ERASMUS+ STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP | PROJECT NO. 2020-1-BG01-KA203-079117

Learning Materials Without Borders: International Collaboration through the HELPSec Project

Hybridisation of Specialised English Learning for Security Professionals

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PARTNER CONSORTIUM & INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

- "Rakovski" National Defence College (Sofia, Bulgaria) — Project Coordinator
- Military Academy of Portugal (Lisbon & Amadora, Portugal) — Partner Institution
- Swedish Defence University (Stockholm, Sweden) — Partner Institution



PROJECT BACKGROUND & STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership to Bridge the Distance Gap in Military English

Catalyst & Project Origins

- **Conceived at BILC:** Originated through professional networking at BILC conference, identifying shared requirements across European defense academies.
- **Pandemic Acceleration:** The COVID-19 pandemic revealed structural shortages in dedicated online and hybrid English training for security experts.
- **Grant Framework:** Funded under the Erasmus+ KA203 Higher Education Strategic Partnerships programme (Project No. 2020-1-BG01-KA203-079117).
- **Key Project Facts:** 30-month duration (September 2020 – February 2023), supported by a grant budget of €172,614.

Strategic Aims & Standardized Benchmarks

- **NATO STANAG 6001 Level 2§3:** Upgrades specialised military terminology, briefing fluency, and operational correspondence to meet standardised BILC benchmarks.
- **Blended & Hybrid Pedagogy:** Combines autonomous digital coursework with interactive face-to-face instruction, requiring at least 50% online engagement.
- **Instructor & Cadet Digital Skills:** Enhances digital pedagogical competence among military language educators and technological autonomy among learners.



Digital Transformation in Military English Labs

- **Multimedia Workstations:** Cadets/Officers use headsets and terminals to complete interactive listening, audio recording, and vocabulary drills.
- **Autonomous Pre-Class Study:** Learners complete online modules independently → classroom hours for communicative drills.
- **Standardised Alliance Readiness:** Prepares defensce personnel for international deployments, multinational commands, and NATO missions.

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PEDAGOGICAL FRAMEWORK & DELIVERABLES

3 Intellectual Outputs (IOs)→ an Open-Access Hybrid Architecture

IO 1: Joint Curriculum
180 Academic Hours

Standardized Syllabus: Covers 6 distinct specialized modules (30 academic hours each, 45 min per hour).

Hybrid Structure: at least 50% of the course (90+ hours) is conducted online via distance self-study.

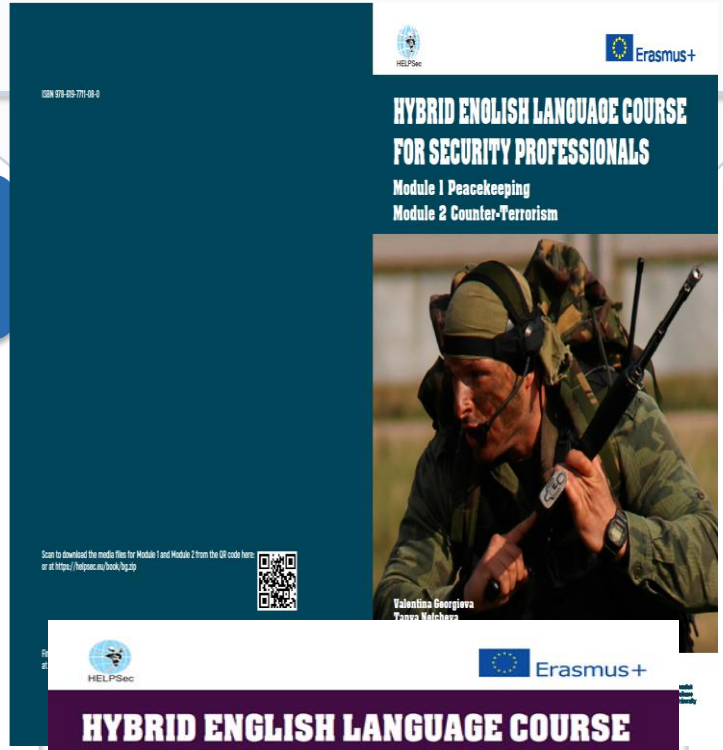
Curricular Integration: Aligned with European Higher Education Area standards and defense qualification syllabi.

