

European Military Secondary Schools Forum (EUMSSF)

2nd Meeting

Colégio Militar
Largo da Luz, 1600 – 498 Lisbon, Portugal
15 November 2020
08.30 - 17.00

Draft minutes

1) Welcome and *tour de table*

The Director of the Colégio Militar, Coronel António Salgueiro, addressed the Forum members and expressed his strong support for the EUMSSF initiative. The EUMSSF Chair expressed his gratitude to the Director of the Colégio Militar for hosting the meeting and for his strong support, and welcomed the 16 present participants.

2) Adoption of the agenda

The Forum adopted the agenda.

3) Introductory remarks

The Chair presented the main objectives of the Forum in general and of the 2nd meeting specifically.

4) Presentations by a newcomer institution

The representative of the new participating Portuguese member for the Instituto dos Pupilos do Exército presented the structure, curriculum and activities of his institution.

5) Funding opportunities - Erasmus+ programme

The group continued its discussions from the 1st meeting concerning the various options for facilitating exchanges and partnerships under the Erasmus+ programme. Many additional interesting ideas were brought to the table by the members, such as the creation of a communication platform, military sports, classes broadcasting, an essay-writing Olympiad etc. DG Education and Culture answered by email a few questions raised by the group as follows:

- *‘In my opinion, the activities you have mentioned would be easier to structure under Key Action 2 (KA2) where you have direct support for project meetings, for work time to produce training modules, and for joint staff training events. It is also possible for everyone to apply as part of the same project (12 schools would be a very large KA2 project with EUR 450 000 maximum grant if organised over three years).*
- *Under Key Action 1 (KA1), each school would have to apply on its own, and there is no support for project meetings and production of modules. Staff mobility and basic organisational costs are supported. I think this could be an option for schools which want to benefit from the training modules but are not necessarily involved in their production. However, this is only feasible if these schools have a wider plan for their own internationalisation, because that is the requirement of the KA1 application process.*
- *In terms of content, KA2 is also the more appropriate action since the focus is on cooperation between schools. KA1 is more oriented at development of individual schools.’*

The group concluded that:

- Key Action 1 could be utilised in the near future as soon as the group has finalised the curricula for the train-the-trainer and pupils’ courses/modules. These training opportunities will then have to be included in the School Education Gateway training catalogue (<https://www.schooleducationgateway.eu>), which would mean they would be eligible for funding under the Erasmus+ programme. The European Security and Defence College (ESDC) will investigate how to include the Train the Trainer course entitled ‘The European Union for Secondary Schools’ in the catalogue as soon as its curriculum and programme have been approved by its Executive Academic Board.
- Key Action 2 seems feasible as the group has clear objectives and the will to engage in such a partnership. The National Military School of the Romanian Air Force expressed its initial interest in acting as coordinator of such a project. All the institutions are invited to express their interest in engaging in such a programme **not later than 31 January 2020** in order to allow enough time for the project proposal to be prepared.
- An essay-writing Olympiad seems to be feasible within the next academic year. The European initiative on the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus (EMILYO) guidelines for essay writing could be used and the topics and further details could be set during the next Forum meeting. The main idea is to give a chance to all our young pupils to express themselves on an EU topic, giving them the incentive of a competition event in which the 10 best writers will convene together to present their work during a residential phase preferably every 9th of May (TBC), plus publication of their work.

6) Train the Trainer Course

The group worked together and developed the draft curriculum for an ESDC Train the Trainer course under the name ‘The European Union for Secondary Schools’ describing its aim, the learning outcomes and the structure. The pilot course is tentatively planned to be run in Brussels from 22 to 26 June 2020. The draft curriculum will be presented to the Executive Academic Board for approval in its meeting on 19-20 February 2020 in Brussels.

7) Pupils’ Modules Curricula

The description of the pupils’ modules will correspond to the Train the Trainer course. It will be developed during the 3rd Forum meeting.

8) Roadmap and agenda topics for the next meeting

Romania express an initial interest in organising one of the next meetings outside Brussels. The Forum members have been invited to express their interest in hosting future meetings and to provide the ESDC Secretariat with information regarding the main calendar dates for their respective institutions (beginning/end of **autumn/winter and spring/summer academic semesters**).

The next meeting will be held on 26 June 2020 and will be hosted by the ESDC in Brussels. The agenda will include the pupils' module description, Essay Olympiad (topics and details) and funding/cooperation opportunities. The Forum members are invited to suggest further topics for the agenda not later than 31 March 2020.

9) Publicising the EUMSSF's work

For the time being and until the creation of a separate digital platform, the minutes, agendas, Rules of Procedure and other relevant documents will be uploaded on the Military Erasmus webpage, available at: www.emilyo.eu, in particular <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1389>.

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

Request:	Send to:
All the Institutions are invited to express their interest in hosting future meetings.	SECRETARIAT-ESDC@eeas.europa.eu & Symeon.ZAMBAS@eeas.europa.eu
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/1389)	
All the Institutions are invited to express their interest in being appointed as coordinators and/or participate as members in a project under Erasmus+ not later than 31st January 2020	
All the Institutions are invited to suggest topics for the agenda not later than 31 march 2020	