

	<p>European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus</p> <p>Implementation Group</p> <p>The Chairman</p>
	<p>Colonel Assoc. Prof. Harald GELL, PhD, MSc, MSD, MBA</p> <p>Theresan Military Academy – Burgplatz 1 – 2700 WIENER NEUSTADT – AUSTRIA Mobile Phone: +43 - 664 - 622 2161 Office: +43 - 50201 - 20 - 29139 E-Mail: harald.gell@bmlvs.gv.at FAX: +43 - 50201 - 20 - 17250</p>

Brussels and Wiener Neustadt, the 28th of December, 2018

Letter of Information

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

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

As the Chairman of the Implementation Group (IG) allow me to pass this letter on behalf of all the IG Members to you.

Based on the 2008-decision of all European Union Ministers of Defence (2903rd 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. Underlining this goal, the High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini confirmed that Military Erasmus is one of the success stories of the European Union in the field of Common Security and Defence Policy, when she stated:

“The European initiative for the exchange of young officers, inspired by Erasmus, is even more important today than it was at the time it was launched, ten years ago. Since then, the ‘Military Erasmus’ has become an essential resource for our military personnel, and thousands of military officers have benefited from the programme. [...] Today, our Common Security and Defence Policy already reaps the benefits of Military Erasmus on the theatres of operations, with young leaders trained to work together. We see the practical benefits of a common military culture.”¹

¹ Gell, H. & Paile-Calvo, S. & Zambas, S. (2018). European Education and Training for young Officers. European Initiative for the Exchange of young Officers, inspired by Erasmus. 2nd Edition. Vienna. Armed Forces Printing Centre No. 18-02175. ISBN: 978-3-9503699-7-7. Foreword by HR/VP Federica Mogherini. P. 11.



Until today – within the frame of the IG’s work – some 43 common modules, an international semester, new lines of development and a lot of other activities have been elaborated and are offered by the Basic Officer Education Institutions. The list of events on the Emilyo homepage shows that per semester some 30 events take place – within the **academic** as well as within the **non-academic/vocational** frame (<http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>). **Thank you all for these offers!**

Worth to mention are the following conferences:

- the international Military Academic Forum, organised by the National University of Public Service in Budapest in June 2018;
- the European Military Academies Commandants’ Seminar at the Theresan Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt in October 2018, which – for the first time – was organised for all Basic Officer Education Institutions from all services;
- the 10th anniversary of the IG, which was organised by the Hellenic Air Force, Hellenic Army, and Hellenic Naval Academies in Athens in November 2018.

For our work it is essential that representatives from **your** Basic Officer Education Institution 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.** The IG’s working meetings take place on a quarterly basis and may be financed via ERASMUS+; therefore it may not touch your institution’s or military budget.

In 2019, the following meetings & conferences will take place (excerpt). Please find details on the Emilyo homepage (<http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>):

Date	Country	Institution	Type	Level	Remarks
19-20 Feb.	BE	ESDC & IG	41 st IG meeting	Military Education Experts	-
20-23 May	AT	Theresan Military Academy	international Military Academic Forum	Military Education Experts	-
23-24 May	AT	Theresan Military Academy	42 nd IG meeting	Military Education Experts	-
12-14 (15) Jun.	RO	“Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces Academy	European Union Military Academies Commandants’ Seminar	Commandants & Superintendents	All BOEIs from all Services
03-04 Sep.	BE	Royal Military Academy	43 rd IG meeting	Military Education Experts	-
Dec. (TBC)	RO	Romanian Police and Air Force Academies	44 th IG meeting	Military Education Experts	-

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 Happy New Year to you, to your family and to your institution,**

respectfully,

Col Assoc. Prof. Gell, PhD