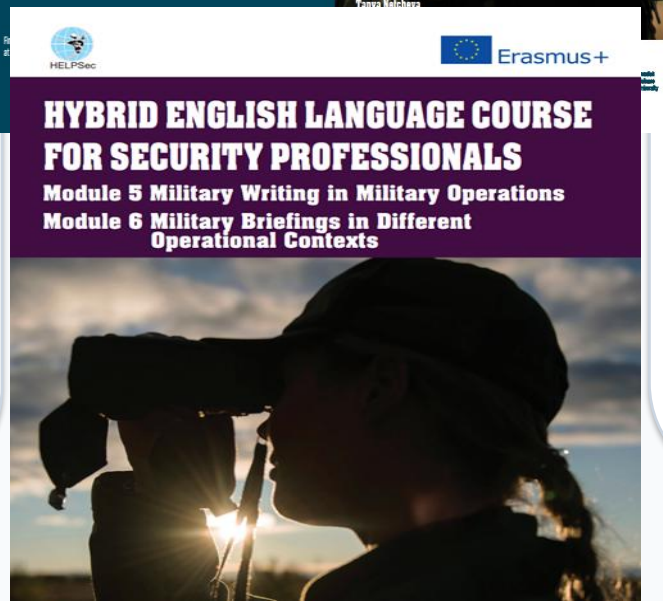
IO 2: E-Books
Open-Access Textbooks

Authentic Scenarios: Contains realistic operational military texts, radio communication scripts, and leadership case studies.

Modular Architecture: Downloadable multi-volume E-Books allow teachers to extract single chapters or full syllabi.

Integrated Skills: Systematic balance of listening, reading, specialized military writing, and guided speaking drills.





IO 3: Collaborative Platform
WordPress LMS at helpsec.eu

Digital Hub: Interactive portal hosting all digital modules, audio/video scenarios, and interactive exercises.

LearningApps Integration: Embeds immediate-feedback interactive terminology drills and listening comprehension tasks.

Assessment & Tracking: Built-in student gradebooks, automated quizzes, 45-min summative testing, and certifications.

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COURSE ARCHITECTURE & INSTITUTIONAL SPECIALIZATION

Six Specialized 30-Hour Modules: Operational Realities Across Three Academies

Bulgaria (Lead Partner)

Module 1: Peacekeeping (30 hrs)

- UN & NATO peace missions, civilian-military cooperation (CIMIC)
- Rules of engagement (ROE), patrol briefings, operational mission reports
- Video scenarios, reading drills

Module 2: Counter-Terrorism (30 hrs)

- Threat assessment terminology, reconnaissance, asymmetric warfare
- Intelligence briefing analysis, tactical incident reports
- Emergency response communication protocols and vocabulary

Portugal (Partner Academy)

Module 3: Leadership in Military Env. (30 hrs)

- Command philosophy, officer leadership traits, ethical dilemmas
- Operational decision-making, subordinate counseling
- Multinational team cohesion and crisis management

Module 4: Gender Integration in Ops (30 hrs)

- UNSCR 1325 implementation, Women, Peace & Security (WPS)
- Role of Gender Advisors (GENAD) in operational theaters
- Human rights monitoring and inclusive operational planning

Sweden (Försvarshögskolan Partner Academy)

Module 5: Military Writing on Operations (30 hrs)

- Standardized NATO Operational Orders (OPORDs) & annexes
- Situation Reports (SITREPs), intelligence summaries, patrol reports
- Military operational correspondence and formal drafting standards

Module 6: Briefings in Operational Contexts (30 hrs)

- Tactical operational updates, commander's intent presentation
- Information briefings, staff presentations, oral delivery skills
- Q&A management under high-tempo operational constraints

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PRACTICAL EDUCATIONAL IMPACT & INTEROPERABILITY

Collaborative Synergy

1. National Academy Integration

- **Core Undergraduate Curricula:** Directly embedded in standard bachelor's and master's degree programs for military cadets and trainees.
- **Language Qualification Courses (LQC):** Serves as the foundation for intensive STANAG Level 2 and Level 3 qualification courses in Bulgaria, Portugal, and Sweden.
- **Flipped Pre-Course Self-Study:** Used as digital preparatory training before in-person classes

2. Multinational 'Common Modules'

- **Allied Cadet Exchange:** Deploys Specialised English content for international military cadets participating in Erasmus+ and EMILYO exchanges.
- **Interoperable Terminology:** Eliminates linguistic friction by establishing shared operational terminology across national armed forces.
- **Joint Operational Exercises:** Facilitates multinational mission planning and collective briefing standards during multinational drills.

