

**58th meeting of the Implementation Group
for the European initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus
(EMILYO)**

22 - 24 May 2023
Athens, Greece

Draft minutes

- 1) The Chair and the ESDC Training Manager welcomed 101 participants from 15 EU Member States and Norway representing 34 different institutions.
- 2) **Approval of the minutes**
The members of the IG approved the minutes of the 57th meeting. The approved minutes are available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/872>.
- 3) **Adoption of the agenda**
The agenda was adopted with the addition of the following items:
 - a) Offers from the Hellenic Air Force Academy(HAFA)
 - b) Offers from the Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers (HMACSO)
 - c) Offers from the Military University of Technology (MUT)
 - d) Offers from the Spanish Air Force Academy (SAFA)
 - e) Offers from the Spanish Naval Academy (SNA)
 - f) Offers from the (Italian Naval Academy (ITNA)
 - g) Offers from the General Jonas Zemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania (MAL)
 - h) Offers from the Portuguese Military Academy (PMA)
 - i) Offers from the Henri Coandă Air Force Academy (HCAFA)
- 4) **Presentations by LoD Chairs on the first day:**
The LoD Chairs presented the outcomes of the LoD sessions that took place on the first day of the meeting. All presentations would be temporarily available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191>.
 - a) **LoDs-2 and 8 – Development of Competences / Common Modules**
The LoD-2 Chair reported the outcome of the SQF-MILEG meeting on 8 April 2023 regarding the idea promoted for implementing SQF-MILOF at institutional level by creating an EU accreditation/certification for the BOEI that have already implemented SQF MILOF in their education and training. The discussion focused on the need, benefits and potential procedures. Way ahead: to bring home the SQF-MILEG idea of EU accreditation/certification for the BOEI and to continue with a much more informative discussion in order to agree an IG position on the topic.
The newly unanimously elected LoD-2 Chair (Assoc. Professor Nikolaos V. Karadimas) explained what a Common Module was and how to design a new one and he touched on the database of 55 CMs (active and inactive). He also talked about the four CMs that had been revised in accordance with the SQF-MILOF package guidelines in a dual version (traditional and BIP versions) and were subject to a silent approval procedure.

At this point, the LoD Chair informed both the LoD-2 and 8 sessions that in the following months, they would be sent a schedule with more CMs to be reviewed and revised and that they would have to revise a number of CMs in accordance with the SQF-MILOF guidelines and the Erasmus BIP programme at the IG meeting, following a schedule of work that was still to be agreed.

This forthcoming CM review process was also announced at the plenary session on the last day.

b) LoD-6 – Strategic Communication

The LoD-6 was run by Major Tsanakas Konstantinos as the organiser of the Implementation Group meeting in the absence of a Chair.

The Communication Plan was reviewed during the meeting and any implementation challenges were noted. The LoD-6 decided to allocate duties to particular persons in order to meet the Communication Plan's targets for 2023.

As a result, decisions were taken regarding the 2023 Communication Plan and more specifically on the Military Erasmus Ambassadors, the creation and operation of social media accounts, promotion corporate gifts, and the Yearbook.

More information on the minutes of the LoD-6 meeting would be available on the EMILYO website.

c) LoD-7 – Financing the Initiative

As part of the 58th IG Meeting, the LoD-7 (Financing the Initiative) meeting was held on 22 May 2022 with 13 participants. The LoD-7 Chair, Colonel Paulo Machado, presented some sources of financing for EMILYO activities, namely the ERASMUS+ programme, the institutions' own resources, and possible partnerships. He also referred to the contents of the 2022 Handbook – Financing the Initiative as a useful source of information about the various sources of financing that institutions may use to participate in or organise international activities.

d) LoD-13 – European Common Technical Semester for Defence and Security (E_uCTS_{DS})

The LoD-3 Chair informed the participants from Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain about the achievements and future activities of the Strategic Partnership Project KA203 European Common Technical Semester for Defence and Security (2020-1-RO01-KA203-080375). He presented the conclusions from the most recent activities developed within the project: the Intensive Study Programme Basic Engineering (April 2023, MTA Romania) and the pilot/testing edition of the International Technical Semester organised by MTA from 20 February to 24 June 2023. The last activity of the project would be the Project Transnational Meeting and the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Intensive Study Programme (June 2023, MUT Poland). The administrative details of the organisation of the 2nd Multiplier Event (25 May 2023, HAFA Greece) were discussed, along with some challenges concerning the possible implementation of the new international technical semester.

e) LoD-16 – European Union Armed Forces Academy

Based on the SQF-MILOF-document the LoD-16 group clustered those "learning areas", which would be a pre-condition to participate in the "Combined Joint Semester". Because of the different education programmes within the European Union, the group decided to define the pre-conditions content wise but not according to the years of education. The English level (STANAG 2/2/2/2), the common module "Basic Military English", and physical education were added to the pre-conditions.

