



Romanian Naval Academy
"Mircea cel Bătrân"

INTERNATIONALIZATION

Catalogue

2024 - 2025



Funded by
the European Union

CONSTANȚA



CONTACT

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Regarding *the enhancement of regional and international cooperation*, the Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Bătrân” has established bilateral cooperation partnerships in the fields of education, training, and scientific research with over 50 similar universities from both the military and civilian areas and with over 60 companies in maritime professional field providing an extensive portfolio for cadetship for civilian merchant marine students. These partnerships span across the European Union, the Balkans, Southeast Asia, and North America.

Beyond these inter-institutional agreements, the Naval Academy has expanded its cooperation imperative by integrating as an active member in relevant regional and international organizations, associations, and forums within the maritime and naval academic field (IAMU – International Association of Maritime Universities, BSAMI – Black Sea Association of Maritime Institutions), as well as in military education and training (ENASC – European Naval Academies’ Superintendents Conference, iMAF – International Military Academic Forum, EUMACS – European Union Military Academies Commandants’ Seminar, EMILYO – European Initiative for the Exchange of Young Officers).

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE ROMANIAN NAVAL ACADEMY



EXCHANGE PROGRAMS UNDER THE *ERASMUS+* FRAMEWORK

Regarding *international academic mobility program under the Erasmus+ program*, the Romanian Naval Academy has continuously expanded and diversified its range of mobility opportunities in recent years, offering placements for students (studies, internships, and training) as well as for faculty members, instructors, and experts (teaching and training). During the past years, under the Erasmus+ program, the Naval Academy ranked as a top university in the Southeastern region of Romania in terms of total funding accessed for mobility programs and among the top institutions on national level in terms of funding allocated per student.

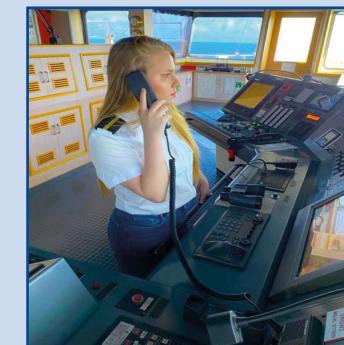
Currently, the Academy has bilateral institutional partnerships with universities from Europe (e.g. Bulgaria, Poland, Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Lithuania, Latvia, Greece, Norway, Finland, Turkey, Croatia, Slovakia, Hungary, Portugal, Belgium) as well as from Erasmus+ partner countries (e.g. Albania, Montenegro, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and the United States).

As average numbers, the Academy counts regulary 90 outgoing students per year and 60 incoming students per year only for study placements, with an additional over 100 outgoing and incoming cadets for training or common modules attendance.

INTERNSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAMS UNDER THE *ERASMUS+* FRAMEWORK

As part of the mobility programs carried out, over 250 ANMB students per year have had access to English-taught courses in the naval field (navigation

and maritime transport, naval electromechanics and electrical engineering, naval and port logistics), organized by partner universities, or have completed cadetship placements in their field of expertise, implicitly benefiting from the development of transversal competencies in a multicultural and international environment, which enhances their superior integration into the labour market, to the benefit of the economic sector or the Naval Forces. For internship placements, the Romanian Naval Academy has enclosed over 50 training agreements with specialized companies in Europe, facilitating the internship of more than 150 students annually aboard European flag vessels, to fulfilling their cadetship requirements.



EMILYO mobilities (European Initiative for the Exchange of Young Officers)



15.04.2025
ROMANIA

The Romanian Naval Academy records more than 80 cadets participating yearly in outgoing international mobilities at European partners in a wide portfolio of training modules, organized under EMILYO program, as follow:

Leadership, Communication, Cybersecurity, Training on Simulators, Common Security and Defence Policy, Meteorology, Seamanship, Robotics, English language, Winter Training, or International week.



18.03.2025
ROMANIA



14.04.2025
ITALY



28.02.2025
GREECE



28.09.2024
LATVIA



19.12.2024
NETHERLANDS



21.03.2025
SPAIN



22.05.2024
GREECE

In addition to the study semesters within the Erasmus+ program, training modules : Naval tactics, Navigation training modules, Training on simulators, English terminology, Physical Training, METOC, Seamanship practice modules.



04.11.2024
POLAND



30.06.2023
ROMANIA

International Naval Semester (NAVY-INS-Tech)

The NAVY-INS-Tech project, coordinated by the Romanian Naval Academy between October 2023 and September 2025, successfully came to an end after almost two years of international collaboration. Designed under the Erasmus+ KA220-HED program, the initiative aimed to harmonize the curricula of European naval education by implementing a common naval semester composed of twelve modules. Eight modules were developed in the STEM field, including subjects such as *Naval Architecture*, *Oceanography*, *Cyber Threats*, and *Naval Electronics*, while four modules focused on the socio-humanistic area, such as *Leadership*, *Maritime Security*, *Gender Perspectives*, and *the Common Security and Defence Policy*.

Throughout its implementation, the project created valuable opportunities for mobility, enabling 64 students from partner institutions in Poland, Bulgaria, and Italy to participate in blended learning activities. These included both theoretical and practical components, with courses taught jointly by instructors from the partner naval academies. The Romanian Naval Academy hosted multiple training sessions where international students engaged in hands-on activities using advanced simulation technologies such as the NETPRO 5500 navigation simulator, the NTPRO 6000 integrated simulator, and the firing simulator. At the Palazu Mare training section, cadets took part in seamanship exercises and water sports, enhancing their professional readiness in realistic scenarios.

The project also provided students with direct exposure to naval operations and traditions. During their visits to Constanța, participants had the opportunity to tour the facilities of the Romanian Naval Academy, board the frigate 222 Regina Maria, and sail on the training ship Mircea. These experiences enriched their cultural and professional understanding, while also strengthening bonds among future officers of European navies. By the end of the project, NAVY-INS-Tech had not only advanced naval education through the integration of intelligent technologies and innovative tools but also reinforced the Romanian Naval Academy's role as a hub of international naval cooperation and excellence.



**TRAINING SHIP “MIRCEA” : THE HONORARY
AMBASSADOR OF ROMANIA**



Over 20 cadets regularly participate during each year in training voyages for summer training at sea, aboard the Training Ship “Mircea” together with Romanian students, the example of the past joint voyages organized in 2017 and 2018 in partnership with the German Naval Academy being particularly noteworthy (i.e. during these voyages, over 300 German students trained alongside the Romanian Naval Academy’s personnel).

**INTERNATIONAL VISITS AND BILATERAL
RELATIONS**



A diverse range of international protocolar activities has been systematically planned through the International Relations Plan or through the Bilateral Cooperation Plan. Moreover the Romanian Naval Academy has welcomed numerous visits from foreign ships carrying cadets on board.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AND EU DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



*MENTORESS: Maritime Education
Network to Orient and Retain Women
for Efficient Seagoing Services*



*A Joint opened window to the universe
mysteries*



*POCU: Let's better protect our future!
CYBERSECURITY ADVANCED*



POCU: INNOVATIVE PRACTICES



*SEA MENTORS: SEAfarrers Experiential
Knowledge Based Mentors*



*SeaSAFERS: Simulation of Sea
Accidents For
Effective Responses*



*FAST: Innovative assessments tools and
practices for formal education processes for Defense and Public Order
Educational Sector – enhanced digital and online methods and
technologies*



*MARS-NET: Maritime Simulators and Training
Facilities Network for Enhancing the Exchange of Good
Practices and
Digital Learning*



*LUE4SEAS: Strategic partnership for
supporting Blue Growth by enhancing Maritime Higher Education
maritime cooperation framework on marine pollution and
environment protection field*



*MARINTECH: Romanian – Norwegian Strategic
Cooperation in Maritime Higher Education for enhancement human
capital and knowledge base in field of maritime intelligent
technologies*



*HEALTHY SAILING: Prevention, mitigation,
management of infectious diseases on cruise ships and
passenger ferries*



*MAR-LANG: Linguistic diversity in European Maritime
Higher Education Institutions*

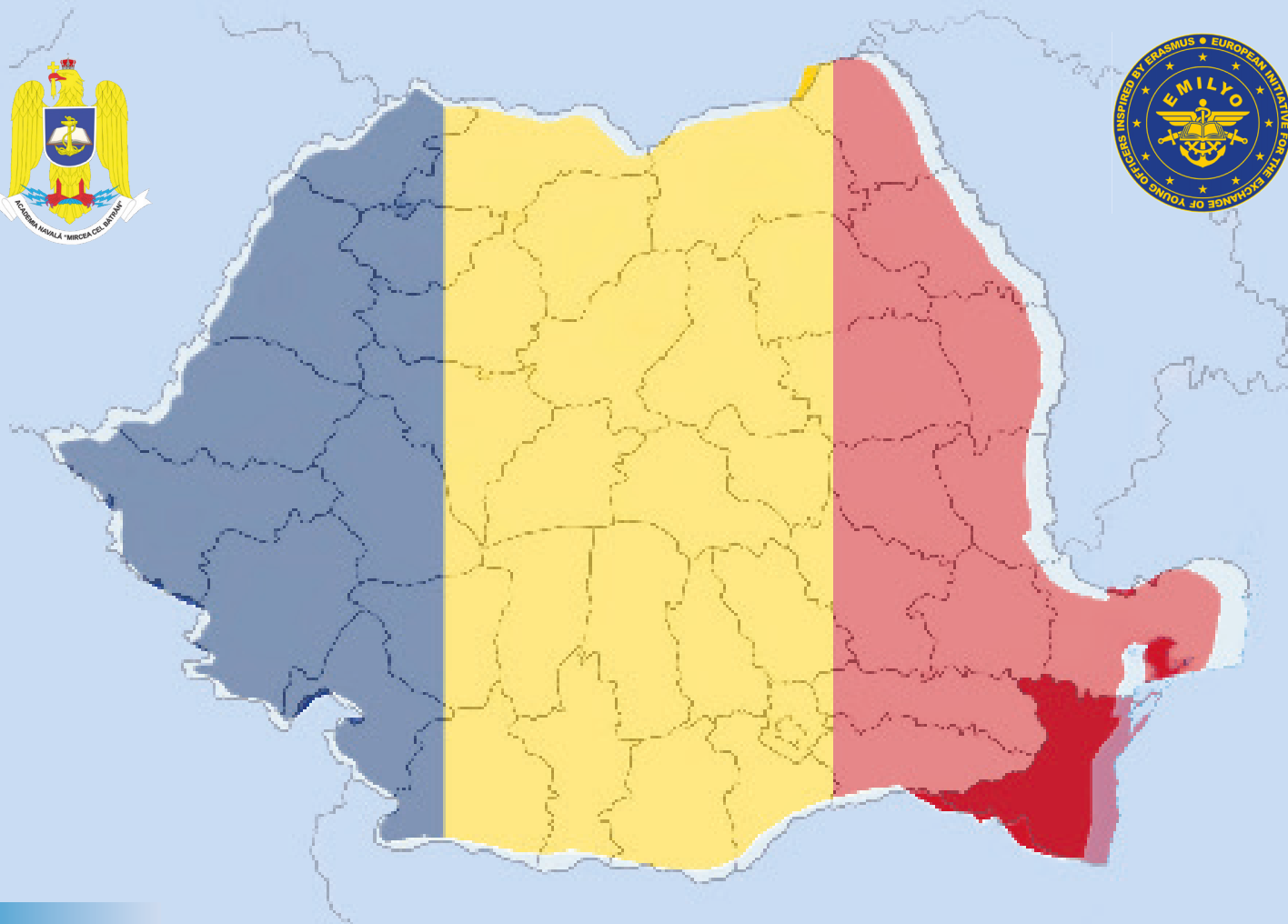


*CUL-MAR-Skills: Maritime Soft Skills for Onboard Healthy
Nutrition and Culinary Arts in Seagoing Services*



*NAVY-INS-Tech: International Naval
Semester Development Applying the Intelligent Technologies and
the Innovative Tools in the European Navy Defense System*

MOBILITIES AROUND THE WORLD EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES STUDENTS' TESTIMONIALS



Funded by
the European Union



Name: Amateesei Denisia, Miholca Constantin, Hoțu Valentin, Ibaneșteanu Eduard-Ionuț

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)

Type of mobility: Traineeship (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Latvian National Defense Academy, Riga, Latvia

Period: 28.09.2024 - 05.10.2024



LATVIA

Between September 28 and October 5 2024, we participated in the training module “Target Detection, Tracking, and Identification at Sea Basic Training Course,” held at the Naval Training Center in Liepaja and organized by the National Defense Academy of Latvia in Riga. Eight students participated in this course, including four students from NDA and four from ANMB, under the guidance of two Latvian instructors.

