



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 wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 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 2024 the Implementation Group continued with the quarterly meetings. Moreover, the IG-linked international Military Academic Forum 2024 (iMAF 2024) and the European Union Military Academies Commandants' Seminar 2024 (EUMACS 2024) & European Air Force Academies Commandants' Conference (EUAFA-CC) were **outstandingly** organised by the Henri Coandă Air Force Academy in Brasov and the Royal Military Academy in Brussels.

Please find below the statistics concerning Cadets/Midshipmen/Students exchanges of the past study years based on data your institution sent. **You can see that the study year 2023/2024 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	2023 / 2024
Number of exchange participants	787	973	1 505	1 303	1 704	2 199	1 143	3 058	3 569	4 652
Number of organised training days	n/a	n/a	7 214	17 008	61 640	24 360	23 483	75 152	110 840	151 779
Number of events (incl. int'l semesters)	14	17	25	67	104	89	55	140	238	221



Each year the ESDC creates the so-called “**Annual Report**”. The report 2023-2024 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 is already up-loaded onto the EMILYO-website at: <https://www.emilyo.eu/other-documents-and-reports>.

This report comprises – among other recommendations – 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 are **involved** in EMILYO.
- Review and **update** the existing **Common Modules** according to the SQF-MILOF guidelines.
- **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.
- Establishment of the **new Line of Developments** on Space and on Hybrid Warfare.
- Encourage all EU institutions in **organising EMILYO activities** and/or sending Cadets/ Midshipmen/ Students.
- Ensure all EU-MS to **opt-in** the EMILYO Framework Agreement.

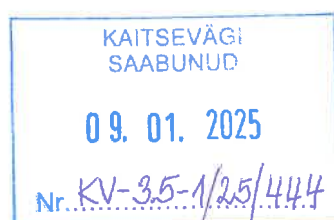
Plans for 2025: We will continue with our quarterly IG meetings. The Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Batran” will organise the annual **iMAF 2025** from 02-06 June 2025. The Military Technical University in Warsaw and the Polish Air Force University in Deblin will organise the annual **EUMACS 2025 for all services** back-to-back with the **EUFAA-Commandants’ Conference** from 27-30 May 2025. 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: <https://www.emilyo.eu/mobility-offers-multiplier-events>.

I would like to express my **deepest gratitude** to the Royal Military Academy (Belgium), the French Naval Academy (Brest), the Military Technical University (Warsaw), the Portuguese Air Force Academy (Sintra), and the “Nicolae Balcescu” Land Forces Academy (Sibiu) for nominating **new Lines of Development chairs**.

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 Larnaca / Cyprus from 24-26 February 2025.

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.



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Gell".

Colonel Assoc. Prof. Gell, PhD

