



Brussels, 2 June 2020

**Fact Sheet**  
**Pandemic/Post-Pandemic Resumption of the**  
**NATO Defence Education Enhancement Program (DEEP)**

**Introduction:** It is likely within the next several weeks/months that a post-pandemic gradual resumption of the NATO DEEP program will be authorized by NATO Headquarters, individual providers, and partner nations. In addition, some traditional NATO DEEP events (e.g., curriculum and faculty development workshops, annual reviews, etc.) can be executed during the ongoing pandemic period even while travel restrictions remain in place. This Fact Sheet is intended to provide all program managers, academic leads, and other providers guidance to ensure that NATO DEEP is able to begin delivering workshops, annual reviews, and drafting documents in the most efficient and effective manner in compliance with health restrictions necessary to ensure the safety of all NATO DEEP-associated personnel. The guidance will in part be premised with the recognition that conditions for NATO DEEP support will have to adjust to the new reality of a need to enhance distance/on-line learning and virtual meeting/workshop capacity for partner nations. This does not mean that travel for NATO DEEP events will end, only that virtual engagement should be employed whenever travel is not available and not wait a prolonged time for travel restrictions to be lifted.

**Discussion:** It is probable that much of the following will take place in a graduated manner rather than all at once (e.g., provider nations might permit its citizens to travel outside of its borders but the partner nation might still require a 14-day quarantine upon arrival or a provider nation will not yet allow its personnel to travel outside its borders while a partner nation would be willing to accept them to travel to their location, etc.)

1. Conditions Necessary to be Present to Allow the Resumption of NATO DEEP Activities Requiring Travel:

- A. NATO Headquarters must authorize program resumption, to include the allocation of funding and travel of NATO DEEP-associated personnel to both provider and partner countries.
- B. Based upon direction from the George C. Marshall Center leadership, the Partnership for Peace Consortium (PfPC) must authorize program resumption for the NATO DEEP events they will fund and support.
- C. NATO DEEP provider and partner nations (governments and individual expert schools) must authorize their citizens to be able to travel outside of their nation's borders and not require a quarantine period either upon entry or return. In some cases, there may also be a requirement for the provider nations to be able to host partner nation visits within their borders and not require a quarantine period upon entry.

- D. NATO DEEP-supported partner nations would be able to host NATO DEEP provider expert visits within their borders and not require a quarantine period upon entry. In some cases, the partners must authorize their citizens to be able to travel outside of their nation's borders and not require a quarantine period either upon return.
2. Pandemic/Post-Pandemic Restriction Event Planning: Can begin during the pandemic period if the partner nation and school have the capacity to participate in virtual events. Would begin during the post-pandemic period once any related travel/event execution restrictions described in 1. A-D above are lifted.
- A. Working in close cooperation with the relative NATO International Staff (IS) and PfPC Program Managers, Academic Co-Leads can begin the detailed planning necessary to resume program execution.
  - B. Would include communications with the partner school/Allied embassies/NATO Liaison Offices as required to determine their ability/willingness to receive/support events and/or travel outside of the partner country if required by the NATO DEEP program support plan.
3. Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL)/Distance Learning Emphasis: NATO DEEP provider and partner nation that have the capacity have adopted distance learning as a significant if not the primary education tool during the recent pandemic period. This emphasis on distance vice residential learning is new to some of these countries/schools; there also seems to be wide agreement that distance learning will have significant increased emphasis in the future for all related defence education institutions, to include in a pandemic/post-pandemic period. The result for the NATO DEEP program is a requirement to maximize efforts in support of expanded partner ADL/distance learning. Here are some resources to support these new/expanded efforts:
- A. NATO DEEP has an ADL Coordinator - Dr Piotr Gawliczek, Polish University of Warmia and Mazury ([pgawliczek@gmail.com](mailto:pgawliczek@gmail.com)) and the PFPC has a multinational ADL/Distance Learning Working Group composed of academic E-learning experts. Co-Chairs for this group are Dr Greta Keremidchieva, Bulgarian National Defense College ([gkeremidchieva@yahoo.com](mailto:gkeremidchieva@yahoo.com)) and Mr. Paul Thurkettle, NATO ACT ([Paul.Thurkettle@act.nato.int](mailto:Paul.Thurkettle@act.nato.int)). Please contact them for detailed questions/support on ADL/distance learning issues.
  - B. NATO DEEP Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) Portal (<https://deepportal.hq.nato.int/>) is a platform to exchange knowledge and generate ideas related to distance learning, and the popularization/promotion/dissemination of ideas. The DEEP ADL Portal is intended to be a comprehensive solution that does not only allow deeper cooperation within the programme, but also influences its popularization/dissemination and thus increase the reach of the programme. At the same time, it creates a compendium of expertise in the use and/or implementation of new technologies for distance learning on-line education and training. Recently, the Portal has been expanded with video conferencing functionality to enable direct interaction between instructor and students. Please address NATO DEEP ADL Coordinator - Dr Piotr Gawliczek, ([pgawliczek@gmail.com](mailto:pgawliczek@gmail.com)) for further guidance.
  - C. NATO DEEP will also be supporting the creation of a new Distance Learning Faculty Development Reference Curriculum to be developed by a multinational DEEP faculty development expert team. This reference curriculum will be designed to inform academics how to draft and teach curricula specifically designed for on-line distance learning.

- D. ADL/Distance Learning will take on much greater significance at the annual NATO Defence Education Clearing House.
  - E. NATO DEEP is considering the conduct of a conference to bring together and publish provider and partner defence education school lessons learned/best practices that were derived from transforming residential learning systems to distance learning systems during the pandemic period.
4. Workshop Execution Options: Wherever necessary, NATO DEEP events (e.g., curriculum development, faculty development, administration and management support, annual reviews, etc.) should be conducted utilizing virtual platforms:
- A. In-Person Resident Events: As NATO DEEP has done in the past with the execution of multiday workshops. Would typically take place at the partner school location or, on occasion, at the location of the NATO DEEP academic expert provider school.
  - B. New Virtual Workshop Options: There is potential for a relatively slow graduated opening of travel options and/or the possibility that the partner nation/school will still not be permitting resident classroom instruction and/or allowing the faculty to physically work within the school facility. Given the presence of those conditions, maximum consideration should be given to conducting support events through a virtual platform. Examples to consider:
    - 1) Curriculum Development/Faculty Development/Administration and Management Support workshops
    - 2) Annual NATO DEEP Program Reviews
    - 3) Faculty Development or NCO Expert Group Meeting
    - 4) NATO DEEP Working Group Expert Meetings (e.g., Educator Faculty Development Group, Reference Curriculum Development Team, NCO Development Group, etc.).
  - C. Virtual Platform Tools and Training Available:
    - 1) NATO DEEP BigBlueButton at <https://deepportal.edu.pl>: This should be the primary NATO DEEP virtual platform. Training for NATO DEEP academic leads and expert utilization can be arranged through the NATO International Staff Program Managers.

**Way Ahead**: This is an iterative document that is likely to require adjustment as the pandemic/post-pandemic period evolves. Request that all NATO DEEP program personnel please use this Fact Sheet as a source document for NATO DEEP program resumption and submit any questions to your Program Manager.