The module’s focus was the detection, identification, and plotting of targets within a designated area of responsibility using both active and passive sensors on ships.

On the first day, September 28, we arrived in Riga, where Latvian students welcomed us at the airport and trans-

ported us to a hotel where we stayed for one night. The following day, September 29, we had the opportunity to visit Riga’s old town, accompanied by a tour guide, before departing for Liepaja, where we stayed at the Naval Training Center.

From September 30 to October 4, we attended the training module. Classes were held from 08:00 to 16:00, with a lunch break from 11:40 to 12:30. During the first two days, we were presented with theoretical concepts and specialized materials that were highly useful for the learning process.

In the next two days, we were divided into groups of two students, one Romanian and one Latvian, and we applied everything we had learned practically, using the ship simulators at the center. We had to identify and report various naval and aerial targets to the instructor.

On Friday, October 4, we took both theoretical and practical tests and attended the course closing ceremony. We then traveled back to Riga and stayed at a hotel before returning to our home country on Saturday.

Throughout this course, we had plenty of free time to explore the surroundings and strengthen our bonds with the Latvian students. We participated in various outings and visits to the city, creating lasting memories and a strong connection, we would not hesitate to participate again.





Name: Bauer Mihaela, Blaj Eduard,
Hraniceru Cristian, Tănase Monica

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme:

Type of mobility: Traineeship -
NAVY-INS-Tech project
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Polish Naval Academy “Heroes
of Westerplatte”, Gdynia, Poland

Period: 14.10.2024 - 18.10.2024



POLAND

Between October 14 and 18, we participated in the STEM Harmonized Curriculum for Digital Skills and IT Technology Abilities modules, focusing on “Computer Networks and Maritime Cyber Threats”. These modules were part of the Navy- INS-Tech, “International Naval Semester” project, hosted by the Polish Naval Academy in Gdynia. The course brought together 12 students from three naval academies: us, 4 from the Italian Naval Academy from Livorno and 4 from the “Nikola Y. Vaptsarov” Naval Academy from Varna, Bulgaria.

The *Cyber Threats* module concentrated on identifying and mitigating cyber risks specific to the maritime sector. Meanwhile, the *Computer Networks* module introduced us to network infrastructure, emphasizing secure and resilient network design for naval operations.



We arrived in Gdańsk on October 13, where a Polish student greeted us at the airport and escorted us to the Naval Academy, familiarizing us with the campus and accommodations. The following day, October 14, we started our coursework, with classes scheduled from 08:00 to 13:00, followed by lunch and free time for exploring the surrounding areas of Gdynia.

Over the first two days, we delved into theoretical concepts and engaged with specialized materials that laid the foundation for our practical learning. From October 16 to 18, we worked in pairs, applying the principles we had studied. In the Cyber Threats module, we learned practical techniques for recognizing common cyber-attacks, securing passwords and sensitive data, and identifying phishing attempts and suspicious links. These hands-on sessions provided an invaluable understanding of real-world cyber defenses.

On October 18, we attended our final session, followed by a closing ceremony, that also marked an opportunity to explore Gdynia and absorb its rich culture, a fitting end to a memorable and insightful week focused on advancing our knowledge in digital and cybersecurity skills tailored for the maritime industry.

Name: Dobrotă Bogdan, Iancu Estera
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
 “Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: Erasmus+
Type of mobility: BIP Module
Host Institution: Romanian Naval Academy
 “Mircea cel Batran”, Constanța, Romania
Period: 04.11.2024 - 08.11.2024

During this Erasmus+ short-term mobility module, I had the honor to represent my institution alongside fellow participants from Poland, Latvia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova. The course, titled “NATO English. Functional Key Concepts,” was a unique opportunity to deepen our understanding of NATO’s structure, policies, and specific terminology.

Over the span of several days, we engaged in a variety of interactive theoretical and practical sessions. The curriculum included discussions on NATO’s organizational framework, operational concepts, and communication protocols. Through the expertise of our coordinators and trainers, we were able to grasp the importance of precision and clarity in NATO-related contexts, and English language skills in a specialized domain.

The fourth day of the module offered us a mix of academic and cultural experiences. After the course concluded, we enjoyed a recreational visit at the Marine Training and

Water Sports Center in Palazu Mare, where we had the chance to relax and build bonds with our peers. On the last day, we explored the Constanța Military Port, where we visited two iconic vessels: the training ship Mircea cel Bătrân and the frigate Regina Maria.

This mobility was not only an academic success but also a memorable cultural exchange. The interactions with students from different countries fostered meaningful relationships and highlighted the value of international collaboration. Additionally, the dedication and support of our module coordinators greatly enhanced the learning experience, making it both productive and enjoyable.

We left the program with a wealth of knowledge, invaluable connections, and memories that we will cherish for years to come.



ROMANIA



Name: Oprea Vicențiu Evelin, Chiriac Maria Denisa

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)

Type of mobility: Traineeship
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Escuela Naval Militar,
Marin, Spain

Period: 10.11.2024 – 17.11.2024

Between November 10 and November 17, we participated in the training module “International Training Week” held at the Escuela Naval Militar of Spain in Marin, Pontevedra. Twelve students took part to this training week including, us, two students from the Naval Academy of Latvia, two students from the Naval Academy of Italy, two students from the Naval Academy of Bulgaria, four students from the Military Technical Academy from Poland, together with the Spanish students of the Naval Academy of Spain.

The main objective of this week was to familiarize the foreign students with the methods of instructions and sports activities in the Naval Academy of Spain.

From November 11 to November 12, we were deployed onboard the training ships Lanchas where we witnessed various exercises as: man overboard, preparing to tow and be towed at sea, the exchange of goods and fuel between ships at sea and different movement for-

mations of ships at sea. Onboard the ships, we had the opportunity to participate and understand the responsibilities associated with each year of study involved in this activity.

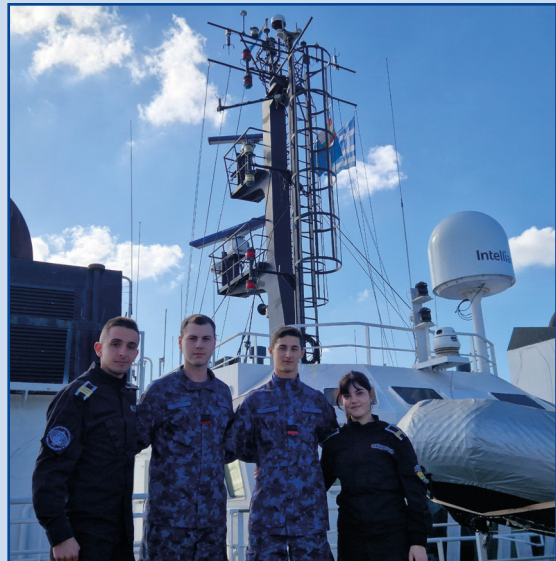
Between November 13 and November 15, we had different activities of team games made up of both Spanish student and students from the other countries, obstacle course, diving in the training pool, shooting with pistol and rifle.

On the last day, November 16 we had to leave by bus at 5:30 AM towards Baiona, where, upon arrival, we were embarked on various types of sailing ships. There we had the opportunity to take the ship’s helm with the aim of safely returning to the Spanish Naval Academy’s port.

Throughout the course, we had free time to explore the city and engage with the other students no matter their nationality, establishing long lasting memories and close bonds.



SPAIN



Between November 6th and 19th 2024, my colleague and I had the unique opportunity to participate in an onboard training module on the BGS 421 “Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii,” a scientific research vessel operated by Bulgaria’s “Nikola Y. Vaptsarov” Naval Academy. This experience offered invaluable insights into the operation and coordination of a naval crew, ensuring the vessel’s safe and efficient navigation.

The BGS 421 is a state-of-the-art research vessel specifically designed for extreme Antarctic conditions. It serves as the primary platform for practical training for cadets of the “Nikola Y. Vaptsarov” Naval Academy. The ship’s primary mission during this expedition was to deliver equipment and conduct scientific research at a Bulgarian Antarctic base.

The mission brought together 20 cadets from the Bulgarian Naval Academy and two cadets from Romania, alongside the ship’s experienced crew. The crew was dedicated to mentoring us, ensuring we gained practical skills and knowledge during the voyage.

The journey began on November 6th when we arrived at

the Bulgarian Naval Academy in Varna. On November 7th, a ceremonial departure marked the start of our voyage, with cadets saluting those onshore as the vessel left Varna’s port.

Between November 7th and 15th, we navigated towards our destination—Cartagena, Spain. During this period, we participated in watchkeeping duties alongside the Bulgarian cadets, gaining hands-on experience with navigation systems, weather forecasting, radar operation, and chart plotting. These activities enhanced our understanding of ship maneuvers and provided exposure to advanced maritime equipment.

The highlight of the training for me was observing the docking procedures in Cartagena. From the bridge, I witnessed the coordinated efforts of the crew and the pilot brought onboard to guide the vessel safely into the port.

After eight days at sea, we disembarked in Cartagena on November 15th to allow the crew to continue their journey towards Antarctica.

On November 18th, our mission concluded as we returned to Varna aboard a Bulgarian military aircraft.



Name: Olaru Ștefan, Țîmpu Valentin
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: Erasmus+
Type of mobility: Onboard Traineeship (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: Bulgarian Naval Academy “Nikola Y. Vaptsarov”, Varna Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii
Period: 06.11.2024 – 19.11.2024



Name: Petrea Ramona, Drăghici Paula, Damaschin Matteo, Sandu George
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: Erasmus+
Type of mobility: Traineeship - NAVY-INS-Tech project (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: Italian Naval Academy, Livorno, Italy
Period: 18.11.2024 - 02.12.2024

The Erasmus+ programme has brought us, students of the Romanian Naval Academy, together in an enriching international exchange at the prestigious Italian Naval Academy in Livorno. Alongside my colleagues Drăghici Paula, Damaschin Matteo, and Sandu George, I had the privilege to take part in this exceptional academic and cultural experience.

This two-week mission, spanning from 18 November to 2 December, was a significant learning activity, planned within the joint project by our academy, Navy-Ins-Tech, in collaboration with the partner naval academies from Bulgaria, Italy and Poland. The project, consisting of a shared harmonized semester structured into 12 modules, aims to foster academic cooperation, knowledge exchange, and professional development among future naval officers. During our time in Livorno, we attended two key modules developed under Navy-Ins-Tech project:

- 1. Naval Sensors
- 2. Naval Power Plants

Both courses were designed to provide in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge essential for modern naval operations. The lectures were conducted entirely in English, offering us a valuable opportunity to enhance our technical vocabulary and communication skills.

What made this experience even more special was the chance to study alongside cadets from Bulgaria, Poland, and Italy. Being part of an international learning environment challenged us to adapt to different teaching methods and perspectives while encouraging collaboration and teamwork.

The Italian Naval Academy impressed us not only with its academic rigour, but also with its state-of-the-art facilities.

The professors were highly knowledgeable, and the interactive sessions allowed us to delve deep into topics such as sensor technologies and power plant mechanisms used in naval systems. Furthermore, we engaged in practical applications and case studies, strengthening our understanding of the concepts discussed in class.

Beyond the academic aspect, the Erasmus+ exchange provided us with a cultural immersion like no other. Livorno, a city steeped in maritime tradition, offered us a glimpse into Italy’s naval history and culture. We explored the academy’s surroundings, exchanged ideas with fellow cadets, and built friendships that will surely last beyond this mission.



Name: Diaconu Medina, Onete Robert
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)
Type of mobility: Social activity
Host Institution: Royal Netherlands Naval College,
Den Helder, Netherlands
Period: 08.12.2024 - 15.12.2024



From December 8th to 15th 2024, we took part in an extraordinary Erasmus+ exchange program hosted by the Royal Netherlands Naval College in Den Helder. This exchange provided us with a unique opportunity to experience Dutch naval training, explore cultural landmarks, and bond with fellow midshipmen.

We arrived in the Netherlands on December 8th, greet-



ed warmly at Schiphol Airport by our hosts, who transported us to Den Helder. The evening began with a dinner and an introduction to the program, where we had the pleasure of meeting the supervisors and learning about the exciting week ahead.

On December 9th, our day began with a ferry trip to Texel, where we toured the Boat Groups Marine Base



“Joost Dourlein Kazerne”. We also explored the HNLMS Johan de Wit via landing crafts (LCVPs). After a delicious lunch at the academy, we engaged in an adrenaline-filled afternoon of target practice at the shooting range.

