



Name of the event	3rd Erasmus+ Gender Seminar “How to strengthen gender perspective within the European basic officer education”
Institution, which organised the event	Estonian Military Academy (EMA)
Country of the organiser	Estonia (EE)
Year of the event	2021
Date of the event (from-to)	02-03 March
Name(s) of the author(s)	CADET V (V) CHATZIPROKOPIOU Despoina CADET III (V) THEOCHARI Elisavet Rafaela
Authors' institution	Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers (HMACSO)
Authors' country	Greece (GR)

The 3rd Erasmus Gender Seminar on “How to strengthen gender perspective within the European basic officer education” was virtually organized by the Estonian Military Academy from the 2nd to the 3rd of March 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the only way for it to take place was virtually. Despite this fact, it was a great opportunity for the Cadets to meet participants from other European countries and exchange views on gender mainstreaming.



The aim of the Gender Seminar was to provide a thorough understanding of the current situation regarding gender mainstreaming in European Military Academies; highlighting the need to develop a solid gender training framework in order to create a non-discriminatory military working environment. Gender mainstreaming is a sine qua none that fosters professional development based on competencies and abilities, rather than gender allowing both men and women reach their full potential. The increased presence of female military officers in various positions in the Armed Forces dictates the implementation of up-to-date gender analysis and the removal of gender-based barriers.



During the Gender Seminar, the participating European Military Academies made a brief presentation of their approach towards gender mainstreaming providing to cadets the opportunity of a holistic view of integrating a gender lens in professional military education and training. The following section elaborated on the development of training activities related to common projects on gender education offered to cadets and students on a regular basis. The participants fully understood the significance of integrating cultural and gendered perspectives in military academies.

On the second day of the seminar the Cadets were encouraged to participate in different workshops related to the different gender activities that should take place in military academies, the usage of gender neutral language and debating on whether there should be a separate subject on gender topics. The participants offered their views, proposals and summaries.

In conclusion, participating in The 3rd Erasmus+ Gender Seminar on «How to strengthen gender perspective within the European basic officer education» was a great learning experience for all the EU Military Academies' personnel since it offered valuable knowledge on the topic on gender mainstreaming in Armed Forces. Even though gender perspective is still "unchartered waters" in Military Academies it is an essential element of military professional training ensuring that both male and female Cadets have equal opportunities to develop their abilities and talents.