



**European Initiative
for the exchange
of young officers
inspired by Erasmus**



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Author's Note / general Remarks:

History: On initiative of Cyprus and by decision of the Implementation Group for the European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus the Common Module CSDP Olympiad was approved in 2011.

Organiser: The CSDP Olympiad takes place every two years. EU Member States holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union are encouraged to conduct the CSDP Olympiad according to the rules agreed within the Implementation Group.

Regulation for participation:

- Each European Union Member State and Norway (as the associated IG member) may **nominate up to 5 (five) Cadets and/or Midshipmen and/or civilian students**. In case, the basic officer education institutions of one country report more than five Cadets and/or Midshipmen and/or civilian students, they have to coordinate among themselves to the maximum number of five competitors per country prior to the official nomination.
- Only those countries have the right to nominate Cadets and/or Midshipmen and/or civilian students, which also **nominate at least 1 (one) evaluator** (per country) for the essays' evaluations. More evaluators are welcome. Evaluators may participate in the residential phase of the CSDP Olympiad.
- Each basic officer education institution may **nominate 1 (one) Cadet or Midshipman or civilian student for the cover page competition**. This person may be one of the five competitors; it could also be one **additional** Cadet or Midshipman or civilian student. **Per institution only 1 (one) version for the cover page proposal is accepted**. The proposal is to be sent in a **high-resolution format and in jpg-format and in pdf-format** to the ESDC-Training Coordinator and to the CSDP Olympiad's POC. The winner of the cover page is voted by the Implementation Group members during a regular meeting; the winner has the right to come to the residential phase.
- All nominations must be reported with the "***nomination form***" by the given date announced during the regular Implementation Group meetings. Nominations after the given date are not taken into consideration (exception: more evaluators than 1 in case they are nominated before the essays' evaluation phase).

Preparation phase:

- For Cadets and/or Midshipmen and/or civilian students – ear-marked to participate in the CSDP Olympiad – the first step is to pass Autonomous Knowledge Units (AKUs). These AKUs must be finalised positively by a given date announced during the meetings of the Implementation Group.
- The nominated Cadets and/or Midshipmen and/or civilian students are to write an essay referring to a selected CSDP topic. These topics are to be agreed within the Implementation Group and are to be announced before the nomination phase. It is not allowed to adjust these topics or hand-in other topics.
- The essays are to be authored according to the “*Regulation on how to author & evaluate Essays*”.
- The essays are to be sent in word- and pdf-formats to the ESDC Training Coordinator and to CSDP Olympiad’s POC by a given date announced in the Implementation Group. Essays provided after the given date are not taken into consideration **in any case**.

Residential phase:

- The essays are to be presented during the CSDP Olympiad’s residential phase. The present regulation describes hereinafter, how these presentations should be conducted and how & in which fields points could be achieved.
- During the second part of the residential phase the knowledge competitions take place. This regulation describes how these competitions are conducted.

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1. Table of Contents

1. Table of Contents	1
2. Aim and Purpose of the Regulation	2
2.1 Aim of the Regulation	2
2.2 Purpose of the Regulation	2
3. Calculations for achieving Points (Essay Competition)	3
4. Composition of the Evaluation Commissions	5
4.1 Evaluation Commission for the first Round	5
4.2 Evaluation Commission for the second (final) Round	6
5. Knowledge Competition	7
5.1 Team Knowledge Competition	7
5.2 Individual Knowledge Competition	8
5. Evaluation Paper for the first and second (final) Round	9

2. Aim and Purpose of the Regulation

2.1 Aim of the Regulation

The aim of this regulation is to assure a fair preparation for the presentations of the essays.

If Officer Cadets / Midshipmen / civilian students follow this regulation, they can achieve the most possible points for their essay-presentations.

2.2 Purpose of the Regulation

The purpose of this regulation is to provide guidelines for Officer Cadets / Midshipmen / civilian students but for commission members (jury members) as well. When reading this regulation it should be clear how many points for which parts of the presentation could be achieved.