The next day, December 10th, was a mix of formality and leisure. We attended a formal breakfast, followed by a gift exchange with the commander. A bus ride took us to Amsterdam, where we explored the Heineken Experience, enjoyed a scenic canal tour, and immersed ourselves in the vibrant Amsterdam nightlife.

December 11th was spent in Den Haag (The Hague), where we marveled at the art of the Mauritshuis Museum and took in the city’s historic charm. The day concluded with a group dinner before heading back to Den Helder. On December 12th, we visited the picturesque Zaanse Schans, learning about traditional Dutch mills, cheese farms, and clogs. After a delightful pancake lunch, we returned to prepare for the Assault’s first evening—a spectacular gala event filled with performances, celebrations, and bonding.



The highlight of December 13th was the Ship Handling Simulator, where we tested our navigation skills in realistic conditions. Afterward, we shared patches with our Dutch peers and attended the second evening of the Assault.

December 14th was bittersweet as we enjoyed the final gala night. After brunch and a sports session, we reflected on our experiences and prepared for our departure. Finally, on December 15th, we said our farewells and returned home with memories of a lifetime. The program allowed us to explore naval traditions, immerse ourselves in Dutch culture, and foster lifelong friendships.



NETHERLANDS



Name: Popa Iris, Bălan Alexandru
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
 “Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)
Type of mobility: Traineeship
 (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: Escuela Naval Militar,
 Marín, Spain
Period: 16.12.2024 - 19.12.2024

Between December 16–19, 2024, together with my colleague Midshipman IV year BĂLAN Alexandru, I participated in the “Common Security and Defence Policy” module, organized by the Spanish Naval Academy in Marín, Pontevedra.

The “Common Security and Defence Policy” (CSDP) module offered for the participants an in-depth understanding of the political and strategic principles and processes of the CSDP. The purpose of this module is to prepare officers and security experts to address the complex challenges of international security by promoting cooperation among EU member states and developing common solutions.

It included the following courses:

- Europeanisation of Officer Training: how to adopt unified procedures and strategies that reflect the values and commitments of the European Union, thus contributing to the creation of an effective defence force.
- EU Security Policy/Strategy: the evolution of the European Union’s security policy and strategy, with special

emphasis on its future.

- EU Maritime Security and Operations: examining strategies, operations, and challenges in the field of maritime security, preparing officers to respond effectively to security crises in international waters, including combating piracy and illegal trafficking.
- Horizontal Issues: the cross-cutting aspects of security policy, such as human rights, social inclusion, and gender equality.
- Evolution of CSDP: analyzing the development of the CSDP over time, this course included the progress made and the challenges encountered in the process of integrating a common defence policy within the EU.
- EU External Factors and EU Peacekeeping Operations



in Africa: analyzing conflict prevention strategies and the EU’s international interventions, with a particular focus on peacekeeping operations conducted in Africa.

- Women, Terrorism, and Its Impact on CSDP: the impact of terrorism on European security, particularly from a gender perspective; how women are involved in acts of terrorism, and the importance of an adapted and inclusive response.

An essential aspect of the EMILYO program is the promotion of collaboration between students from different parts of the world. Within the project, international student teams worked together to create presentations based on topics addressed in the courses: EU Security Policy, Horizontal Issues, and EU Peacekeeping Operations.

This process facilitated not only a deeper understanding of the material studied but also a more authentic connection between team members, promoting a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives.

In addition to the academic component, EMILYO organized a festive dinner, a special event that allowed participants to strengthen interpersonal relationships and share experiences in a more relaxed and personal setting. This informal gathering was an opportunity to discuss not only academic topics but also each other’s cultures and perspectives, thus strengthening ties among students from different parts of the world.





ment and advanced technologies they are equipped with, showcasing the academy's commitment to excellence in practical student training. Additionally, we received guidance on the proper use of the available resources, providing us with essential instructions on how to fully utilize the facilities to deepen our theoretical knowledge and enhance our technical skills

During the three-month period, we attended various academic activities and courses provided by the host academy. Civilian students participated in courses such as Technical Aids to Navigation and Basics of Power Electronics, while military students attended courses including Seaport Terminals and Operations, Labour Safety, Civil Protection, and Marine Environment. Additionally, we all took part in joint courses, such as Maritime English, Applied Mathematics, and Fundamentals of Engineering Science.

In our free time, we got to enjoy all the facilities provided by the receiving institution such as the gym, canteen, library, table tennis and more. For the last, the student association even organized a tournament in which we participated

The program followed during this mobility was well-structured and thoughtfully tailored to the needs of students, under the careful coordination of the academy's leadership. The way it was organized allowed us to manage our time efficiently, providing the opportunity to engage in extracurricular activities and explore various cultural and social aspects, which significantly contributed to a balanced and enriching academic and personal experience.

As part of the Erasmus+ study mobility at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy, we arrived at the university dormitory on September 28. This mobility included the participation of five civilian students from the Navigation and Maritime and Inland Transport department, along with seven military students from the Naval and Port Engineering and Management department. On September 30, all participants took part in a guided tour of the academy, organized by the teaching staff.

We were given a comprehensive tour of the institution's laboratories, where we were introduced to the equip-

Name: *Pap Silviu-Andrei, Bucur Sergiu-Mihai, Roşu Ştefan-Alexandru, Fintina Alexandru, Dasoveanu Mihaela-Lavinia, Ivănescu Maria, Misu Antonia-Ramona, Ene Bianca-Gabriela, Comărniceanu Nicuşor-Cristian, Axinte Irina-Elena, Manăilă Ioana-Octaviana, Ion Camelia-Georgiana*

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy "Mircea cel Batran"

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Students' exchange programme (LONG TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Lithuanian Maritime Academy, Klaipeda, Lithuania

Period: 28.09.2024 – 20.12.2024



LITHUANIA





Name: *Nagiț Alexandru-Ștefan
Gîndea Alexandra-Mădălina
Vasiliu Vlad-Remu,
Țăruș Andrei-Gabriel*

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Students’ exchange programme
(LONG TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Helmut Schmidt University of
German Armed Forces, Hamburg, Germany

Period: 30.08.2024-20.12.2024



GERMANY

From August to December 2024, we had the incredible opportunity to participate in the Erasmus+ program at Helmut Schmidt University of German Armed Forces in Hamburg, Germany.

The first few days after arriving in Hamburg were dedicated to orientation and getting familiar with the university campus. The Erasmus+ coordinators at Helmut Schmidt University were incredibly supportive, helping us navigate everything from course selection to administrative matters.

The university itself boasts a modern campus with state-of-the-art facilities, including well-equipped lecture halls, computer labs, and a large library.

Academically, our time at Helmut Schmidt University was both challenging and enriching. The courses we selected covered various aspects of engineering systems which were directly related to our field of study.

One of the most valuable aspects of the academic program was the emphasis on collaborative learning. I worked on several group projects. This experience not only allowed us to apply our technical skills but also taught us the importance of teamwork, communication, and cross-cultural collaboration.

The professors were approachable and always encouraged us to participate in class discussions. Their teaching methods were highly interactive, often incorporating case studies and real-world examples.

When we weren’t studying or attending lectures, we took the opportunity to explore the beautiful city of Hamburg.

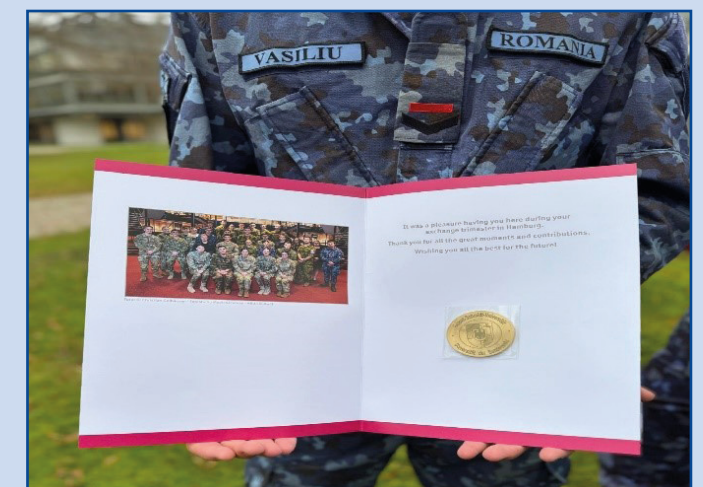
In addition to exploring Hamburg, we had the chance to take trip to Lübeck, a charming city just a short train ride away.

Walking through Lübeck’s Old Town felt like stepping back in time, and we enjoyed learning about the city’s history.

Beyond academics and cultural exploration, our time in Hamburg was a period of significant personal growth. Living in a new country required me to step out of my comfort zone, adapt to a different lifestyle, and develop greater independence.

Our Erasmus+ experience at Helmut Schmidt University was truly transformative. It offered us a perfect balance of academic rigor, cultural immersion, and personal growth.

We are incredibly grateful to Helmut Schmidt University, the Erasmus+ program, and everyone who contributed to making this experience so rewarding.



Between September 23, 2024, and December 21, 2024, we, a group of five students from the Romanian Naval Academy, had the opportunity to participate in an Erasmus program at the Italian Naval Academy, alongside Italian students and students from other countries, such as Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Ethiopia, France, Japan, Latvia, Poland, and Ukraine. This experience was an unique opportunity to explore new academic and cultural perspectives, as well as to develop personally and professionally.

Throughout the three months, we attended various courses and academic activities, which were professionally organized by the Italian Naval Academy. The program included topics relevant to the naval field, tailored to international standards and modern technologies. Additionally, interactions with professors and colleagues from different countries provided a valuable source of idea exchange and knowledge sharing.



Another important aspect of this mobility was the opportunity to meet and work alongside students from different cultural backgrounds. The diversity of our team, comprising Romanian, Italian, and international students, contributed to creating a dynamic and inspiring work environment.

To facilitate interaction and help us get to know each other better, the Italian Naval Academy organized ice-breaker events, as well as excursions to the Naval History Museum in La Spezia and the military ship Trieste. This collaboration helped us develop intercultural and teamwork skills.

Outside academic activities, we took advantage of our free time to explore Italy and its cultural richness. Together, we visited historic cities, iconic landmarks, and breathtaking natural landscapes. These experiences offered us a broader perspective on local traditions and values, as well as the opportunity to bond even more as a team.

This Erasmus experience represented an important step in our professional and personal development. It provided us with the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge, build new friendships, and discover a fascinating culture. We are grateful for this opportunity and warmly recommend participating in such programs to all students interested in international development.



Name: *Popa Ștefania-Monica, Mihai Ciprian, Buzdugan Ioana, Chiriac Ștefania, Zaharia Alexandra*

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: EMILYO - International Naval Semester (Erasmus+)

Type of mobility: Students’ exchange programme
(LONG TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Italian Naval Academy,
Livorno, Italy

Period: 28.09.2024 – 20.12.2024



ITALY

Name: Sfarghiu Bianca-Mihaela, Micu Alexandra, Teca Iulian-Alin, Tuşa Ionuţ-Ronaldo, Stoleru Dumitrel, Răduţ Andrei-Claudiu

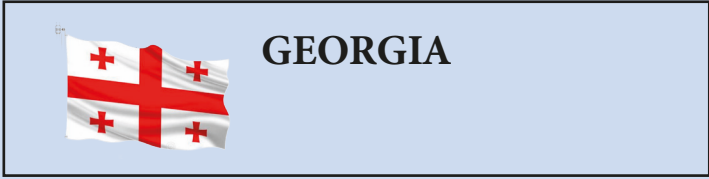
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Students’ exchange programme
(LONG TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Batumi Navigation Teaching University, Georgia

Period: 30.10.2024-10.01.2025



From September 30 2024, to January 10 2025, we had the privilege of studying at Batumi Navigation Teaching University in Batumi, Georgia. This experience turned out to be transformative on multiple levels.

Throughout our stay, we learned a great deal from the dedicated professors who shared not only their knowledge, but also their passion for the maritime profession. We participated in numerous activities organized by the university, which provided us with opportunities to deepen our understanding of the maritime field and engage.

One of the most enriching activities we participated in was a prestigious forum organized by the university in collaboration with distinguished professors from Asia and Korea. This event provided us



with an exceptional opportunity to engage in in-depth discussions on crucial topics related to the maritime industry, including safety standards, environmental challenges, and the growing concern of marine pollution.

Upon our arrival, the university administration gave us a warm and heartfelt welcome. They greeted us with thoughtful gifts and took the time to make us feel special. We had the opportunity to take pictures together, engage in meaningful conversations, and truly connect with them. One of the most memorable experiences was when they invited us to a traditional dinner, where we savored delicious local dishes while enjoying live traditional music.

