

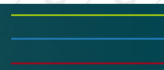


Pros and cons the Bologna process for military higher education in Kazakhstan

Seminar, Astana, 17 November 2012

The experience of the European Union

Sylvain Paile, *Researcher, Ulg*



« Le Menu »

- Why the Bologna process in the military higher education (MHE)?
- How ?
- Some conclusions; what can we learn from these European experiences?

Background information...

The **basic** education of the officers of the 27 Member States of the EU is always “**higher education**”:

- **University-level** education
- **Names** do not matter: university of defence, defence college, academy, military school, etc.
- Two “pillars”: **academic** and **vocational**
- Usual acceptance: **before the first posting and at least the Bachelor**

Why Bologna in the MHE?

For the European higher education in general:

- **Mobility**, exchanges, benefiting from excellence
- Benchmarking, quality, **showing excellence** (incl. research)
- Integration of the European higher education: **harmonisation** (formal) **without standardisation** (of the content, e.g.)

Why Bologna in the MHE?

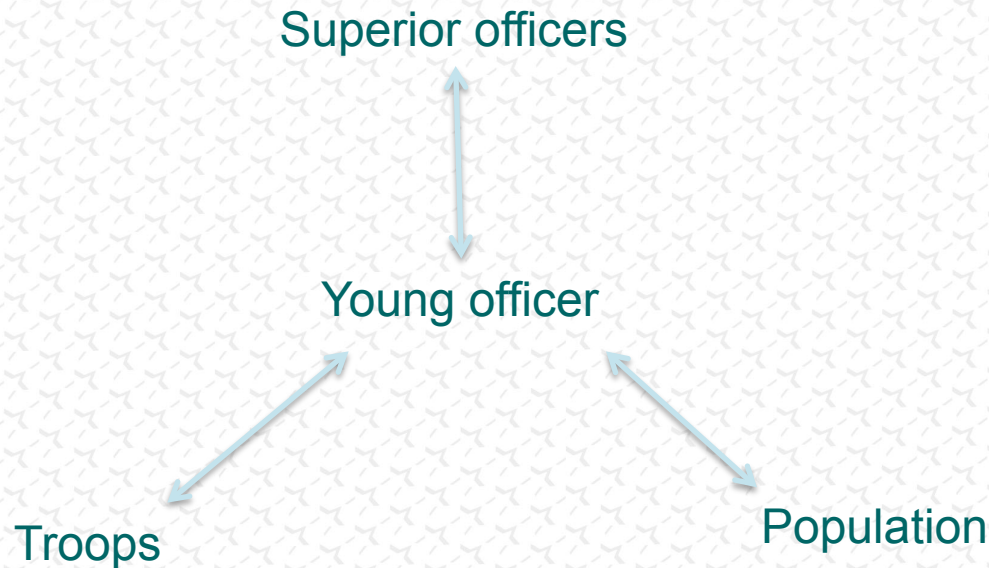
For the military HE, in particular:

- Historical factor: end of Cold War (no more need for **big manpower**)
- Strategic factor: impossible to **act alone** on international stage
- Tactical factor: modernised **equipments**
- Societal factor: “stupid military”, no **legitimacy**
- Economical factor: **downsizing** the armies (reconversion)
- Political factor: European integration, **CSDP** (no more “purely military” mission)
- “National” factor: preservation of **identity**

Why Bologna in the MHE?

If:

- A military elite must be an **intellectual elite**, an elite soldier and a **strategic actor**



Why Bologna in the MHE?

It:

- Highlights the importance of **academic** (Bachelor in a first place) education for further education and training
- Suggests that MHE must be **open** to and **compatible** with other forms of education (military but also civilian)

Then:

Bologna process is highly relevant for MHE!

« How » Bologna in the MHE?

- Implemented (from 2001) on a purely voluntary basis by the European MHEIs
- Sometimes in connection or under the guidance of the civilian ministries
 - One MS (+2) has not (yet) implemented the BP

Preliminary statement: **no obstacle due to military specificity, only “challenges”**

« How » Bologna in the MHE?

The different aspects of the BP – observations:

- Cycles: diversity (Ba, Ba+Ma, no Ba-Ma, PhD)
- Recognition of prior education: OK
- Recognition of foreign experiences: trust is difficult to gain, case-by-case
- Credit transfer: Yes (with differences) in academic, ongoing in vocational
- Qualification-based thinking: diversity, ongoing project



« How » Bologna in the MHE?

- Diploma supplement: OK
- Access of foreigners: yes for mobility (also in vocational), full-curricula
- Combined education/training: slowly developing
- **Quality assurance**: internal, external scrutiny (less with cadets participation but civilian or/and international OK) and even some military international review mechanisms!
- Obstacles to mobility: difficult but actual (promotion, e.g.)

Some conclusions:

- What can we learn from these experiences by the EU MHEIs?
- Military specificity is not challenged by the BP (harmonisation, not standardisation):
preserving military cultures
 - Cooperation is easier (international, but also with civilians): benefiting from and sharing **excellence** (teachers, cadets, managers)
 - Bachelor is a **key for future** learning of an officer (value recognised by other HEs)



European MHEIs saw more “challenges” than “cons” ...

And these challenges are compensated by the importance of the objective: the access to other sources of knowledge, skills and competences.

Thank you for your attention

Questions? Open fire...

More information:

- Sylvain Paile (Ed.)

Europe for the Future Officers, Officers for the Future Europe – Compendium of the European Military Officers Basic Education, Polish Ministry of National Defence, Department of Science and Military Education, Warsaw, September 2011, 226p.

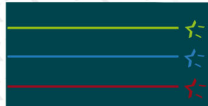
Available: <http://esdc.mil-edu.be/> (“networking news”)

- Sylvain Paile

European Military Higher Education Stocktaking Report, DG F Press, Council of the European Union, Brussels, May 2010 (180 pages).

Available: <http://esdc.mil-edu.be/> (“networking news”)

Sylvain Paile
spaile@ulg.ac.be



WWW.EUROPEANSTUDIESUNIT.EU