The combined joint semester will consist of existing common modules and modules, which must be developed (multinational operations [mediation & negotiation included], multinational logistics, defence resources management, information operations [incl. "fake news"], current developments and technologies on warfare, leadership & management theories, and change management). In total, the pre-conditions for the combined joint semester (CJS) request an amount of appr. 50 ECTS – the CJS will have an amount of 30 ECTS (+ the amount of 4 ECTS for physical education).

f) **LoD-17 – International Air Defence Semester (IADS)**

The LoD-17 Chair presented the project that had been submitted to the Romanian Erasmus+ agency entitled Sustainable European Air Defence Education SEADE. The results of the project's competition would be published at the beginning of July.

The second point on the LoD-17 agenda was to start the discussion about which courses would be included in the International Air Defence Semester. This discussion would continue with all project members and the first results would be announced at the 59th IG meeting.

5) **Strategic views on the IG**

The Chair informed participants about the strategic views for the IG, which had been sent to and discussed with the Head of the ESDC. So far only one institution had replied. The Chair asked the IG members to make proposals for restructuring the IG for greater efficiency by the next meeting (document [*Top Priorities 2023*] available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/874>).

6) **ESDC Policy Officers**

The Chair informed participants of the possibility of contacting the ESDC Head directly to discuss Policy Officer positions. According to the ESDC Head a broad variety of expertise is needed/possible.

7) **Information from the ESDC Training Manager**

The ESDC Training Manager of the IG gave *comprehensive information* about the following topics:

- a) How to set priorities for ESDC training activities for 2023-2024.
- b) How to ask for ESDC co-financing.
- c) Data protection policy and the need to update the IG members list.
- d) All the important ESDC documents that IG members should be aware of.

After the presentation, the ESDC TM answered questions on the above topics and other relevant topics.

8) **How to make cadets and young officers more active**

The representative of the Hellenic Air Force Academy proposed ways to integrate cadets and young officers more into the IG's deliberations and reporting. Details would be discussed in LoD-6 working sessions.

9) **Presentations by LoD Chairs on the second day:**

The LoD Chairs presented the outcomes of the LoD sessions. All presentations would be temporarily available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191>.

a) **LoD-5 – Legal Framework**

At the meeting, the members of LoD-5 discussed a set of guidelines for all Higher Military Education/Training Institutions concerned in relation to a new EU commitment to the ESDC/IG Framework. There was a discussion on a new closer cooperation/coordination framework between ESDC/IG and other ESDC structures/bodies as well as of a formal text that would function as an institutional/legal roadmap for the initiative. The Military Erasmus undertaken by EU Member States aimed at developing exchanges between members of the Armed Forces, future military leaders, and teachers/instructors in the EU during their initial education and training would be implemented by the Member States on a purely voluntary basis leaving them full autonomy with regard to military training. Its functioning would thus be dependent on political decisions, directions, and oversight. Implementation Group/IG (2009), a task-oriented configuration of the European Security and Defence College's Executive Academic Board/EAB, had an overall goal to harmonise the EU's Basic Officer education and to increase interoperability and thus to increase Europe's security as well as to promote a European Security and Defence Culture by spreading the idea among the Officer Cadets/ Students participating in the Basic Officer education.

To achieve functioning and effectiveness at a higher level we would need to upgrade and enhance institutional connectiveness among current ESDC structures. Here, political {Diplomatic} calculations were not allowed: participation in EMILYO should be considered by EU Member States, ministries and institutions as a prerequisite for enhancing a real EU common security and defence policy.

More information on the minutes of the LoD-5 would be available on the EMILYO website.

b) LoD-9 – Future Projects

24 people attended the LoD-9 meeting. Two issues were discussed at the meeting.

