

## **“HENRI COANDĂ” AIR FORCE ACADEMY PRESENT AND FUTURE**

Knowledge and quality education constitute the foundation which the future society is being built on, one of the criteria specific to the progress of humanity as well as the force that empowers people to meet daily requirements emanating from social, cultural, economic and technological challenges.

Promoting high educational standards within a military academy depends greatly on the accomplishment of the selection process of students admitted into the military university-levelled institution, and mainly on the quality of professors, instructors or other categories of personnel participating in the educational activities performed inside the institution.

Aligning the educational component of the Air Force Academy with the requirements and standards of the European Union and the NATO stems from the idea that the quadrangle – education, the military academic institution, curricula and the direct beneficiaries of education – must generate attractiveness, competitiveness, performance and proactive finality, according to the real needs expressed by beneficiaries and according to the allies’ expectations.

At this moment, “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy is a military university-levelled institution, part of the national educational system, which functions based on the provisions of the laws specific to its fields of activity and which respects and promotes the European conventions and the European Union recommendations with regard to the status of university-levelled institutions.

The fundamental objective of the teaching activities within “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy, institution accredited in accordance with the Government Decision no. 410/25.04.2002, is to form licentiate officers of ‘Military Science and Information’, the specialty of “Organization Management”, in case of students for both daily and low frequency attendance, belonging to the Air Force and other internal beneficiaries. Another important objective is to continue implementing the standards, procedures, training and evaluating technologies of the partner armies of the Alliance and to outrun, via curricula, the changes and transformations that take place at the level of operational structures of the Air Force.

The educational plans, approved by entitled echelons, are valid for the series of students currently in training and consist of fundamental disciplines, specialty disciplines - for the specializations: “Jet engine pilot”, “Helicopter pilot”, “Operational air traffic controller”, “Artillery and surface-to-air missiles”, “Artillery and anti- aircraft missiles”, which last for three years (180 transferable credits) – and complementary disciplines, classified into compulsory, optional and facultative, in accordance with the normative provisions established at national level.

The study disciplines and the educational contents facilitate the rational-pragmatic relationship of the categories to be trained and they correspond to the profile and specializations of the future officers. Both the study disciplines and the educational contents follow a logical sequence and they aim at defining and precisely delimiting the general competences and the specialty ones, their compatibility with the study area and the specialization for university-levelled studies, as well as for the needs and priorities of forming officers in specific military specialties.

The university teaching positions are legally constituted and are entirely occupied by university teaching staff, among whom, 45.5% are senior lecturers and professors. The dynamics of the school tutored students is increasing and the Academy’s leaders are preoccupied with promoting the institution’s image and also with motivating its students.

The Academy is equipped with adequate study and research facilities, which correspond to both the study area and the specialization for university-leveled education, it has accommodation buildings for students and other course-attendants, and also social, cultural and sports activities facilities.

The main perspective objective in forming the future graduate differs from previous objectives because within the university-leveled studies students will be provided with solid scientific knowledge for the purpose of reaching the level of knowledge necessary for continuing their education through master’s studies, as well as acquiring competences and practical aptitudes required by beneficiaries and considered to be necessary and sufficient for occupying the first position as officers.

Wishing to ensure progress and institutional stability, one of the major concerns of the academic management is to enlarge the educational offer, both for the Romanian and the foreign military environment and for the national civilian environment. In this respect, our institution intends to obtain the provisional functioning authorization and, later on, the accreditation for two new specializations:

- For the pilot-graduates – specialization in “Aeronautical management”;
- For the non-flying graduates and radiolocation graduates – specialization in “Air traffic management”, both for military graduates and civilian graduates coming from the “Aviation School” of Băneasa.

With the hope of a successful collaboration with the above mentioned School, and with other civilian partners, our Academy intends to create at least one faculty, as a basic structure of any University or Academy, or even two faculties, one of military profile and the other one civilian.

Another priority objective for the institution functionality is the organization of master’s degree studies, within the Academy, for two-year series, in the specialty “Air Space Management”, taking into consideration the fact that the Academy continues its personnel recruiting and promoting of teaching staff with university titles such as senior lecturers and professors, able to supervise master’s degree studies.

From the same educational perspective, it is our institution’s intention that, by the year of 2010, a series of e-learning training systems be adopted, as modern techniques of extending the organization and development of the educational process and, furthermore, by 2010, our institution considers to authorize the “Scientific Research Center” for the specialty “Organization Management”. Seeking a better and better selection during the entrance examinations, our intention is to actively promote the image of “Henri Coandă” Air Force Academy and to provide improved study conditions and professional formation to all people studying here.

Throughout this discourse, two concepts have been mentioned: the continuous study and the permanent adjustment, with a determinative relationship between them, the former being the cause, while the latter representing the effect. Only by a continuous preparation can we permanently adapt to the requirements and exigencies of the national and European university-leveled education. Performance, yet, asks for more, from our point of view, since if the period of adjustment is long, then, the cleavage between what is required and what is offered will automatically increase, too. We believe that reaching and maintaining the required performance level can only be accomplished by a sustained activity, to which all members of the academic community contribute, through a continuous training of the teaching staff, and together with corresponding activities, able to shorten the adjustment time and the assimilation and, implicitly, the entire adjustment process. Nevertheless, concepts must be applied into practice, together with the people and for the benefit of people!

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