The kindness and hospitality extended to us ensured that we felt at ease and were never homesick during our stay. Their efforts to make us feel welcomed and comfortable left a lasting impression, and we will always be grateful for their generosity.

The courses we attended at the university were both engaging and highly practical. The professors often shared stories from their own experiences in the maritime industry, which added depth and real-world context to the lessons. Their insights not only enriched our understanding of theoretical concepts but also gave us valuable perspectives on the challenges and opportunities we might encounter in our future careers.

A significant part of our studies involved hands-on practice using advanced simulators. These sessions allowed us to apply the knowledge we gained in a realistic and controlled environment, helping us develop essential skills and build confidence. The combination of experienced instructors and practical training made the learning experience both effective and memorable, preparing us thoroughly for the demands of the maritime profession.

In conclusion, our time in Batumi, Georgia, was an exceptional journey of learning, connection, and personal growth. From the heartfelt welcome to the knowledge gained in classrooms and simulators, every moment contributed to making this experience impactful.

The support and hospitality of the Georgian people, the friendships we formed, and the cultural immersion enriched our lives in ways beyond words. Academically, we gained valuable insights and practical skills, while personally, we grew stronger, more confident, and better prepared for our futures as seafarers. This experience will remain a cornerstone in our journey, shaping both who we are and who we aspire to become.

Name: Faifer Gilda, Miholca Constantin
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
 “Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: Erasmus+
Type of mobility: Traineeship
 (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: United States Naval Academy,
 Annapolis, USA
Period: 25.01.2025 - 29.01.2025



U.S.A



The students of the Romanian Naval Academy proudly carried the Romanian flag to the United States, representing both the academic community and the Romanian Naval Forces at the U.S. Naval Academy’s Annual Leadership Conference, held between January 25–29, 2025.

Sd. sg. Gilda Faifer and sd. plt. Constantin-Nicolae Miholca actively participated in debates and workshops dedicated to leadership development, engaging with young people from around the world—both military and civilian—including students from prestigious universities such as Harvard, Yale, and MIT.

The central theme, “Leading from within: Embracing Authenticity in Leadership”, emphasized the importance of authenticity and integrity in the act of leadership. This experience gave the two students the opportunity to closely observe the organization and high standards of the U.S. Naval Academy, while also gaining insight into the lifestyle and values of this prestigious institution.

A highlight of the visit was a guided tour offered by Popa Daniel V., a Romanian student in his second year at the United States Naval Academy, who shared valuable insights into both academic and military life overseas. This exchange helped the ANMB representatives



strengthen their vision of leadership and further develop the skills needed to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Through their participation, our students reaffirm the commitment of the Romanian Naval Academy to train elite officers, prepared to face international challenges and to carry forward the values of excellence and discipline.





Name: *Matei Mălina, Diacu Alexandru, Bondea Carmen, Iordache Răzvan*
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)
Type of mobility: Traineeship (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: Scuola Ufficiali dell’Esercito, Turin, Italy
Period: 03.02.2025 - 07.02.2025



Our journey to Italy was an experience that enriched both our professional knowledge and personal growth. We had the honor of participating in an intensive blended programme titled “Biosafety and Bioterrorism” at Scuola Ufficiali dell’Esercito in Turin, Italy. This educational mission provided us with the opportunity to collaborate with participants from diverse countries including the USA, Bulgaria, Poland, Portugal, and Greece.

From the very beginning of our five-day stay, we were immersed in a dynamic learning environment. We were divided into five groups, each tasked with following a detailed scenario and resolving challenges using the wealth of information provided during the biosafety and bioterrorism courses. The programme featured an array of lec-

tures and practical sessions, where several professors enlightened us on pressing issues such as water contamination, various zoonoses, and zoonotic pathogens, subjects that are pivotal in today’s interconnected world.

Each day was packed with intensive coursework and collaborative tasks that required both analytical and strategic thinking. The final day culminated in a test designed to assess our grasp of the material covered over the previous four days. This evaluation not only served as a measure of our progress but also instilled a sense of accomplishment and confidence in our abilities to address complex biosafety and bioterrorism challenges.

Beyond the academic rigour, our stay in Turin was punctuated by cultural and social experiences that enriched our overall journey. The Academy hosted a formal dinner in our honor, welcoming us into their beautiful city with warmth and sophistication. Exploring Turin allowed us to witness firsthand the rich history and vibrant culture of the region, further enhancing our appreciation for international collaboration and learning.



Our training began with a survival exercise, where we slept in tents for four days. This period tested our endurance and adaptability as we learned essential field survival techniques. During the day, we participated in live-fire exercises, operating an MG3 and a G3A3 from an M1113 APC. These drills helped us improve our marksmanship and familiarize ourselves with different weapon systems under real-world conditions.

Night training added another level of complexity to our experience. We conducted nighttime shooting exercises using the G3A3 equipped with night vision as well as the FN Minimi fitted with a night vision scope. This training enhanced our ability to operate in low-light conditions and further refined our tactical skills.

In addition to our rigorous training schedule, we also had the opportunity to explore some of Greece’s most iconic landmarks. On Saturday, we visited the Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum, immersing ourselves in the rich history of Athens. The weekends provided a chance to relax and enjoy the vibrant city life, as we spent our free time exploring Athens and experiencing Greek hospitality.

This Erasmus+ mobility program was an unforgettable experience that strengthened both our military competencies and our cultural understanding. We formed strong bonds with our fellow cadets and left with memories that will last a lifetime. Given the chance, we would gladly participate in such an opportunity again.

We were joined by 30 foreign cadets from Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Armenia, and Portugal, representing different military academies, including the Air Force, Navy, and Technical Military institutions. This diverse group added an enriching cultural and professional exchange to our experience, allowing us to learn from each other and share our unique perspectives.



Name: Florean Alexandru-Dan, Moroşan Iustin Nicolae, Arhire Filip Marian, Dună Dimitrie, Stanciu Ionuţ Nicusor-
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
 “Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)
Type of mobility: Traineeship
 (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: Hellenic Army Academy, Vari, Attica, Greece
Period: 04.02.2025 - 14.02.2025



Between March 2–8, 2025, I had the opportunity, alongside my colleague Strătuțat Marius, to participate in the Blended Intensive Program (BIP) on Problem Solving and Critical Thinking, held at the Army Officer's School from Turin in Italy.

The activity brought together 47 students from different academies: Bulgaria, Poland, Italy, Portugal, Latvia, and Greece, creating an international environment for collaboration and exchange of perspectives.

The program was designed to strengthen participants' analytical abilities and foster the capacity to approach complex issues with creativity and strategic thinking. The daily schedule combined intensive courses with both group and individual activities.

Sessions ran from morning until late afternoon, addressing core aspects of problem solving and critical thinking, while participants were divided into five groups, each assigned specific roles and responsibilities. Alongside these collaborative exercises, individual computer-based tasks encouraged independent reflection and the application of theoretical knowledge. The academic component culminated in a final online test, covering the material taught throughout the week and assessing participants' progress.

Beyond the academic rigor, the program also em-

phasized social interaction and intercultural exchange. On the first evening, a group dinner offered an informal space for participants and professors to connect, share experiences, and build friendships. This balance between structured learning and social engagement highlighted the importance of collaboration in developing critical skills.

Overall, the experience was enriching both professionally and personally, and i highly recommend participating in such programs to all students interested in international development.

Name: *Gheorghiță Cosmin, Strătuțat Marius*

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
"Mircea cel Batran"

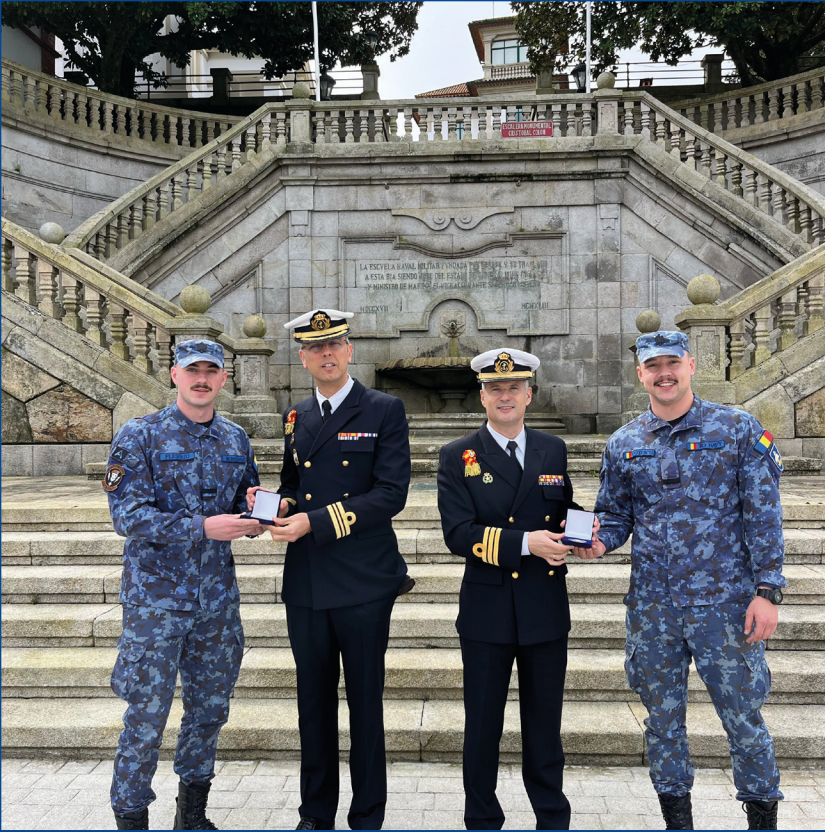
Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)

Type of mobility: Traineeship
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Scuola Ufficiali dell'Esercito,
Turin, Italy

Period: 24.03.2025-28.03.2025





Name: *Cotescu Adelin Valentin, Fleşeriu Sergiu*
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
 “Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)
Type of mobility: Traineeship
 (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: Escuela Naval Militar,
 Marin, Spain
Period: 06.03.2025 – 16.03.2025



Between 6.03.2025 – 16.03.2025, we had the privilege of participating in the International Marine Training Week, an intensive and demanding training program designed to enhance our operational and tactical skills. The training was conducted in a challenging environment, focusing on essential aspects of marine infantry operations such as navigation, survival, reconnaissance, and urban combat.

The event brought together cadets from three countries: Spain, Poland, and Romania. A total of 76 Spanish cadets, 2 Polish cadets, and the two of us representing Romania took part in this multinational training exercise. This diverse group fostered a strong sense of international cooperation, teamwork, and shared experiences in a high-intensity training environment.

As former infantry-reconnaissance non-commissioned officers, we adapted quickly to the rigorous requirements of the course. Our prior experience played a significant role in helping us meet the high standards set by the instructors. Throughout the training, we demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and discipline, successfully completing all assigned tasks. As recognition of our performance, we were awarded the Marine Infantry patch and their official coin, a symbol of excellence and commitment.

The training followed an extremely demanding daily schedule, pushing us to our physical and mental limits.

The last two days and nights brought the most extreme test of endurance, as we engaged in continuous missions with no sleep, replicating real combat scenarios where exhaustion must be overcome to achieve success. This phase included urban combat operations, enemy capture missions, prisoner exchange scenarios, advanced topography and navigation exercises, reconnaissance and intelligence gathering, tactical battle maneuvers, extended marches, land navigation and orientation challenges and covert shelter construction and concealment techniques.

In the end of the program, we underwent both theoretical and practical evaluations, demonstrating the skills we had acquired throughout the training. Despite the extreme fatigue, we executed our tasks with precision, receiving praise from our instructors. The final ceremony was a moment of pride, marking the completion of a physically and mentally grueling experience.



Between March 10 and March 15, we participated in the Spanish Naval Training Week held at the Spanish Naval Academy. The program included students from various academies: two students from the Italian Naval Academy, two from the Royal Military Academy Belgium, and students from the Spanish Naval Academy from years I, II, and IV.

The main objective of this week was to familiarize the foreign students with the instructional methods and naval operations conducted at the Spanish Naval Academy.

On the first day, March 10, we navigated aboard the Tambo sailing vessel from Marin, Pontevedra, to Baiona, where we spent the night onboard. The following day, March 11, we returned to the Academy aboard the same vessel.

From March 12 to March 13, we participated in various maritime training activities. The morning of March 12 started with a Pre-sail conference, after which we embarked on four patrol vessels used for student instruction and set sail for Vigo.

