

ESTONIAN NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE

Internationalisation Policy

I General Provisions

1. This document stipulates the objectives, areas, priority activities, and implementation of the internationalisation policy of the Estonian National Defence College (ENDC).
2. The ENDC's Internationalisation Policy takes guidance from the Estonian Higher Education Internationalisation Strategy 2006-2015, Estonian Lifelong Learning Strategy 2020, Estonian Research and Development and Innovation Strategy 2014-2020 "Knowledge-based Estonia", and other regulations in the area of education, as well as the overall development priorities of the ENDC.
3. The ENDC's Internationalisation Policy shall support the achievement of the objectives set forth in the ENDC development plan, ensuring the high quality and continual improvement of academic and research activities, while also constituting an integral part of the ENDC's evaluation process.

II Objectives

4. The ENDC's Internationalisation Policy is focused on the development of military and war studies (incl. military leadership and tactics), and related areas of research.
5. The ENDC's internationalisation policy aims to:
 - a) improve the **international interoperability** of ENDC staff and students (incl. graduates now in active service);
 - b) develop **new and/or additional competencies** in the areas of military and war studies, thereby improving the ENDC's academic profile in the areas of academic studies and research;
 - c) enhance the ENDC's **international visibility**, and the international competitiveness of its staff and students through increased academic mobility as well as research and development related cooperation.

III Areas, Target Groups and Priority Activities

6. The main areas of ENDC's internationalisation policy are:
 - a) academic studies at the levels of higher education, vocational education and continuing education;
 - b) research and development activities.
7. The main target groups of ENDC's internationalisation policy are:
 - a) students enrolled at the ENDC;
 - b) ENDC's teaching and research staff;
 - c) ENDC's teaching and research support staff.
8. In the framework of international cooperation, the ENDC shall choose partners based on the needs and opportunities available for the development of military cooperation.
9. The ENDC's principal foreign partners are Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

10. The ENDC's activities shall be based on the following priorities:

- a) joint exercises and courses organised with the participation of foreign students (short-term);
- b) international mobility of ENDC's teaching staff, i.e. teaching assignments abroad (short-term and long-term);
- c) ENDC students taking part in joint exercises and courses abroad (short-term);
- d) international cooperation in the framework of research and development projects, and also (joint) publications (short-term and long-term);
- e) attracting teaching staff from abroad, i.e. for teaching assignments at the ENDC (short-term and long-term);
- f) ENDC students, teaching and research staff attending professional seminars and conferences abroad (short-term);
- g) participation in NATO research groups (short-term);
- h) ENDC final or master's theses supervised by (co-)supervisors from foreign military academies/colleges (short-term and long-term);
- i) ENDC students undergoing service/branch training abroad (long-term);
- j) organising professional foreign exchange visits for ENDC staff (both academic and support staff) to military academies and research and development institutions abroad (short-term);
- k) organising international cadet exchange weeks, incl. welcoming foreign students at the ENDC, and taking part in cadet exchange weeks organised abroad.

IV Implementation

11. All activities related to the ENDC's internationalisation policy shall be planned and executed in accordance with the principles laid down in this document.

12. These activities shall be financed from the following sources:

- a) ENDC's operating expenses (planned in accordance with relevant regulations of the Estonian Defence Forces);
- b) international mobility programmes funded by European Union structural funds;
- c) budgetary resources allocated for specific project applications;
- d) specially designated extra-budgetary funds (e.g. invitations, agreements, etc.).

13. In implementing its internationalisation policy, the ENDC shall ensure the following:

- a) equal treatment of foreign students during their studies at the ENDC, and when reporting their academic progress (incl. transfer of credits);
- b) recognition of training or courses completed by ENDC students abroad as part of and/or complement to their study curriculum at the ENDC;
- c) providing motivation to ENDC staff for organising activities related to internationalisation, and taking those efforts into account during evaluation interviews and in the process of attestation.

14. All activities, responsible persons, and performance indicators related to ENDC's internationalisation activities shall be stipulated in the ENDC's development plan, and further specified in the annual order issued by the Commandant of the ENDC.

V Related Documents

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- a) ENDC Development Plan 2015-2022
- b) ENDC Research and Development Strategy
- c) ENDC Academic Mobility Guidelines
- d) Erasmus+ Programme Charter
- e) Erasmus+ Programme Grant Agreement
- f) Military Erasmus Programme Framework Agreement AKA European initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus