGLEITNER.



Cover-page of the winners – Officer Cadets HAUBNER & ENGLEITNER from Austria.
(Source: <http://www.emilyo.eu/>)

It was a great honour for all the participants to be awarded by the Head of European Security and Defence College, Col Hans-Bernhard WEISSERTH who handed over all the certificates accompanied by the organiser of the CSDP-Olympiad, Maj Symeon ZAMBAS and the IG-Chairman, Admiral Cesare CIOCCA.



Head of ESDC congratulating the Belgian winner of the single competition.
(Source: <http://www.cy2012.eu/index.php/en/gallery/gallery-166?fromSearch>)

The whole Olympiad ended with a farewell lunch and an exchange of information between the participants. Most of them profited from this friendly competition not only concerning an increase of knowledge but also in creating new friendships and networks.



CSDP-Olympiad participants during the final ceremony.
(Source: <http://www.cy2012.eu/index.php/en/gallery/gallery-166?fromSearch>)

Because of this outstandingly organised event the young Officers and Officer Cadets realized that it is mainly their own responsibility to create a better security and a better Europe.

Officer Cadets KÖRÖCZ & PRAUS
Class "Hackher zu Hart"
Theresan Military Academy
Austria

on the initiative of
Col Dr. GELL, MSc, MSD, MBA
Head of International Office