Education Development Working Group (EDWG)

The EDWG is designed to strengthen defense education in partner nations and consists of two core components. The two core elements are:

- Curriculum Development
- Faculty Development

Administrative and organizational support for professional military education institutions and systems complements the core components. Furthermore, the components are facilitated by the multinational Defense Education Enhancement Program (DEEP). DEEP is central to EDWG activities, supporting foreign government defense learning institution efforts to: (1) enhance the quality and relevance of curriculum and to (2) promote faculty development and modern learning techniques within a framework of individually tailored multi-year action plans. As of December 2014, DEEP programs were underway in 13 nations: *Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Georgia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Moldova, Mongolia, Serbia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan*.

Curriculum Development This addresses the substance of what is being taught. In addition to subjects requested by host nation defense education institutions, the EDWG has also developed reference curricula. The *Reference Curriculum Program* is intended to provide partnering institutions with generic or "reference" curricula as a basis for a PME system of their own. A major project sponsored by the PfP Consortium in support of DEEP is the publication of reference curricula on both Commissioned Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer PME. Ethics and leadership, as well as numerous other topics are featured elements of both curricula.

Faculty Development This focuses on how to teach. The EDWG has created a *Defense Educators' Program* designed to bring modern and interactive teaching methodologies to the partnering institutions, thereby encouraging critical thinking among defense professionals - an essential element in transformation. The program features faculty development workshops tailored to the needs of the instructor faculties of participating defense education institutions. It also involves an annual multi-national workshop for partner faculty members (25-30) to discuss teaching methods used for a learner-centered approach to classroom education. Partner educators who participate in the workshop return to their home institutes with fresh ideas and encouragement to innovate based on the assistance of this multi-national team of educators.

Defense Education Enhancement Program The *Defense Education Enhancement Program* (DEEP) is an innovative education initiative to assist nations to develop curriculum and faculty in order to build capacity and incorporate values in the spirit of the Partnership for Peace. The products of the Reference Curriculum Program and Defense Educators' Program are used by DEEP leaders to support the goals of the individual DEEP programs.

DEEPs are based on "programs of cooperation" -- sustained, multi-year plans focused on improving professional military education (PME). Using a mutually agreed-upon action plan as a basis, a list of activities is planned and executed in support of curricula transformation and faculty development with the assistance of subject matter experts (SMEs) on a variety of topics such as: management, defense budget, strategy development, and ethics & leadership. Periodically, faculty at partnering institutions observe operations at Western PME institutions.

This tailored security cooperation initiative is designed to build and expand a defense education institution's capacity to produce civilian and military graduates who are operationally and culturally interoperable with modern defense institutions and democratic values.

DEEP teams are led by educators from Austria, Canada, Germany, Poland, and the United States from the following Military Education (PME) institutions: *Austrian* National Defence Academy, *Canadian* Defence Academy, *Croatian* Defence Academy, *Polish* National Defense University, *Romanian* National Defence University, the *United States* Army War College, Naval War College, National Defense University, and *German-American* George C. Marshall Center. Teams are supported by faculty members from a wide range of PME institutions. Each team member is a volunteer-expert in their academic field, who participates with approval of his chain of command. Professional development and personal satisfaction of helping fellow educators are important motivators for the participants. Travel and per diem costs—to date have been paid by either U.S. Warsaw Initiative Funding disbursed through the PfP Consortium, or by NATO.

Launched in 2007, in response to stakeholder policy objectives of Building Partner Capacity and Defense Institution Building, DEEP programs - on the sending side - are primarily driven by two PfPC stakeholders: the U.S. Department of Defense and the NATO International Staff[1].

Examples of DEEP projects include:

- Development of curriculum and mentoring of faculty for *Kazakhstan's* new War College. The decision to create this War College emerged from dialogue with the DEEP team on how to best assist the Kazakh National Defense University to educate senior officers.
- Mentoring faculty of the newly-formed Institute of National Security Studies in *Armenia* to provide high level research for the MOD on political-military issues of concern.
- Guiding the development of curriculum modules and learning methods for the *Georgian and Azerbaijani* command and staff courses. Both countries have benefitted from shadow faculty opportunities to observe the conduct of US PME seminars and discuss curriculum and teaching methodology with US faculty.
- Guiding curriculum content and improving teaching methodologies for *Moldova's* four-year pre-commissioning course, as well as revising curriculum for the Moldovan Senior Course leading to award of a Masters degree recognized by the Ministry of Education.

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[1] More specifically, the U.S. proponent is the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Security Cooperation; the NATO International Staff proponent is the Political Affairs and Security Policy Division.