



LEPL - David Aghmashenebeli National Defence Academy of Georgia

Approved by:
LEPL - the Academic Council of the David
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Rector:

Internationalization Policy of LEPL - David Aghmashenebeli National Defence Academy of Georgia

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Article 1. Introduction

LEPL - David Aghmashenebeli Georgian National Defence Academy (hereinafter - the Academy) Internationalization Policy Document defines the general directions of the Academy's internationalization policy, which is designed to internationalize the ongoing processes in the Academy.

This document is based on the analysis of the educational activities carried out by the Academy before the 2021-2022 academic year and their results. It is also based on the analysis of the needs assessment in the direction of internationalization and the Strategic Development Strategy of the Academy for 2021-2027, one of the strategic goals of which is internationalization.

Internationalization policies and procedures are used at the academy for the implementation of teaching / learning, research activities, cadet services, and exchange projects with partner military educational institutions abroad. At the same time, it is based on the priorities of the Georgian Defence Forces and is also compatible with the standards of NATO educational programs. Existing internationalization opportunities lead to the improvement and modernization of the quality of education in the academy. All this creates a solid basis for the graduates of the Academy to start a successful military career in the Georgian Defence Forces at a later stage.

Article 2. The goal of internationalization policy. The goal of internationalization policy is:

1. To establish and strengthen relations with partner military educational institutions, research circles and international organizations in order to introduce best practices in the training process of the Academy and to refine the teaching methodology;
2. Ensure the implementation of joint short-term training projects, military training, internships and exchange short-term or semester programs and long-term programs; On the basis of bilateral agreements between cadets / trainees, military instructors and academic staff between the Ministries of Defence of Georgia and foreign countries and memoranda of understanding between military academies;

3. Ensure the attraction of experienced and professional academic staff, officers, researchers or invited speakers to the Academy;
4. Provide training of the Academy staff and their professional development through participation in international training courses, seminars or events;
5. Ensure the promotion of the scientific journal published in the academy in international scientific circles and promote the implementation of joint research projects, publications, scientific forums with partner universities;
6. Facilitate the academy's involvement with partner universities in Erasmus + grant projects and facilitate the mobility of the academy staff;
7. Take an active part in the activities planned under the NATO Military Education Development Program (DEEP) and the NATO-Georgia Professional Development Program (PDP) and share the experience of Western teaching methods and NATO experts / specialists; Also facilitate the involvement of the NATO Military Education Development Program (DEEP) in the process of reviewing the Academy's curriculum syllabi, modernizing programs, creating new programs, training academic staff, and introducing teaching methods tailored to modern standards;
8. Facilitate the introduction of distance learning in the curricula of key educational units by sharing international best practices and defense needs;
9. Facilitate the process of establishing and developing the Academy's Third Level Academic Education Program and its effective implementation in the future by sharing the best practices of international partners;
10. Ensure that the Academy's awareness is enhanced through its involvement in bilateral and multilateral international networks;
11. Ensure the sharing of international experience and the promotion of existing innovations.

Article 3. Main directions of international educational cooperation

1. The National Defence Academy closely cooperates within the framework of Memoranda of Understanding with foreign military educational institutions and bilateral cooperation plans of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia. The academy has intensive partnerships with other military academies in the Baltic region, Azerbaijan, Romania, Turkey, Germany, France and Europe, as well as several US and Canadian military universities. In order to increase compatibility with NATO, cooperation with various programs of the North Atlantic Organization - Military Education Development Program (DEEP), Partnership for Peace PfP-C, International Language Coordination BILC, which provides modernization of the general training cycle in the Academy and NATO standards Increase compatibility. Under the Erasmus + military program, NDA collaborates in the format of agreements with foreign partner universities and participates in several international-level projects. The National Defense Academy is also collaborating with the Georgian edition of VOA in Washington, D.C., to raise awareness of the academy and Georgian cadets through its editorial stories.

Article 4. Leading the process of internationalization policy

The process of internationalization policy is being conducted in the following directions:

1. In terms of cadets/trainees:

a) Long-term programs - Academy cadets are enrolled in exchange programs for full-time undergraduate programs at military academies in the United States, France, Germany and Turkey, as part of bilateral plans agreed with these countries.

c) In terms of short-term exchange programs for cadets/trainees:

- By the invitation of the Academy's partner military academies / universities, cadets regularly attend various

educational, cultural, social, sporting events or military exercises and trainings in both Europe and North America. Such visits serve to acquaint cadets with the military traditions and culture of different countries, to raise their qualifications in both military and academic aspects, to bring together potential future world leaders and military officers, and to establish close ties between them.