This regulation determines also the values' calculations for essays and essay-presentations, which could be achieved during the different phases.

3. Calculations for achieving Points (Essay Competition)

For the first part, the points of the **essay's result** are taken: **0-100 points (50%)**

During the residential phase each Officer Cadet / Midshipman / Student is to present his/her essay. Officer Cadets / Midshipmen / students are divided into syndicates; within each syndicate neither persons from the same country should be present, nor just those ones who received most or fewest of all essay-points. A good "mixture" of persons – also males and females – should be state of the art of a syndicate.

The **essay presentation** within the syndicate ("first round") has a value of: **0-50 points (25%)**

For the second round ("final round") eight to ten Officer Cadets / Midshipmen / students are foreseen. It is up to the Implementation Group upon consultation with the CSDP Olympiad organisers to find a fair system for the second round's participants.

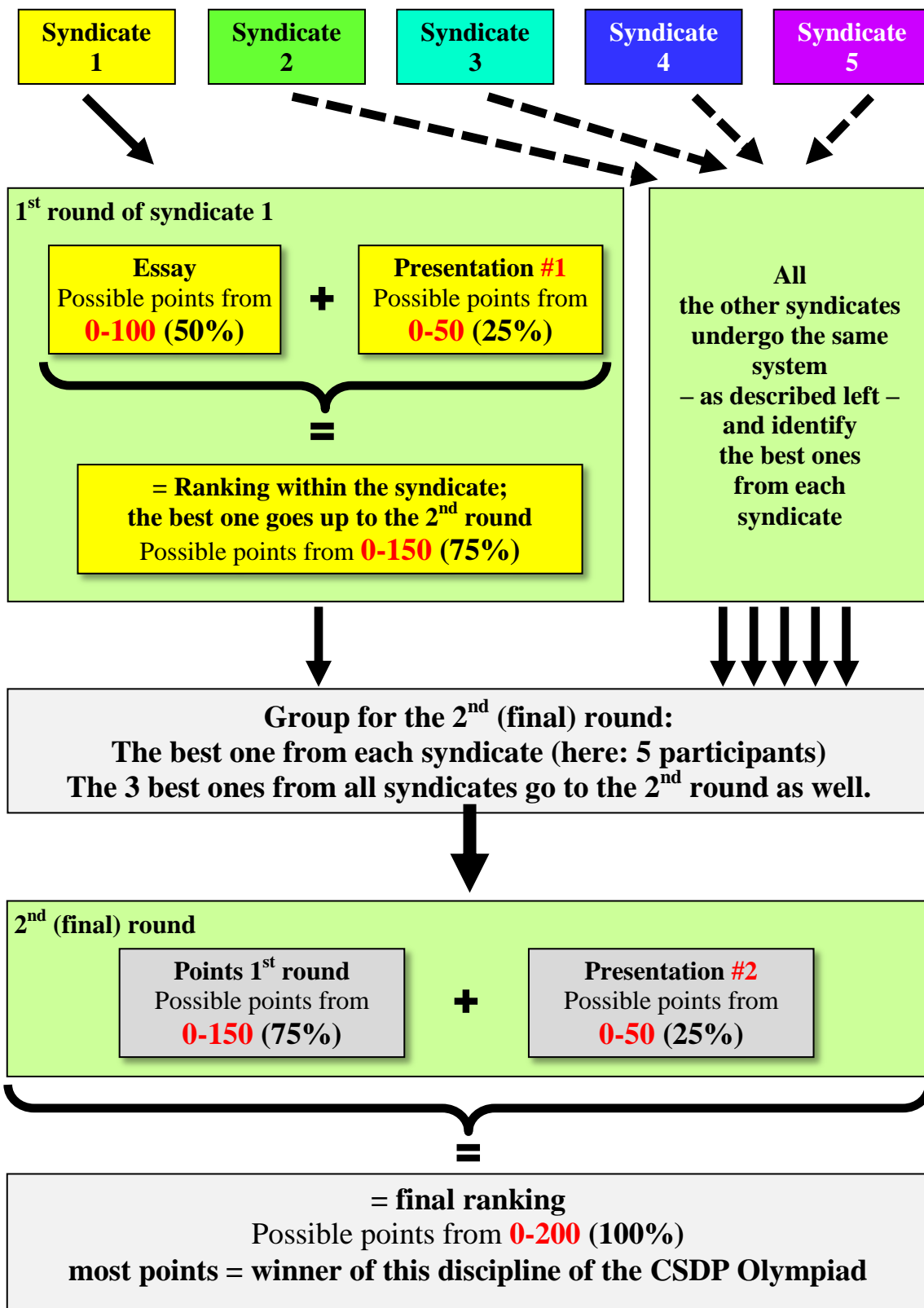
Examples:

