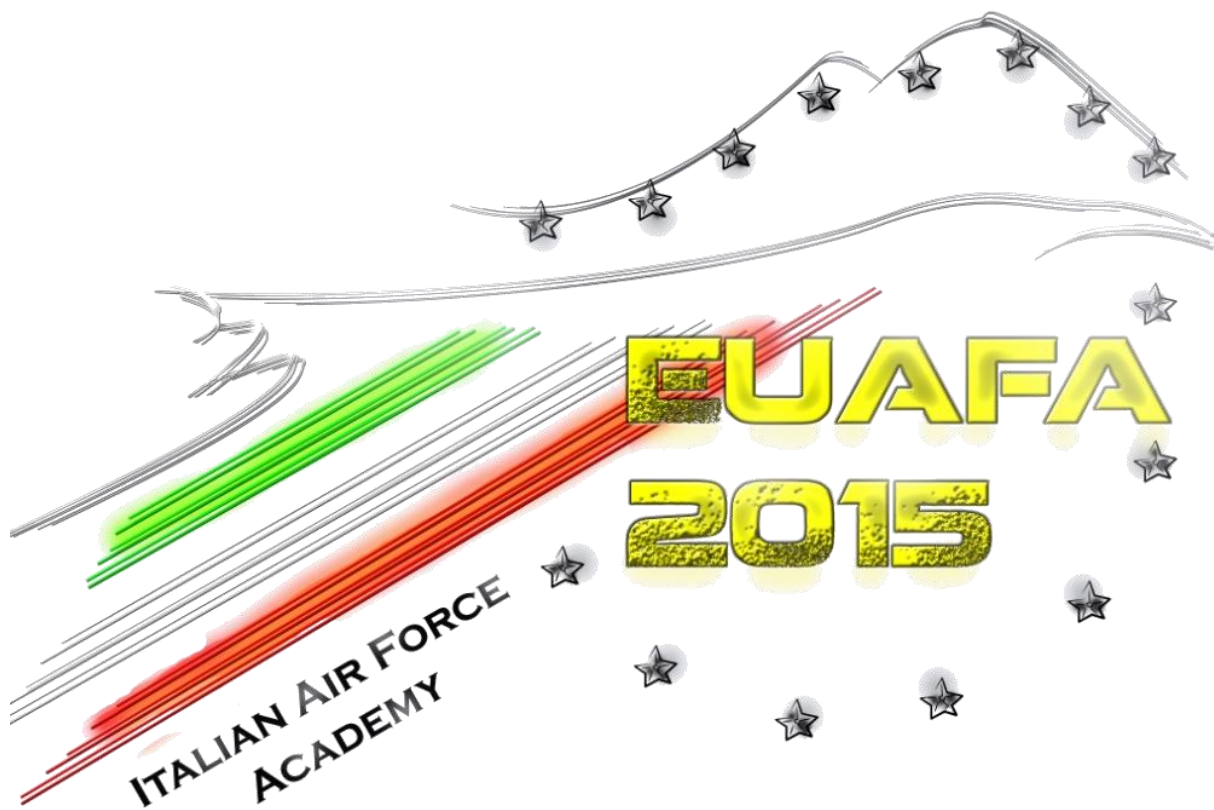


Minutes of 2015 EUAFA WG & Deans' Meeting



**Minutes of the Working Group and Deans' Meeting
7-10 April, 2015 - Pozzuoli, Naples
The Italian Air Force Academy**



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Tuesday, 7 April 2015

Arrival

Objective of the day:

Arrival at the Italian Air Force Academy

16 different Nations convened for the meeting (15 Countries from Europe and U.S.A.).

Get-together and evening meal at the Academy.

Col. Esposito welcomed delegates to the Academy.

Wednesday, 8 April 2015

An ITAFA presentation (history, structure, mission and vision) was given by one of the Cadets in order to highlight their perspective of the Educational System as it stands at the Italian Air Force Academy. Some similarities were discussed, and in particular flight training was detailed in order to make a useful comparison with the practices of the participants.

“Exchange” is the agreed key word to be used when justifying and describing EUAFA activities. Italy has moved forwards in this direction. Indeed it has actually proved to be a trail-blazer among the EUAFA participants. Relying on ESDC (European Security and Defence College)’s activities, which are aimed at implementing the European initiative for the exchange of young officers, inspired by Erasmus, the ITAF Academy devised a course following the model of the existing Common Modules but using a very innovative teaching methodology and developing an important, but still lacking subject: Leadership. The title was “*Leadership and Agility in Complex Environments*”, and outdoor experience training was used to complement classroom activities. Leadership, in fact, cannot be taught in traditional ways, but requires the implementation of practical activities through conceptual frameworks. The Module took place last October and was divided into three phases:

Phase 1: Best Practices document writing:

Every participant was asked to write a short essay on the leadership promotion ideas and

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practices in his own country.

