

ACADEMIC FOCUS

SBSR Program, 2020 edition: Young Leaders for Democracy and Security. A training program for young leaders on how to build secure societies in the Black Sea Region and the Balkans (June 2-4, 2020, Constanța, Romania)

Program: *Security in the Black Sea Region. Shared Challenges, Sustainable Future Program* is an interactive and practical training program dedicated to young and emerging leaders in the Black Sea Region and the Balkans. Its aim is to foster and enhance leadership, conflict resolution, critical thinking, and strategy and cooperation skills.

Organizers: The program, at its 7th edition, is organized by the “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy, Romania in partnership with Harvard Kennedy School of Government, US. It stands under the high patronage of the Romanian Presidential Administration. The 2020 edition shall be dedicated to training young and emerging leaders on how to build secure societies in the Black Sea Region and the Balkans.

Special mentoring feature: The program shall be held at Hotel de Mar, in Constanta, Romania (June 2-4, 2020), during **the Black Sea and The Balkans Dialogue Week**, as a back to back event with the *New Strategy Center’s Black Sea and the Balkans Forum*, to be held in the same venue (June 4-6, 2020). The back to back format provides the opportunity for young and senior leaders in the two regions to meet, share ideas and debate on how to build secure societies in the future. It will include a special mentoring session with senior policy makers present at the Forum, bridging vision across generations of leaders.

Program Statement: #teamwork #initiative #creative thinking #gender balance #mutual understanding. #inter-faith dialogue #respect. #equity

Being addressed to the Black Sea Region and the Balkans emerging decision makers in the fields of intelligence, security, foreign affairs and public diplomacy, one of the main aims of the program is to create the right framework in which young generations can interact freely and creatively, as well as debate with senior stakeholders, academia and high level officials, in full respect of each other and of potentially diverging interests, to promote mutual understanding and respect. Acknowledging multiculturalism, diversity and inter-faith acceptance as tools to transform societies, the training program aims to contribute to accelerating the pace at which gender balance, community cohesion and inter-faith acceptance is reached in the Black Sea Region.

The 2020 edition of SBSR, *Young Leaders for Democracy and Security*, combines formal and informal education strategies to foster learning by doing and ownership. The program of academic lectures on policy, public diplomacy, security and cultural strategies is complemented by roundtables with NATO and EU officials, a decision making exercise, a spotlight event, life skill sessions, an ad-hoc campfire and networking events.

Eligibility:

Young aspiring leaders in intelligence, security, foreign affairs and public diplomacy, under 35 years old; early and middle-career professionals and PhD students with working knowledge of English. Experience in international relations, intelligence, security and/or diplomacy is considered a plus.

**CRESCent**

Strategic partnership project within
ERASMUS+ Program
AGREEMENT No. –
2018-1-RO01-KA202-049449

**MIND THE GAP IN MEDIA COVERAGE
AND STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION
IN CASE OF SECURITY THREATS –
THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL
THINKING AND RESPONSIBLE
REACTION**

(October 1st, 2018 –
September 30th, 2020)

CRESCent project addresses the challenge of social polarization created by the propagation of disinformation and fake news. It is a proven fact that fake news have created in Europe, and in the three countries participating in the project, an acute miscommunication and lack of trust between the two targeted professional categories. As the media has been pressed into reaching large audiences, institutional spokespersons were forced into communicating what is necessary and not divulging aspects which could jeopardise security investigations and public safety. A gap of trust and efficient communication was, thus, created and later on widened by the phenomenon of fake news. While it is indeed the media professionals that shape the way information is delivered to the public, they themselves might get trapped in particular “narratives” and share common mental frames. Recognizing that the media professionals are themselves the locus of potential influence by external actors is crucial to developing strategies to combat misinformation and hostile influence. CRESCent aims to address this divide through innovative solutions and multiplication of best practices of both spokespersons and journalists.

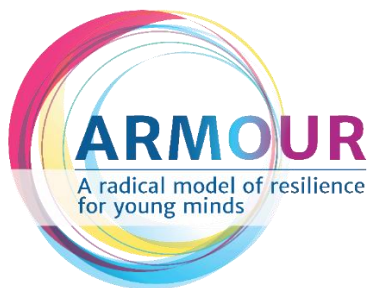
CRESCent project creates a training platform and a set of communication and cross-sectorial strategic communication instruments, which aim to capacitate institutional spokespersons and journalists from security and LEA fields, in order to use media reporting to the public in a conscious and ethical manner. CRESCent’s main target group consists of spokespersons in the field of national security and LEAs. The secondary group is represented by (young) journalists who are active in the field of security.

Participating organizations are: “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy (MVNIA) – Romania; University “Rey Juan Carlos” (URJC) – Spain; Kentro Meleton Asfaleias (KEMEA), Centre for Security Studies – Greece; Ministry of Internal Affairs, Directorate for Information and Public Relations (MAI-DIRP) – Romania.