Our vessel carried 17 individuals, including one officer, two foreign students, and 14 Spanish Naval Academy students from years I, II, and IV, who were responsible for ensuring smooth navigation. During the journey from Marin to Vigo, we executed various individual maneuvering exercises and coordinated drills with the other ships. We arrived in Vigo around 9:30 PM and spent the night onboard.

On March 13, we navigated back from Vigo to Marin while performing additional tactical maneuvers. Upon arrival, we attended a conference where fourth-year students highlighted the mission's successful aspects and identified areas for improvement to enhance future experiences.

On March 14, we met with the deputy commander to share our insights on the four days spent aboard the training vessels alongside the Spanish students. Later in the day, we participated in firefighting exercises. First-year students introduced us to firefighting equipment, while fourth-year students guided us through practical training in a fire simulation, focusing on procedures to contain onboard fires.



On March 15, we concluded the week with cultural activities. Alongside second-year Spanish students, we visited the historic city of Santiago, explored its landmarks, and sampled traditional Spanish cuisine.

At the end of the activity, we had a meeting with the academy's commanding staff, where we provided feedback on the week's training and overall experience.

Throughout the course, we had many opportunities to interact with students from different nationalities, exchanging experiences and creating lasting memories. The program offered valuable educational, professional, and cultural insights. If given another opportunity, we would eagerly participate again.



Name: Zamfirescu Raluca, Lăcătuș Adelin
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
 "Mircea cel Batran"
Exchange Programme: Erasmus+
Type of mobility: Traineeship
 (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: Escuela Naval Militar,
 Marin, Spain
Period: 10.03.2025 - 15.03.2025



Name: Antipov Răzvan, Damian Bianca Andreea, Iftode Ilie-Ion, Popa Georgiana-Elena, Nistor Theodor-Constantin, Caplan George Emil, Alexandru Stelian, Caracota Cristo

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)

Type of mobility: Traineeship
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Polish Naval Academy “Heroes of Westerplatte”, Gdynia, Poland

Period: 24.03.2025-28.03.2025



From March 24 to 28, 2025, we participated in the “Electric Circuits” course at the Polish Naval Academy “Heroes of Westerplatte” in Gdynia. The module brought together eight dedicated students, four from the military section and four from the civilian section, with additional colleagues from Bulgaria and Romania (some of whom had been with the academy since the semester’s start).

Guided by two knowledgeable Polish instructors, the course focused on deepening our understanding of electrical theory and practical applications. This emphasis on both conceptual learning and hands-on experience reminded us of the valuable balance between theory and practice witnessed in other Erasmus+ training modules.

Our journey began on March 23, when we arrived at Gdansk Airport. There, we met a Polish student coordinating the Erasmus mobility, and after a brief 30-minute bus ride, we reached the academy and settled into our rooms.

For the next several days, we attended three-hour sessions that blended theoretical refreshers with practical experiments. During the first two days, we revisited fundamen-

tal concepts in physics and electricity, ensuring we had a strong theoretical foundation. In the subsequent sessions, we engaged in group experiments and individual tasks that allowed us to apply these concepts, mirroring the immersive, hands-on approach found in other international training experiences.

One of the highlights of the course was our visit on March 24 to the academy’s second-tallest building—a structure dedicated to World Meteorological Day. Not only were we captivated by the panoramic views of Gdynia and Gdansk, but we also gained an appreciation for the significant role meteorological research plays in ensuring safety, whether the day is sunny or cloudy.

Overall, this module provided us with a unique opportunity to collaborate with both Polish and Bulgarian peers while also discovering the rich cultural and historical heritage of the region.



Name: Gheorghe Maria-Ioana, Stoica Alexandra

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)

Type of mobility: Traineeship
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Scuola Ufficiali dell'Esercito,
Turin, Italy

Period: 24.03.2025-28.03.2025



ITALY

Between March 24 and March 28, we participated in the “Law of armed conflicts” module, which focused on understanding international and non-international armed conflicts, as well as the actions to be taken during them. There were about 40 students, of which 10 were civilians and 30 were military personnel from different corners of Europe, such as Romania, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Poland, and Bulgaria.

The module “Law of armed conflicts” is based on international humanitarian law, which regulates the behavior of parties involved in armed conflicts, protecting those not actively participating in hostilities, such as civilians and prisoners of war. It includes key principles like the distinction between international and non-international conflicts, the principles of proportionality and ne-

cessity in the use of force, and the protection of war victims. It also covers criminal responsibility for violations of the laws of war and the role of international courts, such as the International Criminal Court, in sanctioning these violations.

We arrived in Torino on the 23rd, and we were picked up by our guide and taken to the academy. We started the courses on the 28th, with three sessions per day, with breaks in between. Each course had a different theme, but all were very useful and interesting. On the 27th, we worked in groups of 11, each with a professor, and at the end of these sessions, we gave a group presentation on the theme of our seminar.

On the last day, the 28th, we concluded the course with a test covering the material taught throughout the week, as well as providing feedback on the University of Torino, the module, the teaching methods, and the professors. We all received a diploma for completing the course.

Thus, the “Law of armed conflicts” module focuses on understanding and applying these principles, with the aim of protecting the rights of those affected by armed conflicts and minimizing the suffering caused by war, while promoting a legal framework that upholds humanity even in the midst of the most severe confrontations.





Name: *Pintică Vlad, Poșircă Sebastian*
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: Erasmus+
Type of mobility: Onboard Traineeship
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: Bulgarian Naval Academy
“Nikola Y. Vaptsarov”, Varna, Bulgaria
Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii
Period: 28.03.2025 – 12.04.2025

Between March 28 and April 12, 2025, I had the unique opportunity to participate in an international maritime mission aboard the Bulgarian naval vessel Sv. Sv. Kiril i Metodii. Alongside my Romanian colleague, I joined 20 Bulgarian naval cadets and crew members for a voyage that took us through Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey, and finally Bulgaria.

Our next major stop was Tuzla, Turkey, where we had a four-day break. Here, we visited the Turkish Naval Academy and took part in a presentation on their educational system, explored state-of-the-art simulators, and toured the academy’s naval museum. This visit enriched our understanding of international naval training and fostered cultural exchange.

During the voyage, we were split into four teams, rotating through navigation watch duties and support

roles in the kitchen. Despite the absence of a fixed daily schedule, we participated in various exercises, including fire and abandon-ship drills. We were also given the opportunity to contribute our navigation knowledge and demonstrate practical skills, often being challenged by the onboard officers. This helped reinforce our academic training in real-life maritime scenarios.

The last leg of our journey took us through the Bosphorus Strait to our final destination—Varna, Bulgaria. Although weather conditions were mostly favorable, we encountered rough seas near Turkey and in the Black Sea, testing our adaptability and resilience.

This voyage was a defining experience, both professionally and personally. It deepened my confidence,



broadened my maritime perspective, and strengthened my desire to become a capable and adaptable naval officer. The collaboration with international peers and the opportunity to apply our training in a real-world setting made this mission truly unforgettable.





Between March 31 and April 4, 2025, I had the honor to participate in the “Maritime Security Common Module”, held at the Hellenic Naval Academy in Piraeus, Greece, under the auspices of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC).

The program was structured over five days, with daily activities scheduled between 08:45 and 15:00. The sessions were divided into two components: e-learning and in-person courses. Key topics included current threats to maritime security, risk analysis, crisis response planning, international maritime law, and the geopolitical implications of maritime security.

On the first day, we had the welcome and opening ceremony, along with the presentation of administrative aspects that we needed to observe during our stay at the academy. After a coffee break, we attended our first lectures.

The second day was lighter in terms of schedule but rich in content, including courses such as “Challenges on Security in Europe’s South and East Neighborhood with Emphasis on Maritime Issues”, “Geopolitics of Energy - The Case of European Gas Market”, “Maritime Security matters! Principles, Concepts, Perceptions and Challenges”, “Maritime Security and the Rule of International Law”, and “Evolution of Maritime Environment, Threats and EU Maritime Operations”. The highlight of the day was the visit to the Acropolis Museum and the “Acropolis” archaeological site.

The fourth day focused on practical experience. We participated in a cyber security activity and went out to sea aboard the HS PANDORA vessel, where we witnessed a “crew control” exercise conducted by the Greek Special Forces.

The fifth day was dedicated to the final evaluation, consisting of a written test. Afterwards, we attended the official certificate awarding ceremony, which concluded around noon.

A defining feature of the module was its interactive approach. We were actively involved in debates, practical exercises, and simulations, which helped us understand the complexity of the field and the importance of cooperation among EU member states. We also discussed Romania’s geostrategic positioning and its role as a bridge between the European Union and the Black Sea region.

Extracurricular activities – such as the visit to the Acropolis or the anti-piracy demonstration by the Special Forces – added valuable hands-on experience to the academic program. The visit to the Averof museum ship and the social event onboard facilitated informal interaction and cultural exchange with fellow participants.

The support provided through the Erasmus program was essential for a worry-free experience. All expenses were fully covered, and the overall organization – from

the courses and logistics to the social program – was impeccable.

In conclusion, I believe my participation in this module was a success both professionally and personally. This week of training reinforced my belief that joint education and international exchanges play a crucial role in preparing future officers for the complex challenges of today’s security environment.



GREECE

Name: *Ibănișteanu Eduard-Ionuț, Hoțu Valentin Ștefan, Stan Mihail-Raul, Grecu Petru*

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)

Type of mobility: Traineeship (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Hellenic Army Academy, Piraeus, Greece

Period: 31.03.2025 – 04.04.2025



Name: Chiriac Denisa-Ştefania, Zaharia Alexandra-Ştefania
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)
Type of mobility: Traineeship
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: National Defence Academy of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
Period: 07.04.2025-11.04.2025

Between April 6 and April 12, 2025, we, two students from the Romanian Naval Academy, had the opportunity to participate in the International Week organized by the National Defence Academy of Latvia in Riga.

This event brought together military students from eight countries — Estonia, Finland, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United States — creating a diverse and stimulating environment that encouraged dialogue, cooperation, and cultural exchange.

During this intense and enriching week, we took part in numerous academic and cultural activities that broadened our understanding of international military education. The program was exceptionally well-structured and allowed us to ex-

plore various aspects of the Latvian defense system, both through theoretical presentations and hands-on experiences. We visited key military sites such as the Ādaži Military Base, the National Armed Forces air base in Lielvārde, and the Infantry School in Alūksne.

Beyond the professional component, the program also included cultural activities that gave us the chance to explore the local heritage. We discovered the charm of Riga’s Old Town, visited the Livonian Order Castle in Cēsis, and explored the impressive Alūksne New Castle.

These experiences, combined with shared meals, informal discussions, and group travel, helped us connect with fellow students from different backgrounds and strengthened the spirit of camaraderie within the group.

This international experience was both professionally valuable and personally inspiring. It allowed us to exchange ideas with future officers from across Europe and the United States, while also challenging us to step outside of our comfort zones and embrace different perspectives. We returned home with a deeper appreciation for international military cooperation, new friendships, and a renewed motivation to grow within our field.

We are truly grateful for the opportunity and wholeheartedly encourage other students to take part in similar programs that promote learning, unity, and global understanding.





Name: Pușcașu Bogdan-Andrei, Mureșan Tudor-Alex, Benghea Miruna, Belecciu Crina-Alexia

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Traineeship (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Polish Naval Academy “Heroes of Westerplatte”, Gdynia, Poland

Period: 07.04.2025-11.04.2025

Between April 7–11, 2025, a delegation from Romanian Naval Academy, participated in a module entitled “Blended Intensive Programme – Database”, organized by the Naval Academy of Poland in Gdynia. The Romanian delegation traveled to and from the mission destination by airplane, using a commercial flight.

Between March 31 and April 11, 2025, the Naval Academy in Gdynia, Poland, hosted the Blended Intensive Programme entitled “Database”. This module was structured into two components: online sessions held between March 31 – April 4, 2025, and on-site activities organized from April 7 – 11, 2025. The program was conducted by experienced teaching staff and specialists in the field of information technology and database management, offering participants comprehensive training tailored to current academic and military requirements.

By participating in this course, we had the opportunity to

acquire both advanced theoretical knowledge and relevant practical skills, exploring the field of databases in an international learning environment.

Upon arrival in Gdynia, participants were welcomed by representatives of the Naval Academy, who provided logistical support and free accommodation within the institution. This hospitality contributed to the quick integration of the participants into the local academic environment. Access cards for entry into the academy and for meals were promptly issued.

Students from two higher education institutions across two countries participated in this program, as follows: Romania – 14 representatives (from two institutions); Bulgaria – 8 representatives (from three institutions).

