



European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus  
Implementation Group  
**The Chairman**

Colonel Assoc. Prof. Harald GELL, PhD, MSc, MSD, MBA

Theresan Military Academy – Burgplatz 1 – 2700 WIENER NEUSTADT – AUSTRIA  
Mobile Phone: +43 664 622 2161 Office: +43 50201 20 29139  
Mail: harald.gell@bmlv.gv.at FAX: +43 50201 20 17250

Brussels and Wiener Neustadt, the 20<sup>th</sup> of December, 2020

## Letter of Information

to all Rectors, (Rector-) Commandants & Superintendents of  
European Union Basic Officer Education Institutions

Dear Rector, dear (Rector-) Commandant, dear Superintendent, dear Dean!

As the Chairman of the Military Erasmus (EMILYO) Implementation Group (IG) please allow me to pass this annual letter on behalf of all the IG members to you.

Based on the 2008-decision of all European Union Ministers of Defence (2903<sup>rd</sup> External Relations Council Meeting) an Implementation Group was to be established for the so-called “**European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus**”, or with other names “Military Erasmus”, “Erasmus Militaire”, “EMILYO” (Exchange of MILitary Young Officers) or just in short “The Initiative”.

The overall goal is to harmonise the European Union Basic Officer Education, to increase interoperability, and to promote a European Security and Defence Culture, thus to increase Europe’s security.

During the year 2020, the Implementation Group did its best to manage the challenges caused by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. We continued with our quarterly meetings, most of them were conducted in a “blended format”, which means that residential participation was combined with VTCs. We also could welcome the first Non-EU-BOEI – the Norwegian Defense University College – as an associated member.

Unfortunately – because of the pandemic – important events, such as the European Union Military Academies Commandants’ Seminar 2020 (EUMACS 2020) or two attempts to organise the international Military Academic Forum (iMAF), had to be cancelled. We all try hard to organise these events in 2021.

We also had to accept a reduction of education activities. During the study year 2019/2020, in spite of missing “normal” circumstances for duration of about six months, the European Union Basic Officer Education Institutions (BOEIs) tried hard to keep the momentum. Please find below the statistics concerning Cadets’/Students’ exchanges of the past study year based on the data you sent.



Study year	2014 / 2015	2015 / 2016	2016 / 2017	2017 / 2018	2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020
Number of Cadets' / Students' exchanges	787	973	1 505	1 303	1 704	<b>2 199</b>
Number of organised training days	n/a	n/a	7 214	17 008	61 640	<b>24 360</b>
Number of events (incl. international semesters)	14	17	25	67	104	<b>89</b>

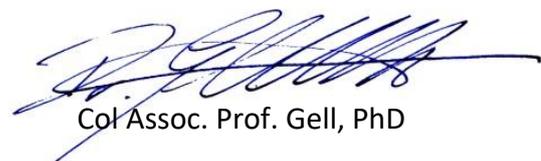
Each year the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) creates the so-called GAREA (General Annual Report on ESDC Activities). The GAREA 2019-20 should reach you via the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Ministries of Defence, and your (military) chain of command within the next months. It comprises – among other recommendations – also the future goals for the Implementation Group based on the feed-back of all EU-BOEIs and which are:

- Organise at least one common module at each basic officer education institution on a regular basis.
- Elaborate international semesters for naval, air force, military technical and military medical institutions, preferably within the frame of ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnership Projects.
- Identify funding for short exchanges for cadets and students (e.g.: for common modules).
- Apply for the European University call and Strategic Partnership Projects, nurturing European basic officer education institutions.
- Encourage teachers and trainers to participate in medium to long term exchanges.
- Build a common database for institutional researches, for exchanging teaching/learning materials and for sharing ongoing information regarding project calls.

In 2021 we will continue with our quarterly IG meetings. The Military Academy in Lisbon will organise EUMACS 2021 (for participants from all services) from 27-29 May 2021. For all events you may find detailed information on our EMILYO homepage at: <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>. For our work it is essential that representatives from **your** BOEI with their valuable knowledge participate in the IG meetings. **My kind request to you is that you continue – or initiate – sending your expert(s) to our meetings on a regular basis.**

Dear Madam or Sir, allow me to thank you and your representatives who have contributed to the IG's elaborations so far and who have contributed to our common goals. **I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you, to your family and to your institution,**

respectfully,



Col Assoc. Prof. Gell, PhD