- If five syndicates are created, the best ones from each syndicate and the three best second places may go up to the second round – then there will be eight participants for the second round.
- If more than one Officer Cadet / Midshipman / Student achieve the same points (essay points and presentation points added together results in the same number of points) then both persons go up for the second round.

The **essay presentation** of the second (final) round has a value of: **0-50 points (25%)**

In total, **100% (200 points)** can be achieved. The Officer Cadet / Midshipman / Student who achieves the most points, is the winner of this discipline of the CSDP Olympiad.

The next page illustrates the system, which is described above.



Sketch 1: System for the rounds of presentations.¹

¹ Sketch created by the author.

4. Composition of the Evaluation Commissions

4.1 Evaluation Commission for the first Round

- Commission members should have a certain expertise on how to evaluate presentations.
- Within each syndicate at least **five** commission members have to be present. If possible, Implementation Group members are part of these commissions.
- The Implementation Group (IG) Chair in coordination with the ESDC Training Coordinator and the CSDP Olympiad organisers assure such a composition of the respective commission, that members do not evaluate Officer Cadets / Midshipmen / students from their own country.
- More commission members are better – if more commission members are present, it must be an odd number.
- Within each syndicate commission a “head of commission” is to be identified – if possible, this is an IG Vice Chair and/or IG LoD Chair. The organiser of the CSDP Olympiad assures that the head of commission receives a list of the syndicate (Officer Cadets / Midshipmen / students with their names and the points achieved for their essays).
- The head of commission organises that the sequence of the presentations within the syndicate is drawn by lot.
- During the presentations, spectators can be present – but not those Officer Cadets / Midshipmen / students who are going to present.
- Each commission member fills-in the evaluation sheet (see last page of the present regulation). The **average** number of points from all commission members results in the final points for one Officer Cadet / Midshipmen / Student. **The best and the worst results (points of two commission members) are to be deleted before creating the average.**
- At the end of all presentations the head of commission passes the results to the IG Chair who announces the results in front of all syndicates.

4.2 Evaluation Commission for the second (final) Round

- Commission members should have a certain expertise on how to evaluate presentations. **If possible**, the Head of European Security and Defence College (ESDC), the Chairman of the Implementation Group, the Training Manger of the ESDC and the chief organiser of the CSDP Olympiad should be members of this commission.
- At least **five** commission members have to be present.
- More commission members are better – if more commission members are present, it must be an odd number.
- Within the commission a “head of commission” is to be identified, if possible, this is the IG Chair. The organiser of the CSDP Olympiad assures that the head of commission – or a person who is responsible for the calculations – receives an electronic list (Officer Cadets / Midshipmen / students with their names and the points achieved for the first round).
- The head of commission organises that the sequence of the presentations within the syndicate is drawn by lot.
- During the presentations, all the Officer Cadets / Midshipmen / students who did not reach the points for the final round have to be present – other spectators could be present as well – but not Officer Cadets / Midshipmen / students of the final round (just the Officer Cadet / Midshipman / Student who is presenting).
- Each commission member fills-in the evaluation sheet. The average number of points from all commission members results in the final points for one Officer Cadet / Midshipman / Student. The best and the worst results (points of two commission member) are to be deleted before creating the average.
- At the end of all presentations the head of commission announces the results in front of all.

