

*Joining Efforts for Designing Online Materials for the Military (Erasmus+ Project for a Hybrid Language Course)*

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Summary of the presentation

The goal of the presentation during the BILC 2021 conference is to familiarize the BILC community with the project called “Hybridisation of specialised English learning for security professionals” (HELPSec) which has been approved for financing by the Erasmus+ Programme of the EU Commission as an interdisciplinary project necessitated by the need to implement new IT technologies and up-to-date approaches in the English Language training of security specialists (military and civilian) at partner military HEIs, especially in light of the current COVID-19 global crisis. The project start date was 1 Sept 2020 and the end date is 28 Feb 2023.

Project partners - *Rakovski National Defence College Bulgaria, Military Academy Portugal and Swedish Defence University* - agree that modernisation, digitalisation, hybridisation, and internationalisation are inseparable in the present-day educational process. Security specialists from the three partner EU and NATO need excellent specialized English vocabulary and terminology as well as communicative skills in order to be interoperable when performing their duties, participating in peacekeeping missions, safeguarding their countries and Europe from hybrid threats and establishing a more secure environment globally.

The project objectives will be achieved by developing three products – intellectual outputs IO 1, IO 2, IO 3:

1/ developing a new curriculum for a “Hybrid English Language Course for Security Professionals” that meets the specific language needs of the target group of the HELPSec project - IO 1;

2/ design, developing, testing and implementing of learning materials - Course Modules (2 from each partner) for the new “Hybrid English Course for Security Professionals” and an E-book “English Course for Security Professionals” - IO 2;

3/ Collaborative Web-based Learning Platform for Security Professionals - IO 3.

The main efforts will be put in designing interactive learning content in the 6 Modules to meet the specific learning needs of the security professionals not only from partner institutions, but also from the European HEIs which train security specialists. Each partner will design, develop and produce teaching and learning interactive materials on two topics of special interest for them, based on the needs analysis in their teaching situation. Each module will have a teaching content that needs 30 academic hours of work of which at least 50 % will be for online studies. As a result, each partner will produce the following modules:

*Rakovski National Defence College*: Module 1: Peacekeeping; Module 2: Counter-terrorism;

*Military Academy Portugal*: Module 3: Leadership in Military Environment; Module 4: Gender Integration in Missions and Operations;

*Swedish Defence University*: Module 5: On Operations (Military writing: planning, reports & returns); Module 6: Military Briefings.

The BILC community will be updated on the progress of the HELPSec activities and results.