The “Database” module, organized within the Blended Intensive Programme, was a valuable experience in the

field of information technology, offering participants the opportunity to explore both theoretical concepts and essential practical applications in an interactive and dynamic format.

First and foremost, we were impressed by the hospitality and openness with which we were welcomed. The academic staff and fellow students from other countries were extremely friendly and eager to provide us with a detailed overview of the academy’s activities and facilities.

A special highlight of this experience was the visit to the modern facilities of the Naval Academy in Gdynia, particularly the shooting simulators, the training ground, the diver’s center, and the planetarium. The shooting simulators allowed for skills training in a controlled and safe environment, faithfully simulating real combat scenarios, while the visit to the training ground emphasized the importance of tactical field preparation. The planetarium, through

its impressive projections, introduced us to the field of astronomical navigation and spatial orientation, highlighting the connections between exact sciences and naval training.

A remarkable aspect of this week was the close and open collaboration with representatives of the “Ferdinand I” Military Technical Academy from Romania. Even though we came from different institutions, our shared background in the same military education system facilitated a valuable exchange of ideas, opinions, and perspectives. The discussions we had highlighted the diversity of academic approaches within the country and contributed to the strengthening of inter-institutional relations.



POLONIA



Name: Cdr. Cucu Marius, Olaru Ștefan, Luca Andrei, Curbăt Răzvan

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Sailing Regatta “Livorno 2025”

Type of mobility: Traineeship
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Italian Naval Academy,
Livorno, Italy

Period: 28.04.2025 - 02.05.2024



ITALY

From April 27 to May 3, 2025, I had the privilege of participating, alongside my colleagues, in the prestigious “International Sailing Week 2025” regatta, organized by the Italian Naval Academy in Livorno. This remarkable event brought together 32 nations from around the world, including countries such as the Philippines, China, Bahrain, Oman, Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, and many others.

Our journey began on April 27, when we were accommodated in a shared room with four beds, together with my colleagues and a participant from Singapore.

After settling in and unpacking our luggage, we set out to explore the city of Livorno to enjoy an authentic Italian dinner. The next morning, we started with breakfast at the academy’s canteen. Subsequently, we attended a com-

prehensive briefing session with all participating teams, during which the organizers detailed the program and explained the schedule of activities for the week.

Later that day, we had the opportunity to participate in a training session on the boats we would be using in the regatta competitions. This hands-on experience allowed us to familiarize ourselves with the equipment and refine our sailing skills.

As the day came to a close, we took part in a social event designed to encourage camaraderie and cultural exchange among the diverse teams.

On April 29th, the city of Livorno came alive with an impressive parade featuring 32 foreign naval academies, as they marched through the city streets bearing their national flags.

April 30th marked the official opening of the contest, a solemn event held with traditional naval honors to welcome the participating crews and underscore the spirit of international cooperation.

Each day began with meticulous boat preparations, where teams ensured their vessels were race-ready. At approximately 12:00 AM, the crews set sail into the Tyrrhenian Sea, engaging in a series of tactical races that challenged their seamanship and teamwork.

Throughout the regatta, crews from naval academies around the world demonstrated their sailing proficiency in a highly competitive yet sportsman-like environment. Beyond the competition itself, the event fostered cultural exchange and academic interaction, aiming to strengthen ties between institutions and promote excellence in naval officer training.



Name: *Duma Luciano Nicolas, Gheorghe Dan Andrei*

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Traineeship
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Scuola Ufficiali dell'Esercito,
Turin, Italy

Period: 05.05.2025 – 09.05.2025



Between the 5th and 9th of May, I had the incredible opportunity to take part in the “Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)” module, which was hosted by the Army Officer’s School, in collaboration with the University of Turin.

The group was truly international. There were 2 students Greece, 6 students from Poland, 4 from Bulgaria, 2 from Latvia, 2 from the Romanian Land Forces Academy, 2 from the Romanian Technical Military Academy, and 2 from the Romanian Naval Academy. Alongside us were 8 Italian military cadets and 8 Italian civilian students. The diverse group made for an enriching exchange of perspectives, both inside and outside the classroom.

The module focused on major themes related to security and defense within the European Union. Each day, we had lectures delivered by different professors, covering a wide range of topics.

On the first day, we received instructions about how the module would unfold and were introduced to the European Union’s structure and immigration issues. It was a great start that set the tone for the rest of the week.

The second day took us back to the beginnings of the European Union. We explored its origins, the political and economic motivations behind its creation, and how it developed over time into the organization it is today. The third day was focused on one of the world’s biggest challenges—terrorism. We discussed its impact on EU countries and explored various counter-terrorism strategies.

On the fourth day, we shifted our attention to the African continent. We studied the ongoing conflicts there and learned about EU missions and military strategies aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region.

Finally, on the fifth day, we took a test to evaluate what we had learned throughout the week. Thanks to the interesting and well-organized content, we all passed without difficulty and with a sense of accomplishment.

Beyond the academic side of the experience, we also had time to explore the beautiful surroundings and get to know each other better. We shared meals, explored the city, exchanged stories about our countries, and formed friendships that I hope will last for years to come.



ITALY

Name: Anghel Robert-Cristian, Maravela George-Cosmin, Nicolai Manuel-Ştefan, David Rareş, Bouroş Luiza-Gabriela, Popa Raluca Gina
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: Erasmus+
Type of mobility: Traineeship (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: Bulgarian Naval Academy “Nikola Y. Vaptsarov”, Varna, Bulgaria
Period: 12.05.2025-16.05.2025

Between May 12th and 16th, 2025, the “Nikola I. Vaptsarov” Naval Academy hosted the module entitled “Ship Handling and Safety of Navigation.” This module was structured into two components: an online session held between May 5th and 9th, and in-person activities conducted from May 12th to 16th, 2025. The program was delivered by highly qualified and well-trained instructors in the field of navigation.

Day 1 began with an introduction to the Ship Handling course, during which we were presented with the general objectives of the module, the fundamental principles of ship maneuvering, and the main factors influencing navigational safety. The second part of the day focused on Multinational Maritime Tactical Instructions and Procedures (MULTI-NATIP), where the instructors clearly explained the importance of applying standardized procedures in international naval operations.

Day 2 focused on the topic of Navigation safety and naval ship bridge resources management. We explored key concepts such as the optimal use of human and technical

resources on the bridge, stress management, and rapid decision-making in critical situations. The practical session took place in a navigation simulator, where we had the opportunity to apply what we had learned in realistic scenarios.

Day 3 was one of the most engaging, as it was centered on Man Overboard Procedures. We discussed real-life scenarios, methods for recovering a person overboard, and the importance of coordination between bridge personnel and command centers.

Day 4 began with a course on Standard Commands, where we learned how to issue and execute standardized commands uniformly, regardless of the crew’s nationality. This was followed by a team-based competition, where we were challenged to navigate vessels through a buoy-marked course.

Day 5 was dedicated to extracurricular activities. We visited the Archaeological Museum of Varna. Later, we had the opportunity to interact with representatives from partner institutions in Greece, Latvia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Norway.

In conclusion, the “Ship Handling and Safety of Navigation” module was an extremely valuable experience for us, both professionally and personally.



BULGARIA



Between May 19 and May 23, 2025, we had the opportunity to participate in the module titled “Computer Graphics” at the Polish Naval Academy in Gdynia, Poland. This engaging and intensive course brought together students from multiple countries to explore the fascinating world of computer graphics in a naval and academic context.

Every day, we attended intensive computer graphics courses from 8:10 to 14:10, with breaks between sessions and a lunch break from 12:30 to 13:15. During these breaks and free periods, we were also allowed to explore some of the impressive facilities of the Polish Naval Academy.

Throughout the week, in addition to our academic sessions, we visited the academy’s facilities, such as the planetarium, where we experienced real-time astronomical simulations that demonstrated the power of visual technologies in naval education and orientation.

We also toured the submarine museum, offering an in-depth look at Poland’s naval history and submarine operations. Furthermore, we had hands-on experiences with both the artillery simulator and the shooting simulator, which provided realistic insights into the use of virtual environments for training and skill development. Each lesson was carefully structured to build upon the previous one, combining theoretical learning with practical exercises.

The instructors emphasized how crucial computer graphics has become in modern naval contexts, enhancing training, mission planning, and operational readiness. These complementary activities and academic content made the week not only educational but also highly engaging and memorable.

Beyond the technical training, one of the most rewarding aspects of the week was connecting with Polish students and other international participants. Our hosts were warm and welcoming, sharing their culture, traditions, and daily life with us. Through group work, meals, and cultural visits, we quickly formed genuine friendships. By the end of the week, we left not only with new skills but also with lasting memories and strong international bonds.

Our time in Gdynia was not only educational but also culturally enriching. The city offered a welcoming environment, and we had the chance to explore the sur-

rounding area during our free time. Visits to the seafront, the naval museum, and local cafés helped us relax and build lasting memories with fellow participants.

In conclusion, this mission conducted in the Polish Naval Academy was a highly rewarding experience, both academically and personally. The module provided us with valuable knowledge, practical skills, and an international perspective on technology in naval contexts. We are truly grateful for this opportunity and would strongly recommend similar programs to anyone looking to expand their horizons and engage in cross-cultural academic exchange.

AKADEMIA MARYNARKI WOJENNEJ



Name: Dumitrescu Mihail-Damian, Ilie Teodor-Petruț, Isopescu Alexandra-Ioana, Merăuță Denisa-Andreea

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy „Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Traineeship (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Polish Naval Academy „Heroes of Westerplatte”, Gdynia, Poland

Period: 19.05.20225-23.05.2025



Name: Tudoran-Badea Damian, Orzea Sebastian

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: EMILYO (Erasmus+)

Type of mobility: Traineeship
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Bulgarian Naval Academy
“Nikola Y. Vaptsarov”, Varna Bulgaria

Period: 19.05.2025-23.05.2025



Between May 19 and May 23, 2025, we participated in the “EU Maritime Security” module, organized by the Bulgarian Naval Academy in Varna.

The course was centered on the shared objectives of European Union maritime security operations. It addressed mission planning, coordination procedures, and tactical execution in a multinational environment.

The theoretical component focused on the legal and strategic framework of EU maritime missions, while the practical sessions involved simulator-based scenarios, including tactical messaging, naval formations, maritime patrol, and sailing exercises.

The schedule consisted of daily sessions held from 09:00 to 12:30. We were accommodated on Sunday, May 18, and began the programme with a formal welcome and orientation, followed by a guided tour of the academy’s facilities.

The first two days were dedicated to theoretical instruction. During the final two days, simulator-based practical activities were conducted. The initial session focused on the transmission and interpretation of tactical messages and naval formation strategies. The concluding session included a maritime patrol and hailing exercise.

The training included eight cadets in total, with two participants from each of the following countries: Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, and Romania. The international composition encouraged professional exchange and collaboration throughout the programme.

The activity concluded on Friday, May 23, with a final evaluation and an official closing ceremony. The participants returned to their home institutions the next day. This mobility opportunity offered both academic and operational benefits. It enhanced our understanding of maritime security frameworks and promoted cooperation among future officers. Participation in similar exchanges is strongly recommended for its contribution to professional development.



BULGARIA



Between February 3 and May 16, 2025, we had the unique opportunity to participate in a long-term Erasmus+ mobility program at the Lithuanian Maritime Academy, in Klaipeda, Lithuania. This experience brought together a group of ten Romanian military students, eager to deepen their knowledge in the maritime domain and to explore a new academic and cultural environment.

During the mobility, we attended a variety of specialized courses such as “Cargo Handling Terminology”, “Navigation and Position Determination”, “Ship’s Handling”, “Language Practice for Navigation”, “Bridge Aids”, “Electrical Equipment”, “Ship’s Automation, and , Maritime English”. These classes helped us develop both our technical skills and our ability to operate in an international maritime context.

A highlight of the mobility was the visit to the Lithuanian military port, where we had the chance to meet Lithuanian officers. They presented the structure of their naval forces and shared details about their international missions. This interaction allowed us to compare the Lithuanian and Romanian naval systems, discovering both similarities and differences that enriched our perspective.

Throughout the mobility, we also enjoyed cultural exchange moments, strengthening our bonds with Lithuanian colleagues and gaining a better understanding of their traditions and values.

In conclusion, this Erasmus+ experience was both academically and personally enriching. We are grateful for the opportunity and would gladly participate in similar missions in the future.



