

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

REPORT FROM THE WORKSHOP ON BEST PRACTICES WITHIN THE FRAMES OF THE DEEP GEORGIA

Piotr Gawliczek, Assoc. Prof.

National Defence University, Poland

From 15 to 17 April 2014, the Workshop on Best Practices took place at the Georgian National Defence Academy (GNDA) in Gori. More than fifty persons representing the GNDA participated in all activities within the official programme. The workshop was conducted by the NATO team, consisting of three experts: (1) Capt. (Navy) ret. Piotr Gawliczek, Assoc. Prof. (Team Lead – National Defence University, Warsaw). (2) COL prof. dr. ing. Cezar Vasilescu – DRESMARA, Brasov, Romania, Dr. Lubomir Kubinyi – University of Defence, Brno, Czech Republic. Apart from the academic part, there were two other matters of importance: an official office call with the Rector of the GNDA and a courtesy talk with the Minister of the National Defence of Georgia – Mr. Irakli Alasania.

The main goal of the workshop was to share experiences in the context of the best practices issues. On the first day (Tuesday 15 April), the first activity of the programme was the office call with the Rector of the GNDA. During the first session of the workshop, the NATO Team was delivered presentations on the chosen aspects of the higher military education system of Georgia and also the GNDA (i.e. the vision, mission, tasks, and management issues). The team was also briefed on the key programmes related to the education and training of the Georgian Armed Forces. After that, there was a trip to visit the educational and training facilities/installations of the GNDA.

During the afternoon session, members of the team delivered presentations on the national solutions as far as best practices are concerned. COL Cezar Vasilescu focused on the Romanian experiences regarding the PME institutional framework

for the education and training of officers and NCOs, while Dr. Lubomir Kubinyi focused on the Czech ones (i.e. HR and institutional framework of the PME system in the Czech Republic and the changes in the education policy with regard to preparation of a new 5-year study programme). After each presentation, a question and answer session took place.

The agenda of the second day (Wednesday 16 April) was focused on the presentations delivered by Capt. (Navy) ret. Piotr Gawliczek on the PL solutions as far as best practices within the National Defence University, Warsaw are concerned. Also, the organisation, functioning and status of the military-educational process in the Republic of Poland and the Polish Armed Forces was described. After the presentations, a question and answer session took place. During the afternoon session the team was divided into three subgroups to discuss different issues. Dr. Lubomir Kubinyi focused on the HR and leadership topics from the perspective of the practical preparations of students for service at active military units. COL Cezar Vasilescu shared his experiences on the ICT topics (ADL solutions and experiences), and Capt. (N) ret. Piotr Gawliczek delivered a presentation on management and budgeting topics from the NDU Warsaw perspective.

On the third day (Thursday 17 April) a live demo session was arranged. Firstly, Capt. (Navy) ret. Piotr Gawliczek focused on the ICT systems, platforms and applications used at the NDU Warsaw, and secondly COL Cezar Vasilescu focused on the LMS ILLIAS as the platform being used within the DRESMARA training activities. As on the previous day, a question and answer session took place. The final activity was a wrap-up session during which future possible developments for the GNDA within the DEEP Georgia Programme was also discussed, as far as best practices are concerned. As possible future points of discussion, the ADL and Bologna Process were identified and Building Integrity issues also, to some extent.

There was clear openness represented, as far as needs related to best practices were concerned. The very positive, interested and friendly behaviour in the auditorium during plenary sessions and small group discussions needs to be stressed. Many detailed questions were asked, especially focusing on the various aspects of the backward issues. Also, ADL and the Bologna Process questions resonated in many aspects. The objectives of the workshop were fully achieved and the team was able to lay the groundwork for the next “best practice events” within the approved DEEP Georgia frames/matrix of events.