

The 3rd CSDP Olympiad in Slovakia

(Author: Col Gell, PhD – Chairman of the Implementation Group)

From 4th - 7th October 2016 the 3rd CSDP Olympiad took place at the Slovakian M. R. Stefanik Armed Forces Academy in Liptovsky Mikulas. The CSDP Olympiad is a knowledge competition of EU-ropean Cadets concerning the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union. This event takes place every two years and is organised by that country which holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



Numerous participants of the 3rd CSDP Olympiad's opening ceremony.

Picture: AFA Liptovsky Mikulas

Prior to the residential phase Cadets had to pass so-called AKUs (autonomous knowledge units) which were developed by the European Security and Defence College and had to author essays with topics referring to CSDP. The essays were scored by two evaluators – if they differed with their points to a certain extend – even by a third evaluator. The best ten essays were to present in front of a jury – as well as in front of a numerous auditorium – during the residential phase. This competition won an Irish Cadet.

Another competition was to be conducted by multinational teams. They had to answer questions concerning CSDP issues within a certain time-frame. Finally the members of the best team competed against each other – the best Cadet was a Spanish one.



**2 winners of the 3rd CSDP Olympiad.
The Irish Cadet (in front) and the Spanish Cadet (2 rows behind).**
Picture: AFA Liptovsky Mikulas

The best essays will be published. For this book the Cadets created cover pages and everybody could vote via internet for the best one. Most of the votes a Romanian Cadet could receive.

However, the essential aim of the Olympiad was – besides gaining CSDP-knowledge – the increase of intercultural competence and the convincement that common threats can only be managed conjointly.

The Armed Forces Academy organised the 3rd CSDP Olympiad brilliantly. Their approach can be taken as role-model for organisers of international events. They simply did a GREAT job.



Participants of the 3rd CSDP Olympiad.
Picture: AFA Liptovsky Mikulas