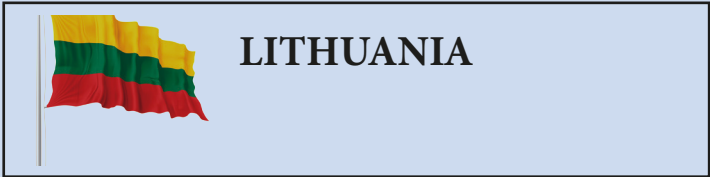
Name: *Petrea Ramona, Chiriac Maria-Denisa, Drăghici Paula, Caliman Ema- Diana,Blaj Eduard- Florian, Mircea Darie- Ioan, Oprea Ionuț- Valentin, Vâlcea Marius-Adrian, Zamfirache Liviu Gabriel, Dăescu Mario-Alin-Alexandru*

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+
Type of mobility: Students’ exchange programme
(LONG TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Lithuanian Maritime Academy,
Klaipeda, Lithuania

Period: 03.02.2025 – 16.05.2025



Name: Călin Cătălin, Frătilă Mădălina, Apostol Mircea, Rusu Fabiola, Roșu Denisa-Ștefania

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Traineeship
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Bulgarian Naval Academy
“Nikolas Y. Vaptsarov”, Varna, Bulgaria

Period: 02.06.2025-06.06.2025



BULGARIA

Between June 2 and 6, I participated in the Erasmus+ module “AI in the Sky”, where I learned how to program a drone with the help of AI, and how it is possible to identify certain objects or people in its footage. The courses brought together students from different academies, such as: Ukraine, Slovakia, Lithuania, Greece, Romania and Latvia.

This module taught us a lot, both in terms of programming and training a drone, and on a personal level where everyone exceeded their limits and showed how much everyone can do.

In this Erasmus+ module “AI in the Sky”, I was trained by the coordinating professors on how to program a drone so that with the help of AI it can identify different ob-

jects, people or animals on film, this depends on each person what they want to see and how they program and teach AI to identify.

We arrived at the Bulgarian Naval Academy in Varna on June 1st, around 12:00, where we were welcomed by two students who took care of us throughout the week. They guided us to the dormitories where we stayed during this period.

The following day, June 2, we started our coursework, with classes scheduled from 8:00 to 13:00, followed by lunch and free time for exploring the city.

In the first day, we familiarized ourselves with aspects related to the digital field. We visited specialized laboratories, attended a demonstration lesson with a drone, and then worked on laptops using the materials obtained.

On the second day, June 3rd, we attended the summer camp organized by the academy, where we enjoyed both fun and educational activities. We went into the water and had a great time with our teammates, making the most of the beautiful weather. At the same time, we filmed drone footage for our project focused on human recognition in water—an important step in developing rescue and intervention technology. It was a day full of energy, perfectly blending enjoyment with purpose.

Over the following two days, as part of the internship project, I worked on processing video footage captured by a drone, using the Roboflow platform to

manually annotate people in the images. The activity focused on preparing the data for training a detection model. Subsequently, I completed the assigned tasks and created a PowerPoint presentation describing the entire process, including a practical demonstration in Google Colab.

On the last day, June 6th, 2025, at 9 a.m., we all gathered on the main square and set off by coach on a special trip. Our destination was a historic castle in Byala, which we visited together with the entire Erasmus group. The atmosphere was very pleasant, and the place impressed us with its beauty and historical significance. We were also accompanied by a guide who shared interesting information about the castle’s past.

After this cultural experience, we headed to the academy, where a festive lunch was waiting for us carefully organized by the Erasmus coordinators from Bulgaria, as a gesture of appreciation for everyone involved in this mobility. The meal was delicious and brought our entire adventure to a joyful conclusion.

After lunch, we boarded the coach and left for home, back to Constanța, carrying with us beautiful memories and a deep sense of gratitude for everything we experienced during this Erasmus journey.





Between June 9–13, 2025, the Polish Naval Academy from Gdynia hosted the international module “C8S NHEI EU Diversity Competencies – Gender Navy Perspectives”, an educational program dedicated to promoting diversity and gender equality in the contemporary naval environment.

Students from Italy, Bulgaria, Poland, and Romania participated in thematic workshops, interactive sessions, and practical exercises, working in international teams and addressing key topics such as gender balance in military structures, the integration of empathetic leadership in the naval context, and the fight against gender stereotypes.

Sandu George, a student at the “Mircea cel Bătrân” Naval Academy in Constanța, emphasized the personal and professional importance of this experience:

“It was an experience that exceeded my expectations. I realized how important it is to have a naval force where every member, regardless of gender or culture, is heard and valued. Diversity is not just a nice concept, but a real resource for cohesion and efficiency. It inspired me to think differently about what leadership means and how we can build strong teams through respect and empathy.”

Additionally, Oprea Evelin-Vicențiu, a fellow participant in the same program, added:

“I was impressed by the level of discussions and the openness of participants. Not only did I learn about the different approaches of other European navies regarding gender equality, but it also helped me become aware of my own biases. I believe that such modules are essen-

Name: Sandu George, Oprea Evelin Vicențiu
Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Batran”
Exchange Programme: Erasmus+
Type of mobility: Traineeship - NAVY-INS-Tech (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)
Host Institution: Polish Naval Academy “Heroes of Westerplatte”, Gdynia, Poland
Period: 09.06.2025-13.06.2025



POLAND

tial for the training of future military leaders – leaders who are not only technically competent but also humanly connected, capable of leading diverse teams in a climate based on trust and mutual respect.”

The module represented not only an educational exchange but also a true lesson in openness and adaptability. In an increasingly complex and interconnected naval world, such initiatives are vital for training fully equipped professionals – not only with technical knowledge but also with strong values, essential for modern and inclusive leadership.

Between 24 june and 29 june, we had the privilege of participating in an international yachting competition "J80 Regatta" held in the French Naval Academy .We were 13 teams from Germany, Belgium, United Kindom, United Stated of America, Maroc, Spain, India, Italy, Singapore, Germany and France.

On the first day, 24 june, we arrived in Brest where we were warmly welcomed by the organizers. They picked us up from the airport and drove us for about a hour to the accomodation, which was located in the courtyard of the Academy.

The following day, began with the official opening ceremony, during which we were welcome by the Chief of Staff. Shortly after, we attended a presentation about the French Naval Academy. This was followed by a comprehensive briefing that outlined the safety procedures and protocols we were expected to follow during competition. In the afternoon we had our first sailing training session, which introduced us to the boats.

On the morning of June 26, we were divided into two groups, one of three and the other one of two. One group visitated the Logistic Military Vessel A631, while the other

group toured the Lanveoc-Poulmic Naval Air Base. Before the competition, we enjoyed a barbecue with the midshipmen of the French Naval Academy. Later that day, we took part in the first day of the Regatta yachting competition. At 21.00 we were invited to a small concert organized by the French students, where they delighted us with traditional naval songs.

On june 27, we had the second day of the competition, followed by the awarding of prizes based on the final ranking. At the end of the day, all delegation went out on the Morgat area, where we had the opportunity to socialize and play traditional French games.

On the final day, we went to the beach with all the delegations. In the evening, a graduation ball was held for the next class of officers, with around 1000 people in attendance. During the event, we had the opportunity to listen to graduates' choir performing traditional French naval songs followed by a fireworks show.



Name: Blaj Eduard, Oprea Ionuț, Sima Nicolae, Alpetri Vichentie, Rusu Mariana

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy "Mircea cel Batran"

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: J80 Regatta (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: French Naval Academy, Brest, France

Period: 24.06.2025-29.06.2025



FRANCE





Our trip to Poland was a valuable experience that enhanced both our professional expertise and personal development. We had the honor of participating in a blended intensive program called "Common Security and Defence Policy" (CSDP) at the Polish Naval Academy of the Heroes of Westerplatte in Gdynia. This educational mission allowed us to collaborate with participants from a variety of countries, including Bulgaria, Poland, and Greece.

From the very first day of our five-day stay, we were immersed in a dynamic learning environment. We were divided into five groups, each tasked with following a detailed scenario and solving challenges using the information provided during the courses. This hands-on approach was crucial in reinforcing our theoretical knowledge, as we had to apply what we had learned in realtime problem-solving situations. The program included a series of lectures and practical sessions, where several professors shared valuable insights on pressing issues such as NATO and EU strategic approach and Russia's strategy, topics of great relevance in today's interconnected world.

Every day was packed with rigorous coursework and team-based tasks that required both analytical and strategic thinking. The program concluded with a test designed to assess our comprehension of the material covered over the previous four days. This evaluation not only gauged our progress but also reinforced a sense of accomplishment and confidence in our skills.

In addition to the academic rigor, our time in Gdynia was highlighted by cultural and social experiences that greatly enriched our overall journey. The Academy hosted a formal dinner in our honor, warmly welcoming us into their

Name: Neagu Andreea-Gabriela, Drăghici Paula, Oprea Ionuț, Gheorghiță Cosmin

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy "Mircea cel Batran"

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Traineeship (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Polish Naval Academy "Heroes of Westerplatte", Gdynia, Poland

Period: 07.07.2025 - 11.07.2025



POLAND

stunning city with elegance and charm. This event offered a chance for meaningful conversations, where ideas were shared and lasting friendships were formed. Exploring the city gave us the opportunity to experience firsthand the region's rich history and vibrant culture, deepening our appreciation for international collaboration and learning.

In conclusion, this mission was more than just an academic challenge; it was a transformative experience that broadened our horizons. It equipped us with essential skills in problem-solving and critical thinking, while also helping us build strong relationships with peers from all over the world. We are truly privileged to have participated in such a valuable educational adventure.

Name: *Cojocariu Eduard-Mihai, Gheorghe, Andrei-Dorian, Sima Nicolae, Semco Andrei-Valentin, Kozma Leonard-Antonio*

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Traineeship (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Bulgarian Naval Academy “Nikola Y. Vaptsarov”, Varna, Bulgaria

Period: 07.07.2025-11.07.2025

Between July 07 and July 11, 2025, we participated in the ”Fundamentals in cybersecurity summer camp” organized by the Bulgarian Naval Academy in Varna.

The course was centered on the shared objectives of detecting a malware attack, spotting a crypto mining scheme and observing a networking traffic to detect possible phishing attack.

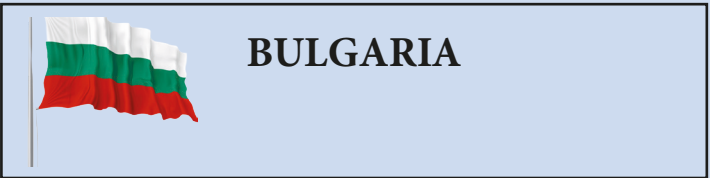
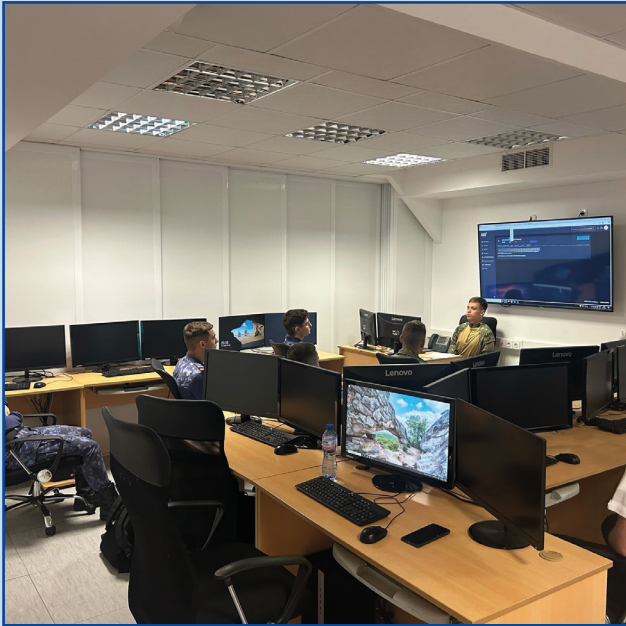
The schedule consisted of daily sessions held from 08:00 to 12:00 or 13:00 to 17:00. We were accommodated on Sunday, July 10, and began the programme with a formal welcome and raising of the flag ceremony.

The first four days were dedicated to accomplishing different challenges proposed to us by our teachers. The last day was dedicated to an organized visit to the Stone Forest near Varna. After that, we had an official Lunch at a restaurant organized by the Erasmus office.

The training included twenty-four cadets in total, from the following countries: Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Lithuania, Macedonia and Norway. The international composition encouraged professional exchange and collaboration between the two groups throughout the programme.

The activity concluded on Friday, July 10, with an official closing ceremony. The participants returned to their home institutions after July 11.

This mobility opportunity offered both academic and operational benefits. It enhanced our understanding of cybersecurity and good practice when using the internet. Participation in similar exchanges is strongly recommended for its contribution to professional development.