The first part was the work on EMUN – establishing the organisational structure. The group agreed that by June 26, 2023, the partners would send:

- persons responsible for particular areas/units (name and email);
- suggestions for planned network community activities in the areas of: Security and Defence, Sport, Culture and Gender, Health and Eco.

In the second part, the group discussed starting work on the area of logistics as a component of EMILYO/LoD. All participants confirmed the need to create LOGISTICS as an area of cooperation.

c) LoD-10 – Gender Mainstreaming

The Chair presented the main points on the meeting agenda relating to the content and time schedule of the second edition of CM Gender Perspectives in Security and Defence, the 5th Erasmus Gender Seminar and the finalisation of the MGS project.

After fruitful discussions, the participants came together on the following decisions:

- the second edition of the Common Module Gender Perspectives in Security and Defence would take place at Military Academy of Lisbon, Portugal from 19 to 23 June 2023. 20 international cadets and students would take part with lecturers and observers from different countries who had prepared gender-related scenarios and syndicate work tasks;
- the 5th Gender Erasmus Gender perspectives in higher education would be hosted by the Military Academy of Portugal on 19 June with keynote speakers, researchers and academic staff from military and civilian institutions;
- the multiplier event of the MGS Project at the Lisbon Military Academy would have presentations of the partners in order to make the audience more aware of the correct understanding of the gender topic and a workshop entitled How to put in the MGS Army Handbook into practice?

d) LoD-11 – International Naval Semester (INS)

At the 58th IG meeting, the LoD-11 members were informed about the submission of an INS application for a strategic partnership under Erasmus KA2HED and its content/objectives (project proposal: *International Naval Semester Development Applying the Intelligent Technologies and the Innovative Tools in the European Navy Defence System – NAVY-INS-Tech* submitted on 22 March 2023). The partners had agreed to go ahead with the approved project and to begin the INS curriculum design.

The partners were briefed about the future modules and about the Erasmus+ exchanges/INS offered by the partners during the academic year 2023-2024.

More information on the minutes of the LoD-11 would be available on the EMILYO website.

e) LoD-12 – International Air Force Semester (IAFS)

The meeting started with the Academies involved in the first IAFS presenting the experiences and lessons learned from its implementation. Then, each of the academies that would run the second IAFS in Winter 2023 semester presented their course schedule, their daily schedule, the rules that foreign cadets would have to follow and the registration and travel details for the cadets who would take part in the forthcoming IAFS. Finally, the need for exchanges between instructors' was highlighted and discussed among the partners.

f) LoD-14 – Research and Development (R&D)

The 12th LoD-14 meeting took place as part of the 58th IG meeting and the following decisions were taken:

- The LoD-14 meeting is to become an annual event instead of a quarterly event, with the following characteristics:
 - i) The date will be set and the preparations will begin at least 6 months in advance.
 - ii) It will run through both LoD allocated time slots.
 - iii) It will be advertised accordingly to attract key research players (industry, research PoCs, research networks representatives etc.).
 - iv) It will be organised in sequential sub-sessions (projects running, industry panel, etc.). Any necessary announcements for the wider IG audience will be made during regular IG plenary sessions.
- Communication between academies as far as the research is concerned, will take place through the research PoCs. The following immediate actions are scheduled to be communicated:
 - i) Ask each institution to provide a link regarding placements under research projects (list of theses, PoC, placements on running projects, etc.).
 - ii) Request, collect, and advertise a one-page report regarding the outputs of existing placements.
- A meeting with an appropriate ESDC representative should take place in order to clarify the interests of ESDC with regard to research.

g) LoD-18 – Language Education and Training

The LoD-18 meeting discussed the scope of potential activities, prioritised from the point of view of member Institutions.

In the near future, the LoD-18 will focus on:

- Topic/module-oriented workshops for teaching staff (short workshops focused on developing and practicing teaching techniques in English etc., bringing together subject-matter experts, teaching staff and English language teachers).
- Joint English language courses for teaching staff (short courses focused on speaking/presentation skills).
- Joint English language courses for administrative and technical staff (short courses focused on all skills).

