

Implementation Group

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**Meeting of the Implementation Group for the
European initiative for the exchange of young officers
(inspired by Erasmus)
on 13 December 2012 at 10.00
(EEAS Building, Brussels)**

Draft minutes

Before moving onto the IG meeting agenda, the IG Chair mentioned the statement by the new Chairman of the Military Committee, who had underlined the importance of a number of issues such as solidarity between the military forces, educational cooperation, the military Erasmus programme and support for all the new initiatives from the CEUMC and from many EU political players.

In addition the Group was briefed on the state of play and on the new elements for discussion mentioned during the ESDC Steering Committee that had taken place the previous day in the Justus Lipsius building.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. CSDP Olympiad – state of play

Cyprus, the organiser of the first CSDP Olympiad, updated the Group on the state of play.

In particular it was noted that participants had reported a high level of satisfaction. Two prizes for the winners of the competitions were being offered by CY and one by FR. Preparations were under way for publication of the papers, as some still had to be edited by the Council's language service. Publication was planned for early 2013. A trophy would be created for the winning academy (design to be agreed by the IG). ECTS should be awarded only to those who completed the learning process (including IDL).

Greece announced its decision to organise the second round of the CSDP Olympiad in the first half of 2014, during Greece's Presidency of the EU.

3. LoD 2 - discussion and way ahead

The Chair of the LoD2 informed the Group of the progress made in establishing a common qualification framework for military officers' basic education.

Following the task assigned in 2009 to build up a framework of qualifications for military officers' basic education, a questionnaire had been sent to MS. 10 MS and 22 institutes had replied to the questionnaire and, based on those replies, a scheme consisting of common denominators of qualifications had been drawn up and the methodology used had been approved by experts from the European Commission. Based on this scheme, the idea was to create a sectoral framework for officers' basic education and training. The scheme, or "qualifications structure", had been made available, together with supporting documents for drawing up the framework, on the EMILYO website and had been distributed to IG members.

Following the successful work of Mr Ove Lind, who had now retired, Ms Virpi Levomaa would take over the lead of the LoD2. A meeting of the LoD2 group was envisaged in the margins of the February meeting and the group working in this framework should be established. The above-mentioned qualifications structure was a good starting point and the February meeting would serve to provide some examples. The new Chair called for a larger number of IG members to take part in the meeting so that significant progress could be made in this area.

The ESDC Secretariat was asked to encourage members to take part in LoD2 before the next IG, inter alia through the channels of the Steering Committee.

4. LoD6 –Exchange opportunities – Newsletters and the way ahead

The Group was invited to discuss the exchange opportunities presented by the education and training institutes for the academic year 2012-2013.

Following the very successful work of Mr Paile, Mr Zambas would take over the lead of the LoD6. Other players were urged to be active as well. It was suggested that consideration be given to the possibility of Presidencies playing an active role. Ireland and Greece would look into this issue.

The last Newsletter had been published in October 2012 and publication of the next one was planned for February 2013 on the occasion of the next IG meeting. The main part of the Newsletter consisted of exchange offers and requests. The next Newsletter was expected to contain articles on the CSDP Olympiad, written by participants, and on other issues, written by cadets, young officers and also IG members.

The new Chair would propose some new components of the communication strategy (including the Wikipedia page and relations with the Single Service Conferences) and would call for the active involvement of IG members in this respect.

5. LoD7 – guide on the use of "Erasmus Intensive Programmes"

The Chair of the LoD7 informed the Group that a rectors/deans meeting was scheduled to be held in Brno on 8 October 2013, with a view to discussing and sharing best practices of Erasmus exchanges. Poland, Lithuania, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic would be active in this meeting. The meeting would follow the 22-day intensive programme in June and July 2013.

More information and a presentation of the event would be available at the next IG meeting.

6. LoD 8 - Common modules

The Group discussed the state of play concerning the new common modules and the way forward. The Chair reported that Mr Delprat had been appointed as the new Chair of the LoD8.

The Italian Naval Academy from Livorno was organising the International Maritime Law module from 25 February to 1 March 2013 and was looking for international lecturers. Cyprus and France were planning to put names forward.

Austria presented the common module which took place in Wiener Neustadt from 3 to 7 December. Mr Paile presented the evaluation of the module in more detail. It was emphasised that 'international participation' was the key to success as well as good preparation of syndicate sessions and 'ownership' of their learning process by the course participants.

So far Austria had implemented 4 CSDP common modules. It would conduct the media-awareness module in January 2013 and the module on the Role of Law conflict in February 2013. Both modules were open to international participants.

7. Draft Annual Progress Report

The Group had been informed about the drafting procedure of the 2012 progress report, to be drawn up and presented in spring 2013. The Group examined the 2012 report and the Chair invited the Group to send their suggestions to the ESDC Secretariat by 26 January 2013, in order to have a draft ready for the meeting in February.

It was suggested that the CSDP Olympiad be included as a separate paragraph, as well as statistics on the number of exchanges and the possible way ahead/recommendations.

Subsequently the report, duly finalised, would be adopted by the SC at its April meeting and then presented to the EUMC.

8. Work plan

The Group held a discussion on the work plan for 2013, including the planning of forthcoming meetings and the progress of the different LoDs. The revised work plan for 2013 would be distributed with the draft minutes.

The Group suggested that the dates for the IG meetings in 2013 should be finalised as soon as possible in order to allow smooth mission planning, especially for those travelling from the capitals.

It was agreed that the meetings in 2013 would be held on the following dates:

21 February,
13 June,
19 September (TBC) and
12 December (TBC).

The meetings would start at 10.00.

9. AOB