3. Dissemination & Multiplier Network



- **Transnational Project Meetings (TPMs):** Validated and refined through four intensive international working meetings across Sofia, Lisbon/Amadora, and Stockholm.
- **Multiplier Public Seminars:** Presented to defense educators, ministry officials, and academic partners during major international multiplier events.
- **BILC Global Validation:** Demonstrated before the NATO BILC Language community



4. Operational Communication & Briefing Fluency

- **Tactical Briefing Delivery:** Officers deliver formal operational updates and commander's intent using NATO-aligned military English.
- **Multinational Integration:** Simulated joint operations prepare officers to communicate effectively alongside allied coalition partners.
- **Practical Field Outcomes:** Moves military language training 'from the classroom to boots-on-the-ground' operational readiness.

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PLATFORM ADOPTION & GLOBAL METRICS

Platform Analytics: Visitors from 105 Nations (July 2026)

3,147
TOTAL PLATFORM VISITORS

476
REGISTERED ACTIVE MEMBERS

105
COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

42,000+
U.S. SEARCH IMPRESSIONS

Top Country	Visitors	Avg Duration	Primary Hub
Bulgaria	425	13m 33s	Sofia (291)
Sweden	316	High Direct	Stockholm (129)
United States	161	Search / Web	42k+ Impressions
Portugal	145	26m 44s	Amadora / Lisbon (117)
Global Reach	2,100+	Norway: 24m 48s	China, Poland, Spain

Analytics & Learner Engagement Patterns

- **Deep In-Session Engagement:** Portugal logged an extraordinary 26m 44s average session time, followed by Norway (24m 48s) and the Czech Republic (22m 36s), confirming intensive study rather than brief casual browsing.
- **Search Engine Reach:** Bulgarian traffic showed a 43.37% organic CTR, while organic US queries drove over 42,000 search impressions globally.
- **Worldwide Geographic Dispersion:** Beyond the consortium nations, learners engaged from China (29), Poland (26), Spain (25), Germany, the UK, and Romania.

PLATFORM ONBOARDING & USER ACCESS

Three-Step Onboarding to Connect to the HELPSec Platform: https://helpsec.eu

STEP 1 | HELPSEC.EU

Navigate to Portal

- **Portal Address:** Open any modern web browser on desktop or mobile and navigate to the official portal at helpsec.eu.
- **Main Navigation:** Locate the primary header navigation menu on the homepage.
- **Account Menu:** Click directly on the "Account" menu tab to enter the user portal.

STEP 2 | ACCOUNT CREATION

Complete Registration

- **Select Sign Up:** Choose the "Sign Up" option to create a personal instructor or student profile.
- **Required Details:** Enter your chosen username, email address, name
- **Password Policy:** Configure a secure password: minimum 8 characters, combining numbers, letters, and at least 1 uppercase letter.

STEP 3 | INSTANT COURSE ACCESS

Activate & Begin

- **Verification Email:** Check your inbox for an automated confirmation message upon submission.
- **Profile Setup:** Click the verification link to immediately activate your account dashboard.
- **Explore Courseware:** Access the modular materials, interactive units, and pedagogical tools.

