**SG #3 “To achieve levels of excellence where progress made by one is shared by all.”**

Facilitator: **Ms. Branka Petek**, School of Foreign Languages of the Slovenian Armed Forces

**Goals of the study group**

BILC continuously strives to assist partner nations in their efforts to develop or continue developing their national language training and testing capacities. The awareness that shared language with language skills at the desired levels of proficiency is key to interoperability is growing as well as the awareness how difficult the language goals are to achieve in difficult situations some partner nations face. This is the reason why NATO introduced a number of programmes aiming at improving the professional military education (including language training) in partner nations. Very often partner nations request assistance in language training and testing and consequently BILC and individual nations offer various programmes and training opportunities. How can we bring NATO programmes and BILC efforts together? Are there possibilities we are not using effectively? Are there ideas for training that have not been explored? Are there requests that have not been addressed? The study group will look at the needs, requirements, programmes, training facilities and experts that can potentially be adopted to achieve the goal of “progress made by one is shared by all”.

**Summary of study group work:**

BILC currently works with several partner nations and provides assistance in establishment and development of language training and testing capacities. Most of the activities are done through Defence Education Enhancement Programme and Defence Capacity Building Programme.

The participants of the study group looked into activities that are currently going on or have been organized in recent past and they tried to brainstorm whether there are requests and/or offers that haven’t been explored yet. They discussed training facilities, institutes, experts, programmes and events in the fields of language teaching and testing as well as curriculum, materials and faculty development.

Participants of the study group came up with a number of interesting proposals like shadowing teachers, development of additional materials to make ALC tailored to participants’ needs, workshop on how to choose an appropriate textbook, workshop on classroom observation with the goal of professional growth of teachers, quality assurance, faculty development events etc.

The study group also provided possibilities for establishing connections between nations with requests and nations with expertise. A number of plans were discussed and agreed on during the study group work.