- Great importance is focused on semester exchange programs, which means sending Georgian cadets to study at a foreign military academy for one semester.
- In addition, as part of a research exchange internship, the Academy sends cadets to a partner military academy to facilitate work on a bachelor's thesis. In response, it hosts foreign cadets working on their bachelor's / master's theses and whose area of interest is Georgia with its interesting historical and current military experience in the region. During the internship, visits and interviews are conducted with competent persons in various governmental and non-governmental institutions in accordance with the field of cadet research. Various cultural and social events are also held during the internship.
- The Academy hosts the International Cadet Week every year, which is one of the large-scale events held at the Academy. It is attended by cadets / students from the Academy's partner military academies and universities. The event includes various cultural, educational and sports activities.
- Due to the mission of the academy, teaching is conducted only in Georgian, therefore the attraction of non-Georgian language students in the programs of the main structural units is limited.

2. In terms of academic staff, military instructors and administrative staff:

- Professors of the main educational units of the National Defense Academy, military instructors of the Command-Staff College and representatives of the administration regularly participate in conferences,

seminars or trainings organized by NATO programs (PfP-C, DEEP, BILC). It helps to increase the professionalism of the academic staff and military instructors, to review the curricula, to introduce modern teaching approaches and methods in the training process.

- With the support of the American and French embassies, the academy is visited annually by American and French teachers who are actively involved in the teaching of English and French.
- Within the framework of the teacher exchange program, the foreign language teachers of the academy deliver lectures every year in the partner military academies, while the academy is visited by foreign teachers on a similar visit.
- For example, there is a semester exchange program for professors between the Academy and the University of North Georgia, in the framework of which the Russian language professor of the Academy spends the fall semester at the University of North Georgia, while the academy hosts an English language professor who conducts intensive English language classes for the cadets of the academy.

3. In terms of academic process

The training process at the National Defence Academy is in line with the Bologna Process. The NATO Military Education Development Program (DEEP), which the Academy has been cooperating with since 2013, plays an important role in improving the academy's learning cycle, developing academic programs or syllabi, and in terms of an effective cadet assessment system. In addition, the academy incorporates international best practices in the design and development of programs. Following the analysis of international practice and the recommendations of experts in the field, the Academy implements and develops educational programs.

The academy operates the electronic portal of Moodle, TEAMS, ILIAS in the form of Junkers services, through which information is provided and exchanged between Junkers, the governance, Professors of the academy on various necessary topics. In addition, the Georgian National Defence Academy adheres to the principles of intellectual property protection and all papers created in the academy, as well as the articles published in scientific-research journals,

are obligatorily checked in the electronic plagiarism detection program "Turnitin".

The share of English in the programs of the main educational units of the Academy is high. In addition, teaching of French or German language is offered. Every year, American and French volunteers come to the Academy with the support of the American and French embassies in Georgia to help the cadets of the academy develop their language competencies.

The library of the academy, which includes Georgian and English literature, as well as databases of various fields, international scientific databases, is intensively applied during the educational process by both cadets and academic staff.

Given the ongoing processes in the world, the need for a distance learning component has been particularly highlighted. The Academy has established a distance learning center, which facilitates the development of the teaching component and the continuous delivery of knowledge. The distance learning mechanism makes it even easier to plan / organize joint activities and events with international partners.

Article 5. Indicators of the effectiveness of the policy of international cooperation and internationalism

As a result of the policy of international cooperation and internationalization, the Academy is conducting:

- Improving learning outcomes, improving the quality of teaching-learning and intensifying scientific activities;
- Institutional growth and development, accumulation of intellectual knowledge;
- Annual increase of the number of Junkers and academic staff / instructors involved in exchange programs and introduction of the gained experience in the training programs of the Academy;

Challenges of Internationalization Policy:

There are several important impediments to activating internationalization policy in the Academy:

- Insufficient level of English proficiency in both Junkers / trainees, academic staff, military instructors and administrative staff;
- Harmonization of academy programs with English-language educational programs implemented by foreign military schools;
- The need to intensify cooperation with the military Erasmus + program with foreign educational institutions;
- The spread of the pandemic in the world and the delays caused by it.