5. Knowledge Competition

5.1 Team Knowledge Competition

- In the team knowledge competition, **syndicates** – formed by all participating Cadets / Midshipmen / students – compete against each other.
- The commission for evaluating the results is formed by the IG Chair, the ESDC-TC, the Vice Chairs, and – if needed – by present LoD Chairs.
- The commission in coordination and the CSDP Olympiad’s organisers assure that multinational syndicates are categorised.
- Not any Cadet from the same country shall be in the same syndicate. This means, if a country has nominated 5 essay competitors + the cover page winner, depending on the number of overall participants, at least 6 syndicates shall be created.
- Questions about CSDP are to be created by the commission members in advance. These questions could be multiple-choice questions and/or open question.
- A fair system is to be created by the commission, taking into consideration points for the first correct answers, later correct answers, wrong answers, and no answers. The system is to be announced to the competitor by the commission prior to the competition.
- The syndicate with the most achieved points is the winner of the “***team knowledge competition***”.
- In case, the first and/or second and/or third places have equal points, one decisive question decides about the better place.

5.2 Individual Knowledge Competition

- In the individual knowledge competition, **individuals** compete against each other.
- The composition of the individual knowledge competition’s competitors is:
 - Entire winner team of the team knowledge competition.
 - Winner of the essay competition.
 - Winner of the cover page competition.
 - In case, the points of the first and second and third place of the essay competition are (very) close, the commission may decide that the second and third place **may** also participate in the individual knowledge competition.
- The commission for evaluating the results is formed by the IG Chair, the ESDC-TC, the Vice Chairs, and – if needed – by present LoD Chairs.
- Questions about CSDP are to be created by the commission members in advance. These questions could be multiple-choice questions and/or open question.
- A fair system is to be created by the commission, taking into consideration points for the first correct answers, later correct answers, wrong answers, and no answers. The system is to be announced to the competitor by the commission prior to the competition.
- The individuals with the most achieved points result in the first, second, and third place of the “*individual knowledge competition*”.
- In case, the first and/or second and/or third places have equal points, one decisive question decides about the better place.

5. Evaluation paper for the 1st and 2nd (final) round

Officer Cadet's / Student's NAME, Forename	Country

Evaluator's (Commission Member's) NAME, Forename	Country

Syndicate number (just for the 1 st round) →	
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No.	Description	Achievable points	Points achieved
01	The Cadet/Midshipman/Student introduces him-/herself ([rank] / name / country / service / institution).	1	
02	The Cadet/Midshipman/Student mentions, which topic he/she is presenting.	1	
03	The problem and/or the research question(s) are mentioned.	2	
04	Which methodology is used to solve the problem is mentioned.	2	
05	The results are described.	4	
06	The Cadet/Midshipman/Student mentions his/her own opinion onto the result(s). He/she discusses the result(s) from different points of view.	10	
		Total: 20	
07	The entire presentation has a clear structure (e.g.: table of contents – main part – summary).	3	
08	The entire presentation has a certain quality of visualisation (sketches / pictures / graphs / etc. are used – not just reading from a paper or the slides).	3	
09	For each slide, which contains sketches, graphs, tables, or pictures – the source is mentioned (on the slide or verbally). <i>For each missing source – 1 point less. Negative points are not possible.</i>	2	
10	The Cadet/Midshipman/Student has a clear and understandable language .	2	
11	The Cadet/Midshipman/Student is able to convince the evaluators about the importance of the topic (or non-importance of the topic) with clear arguments .	5	
12	The Cadet/Midshipman/Student complies with the given time-limit (10 min.). <i>Each minute more or less than 10 min. results in 2 points less.</i>	5	
13	Not inside the time limit: The answer to a given question about the topic (by one designated commission member) is clearly answered.	10	
		Total: 30	
14	Total	50	