LoD-18 also considered continuing the following activities:

- Training the trainers workshops (short term courses focused on sharing experiences and effective approaches between teaching faculty and admin staff).
- Sharing training materials in English (sharing and/or joint development of materials used by teaching staff in selected areas/topics/modules).
- Sharing lessons learned among the Institutions (exchange of experience with regard to projects with a view to enhancing and/or maintaining their capability to provide education and training in English. LoD-18 recommended the IG chair ask the Institutions (2023 EUMACS) whether and in which format they would request this activity.

The LoD-18 pilot activity would be the MDMP in English workshops for teaching staff (October 2023).

10) Information about Lines of Development

The Chair gave a short briefing about the status of the LoDs and asked for volunteers for unoccupied Chairs (LoDs 1, 3, 4, 6, and 16). Then he explained the procedure for establishing a new LoD.

11) Voting for LoD-8 Chair

The Chair introduced the nomination of Assoc. Prof. Nikolaos KARADIMAS, PhD as the new LoD-8 Chair (Common Modules) proposed by the Hellenic Army Academy. Since the documents had been uploaded 2 months before the meeting, the voting took place at the meeting. The IG endorsed the nomination of Assoc. Prof. Nikolaos KARADIMAS, PhD as LoD-8 Chair.

- 12) **Contributions of IG members** (presentations would be temporarily available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191>)
- a) GR/HMACSO presented the Common Module on Budget & Finance.
 - b) PL/MUT presented the 3rd edition of Military Multinational Sport and Shooting Games 2023.
 - c) GR/HAFA presented the Common Module on Unmanned Aerial Systems and the International Air Force Semester and invited participants to the Common Module on CSDP and Common Module on Space Applications.
 - d) ES/SNA gave a presentation and invited participants to the Common Module on CSDP.
 - e) IT/ITNA gave a presentation and invited participants to the International Naval Semester.
 - f) LT/MAL gave a presentation and invited participants to the International Winter Semester.
 - g) PT/PMA gave a presentation and invited participants to the 3-in-1 Gender Perspective event and the *Blast & Impact* course.
- 13) **ESDC Annual Report (General Annual Report on ESDC Activities)**
The IG Chair explained how to fill-in the statistics documents and stressed the importance of them. Templates would be available at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/874> and at <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/182>.
The Chair would like to receive the statistics documents by 30 June 2023.
- 14) **7th CSDP Olympiad**
The IG chair informed participants about the 7th CSDP Olympiad, which will take place at NUPS/HU from 02 to 07 July 2024. The procedures are on-going, 49 cadets/midshipmen/students participate in the essay, and 10 in the cover page competition. Currently the contestants are going through the e-learning phase on the ILIAS platform. All documents are available at http://www.emilyo.eu/olympiad_csdp.
The chair informed the IG about the organisation of the Olympiad for the next 4 years. The NUPS representative briefed about the location of the event and about the “*EUSecure Project*” – a potential preparation project for the CSDP Olympiad.
- 15) **EUMACS (European Union Military Academies Commandants Seminar)**
ES/SAFA gave a presentation on the EUMACS 2023 and invited the Commandants/Superintendents to participate.
The Chair informed the IG about the organisation of EUMACS for the next 4 years.
- 16) **iMAF (International Military Academic Forum)**
RO/HCAFA gave a presentation on iMAF 2024, which will be held at the HCAFA in Brasov/Romania from 20 to 24 May 2024.
The Chair informed the IG about the organisation of iMAF for the next 4 years.
- 17) **Honorary Members**
The Chair informed the members about the ceremony during the official dinner for the 9th Honorary Member, Prof. KOTSIPOULOS Petros, PhD, to thank him for his contribution to the IG and asked them to send any proposals for the future.
- 18) **Coordination for the Implementation Group**
The chair asked the members to send their requests for EU academic semesters and also to update their lists of the pool of lecturers and trainers.

19) IG meetings in 2023 and 2024

The chair informed participants of the IG meetings to be held in 2023 and 2024 as follows (in the late afternoon / early evening on the respective day before, the newcomers meeting will take place):

- a) ESDC in Brussels/BE will organise the 59th IG meeting (13-14 Sep 2023).
- b) NDAL in Riga/LV will organise the 60th IG meeting (21-22 Nov 2023)
- c) ‘Carol I’ NDU in Bucharest/RO offered to organise the 61st IG meeting in February 2024 (TBC).
- h) HCAFA in Brasov/RO will organise the 62nd IG meeting back-to-back with the iMAF (20-24 May 2024).
- i) The 63rd IG meeting will take place in Brussels in September 2024, organised by the ESDC.
- j) NMU in Shumen/BG offered to organise the 64th IG meeting in November/December 2024.

