



# Central European Defence Cooperation Language Platform

## Concept Paper

At the initial conference in Vienna (19 – 21 March 2019), the national representatives agreed to develop the Central European Defence Cooperation Language Platform (CEDC Language Platform). It will be set up within the following framework:

### 1. Purpose

- To be a forum of discussion that facilitates a common understanding of language policy and enhances as well as deepens multilateral cooperation among CEDC partner nations in the realm of languages.
- To provide for coordination in key areas<sup>1</sup>, adequate synergies and the effective, efficient and economical use of resources.

### 2. Strategic context

- The CEDC Language Platform will form an integral part of a comprehensive concept of the strategic culture of the countries of Central Europe and, as such, contribute to the strategic culture and language policy of the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy.
- The Language Platform will be the CEDC countries' complementary regional language cooperation forum contributing to other international language coordination mechanisms, such as the NATO Bureau for International Language Co-ordination (BILC).

### 3. Added Value

- The Language Platform will enable and facilitate, among CEDC countries, the standardisation in the areas of language teaching, testing and terminology.
- Cooperation among CEDC countries will ensure a more efficient use of resources and the assurance of high standards of quality in the realm of languages.

### 4. Implementation

- This initiative aims to develop a permanent military Language Platform in the context of the CEDC.
- The heads of the language institutions of the CEDC countries will act as the Language Platform's Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee will develop, revise and adapt the programme of the Language Platform including the related implementation schemes.
- The Steering Committee will assign Points of Contact (POCs) for agreed areas of cooperation to coordinate their efforts on a permanent basis.
- The Platform's Chair will rotate annually in conjunction with the CEDC Presidency.

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<sup>1</sup> See section 5.

- An annual meeting of the Language Platform will be organised by the respective Chair.

## **5. Key areas of cooperation**

- Mutual support in the development, standardisation and validation of language tests.
- Mutual support by exchanging language testers, teachers, trainers and other experts.
- Cooperation in digitalisation, especially in the development of digital teaching and testing aids, methods and procedures.
- Cooperation in the professional development of teachers, testers, translators, terminologists and other experts.
- Cooperation, exchange and mutual support in the area of terminology.
- Cooperation in the field of quality assurance, language training effectiveness and resilient language management.

## **6. Focus 2019 – 2020**

- Establishment of the Language Platform and its website with authorised access.
- Analysing and comparing national testing systems; identifying particular areas of language testing with the greatest potential of mutual cooperation in order to enhance effectiveness and efficiency; designing a medium-term testing cooperation scheme.
- Analysing the potential for cooperation in the area of terminology; identifying particular areas and suitable modes of joint action to improve the terminology support provided to defense and security agencies at both the national and the international levels; designing a medium-term terminology cooperation scheme.

## **7. Way ahead**

- Presentation of the Concept Paper at the Defence Policy Directors' meeting in Brussels on 11 April 2019; recommended as an item on the agenda of the CEDC ministers' meeting in Bratislava in June 2019.
- Presentation of the Language Platform at the CEDC ministers' meeting in Bratislava in June 2019 for approval.
- Language support for COOPSEC19 in Hungary in October 2019.
- Annual Meeting of the CEDC Language Platform in Slovenia in March 2020.

5 April 2019

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