



Name of the event	<b>Common Module “Biosafety and Bioterrorism”</b>
Institution, which organised the event	<b>Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers (HMCSO)</b>
Country of the organiser	<b>Greece (GR)</b>
Year of the event	<b>2022</b>
Date of the event (from-to)	<b>28 February-04 March 2022</b>
Name(s) of the author(s)	<b>CADET IV (Med) ILARIDOU Iliana</b>
Authors’ institution	<b>Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers (HMCSO)</b>
Authors’ country	<b>Greece (GR)</b>

The Common Module ‘Biosafety and Bioterrorism’ event was hosted for the second time in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 28 February – 4 March 2022 by the Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers (HMCSO). Cadets from various European Military Academies, such as Poland, Italy, Bulgaria, Belgium, and Greece, and twelve civilian students attended this one-week common module under the European Initiative for the Exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus.



This Common Module of international character combined lectures by academics and specialised military personnel on a variety of subjects. Interesting issues have been discussed, such as animal diseases and their exploitation as bioweapons, the use of biological and biochemical weapons, and the meaning of asymmetric threats. Moreover, the epidemiology of pathogenic enterobacteria, bioterrorism, and biosecurity in relation to food safety, food fraud, and public health implications of emerging zoonosis were analysed in depth.

As a part of the educational process, cadets and civilian students were encouraged to collaborate in teams on different case studies. Each group was assigned the presentation of a specific topic like Geneva protocol, smallpox, and Unit 731. During this procedure, team spirit and collaboration skills were enhanced while exchanging various ideas and opinions. The educational part was completed on the last day with an examination procedure focused on the subjects discussed during the common module. Undoubtedly, this multinational experience proved



to be of great significance as it led to the cultivation of friendship bonds, feelings of estimation, and mutual respect.

Apart from the lectures, there were also other educational activities that took place. For instance, a trip to the famous archaeological site of Vergina took place along with a guided tour at the Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai. The site includes the palace of Philip II and the tombs of the royal family. Cadets and civilian students were overwhelmed not only by the uniqueness of the place but also by the breath-taking guide and the exceptional exhibits of the museum.



In conclusion, participating in this initiative unquestionably promotes international cooperation and raises awareness on biosafety and bioterrorism. Besides gaining valuable and advanced knowledge, the acquaintance with cadets from military academies of different countries and civilian students sealed this one-of-a-kind experience of multidimensional sharing of cultures and thoughts.