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| Name of the event | Staff Mobility for Training – Individual Mobility |
| Institution, which organised the event | Polish Naval Academy (<i>Akademia Marynarki Wojennej</i>) |
| Country of the organiser | Poland |
| Year of the event | 2025 |
| Date of the event (from-to) | 02/04/2025 – 02/05/2025 |
| Name(s) of the author(s) | Aspirant of the Infantry Course of the <i>Guarda Nacional Republicana</i> (GNR), Diogo dos Santos Almeida |
| Authors' institution | (Portuguese Military Academy) |
| Authors' country | Portugal |

Description and objective of the activity:

The Erasmus+ mobility took place within the framework of the EMILYO programme and was integrated into the development of the Applied Research Project (TIA), required for the completion of the Master's degree at the Military Academy. The visit to the Polish Naval Academy aimed primarily to advance scientific research, establish direct contact with the TIA assistant-supervisor, and benefit from the academic and military environment of the host institution.

During the mobility period, there was the opportunity to participate in specialised academic activities, conduct fieldwork, and be integrated into an international and intercultural context, thereby reinforcing the European dimension of the training pathway.

Research and development activities:

The mobility was strongly focused on the advancement of the Applied Research Project (TIA), entitled "Freelance Terrorism, Methods of Prevention and Combat: A Comparative Study between Portugal, Poland and France". In this context, an in-person interview was conducted with a Polish expert in the field of counterterrorism, and two further interviews were carried out remotely with operational members of the following units: *Centralny Pododdział Kontrterrorystyczny Policji* (BOA) of the *Polska Policja*; *Grupa Reagowania Operacyjno-Manewrowego* (GROM); and *Jednostka Wojskowa FORMOZA*. A fourth remote interview with a representative of the *Agencja Bezpieczeństwa Wewnętrznego* (ABW) is still pending.

An intensive course was also attended, titled Countering Terrorism Intensive Course, which covered topics related to security, counterterrorism and threat prevention. This



contributed to the conceptual and comparative deepening of the project. Altogether, these activities provided a solid advancement of the project at theoretical, methodological and practical levels.

Cultural integration activities:

The mobility included a variety of intercultural activities promoted by the host academy, aimed at fostering interaction and dialogue among military and civilian students from several European countries, namely Lithuania, Austria, Italy, Portugal, and Poland.

One of the most impactful experiences was the visit to the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk (ECS - *Europejskie Centrum Solidarności*), where it was possible to engage with the historical memory of peaceful resistance and democratic transition in Eastern Europe. This activity enabled a critical reflection on the preservation of democratic values such as freedom.

Additionally, there was an opportunity to participate in the international conference Blue Mission BANOS, held in Sopot, within the scope of the European mission for the regeneration of oceans and waters. This participation allowed for the exploration of the interconnections between environmental and maritime security and both national and European security.

Accommodation and meals:

Accommodation was provided in a residence of the Polish Naval Academy, in a single room with excellent conditions (heating, television, private bathroom, refrigerator), as well as access to a fully equipped kitchenette and a laundry room.

However, meals were not provided, which required full self-financing of all food expenses. As such, meals were either prepared using locally purchased goods or consisted of pre-prepared food.

Observations, Lessons, and Best Practices gathered:

The mobility experience confirmed the importance of adopting an international approach to the study of terrorism and reinforced the value of comparing different systems of prevention and combat. The host academy demonstrated a strong capacity to integrate foreign students, as well as the relevance of its connections with national security structures.

The good practices observed include:



- Close and accessible academic support;
- Integration between the military and academic environments;
- Encouragement of critical thinking and the sharing of professional experiences.

Proposals and future perspectives:

From an academic and research perspective, it is proposed to strengthen similar mobility opportunities in the future, with a particular focus on integration into applied research programmes. It is further suggested that specific agreements be established between military academies to facilitate data collection, access to security structures, and the sharing of methodologies.

From a more practical qualification standpoint, it is recommended to develop mobility protocols between officer training academies in the fields of policing and security, with the aim of broadening and complementing the international perspective of future permanent officers. These mobility experiences should prioritise institutions comparable to the GNR, such as the *Gendarmerie Nationale* (France), *Guardia Civil* (Spain), or *Carabinieri* (Italy), allowing for immersion in the different European models of military-style policing (while also encouraging the creation of protocols with other international police forces). Such experiences would contribute to the development of more specialised operational competences, to a deeper understanding of transnational security realities, and to the strengthening of international cooperation in the field of internal security and defence.

Furthermore, direct contact with other doctrines, training practices, and institutional frameworks will enable future Portuguese officers to consolidate a more open, critical, and adaptable professional culture in response to the demands of security within the European space. These mobility initiatives should therefore be regarded as strategic opportunities for international cooperation in the field of security, making a significant contribution to the development of officers better prepared to face the transnational challenges currently shaping the defence and security landscape, particularly within the European Union.



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