The essay was peer-graded. A dedicated environment on an Internet platform was set up and the participants were asked to complete a guided grading form.

Phase 2: Residential phase:

Through lessons, workshops and innovative experience-based outdoor training, self-confidence and individual ability to work in a team and in a large organisation were improved. Personal development was also one of the objectives. An attitude of positive thinking when faced with challenges and how to strengthen leadership and its applications was fostered at all times in order to hone personal skills.

Phase 3: Sending the written document to the participants' Nations

A final document was written in real time through teamwork in order to share the results of the work with the participants' Nations as a basis for further developments.

All this was set out in the context of a dedicated presentation, and it was announced that next October (from the 5th to the 9th) the afore-mentioned Module will be offered again here at the ITAF Academy, and all participants were asked to send Cadets. Briefly, application forms and administrative information will be sent out. The German Air Force offered to cooperate in developing the Module, so it was decided that the focus this time would be on Competence-oriented training. To this end, a German Air Force representative gave a briefing mostly highlighting the need to use out-of-classroom activities as teaching methods. As a learning Institution, we are required to be innovative. The world in which our Cadets will be called to operate is complex and unpredictable so risk can only be reduced, but not eliminated. To be effective, and in order to enhance skills development, the learning-by-doing method has to play an important role in all educational activities.

Relevant application information will be sent out by the end of May.

All participants were interested and declared that they would try, once at home, to send Cadets to attend the course.

In order to facilitate grade conversion among EUAFA Members, the ECTS European grading Conversion system was proposed and set out in a presentation, but the method was not accepted, being deemed too complicated and time-wasting for EUAFA purposes.

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It was decided to proceed using bilateral agreements when necessary in order to set rules and objectives.

The topic (Leadership and Change Management: Roles and Goals in our Military World) and Criteria for the Evaluation of Essays were clearly set out and the deadline for submission confirmed as 30th April 2015.

The participating nations presented their Education models.

Thursday, 9 April 2014

EUAFA Framework Review

Section 1 on page 1 was modified as follows:

1. The EUAFA Mission was reworded
2. The EUAFA Vision was clearly stated
3. The Working Group and Deans' meeting and their functions were merged, being replaced by the EUAFA Experts' Working Group

In summary, the new elements were:

- 1. Mission (What we must do)**
To share information on Officer Training and Education to implement Common Modules, Courses, Training and Seminars in order to facilitate cadet and instructor exchange.
- 2. Vision (What we want to be)**
A forum of European Air Force Learning Institutions to share best practices, experience and valuable information in order to guarantee future Air-Force Officers world-class education for continuous improvement.
- 3. The EUAFA Experts' Working Group which will be responsible for the following tasks:**
 - view the member nations' syllabuses and focus on common fields within which to provide a basis for future co-operation in training and cadet exchanges
 - discuss common areas for academic research and collaboration

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- gather, update and disseminate the **Databank** (available on the website) containing:
 - An overview of educational systems
 - The organisational structure diagram for each participating country
 - The educational syllabus of each academy
 - The pilot education, training and timeframes for each academy.
 - Document sharing (Academy Magazines and articles on the EUAFA webpage)
- provide an update on upcoming seminars, conferences and Common Module, as well as academic competitions
- discuss experience and lessons learned from academic exchanges and future challenges/opportunities
- discuss and prepare new suggestions for academic exchange for the following EUAFA Commandants' Conference.
- discuss and prepare agenda items for the following EUAFA Commandants' Conference
- present the findings of the previous Meeting including proposals for future activities to the following EUAFA Commandants' Conference.

The revised Framework is attached with highlighted amendments.

An ESDC presentation was given by a knowledgeable Representative who described the Structure and the main Actors (Steering Committee, Executive Academic Board, Head of ESDC, ESDC Secretariat). The methods on how a National Academy can concretely engage were expansively described.

The purpose of presenting the argument was to make sure that every Member State was aware of this opportunity to make exchanges happen.

The final presentation was reserved to American Representatives of the **Extended Hands and World in Conversation dialogues program**.

The two topics were well received but considered not wholly related to EUAFA purposes.

To summarise: Cadets', Teachers' and Instructors' exchange remains the main objective of the EUAFA Members but, for the time being, this can only be obtained through Bilateral Agreements, Common Modules and the Military Erasmus, if applicable.

Germany, as 2016 Host Nation, gave its presentation.

The event ended with a **Cultural Visit & Closing Dinner**.