



ERASMUS+ Strategy of the FH-Bachelor Programme Military Leadership

1) General remarks:

- 1a) At our HEI the internationalization – referring to all exchanges – is part of the quality assurance system.
- 1b) Under the French presidency of the European Union (EU) – the “European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus” was founded. Subordinated to the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) an Implementation Group (IG) consisting of experts from Basic Officer Education Institutions was given the tasks to elaborate possibilities and create preconditions to encourage exchanges of young officers and students during their initial education and training. Existing programmes – such as ERASMUS+ - are to be used as well as creating new avenues of approach for the purpose of strengthening the interoperability and the exchange of knowledge.

The overall goal of this initiative goes hand in hand with the European Security Strategy (ESS), the Report on the Implementation of ESS and other documents.

The aim of the FH-Bachelor Programme Military Leadership at the Theresan Military Academy (TMA) is – using ERASMUS and approaches of the Initiative – to increase students’ interoperability and intercultural competences to prepare them best for managing their future challenges.

2) Detailed remarks to the strategy:

- 2a) Because of the regular participation of our HEI in Brussels during the meetings which are dealing with the exchanges – the contacts to HEI from abroad are made. Of course those HEI are chosen which could fit to the own study programme. Starting from April 2015 even the chairmanship of the Implementation Group was taken over.



- 2b) On a regular basis our HEI is invited to – and participates in – international conferences where also contacts concerning exchanges are made.
- 2c) If the International Office of our HEI finds out possible future partners which could fit to the own study programme concerning exchanges – the personal contacts are made (visits) to negotiate the details.
- 2d) In general the negotiations are made by the International Office which owns the power within our HEI to take decisions – in doing so the decisions can be made faster.
- 2e) As often as possible the exchanges aim at avenues of approach to fulfil the ERASMUS+ requirements.

3) Geographical:

- 3a) Mainly European Union countries are chosen because existing programmes fit better and it goes hand in hand with the EU-strategy.
- 3b) With some small exceptions also North American HEI are chosen.
- 3c) For incoming students all countries of the world are possible to participate the study programme.

4) Most important objectives and target groups:

- 4a) All the students of our HEI (100%) have to go abroad during the study programme – this is an integral part of the Accreditation Paper and also an internal strategy.
- 4b) Because of being accredited for a Bachelor Programme only (as usual for the Basic Officer Education) the outgoing activities for students refer to the first cycle (Bachelor) only.
- 4c) For incoming students our HEI focuses onto the first cycle (Bachelor) – but also the second cycle (Master) and the third cycle (PhD) is possible. Master



students' stay has mainly the purpose of writing the Master Thesis tutored by PhDs of our HEI. PhD students' stay is mainly used for researches. All these incoming students are from our ERASMUS+ partners.

- 4d) Therefore, the target group for incoming students is mainly from other Military HEI which are ERASMUS+ certified.
- 4e) Incoming Staff & Lecturers are integrated into the own study programme mainly to the international offered Modules which all are conducted in English language. All the offered Modules (a huge part of them developed by all EU Member States and integrated into the own study programme) are available on the institution's homepage: <http://www.miles.ac.at/campus/iep/module.php>
- 4f) Incoming Staff & Lecturers are mainly from our ERASMUS+ partners.
- 4g) Outgoing Staff & Lecturers are mainly used by our ERASMUS+ partners.
- 4h) Which partners signed with our HEI ERASMUS+ Agreements can be found on our homepage: http://www.miles.ac.at/campus/iep/iep_links.php
- 4i) For outgoing training purposes (non-academic) exchanges are used too – a participation for those activities are decided on a case to case basis.
- 4j) For incoming training activities (non-academic) international students and lecturers can participate in our Training- Modules.
- 4k) The stay of students and lecturers at our HEI (up to one semester) is without any charging.
- 4l) During the 4th semester our students have to choose one out of four so-called "in depth studies" (Economy, Political Science, Pedagogics, Information and Communication Technology). Three lines out of these four ones are to be absolved abroad at the HEIs of our ERASMUS+ partners.
- 4m) So far, because of sending students at least twice abroad during their study programme, our HEI did not try to cooperate/develop with partners concerning double/multiple/joint degrees, but, it is agreed that those institutions where the



students are sent to absolve the 4th semester can continue with the second cycle (Master) at the respective partner HEI.