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PLATFORM NAVIGATION & PEDAGOGICAL FEATURES

Structured Units and Automated Assessments Enable Hybrid Operational Training

Interactive Lesson Architecture

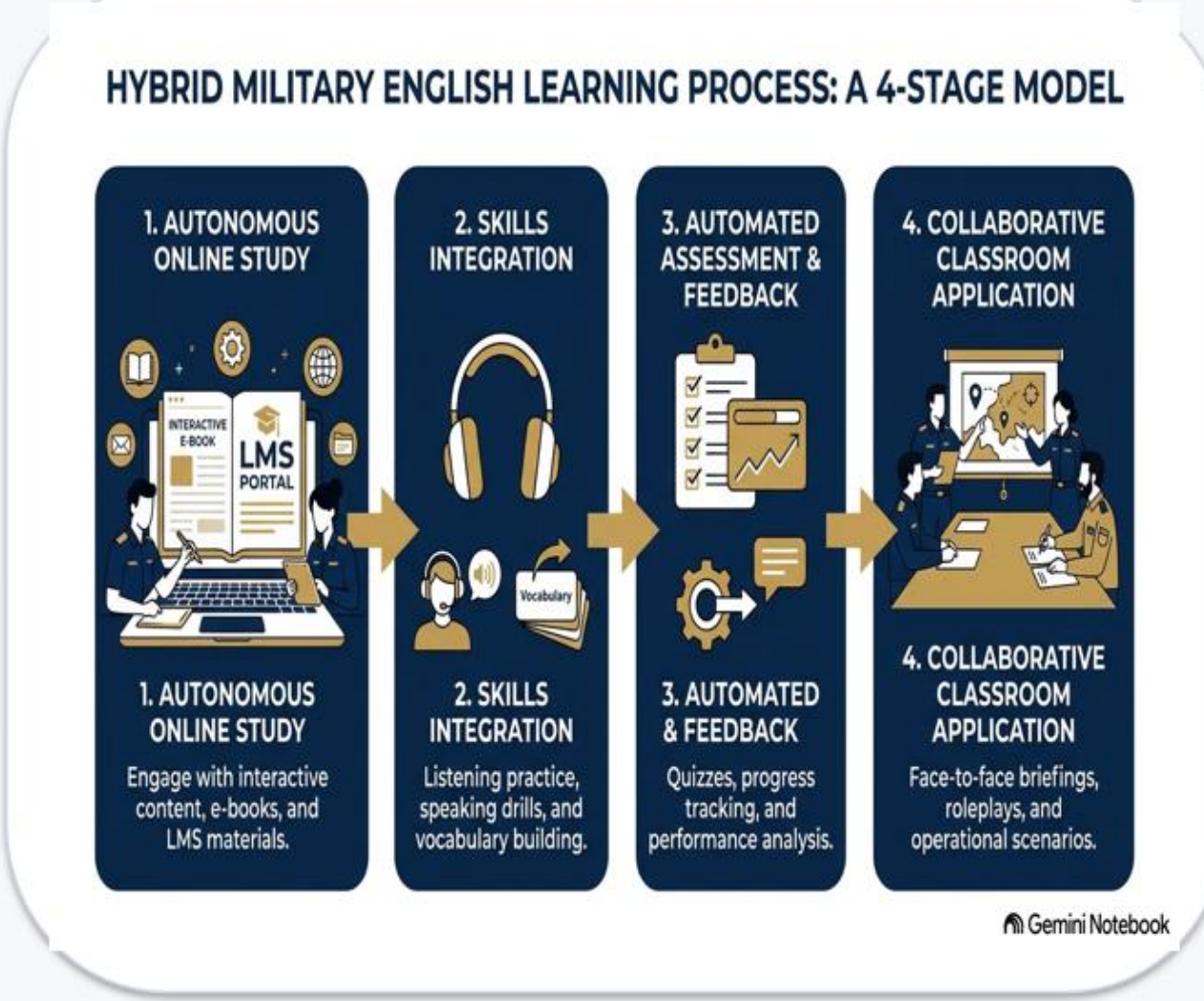
- **Granular Topic Sequences:** Each 30-hour module is divided into sequential thematic lessons combining contextual reading texts, tactical operational scenarios, and vocabulary glossaries.
- **Embedded LearningApps:** Interactive terminology matching drills, audio listening passages, and authentic video case studies provide dynamic engagement.

Student Tracking & Gradebook

- **Personalized Dashboards:** Learners easily track their individual progress percentage, completed lecture units, and test scores.
- **Instructor Monitoring Console:** Language teachers review aggregate class statistics, monitor individual quiz attempts, and evaluate written operational assignments.

Testing & Formal Certification

- **STANAG 6001 Level 2 Aligned:** Tests assess reading, military terminology precision, and operational writing conventions IAW Alliance standards.
- **45-Minute Summative Evaluation:** Each module concludes with a 45-minute summative assessment to verify thematic mastery.



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ACTIONABLE INTEGRATION & NEXT STEPS

English Instructors Can Adopt Open Modules for Immediate Classroom Impact

1. Curriculum & E-Book Adoption

- **Ready-to-use Syllabi:** Freely download the 180-hour Joint Curriculum and incorporate the six 30-hour modules into your academy's courses.
- **Downloadable E-Books:** Access open-access textbooks to extract situational military dialogues, reading passages, and vocabulary lists.
- **Course Packets:** Blend HELPSec units with existing ESP materials without licensing restrictions.

2. Flipped Classroom Deployment

- **Autonomous Online Prep:** Assign online reading, terminology drills, and listening tasks on helpsec.eu as homework prior to class meetings.
- **Interactive Classroom Time:** Dedicate valuable face-to-face hours to communicative roleplays, tactical decision games, and live operational briefings.
- **Optimized Contact Hours:** Double instructional efficiency by letting automated digital exercises handle repetitive drills and diagnostics.

3. Cross-Border Collaboration

- **Join the Teacher Network:** Connect with language educators across Bulgaria, Portugal, Sweden, and wider European partner defense institutes.
- **Multinational Common Modules:** Prepare your cadets for multinational military exchanges using standardized STANAG Level 2&3 English.
- **Open Pedagogical Feedback:** Share customized exercises and lesson adaptations to enrich the shared military English community.

Rakovski National Defence College

ACADEMIA MILITAR MILITARY ACADEMY

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Thank you for your attention!



