BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMME (BIP) – MILITARY CLOSE COMBAT COURSE

organized by the Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik, Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia

January 18 - 22, 2027

INTRODUCTION

The Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik is pleased to host the Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) – **Military Close Combat Course**, combining virtual learning and physical mobility. The course focuses on developing practical close combat skills required in modern military operations. Training emphasizes unarmed combat, ground fighting, knife defence and offense, combat with short and long weapons and realistic combat scenarios under stress conditions.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Military Close Combat Course is an international one-week intensive training course designed for cadets from military educational institutions. Course participants are required to have already learnt the basics of combative fighting, which they will be able to further develop during the course, in particular competence in basic striking, kicking and blocking techniques. Participants should be in excellent physical fitness and able to safely complete intensive physical training under stressful conditions.

- ⇒ **Military educational institutions can send 2 participants**. Observers are also welcomed.
- ⇒ There is a limited capacity of a maximum of 20 participants so registrations will be dealt with on **first come first serve basis.**
- ⇒ Participants are encouraged to bring their country flags
- ⇒ **NO ENTRY FEE.**

The activity will be organized as a ***Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)*** and will award **3 ECTS credits**. **(BIP ID - 2026-1-SK01-KA131-HED-000413886-2)**

Mandatory Online Component of the BIP (December 7-18, 2027)

As part of the Blended Intensive Programme (BIP), all participants are required to complete the mandatory online component of the **Military Close Combat Course 2027** before the physical mobility.

Participants will receive access to the MS Teams – Google Forms, where they will have access to study materials, instructional videos, and assessments.

The online component will include:

- ⇒ **Course introduction** – presentation of course objectives, programme, organization, and completion requirements;
- ⇒ **Safety training** – safety procedures for military close combat, handling training weapons, and movement in mountainous terrain under winter conditions;
- ⇒ **Theoretical fundamentals of unarmed combat** – combat stance, movement, strikes, kicks, defensive techniques, falls, throws, and ground fighting;
- ⇒ **Theoretical fundamentals of armed combat** – basic principles of close combat involving knives, handguns, and rifles;
- ⇒ **Mandatory physical and technical entry assessment** – participants must record a video demonstrating prescribed exercises and submit it via MS Teams. Successful completion is a prerequisite for participation in the physical component,
- ⇒ **Final knowledge assessment** – an online test covering the theoretical topics and safety procedures.

Detailed information regarding the MS Teams – Google Forms access, video submission requirements, and assessment criteria will be provided after registration.
The successful completion of both the online and the physical components is required for the award of 3 ECTS credits.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

- ⇒ Accommodation and meals will be provided to al cadets free of charge. Participants will be accommodated at the AFA facilities.

- ⇒ Observers are recommended to book their stay at the nearby B&B or hotels – financial costs are up to sending organization. They can pre-order lunches at the Academy Mess Hall for about 6,00 EUR per lunch. Meal Order Form will be sent to observers about 2 weeks before the activity. Payments will then be collected on Monday in CASH. It is not possible to change the order during the week of the activity! *(Note: If this option does not suit the observers, the POC can recommend nearby restaurants.)*

TRANSPORTATION

Participating institutions are responsible for international travel expenses to and from Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia. Armed Forces Academy will provide local transport according to the schedule of the programme.

- ⇒ **ARRIVAL** – participants are expected to arrive on Sunday **17th January 2027**
- ⇒ **DEPARTURE** – is scheduled on Saturday, **23rd January 2027**

Plane – participants are recommended to choose to fly to / from the airports in Vienna or Bratislava, in the morning, in which case the AFA will arrange transport (1 bus) from airport to Liptovský Mikuláš and back. The pick-up time will be determined based on the arrival and departure details provided in the Registration Form. *Note: the journey from the airport to Liptovský Mikuláš takes 3-5 hours depending on the airport they are flying in to.*

Public transport - we highly recommend the arrival at the airport in the MORNING whether you fly to, Bratislava, Vienna, Poprad or Košice, and continue the trip to Liptovský Mikuláš from there by either hiring a car at the airport or taking public transport.

- ⇒ *Košice airport* – take a taxi or bus No 23 (costs about 1-2 EUR) from Košice airport to Košice – hlavná stanica (main train station) and from there take a train to Liptovský Mikuláš which costs approximately 20 – 25 EUR.

- ⇒ *Bratislava airport* – there is a direct bus No 61 going from Bratislava airport to the Bratislava – hlavná stanica (main train station) about a 30-minute trip. It will cost about 1,50 -2,00 EUR. Then there is a train to Liptovský Mikuláš which leaves approx. every hour and costs up to 20 EUR.

- ⇒ *Vienna airport* – Slovak Lines company operates buses going directly from Vienna airport to Bratislava main train station – a trip takes 50 minutes – and from there you can again take the train 3:40 – 4 hours.

- ⇒ *Poprad airport* – take a taxi or bus No 804 (costs up to 5 EUR) from Poprad airport to Poprad – autobusová stanica (bus station), which is next to Poprad-Tatry train station and from there take a train to Liptovský Mikuláš which costs approximately 20 EUR.

Car - Participants are requested to make their own travel arrangements to and from Liptovský Mikuláš. Please remember to specify details about the car **AND** driver in the Registration Form.

DRESS CODE

Please see attached Equipment requirements annex and Programme annex of the activity.
Farewell dinner at bowling restaurant*:* Smart civilian clothes

REGISTRATION

The Registration Form can be downloaded at https://weblm.aos.sk/en/article/erasmus-bip-military-close-combat-course or at the **EMILYO website.** Please send the filled in registration form to the POC – Ms. Martina HYKLOVÁ at the e-mail address: international@aos.sk

Deadline for registration is November 30, 2026.

HEALTH

Insurance – Insurance is the responsibility of the sending country.
Participants should be in excellent physical fitness and able to safely complete intensive physical training under stressful conditions.
They should have a valid medical certificate for military training.
All participants are kindly requested to possess valid medical insurance. Participants from EU member states are encouraged to bring their European Health Insurance Card.

POC

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USEFUL LINK

- https://weblm.aos.sk/en/article/erasmus-bip-military-close-combat-course information about the course (Invitation, Registration Form, Admin details, Equipment requirements)
- https://www.emilyo.eu/mobility-offers-multiplier-events