



Name of the event	Common Module "Gender Perspectives in Security and Defence"
Institution, which organised the event	Theresan Military Academy
Country of the organiser	Austria
Year of the event	2022
Date of the event (from-to)	21 November - 25 November 2022
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The Common Module "Gender Perspectives in Security and Defence" was organised by the Theresan Military Academy under the framework of the European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus (EMILYO). The aforementioned Common Module was conducted in Wiener Neustadt (Austria) from 21 to 25 November 2022. It was attended by cadets from 14 different countries, including cadets from the USA, Canada, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany, Czech Republic and Italy



taking part in the Academy's International Semester Programme, as well as one-week visitors-cadets and young officers- from Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Norway and Portugal.

The Common Module included a variety of lectures regarding Operationalising Gender, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the NATO/EAPC Policy on Women, Peace and Security 2021-2025, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Conflict-related Sexual Violence (CRSV), Military Gender Studies and the Key Gender Aspects of UNSCR 1325 and more.

Besides deepening our academic background regarding the topic, this particular Common Module was an eye-opener of how different the treatment of women is across the world. In particular, through conversation amongst the participants we came to the conclusion that women's position in security and



defence is better than a few years ago; however, there is still room for improvement. We find it important to mention the amount of syndicate work we engaged in, which allowed us to interact with fellow cadets from foreign military academies, exchange opinions, and reach a conclusion. Because of that, we had the opportunity to learn about each one's cultural background and way of living.

On the first day, we were introduced to the participants of the CM and placed in our working groups. After that we began our lectures, finishing the day with our first case study.

On the second day, we continued on with the lectures and syndicate work, while waiting for the visit of the USA ambassador, her Excellence Mrs. Kennedy, who joined us briefly for a conversation on gender perspectives and the work we did so far.

After the second day, we primarily focused on case studies, providing solutions for different scenarios, with the help of the instructors. Every scenario was built on an original case, sent to us beforehand and explained in the lecture room. On day three we went to Vienna,



where we had a brief tour of the city's sights and ended the day with dinner, a good opportunity for us to socialize even further with each other. On days three, four and five we were given time in the morning to engage in sports, thus evolving our team spirit and improving the way we worked in our syndicates. On the last day, there was a debriefing with all the closing remarks and an open discussion about everything we learned during the week.

To conclude, the Common Module "Gender Perspectives in Security and Defence" is a seminar worth attending. It truly puts into perspective the importance of giving both genders the opportunity to help in crisis and conflict situations, since excluding half the population based on gender has proven to do more harm than good in those events. The high level of knowledge of the instructors, the hospitality offered by the Theresian Military Academy, and the productive interaction with the cadets from all the different countries were contributing factors to making this experience extremely educational and unique.