



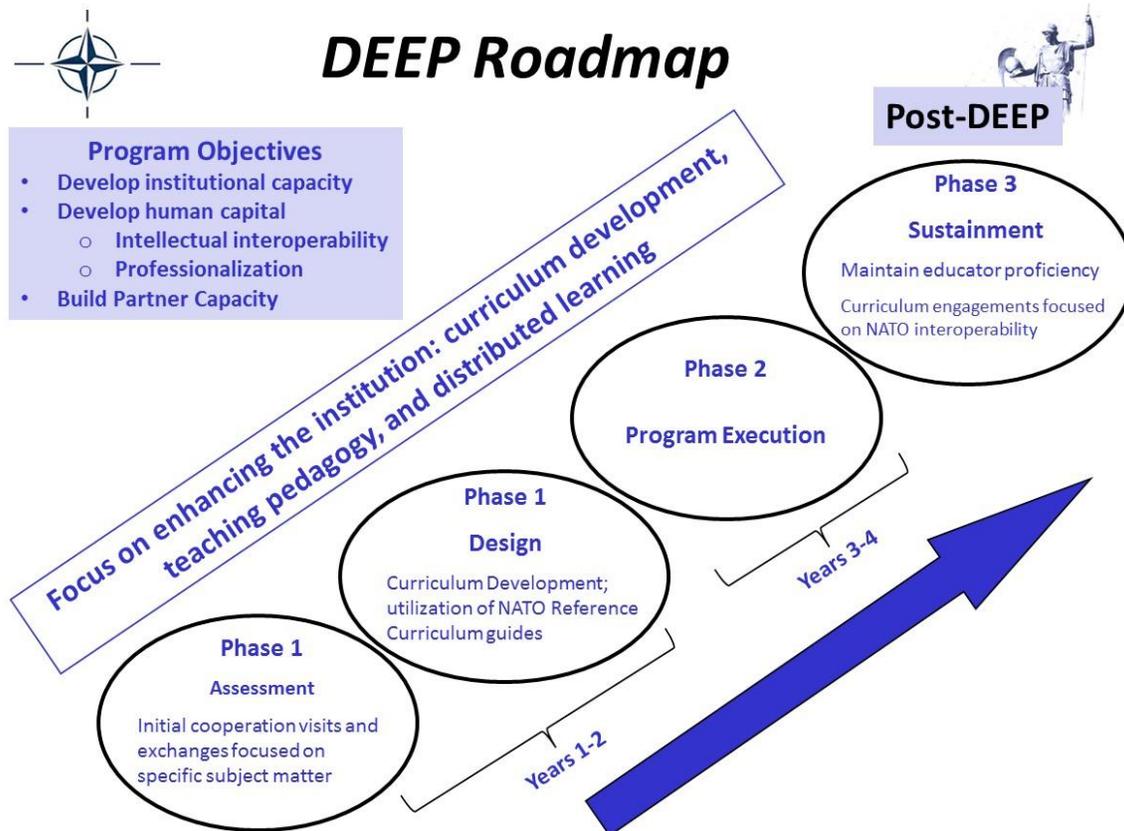
# Defence Education Enhancement Programme (DEEP)

## DEFENCE EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (DEEP) WITH MOLDOVA

### Origin

DEEP Moldova was initiated at the request of then-President Voronim to the NATO Secretary General in April 2008. Moldova requested assistance to “gradually bring the curriculum [of the Military Institute] in line with Western standards” as a key objective in its Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) objectives. In response, a team of NATO experts visited Moldova and reviewed the education and training capabilities of the Military Institute of the Armed Forces. As a result of the visit, Moldova and NATO agreed on a program of cooperation containing a roadmap of activities for 2009-2012. The focus is on building capacity through defence education with three pillars: a) *Peer-to-peer Mentoring*; b) *Curriculum Development* (What to Teach); and c) *Faculty Development* (How to Teach).

### DEEP's Roadmap for participating countries



### Stakeholders

Main contributing nations, in terms of both expertise and financial assistance, include the U.S., Romania, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Canada, Italy, Latvia, and Switzerland.

## **Programme**

The initial programme development took place throughout 2009 with the intent to assist in the reorientation of the Moldovan Professional Military Education (PME) system to a modern approach. Special attention was initially given to the Basic Course (4-year pre-commissioning) and Master's Course (command and staff). However, the Moldovan Military Academy (MMA) has made exceptional progress in implementing the full range of officer PME. They have successfully executed new curricula across all of their programs and continue to refine curricula as well as create new courses. DEEP's work in Moldova evolved into other institutions and expanded into other areas of support.

DEEP Moldova's main achievements can be summarized in the areas of:

1. *Basic Course* – with a transformed Basic Course graduating its first class in June 2015
2. *Master's Course* – its second class graduated in December 2014
3. *Advanced Postgraduate Course in Security and National Defence* – for civilian and military members of the national security establishment, with a second iteration initiated January 2015
4. *PhD Programme* – first class started November 2014. New legislation required that all faculty teaching master's or higher level courses must have a PhD.
5. *Leadership Postgraduate Course at Strategic and Operational Level*: initiated January 2015 and designed for Colonels, the aim is to prepare senior officers to conduct military operations, manage large units, and prepare for senior level staff officer positions.
6. *Establishment of a Continuous Training Center (CTC)*: The CTC, a sub-element of the MMA, is responsible for NCO education, ADL, and Peacekeeping Operations (with its first PTEC-certified UN Peace Support Course to start in 2015).

## **Towards Declaring Capacity**

DEEP made a significant impact on the Moldovan MMA. The MMA adopted PME academic structures, incorporated modern subject matter, and adopted modern teaching methods with an emphasis on critical thinking. This transformation has been so substantial that Moldova is expected to be the first DEEP programme to declare capacity. In this context, capacity is not synonymous with self-sufficiency. PME institutions must continuously adapt to the changing security challenges and new requirements for military operations. Therefore, declaring capacity entails transitioning to a post-DEEP phase based on the principles of sustainability and connectivity. Continued funding and coordination, albeit at a reduced level, is critical to the ongoing success of the partner's PME enterprise.

Moldova will remain linked to the NATO PME network through an array of activities. Moldova has already made a sort of transition from a student of the DEEP process to a teacher, and its experience will be of great benefit to other DEEP partners and their national PME institutions.