Between July 6 and July 13, 2025, four students from the Romanian Naval Academy, took part in the Bulgarian Summer Camp held in Varna, Bulgaria.

Our journey began with a scenic road trip aboard the Academy's minibus. Upon arrival, we were welcomed and guided to the camp's living quarters, where we stayed in military tents. The entire experience was centered around life in a structured, outdoor environment, mirroring real-life naval conditions.

A Day in the Camp

Each day started at 6:00 AM with reveille, followed by camp duties and morning flag-raising, after which breakfast was served. The mornings (07:45–13:00) were packed with planned activities including both theoretical classes and practical workshops. After lunch at 13:30 and a short rest, the afternoons were dedicated to cultural discovery and leisure—visits to local landmarks, exploring the city of Varna, or enjoying time at the beach. Evenings con-

cluded with roll call at 21:10, then free time until lights out at 23:00.

Naval Skills and International Friendship

The camp's training focused on seamanship fundamentals. We practiced basic nautical knots, engaged in rowing boat exercises, attended first aid at sea training, and even took part in swimming and volleyball sessions on the beach. These hands-on experiences complemented the theoretical sessions on navigation and maritime safety.

One of the most enriching aspects of the program was our interaction with cadets from the Naval Academies of Ukraine and Poland. Through joint exercises, casual conversations, and teamwork, we built strong friendships and exchanged ideas about military training in different countries. The instructors—military professionals and professors from the Bulgarian Naval Academy—stood out for their warmth, patience, and willingness to involve everyone. They even taught us a few Bulgarian commands



to use during drills, strengthening group cohesion and encouraging mutual respect.

Lessons Learned and Moving Forward

Among our favorite memories was the day we rowed together on the open sea—a true test of coordination, strength, and trust. That moment reflected the essence of the summer camp: learning through doing, bonding through challenge, and growing as naval officers and global citizens.

This camp was not only about maritime skills—it was a deep cultural and personal exchange that reminded us of the value of unity, teamwork, and discipline. For future editions, we believe involving more countries could further enrich the experience, fostering even broader cooperation among young naval professionals.

In conclusion, the Bulgarian Summer Camp was more than just a training program—it was a week of discov-

Name: *Rădulescu Cristian-Nicolae, Neculai Ionuț Gabriel, Stan Senin Enver, Ceașescu Horia Alexandru*

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy “Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Summer Camp (SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Bulgarian Naval Academy “Nikola Y. Vaptsarov”, Varna, Bulgaria

Period: 06.07.2025-13.07.2025

ery, growth, and international camaraderie, and we are grateful for the opportunity to represent our Academy in such a meaningful setting.



BULGARIA



Name: *Petrea Ramona, Chiriac Denisa*

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Onboard Traineeship
(SHORT TERM MOBILITY)

Host Institution: Hellenic Naval Academy, Greece,
HS Promitheus (A-374)

Period: 15.07.2025-28.08.2025

I am a midshipman at the Romanian Naval Academy in Constanța, Romania, specializing in Navigation, Hydrography and Naval Equipment. Since the beginning of my studies, I have aimed to take part in international training activities that would allow me to broaden my naval knowledge, improve my seamanship skills, and strengthen the spirit of cooperation among allied naval forces.

In this respect, the opportunity to join the Hellenic Naval Academy 2025 Summer Training Sail (STS), on board the Greek support ship HS Promitheus (A-374), represented a remarkable step in my professional and personal development. The training cruise was scheduled for a period of 42 days, from 15 July until 28 August 2025.

Together with my colleague Denisa Chiriac, we represented our academy in this mission, as part of a group of 8 international Erasmus students: 2 Romanians, 2 Bulgarians, 2 Italians, and 2 Egyptians. Besides us, the Hellenic Naval Academy also included international students who attend the full period of studies in Greece, coming from countries such as Senegal, Tunisia, Jordan, Georgia, and others. This multicultural environment gave the training a strong international dimension.

Unlike the Hellenic cadets, the Erasmus students were not required to stand watch or perform regular ship duties. However, we were actively involved in representation activities, official receptions in ports, and several key exercises. A highlight was the joint exercise with a German helicopter, which approached, landed, and took off nearly eight times from the ship's helideck, providing us with an extraordinary insight into air-sea cooperation.

During the mission, HS Promitheus made port visits in Bordeaux (France), Hamburg (Germany), Porto (Portugal), Barcelona (Spain), Civitavecchia (Italy), and Piraeus (Greece). Each stop was an opportunity to attend official receptions, interact with local authorities, and discover the culture and traditions of the host countries. The training sail also offered the chance to navigate through the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and the Aegean Sea, providing us with valuable seamanship experience in different maritime environments.

We also took part in activities dedicated to familiarizing ourselves with the ship, learning about its systems, organization, and crew routines. In addition, the mission included moments of relaxation and team bonding: a traditional Greek barbecue on board, group and individual

games, as well as access to the fitness facilities of the ship.

The social aspect of the training was equally important. International students from diverse academic and cultural backgrounds worked and celebrated together, forming lasting friendships. Each port visit included official events with local authorities, where we represented our academies and strengthened ties through cultural and naval diplomacy.

In conclusion, my participation in the Hellenic Naval Academy 2025 Summer Training Sail was a unique experience that improved my understanding of naval operations, strengthened international cooperation, and broadened my cultural horizons. It was not only a professional training opportunity but also an unforgettable journey that enriched my perspective as a future naval officer.



GREECE



NS “MIRCEA” - onboard traineeship

Home institution: Romanian Naval Academy
“Mircea cel Batran”

Exchange Programme: Erasmus+

Type of mobility: Onboard Traineeship
TS “Mircea”

Period: 02.07.2025-07.08.2025



ROMANIA

theoretical knowledge from the classroom. The unique environment aboard the legendary sailing ship provided them with an invaluable opportunity to develop not only their technical skills, but also teamwork, discipline, and leadership in a multinational setting.

Beyond its educational mission, the “Mircea” also fulfilled its longstanding role as a floating ambassador of the Romanian Naval Forces. During its deployment in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the vessel represented Romania in the ports of Thessaloniki (Greece), Durrës (Albania), Bari (Italy), and Varna (Bulgaria). The presence of international cadets on board gave additional weight to this diplomatic role, symbolizing unity on the seas and the shared values of naval service across nations.

The training ship returned to Constanța on August 7th, having once again carried forward its dual legacy of professional excellence and international friendship.





international Military Academic Forum

Between June 3–5, 2025, the Romanian Naval Academy in Constanța proudly hosted the International Military Academic Forum (iMAF), a prestigious event dedicated to fostering cooperation and the exchange of best practices among higher military education institutions. The forum brought together representatives from numerous countries, providing an academic platform for dialogue on present and future challenges in military education. Among the central themes addressed were the adaptation of training to new geopolitical realities, the integration of emerging technologies into the educational process, and the strengthening of international partnerships.

The conference was honored by the presence of distinguished naval figures such as Vice Admiral Mihai Panait, Chief of the Romanian Naval Forces; Rear Admiral Alecu Toma, Commandant of the Romanian Naval Academy; Colonel Harald Gell, President of EMILYO (European Initiative for the Exchange of Young Officers); and Major Christoforos Christoforu, Military Erasmus Coordinator of the ESDC (European Security and Defence College). Alongside them were academics and senior military officials, amounting to 110 participants representing 47 institutions from 18 EU member states (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Norway). Their presence added prestige to the event and highlighted the vital role of international cooperation in shaping future generations of officers.

The iMAF 2025 program also featured activities that showcased the traditions and resources of the Naval Academy. These included a visit aboard the training ship Mircea, fol-

iMAF 2025

lowed by a short sea voyage, as well as a visit to the Palazu Mare Nautical Base, where guests participated in a rowing boat activity (10+1). Social and cultural highlights included the official dinner, enlivened by the Academy’s ensemble and the military band, and an interactive icebreaker session, all of which facilitated networking and strengthened intercultural bonds in a more relaxed setting.

In addition, delegations of international students from Croatia, Poland, Bulgaria, Greece, and Slovakia, along with Romanian students from other military academies, enriched the forum’s intercultural dimension. Their participation encouraged constructive dialogue and the exchange of experiences among young cadets in training, further underlining the idea that officer education cannot be separated from multinational cooperation and shared values.

As a student of the Naval Academy and coordinator cadet responsible for assisting international participants throughout the forum, I had the privilege of supporting their integration into the program in Constanța. The conversations we shared reflected a common interest in advancing professional training and a genuine openness to learning from the experiences of European partners.

The iMAF 2025 experience represented not only an academic exercise but also a true lesson in cooperation and unity. It demonstrated that core military values—professionalism, respect, and camaraderie—transcend national borders. For students, this edition of the forum marked an essential step in their development as officers, preparing them to face the challenges of the contemporary world together.





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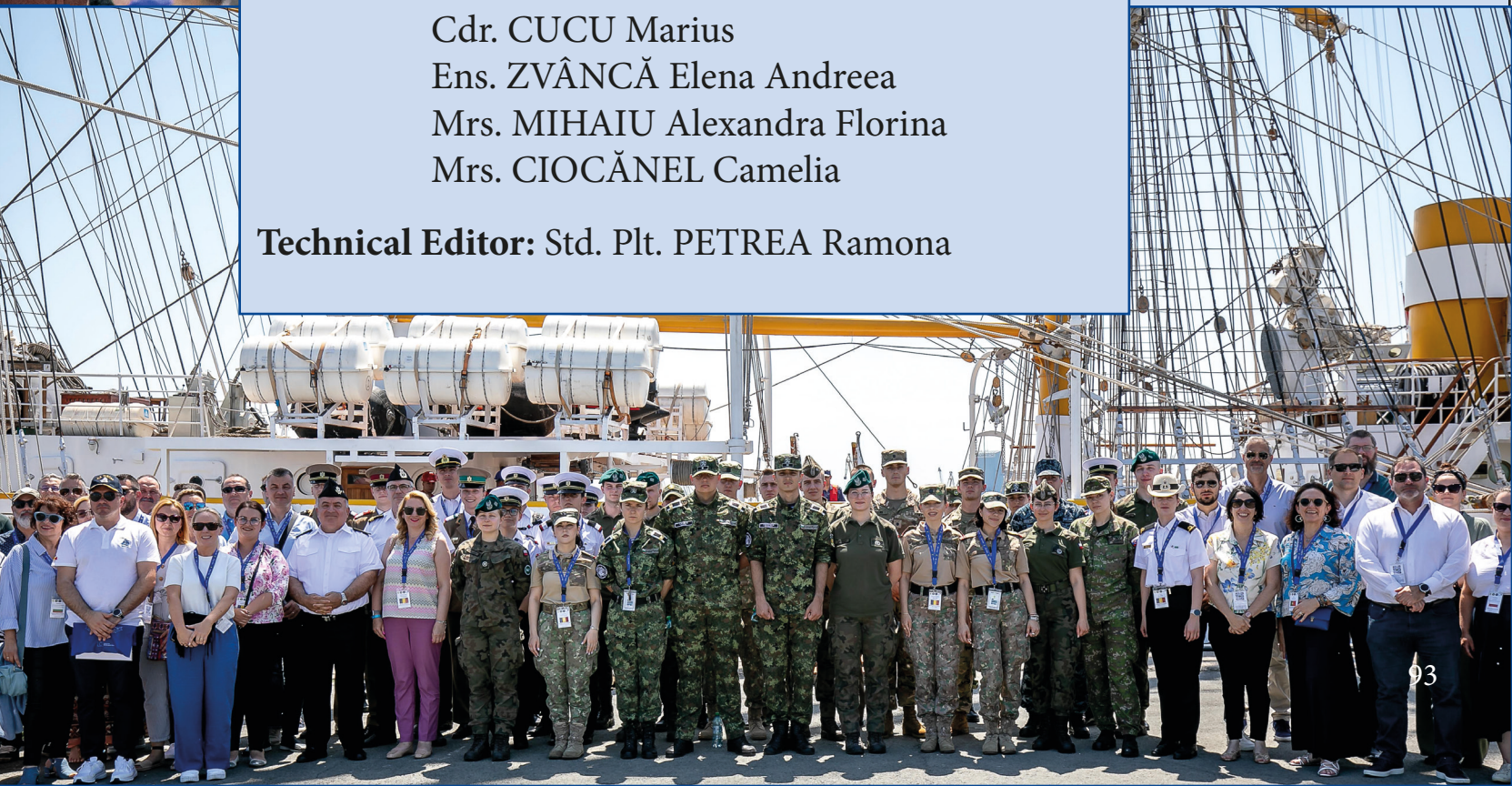
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