Name of the event	**Common Module on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)**
Institution, which organised the event	**Theresan Military Academy**
Country of the organiser	**Austria**
Year of the event	**2026**
Date of the event (from-to)	**19.–23. October**
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Authors' institution	**United States Naval Academy, Theresan Military Academy**
Authors' country	**USA, Austria**

Cadets from the 3rd year "*Nordmann*" of the Theresan Military Academy and cadets, midshipmen and civilian students from across Europe and North America and international partner institutions convened at the historic Theresan Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt, Austria, from 19 to 23 October 2026, to participate in the Common Module on Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Organised under the framework of the European Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus (EMILYO / Military Erasmus), the module brought together 81 course participants representing 11 nations. The module provided an exceptional platform for multilateral education, joint professional development, and transatlantic strategic dialogue.



Picture 1: Group photograph of module participants, international faculty, and leadership at the Maria Theresa Monument, Theresan Military Academy.
Photo: Theresan Military Academy

The academic curriculum was delivered by 17 distinguished international instructors, military leaders, and subject matter experts from across Europe. The module was notably honoured by the strategic address of the Austrian Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence. Plenary lectures and seminar sessions focused on EU security architecture, the Strategic Compass, civilian-military crisis response mechanisms, Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), and European defence capability integration.

To reinforce theoretical concepts with operational exposure, the academic curriculum was enriched by an official delegation visit to the United Nations Headquarters Vienna. This visit directly supported the core lecture block dedicated to "*the EU and its strategic partners*." The course participants gained firsthand insight into multilateral diplomacy, international conflict resolution frameworks, non-proliferation and disarmament treaties, and practical civil-military coordination between regional security bodies (EU) and global international organisations (UN).



Picture 2: Delegation visit and multinational group photograph at the United Nations Headquarters Vienna.
Photo: Theresan Military Academy

In addition to intensive academic sessions, participants competed in a challenging multinational syndicate sports competition. Designed to foster leadership, camaraderie, and endurance under pressure, the competition tested marksmanship precision, physical endurance, obstacle clearance, and dynamic balance across specialised military training

circuits. Demonstrating superior teamwork and collective discipline, Syndicate A-3 secured first place overall in the competition.



Picture 3: Syndicate A-3 presented with certificates of achievement and medals for winning the multinational sports competition.
Photo: Theresan Military Academy

The accomplishments of all participants and syndicate winners were celebrated during the official CSDP formal dinner financed by the ESDC. The dinner offered an informal setting for cadets, midshipmen, students, faculty, and directing staff to engage in cross-cultural dialogue and strengthen multinational bonds. The guests enjoyed traditional Austrian cuisine, concluded by a cultural folk dance performance delivered by an Austrian cadet. This event highlighted host-nation heritage while exemplifying the mutual respect and enduring partnership central to the EMILYO initiative.