Objective of the project are:

- to develop a toolkit of techniques, methods and instruments for institutional spokespersons and journalists who communicate on issues related to security and law enforcement, as support in their professional activity;
- to enhance key-competences and skills of the spokespersons and journalists so that they become resilient to fake news, build an ethics of reporting, perform double fact checking, provide and obey ethical grounds in handling sources, report security threats and handle truth for the preservation of democracy and the rule of law.

The CRESCEnt project is part of the ERASMUS+ program and it is funded by the European Commission. See more about the project on the official website: <https://crescentproject.eu>.



A RADICAL MODEL OF RESILIENCE FOR YOUNG MINDS – ARMOUR

Grant Agreement No. 823683

(January 1st, 2019 – December 31st, 2020)

The Euro-Arab Foundation leads ARMOUR (*A Radical Model of Resilience for Young Minds*) consortium and the project aiming to **address the social polarization caused by the adoption and spread of extremists ideologies** by creating an interdisciplinary **learning model that helps individuals and communities develop resilience** to the specific ideologies and behaviours of violent extremism.

The **ARMOUR's** consortium, led by the Euro-Arab Foundation, is also made up of the Centre for Security Studies – KEMEA (Greece), the “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy (Romania), SYNYO GmbH (Austria), the Italian Ministry of Justice, Agenfor (Italy), LIBRe Foundation (Bulgaria), the University of Malta (Malta) and the University of Groningen (Netherlands).

ARMOUR Project aims to address **societal polarization** via strengthening resilience of individuals, communities and vulnerable groups (such as children, youth etc.) to polarisation, and to promote **interaction and cooperation between different local actors** from public sectors, i.e. law enforcement, social services etc., that specialise in working with vulnerable groups in preventing extremism through development of cooperation models. The project will design and create a **Toolkit for first-line practitioners** to employ in **reducing polarization among children and youth**.

The Toolkit, capitalizing on previous work carried out by project partners, takes the form of **experimental laboratories** (experimental labs) which together work towards: strengthening individual capacity to resist push and pull factors of radicalization; creating community empowerment and resilience to social polarization and violent

extremism and assisting states deploy proportional responses against provocations and latent conflicts. The model will then be promoted through a social media campaign.

The **expected impact** of the project covers the following aspects:

- **Increasing awareness and capacity of first-line practitioners:** ARMOUR achieves this through the experimental labs and the related training programme. The first tool will help practitioners better understand and identify instances of radicalization and polarization among children and youth while the second one will help them improve their ability to use the project toolkit.

- **Promoting interaction and cooperation among different stakeholders:** ARMOUR achieves this by organizing the experimental labs in which practitioners and members of vulnerable communities have trusted interactions.

- **Promoting the views of moderate voices** by engaging with the silent majority and integrating them into the experimental lab.

- **Developing and promoting concrete tools targeting vulnerable groups:** the experimental lab combined with the best practices identified in the project and the online campaign are concrete tools which key actors can use when working with vulnerable youth.

The project is financed by the Internal Security Fund, a funding package of the Directorate-General for Home Affairs (European Commission) to promote the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy, law enforcement cooperation and the management of the Union's external borders. See more about the project on the official website: <https://armourproject.eu/a/privacy-policy>.

CALL FOR PAPER ROMANIAN INTELLIGENCE STUDIES REVIEW

‘Mihai Viteazul’ National Intelligence Academy, via its National Institute for Intelligence Studies, publishes the *Romanian Intelligence Studies Review* (RISR), a high quality peer reviewed and indexed research journal, **edited in English and Romanian twice a year.**

The aim of the journal is to create a framework for debate and to provide a platform accessible to researchers, academicians, professional, practitioners and PhD students to share knowledge in the form of high quality empirical and theoretical original research papers, case studies, conceptual framework, analytical and simulation models, literature reviews and book review within security and intelligence studies and convergent scientific areas.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Intelligence in the 21st century;
- Intelligence Analysis;
- Cyber Intelligence;
- Open Source Intelligence (OSINT);
- History and memory in Intelligence;
- Security paradigms in the 21st century;
- International security environment;
- Security strategies and policies;
- Security Culture and public diplomacy.

Review Process: RISR shall not accept or publish manuscripts without prior peer review. Material which has been previously copyrighted, published, or accepted for publication will not be considered for publication in the journal. There shall be a review process of manuscripts by one or more independent referees who are conversant in the pertinent subject area. Articles will be selected based on their relevance to the journal’s theme, originality and scientific correctness, as well as observance of the publication’s norms. The editor evaluates the recommendation and notifies the author of the manuscript status.

The review process takes maximum three weeks, the acceptance or rejects notification being transmitted via email within 5 weeks from the date of manuscript submission.

Date of Publishing: RISR is inviting papers for No. 23 and 24 and which is scheduled to be published on June and December, 2020.

Submission deadlines: February 1st and July 1st

Author Guidelines: Author(s) should follow the latest edition of APA style in referencing. Please visit www.apastyle.org to learn more about APA style, and <http://www.animv.ro> for author guidelines. For more details please access the official website: **rrsi.ro**

Contact: Authors interested in publishing their paper in RISR are kindly invited to submit their **proposals electronically in .doc/.docx format at our e-mail address rrsi@sri.ro, with the subject title: RRSI article proposal.**