



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

The Chairman

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Annual Letter of Information

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

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

As the Chairman of the European Union Military Erasmus (EMILYO) Implementation Group (IG) – a configuration of the European Security and Defence College's (ESDC) Executive Academic Board (EAB) – please allow me to pass this annual letter on behalf of all the IG members to you.

First of all I would like to express my best wishes for the year 2024 to you, to your family, and to your institution.

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 & mandate 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.

In fulfilling the above mentioned mandate, during the year 2023 the Implementation Group continued with the quarterly meetings. Moreover, the IG-linked international Military Academic Forum 2023 (iMAF 2023) and the European Union Military Academies Commandants' Seminar 2023 (EUMACS 2023) were outstandingly organised by the Hellenic Air Force, Army and Naval Academies in Athens and the Spanish Air and Space Force Academy in San Javier.

Please find below the statistics concerning Cadets/Midshipmen/Students exchanges of the past study years based on data your institutions sent. **You can see that the study year 2022/2023 has been the most successful one ever since!**

Study year	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022 / 2023
Number of participants	787	973	1 505	1 303	1 704	2 199	1 143	3 058	3 569
Number of organised training days	n/a	n/a	7 214	17 008	61 640	24 360	23 483	75 152	110 840
Number of events (incl. international semesters)	14	17	25	67	104	89	55	140	238

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Each year the ESDC creates the so-called “**Annual Report**”. The report 2022-2023 should reach you via the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Ministries of Defence, and/or your (military) chain of command within the next months. You may have a direct view to this report, which I already up-loaded onto the EMILYO-website at: <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/874>.

This report comprises – among other recommendations on the pages 11-12 – also the future goals for the Implementation Group based on the feed-backs of all EU-BOEIs and which are:

- Ensure that all **Basic Officer Education Institutions** of all Member States are involved in the European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus.
- **Review and update** the existing Common Modules according to the **SQF-MILOF** guidelines and to priorities, as well as create **new modules** based on the most current requirements.
- **Every** Basic Officer Education Institution should **integrate** at least **one Common Module** into its curriculum.
- **Implementation** of the European Common Technical Semester on Defence and Security (EuCTS_{DS}) and **launch of new projects** for international semesters in the fields of **Air Defence, Logistics, and Navy**.
- **Reorganisation** of the Implementation Group in accordance with the new Vice Chairs to maintain and ensure quality.

Of course, we will also work on the recommendation, which you proposed during EUMACS 2023 – the creation of a new line of development (LoD) for “**space**”.

Plans for 2023: We will continue with our quarterly IG meetings. The “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy will organise the annual iMAF 2024 from 20-24 May 2024. The Royal Military Academy in Brussels will organise the annual EUMACS **for all services** from 05-07 June 2024 – for the first time back-to-back with the EUAFA-Commanders’ Conference. We would very much appreciate if you could participate in these promising events.

For all events you may find detailed information on our EMILYO website at: <http://www.emilyo.eu/node/878>.

For our work it is essential that representatives from **your** EU-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.** The next IG meeting will take place in Bucharest at the “Carol I” NDU from 13-14 February 2024.

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.

Again, I wish a Happy New Year to you, to your family and to your institution,

respectfully,



Colonel Assoc. Prof. Gell, PhD