20) Work plan

- a) One week before each IG meeting, on a Monday, a VTC coordination meeting will take place at 18:00 CET with the IG chair, Deputy IG chair(s), ESDC TM and LoD Chairs.
- b) EUMACS 2023 will be held at the San Javier Air Force Base (ES) from 8 to 10 November 2023.
- c) The 59th IG meeting will be held in Brussels on 13 and 14 September 2023. On 12 September (from 17:30 to 18:30) a workshop will be held for new IG members.

21) Rules of Procedure (RoP)

The IG Chair explained the purpose for the revision of the IG RoP. A document was drawn up, which compares the existing RoP (2013 version) with the revised version and included comments explaining the reasons for the changes.

All the IG members were kept up-to-date with the different steps, either by mail and/or uploading the revised versions onto the EMILYO website.

At the IG meeting the IG Chair went through the respective articles step-by-step asking for comments. There were no further requests for changes.

Then the IG Chair asked the ESDC TM to submit the proposal to the EAB members for approval – and if they approve it – to the SC for endorsement.

The latest version (including a “clean” version) is uploaded at: <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1191>.

22) Procedure for the prolongation of the sitting IG chair

The sitting chair – Colonel Harald GELL – and all non-IG members left the room. The ESDC Training Manager informed the IG members about the procedure. There was only one nomination, which was the existing chair; the members had to decide unanimously if they approve the prolongation of Col GELL.

The first LoD chair (LoD-2) – Capt (N) Nedko DIMITROV – took the floor and asked the IG members if they agree to the prolongation of Col GELL for the next 2 academic years as the IG chairman.

All members decided unanimously to accept the prolongation of Colonel Harald GELL for the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and appointed the ESDC Training Manager to add this as a decision point in the next EAB and SC meetings.

23) **Any other business (AOB)**

Below is a summary of all requests made at the meeting.

Kind request	Send to
<p>Create the exchange (incoming) statistics for the academic year 2022/2023 (starting 1 Sep 2022 – ending 31 Aug 2023) according to the uploaded templates. http://www.emilyo.eu/node/182.</p>	<p>harald.gell@inode.at</p>
<p>Presentations for the IG meeting: if you would like to present anything during the forthcoming IG meeting (plenary session), please submit your presentation ten days prior the meeting. Each presentation should last no longer than five minutes!</p>	<p>harald.gell@inode.at & christoforos.christoforou@eeas.europa.eu</p>
<p>Comment on the LoD-5 paper (framework). The goal is for your institution or country to provide the ESDC with an official statement. If this has not yet been done or initiated, try to obtain an answer from those responsible. (See http://www.emilyo.eu/node/982 – LoD-5).</p>	<p>christoforos.christoforou@eeas.europa.eu or announce in the Steering Committee</p>
<p>Mark the autumn/winter and spring/summer academic semesters of your institution in blue and red. Create new lines if necessary. (http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1015).</p>	<p>harald.gell@inode.at</p>
<p>Draw up (or update) a pool of lecturers for your institution, indicating the names of those willing to teach abroad, preferably under Erasmus+. (http://www.emilyo.eu/node/1010). (password-protected area). Template is available at: http://www.emilyo.eu/node/182.</p>	<p>harald.gell@inode.at</p>
<p>If you wish to post a mobility offer on the EMILYO homepage, send the dates and a short description (in PDF format), or a link if you post it on your own website. (http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878).</p>	<p>harald.gell@inode.at</p>
<p>If you wish to have an administrative document posted on the EMILYO homepage, send it in a single PDF file.</p>	<p>harald.gell@inode.at</p>
<p>Encourage cadets or students to write a report on an event with international participants. Please include pictures. (http://www.emilyo.eu/exchange_experience).</p>	<p>harald.gell@inode.at</p>
<p>Nominate a Chair for an LoD that has not yet been assigned one.</p>	<p>harald.gell@inode.at & christoforos.christoforou@eeas.europa.eu</p>
<p>Nominate Deputy / Vice IG chairs.</p>	<p>harald.gell@inode.at & christoforos.christoforou@eeas.europa.eu</p>