4n) A Joint Master Programme is in the developing phase together with our ERASMUS+ partners.

5) International (EU and non-EU) cooperation projects in teaching and training

5a) General remarks:

5a1) Our focus is the exchange with EU Member States, under the Programme as well as not under the Programme.

5a2) If counting in working days – the activities under the programme are almost equal to those ones which are not under the Programme.

5a3) Some parts of the exchanges, e.g. the "International Training on the Job" being an integral part of the academic study programme with a duration of 6 weeks abroad – and not being under the Programme – would be useful to be integrated into the Programme to be funded – which is not possible because of the pre-conditions of the Programme at the moment. These short exchanges would face an increase if being funded.

5b) Projects under the Programme are:

5b1) Outgoing semester participation for students (4th and 5th semester).

5b2) Outgoing Staff & Lecturer Mobility.

5b3) Incoming Staff & Lecturer Mobility.

5b4) Incoming semester participation.

5b5) Starting with winter semester 2013 the whole study programme may be offered in English language – because of that – a participation in selected terms (not



only participation in the whole study programme) is offered to our ERASMUS+ partner HEI.

5c) Projects not under the Programme are:

- 5c1) Outgoing: International Training on the Job (all students have to absolve it) for duration of 6 weeks mainly in a EU country.
- 5c2) Outgoing: International weeks conducted by our partner HEI.
- 5c3) Outgoing: Participation in one- or two-week "Common Modules" developed by all EU-Member States.
- 5c4) Incoming: Participation in one- or two-week "Common Modules" developed by all EU-Member States which are integrated into the own study programme.
- 5c5) Incoming: Non-academic Modules.
- 5c6) Incoming and Outgoing: Informal exchanges from/to our partner HEI with the purpose to increase the understanding of "internationalization". These informal exchanges are on voluntary basis conducted during leisure time and on own expenses but from the organisational point of view supported by the International Office.

6) Impact of the Programme on the modernisation

Internationalization is an integral strategy part. The Programme gives the formal/official cooperation with partners. Agreements with other HEI increase this obligation. Using English for exchanges will have a learning impact onto students + lecturers and increases skills continuously. Internationalization through cooperation between HEI with Programme-support definitely increases higher education quality, demonstrated several times when Modules were evaluated by experts from Brussels:



http://www.miles.ac.at/campus/iep/iep_basic_docs.php. These reports + internal quality assurance systems (NQF/EQF) increase quality.

7) Labour:

For national students it is a special one, only those students are accepted to start the study programme that will get a job after graduation. For int'l students our studies are more and more attractive because:

- 7a) Offers in English language decrease language barriers.
- 7b) Students have advantages at home when absolving Modules/Semesters/whole study programme. Study modes variety is done via chosen Modules by int'l students without any preconditions except passing IDL in advance.
- 7c) HEI-strategy: Encourage lecturers to obtain higher qualifications via research-projects up to PhD.
- 7d) It's a must for 100% of students to study abroad (12 ECTS/6th semester). In the 4th / 5th semester the goal is that 100% of students study 1 term abroad. After returning for each student evaluation procedures are done (part of the quality assurance system) to increase the upcoming co-operation quality. Our HEI sends students abroad only if gained ECTS can be recognised at home. The procedure (which types of classes/modules) is negotiated in advance.
- 7e) Researches by incoming students are mostly done in a semester-stay writing Bachelor- or Master Theses. They are fully supported. The Programme would allow an increased approach, mainly because of being funded.
- 7f) Knowledge transfer is mainly used during int'l scientific conferences + lecturing at the partner-HEI + incoming lecturers.
- 7g) Partnerships with labour market are mainly done by researches – so far funded by a limited budget. Our HEI is financed by Ministry of Defence. When being accredited, MOD had to promise to make available all the necessary financial means to run the programme.



- 7h) Because of offering more and more events for int'l participation and accepting more and more incoming students – the own HEI-vision is to develop itself to a European centre of excellence in “leadership
- 7i) Following the quality assurance system new curricula can be implemented in an independent way via a 2-year-elected council, consisting of: Rector, lecturers and students. Autonomy is taking place via this council.
- 7j) Females and males are treated in the same way; moreover – if a female and a male have equal qualifications – the female has to be chosen.

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