



**THE FIRST MODERN ROMANIAN
INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL
MVNIA 30th ANNIVERSARY**

**The message of the Rector of the
“Mihai Viteazul”
National Intelligence Academy,
Professor Adrian-Liviu IVAN**

The first modern Romanian intelligence school¹ was established in August 1992, precisely 30 years ago! Its birth is closely related to the democratic course of the state and came as a natural continuation of the reformation and democratization process of the intelligence activity that began with the establishment of the Romanian Intelligence Service a year earlier, in 1990. Thus, in August 1992, through Government Decision the Superior Institute of Information (SII) was constituted, which was a higher education unit dedicated to intelligence studies. The beginning was not an easy one! Without a national or regional tradition of academic studies in the field, without a consolidated scientific foundation, SII was, in the 1990s, a pioneering, exploratory endeavour that sought to harmonize the practical training needs of intelligence officers with the aspiration to consolidate the field of intelligence as an independent field of scientific investigation, related to the disciplines of psychology and sociology. Only three years later, in April 1995, the Superior Institute of

¹ The message was firstly posted in Romanian on MVNIA's oficial website: <https://www.animv.ro/30-de-ani-de-la-infiintarea-scolii-romanesti-de-intelligence-comunicat-de-presa/>

Information became the National Institute of Information (NII), which gave it the desired scope of a military institution of higher education at a national level. The objective of the Institute at that time was to meet the national quality standards in university education and to give validity and coherence to the training efforts of the new officers.

Later, the Romanian school of intelligence sought to find its own identity by pursuing not only the quality standards specific to university education, but also the correlation with the new trends of scientific investigation in international relations, security studies, and intelligence studies, as they had been consecrated, in a much longer and more extensive tradition in the transatlantic landscape. The focus was then on the correlation of study subjects and university programs with research in the field. During those years, NII founded its first scientific review – Psychology and mass media – and started organizing scientific events, communication sessions, and conferences to encourage debates and the formation of a national knowledge hub.

Looking back objectively, we can say that, after this exploratory period, the real path of the Romanian intelligence school as a university with academic aspirations began in October 2000, with the establishment of the National Intelligence Academy (NIA), with the restructuring of the study programs and their alignment to European standards. The adoption of the Bologna Process regulations in 2007 and the rethinking of university training as a complete process, with bachelor's, master's, and doctoral studies brought along a maturing and growth process. A decade later, in 2010, NIA, which in the meantime, in 2009, became the “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy (MVNIA), assumed a new objective, that of correlating university education with scientific research. The National Institute for Intelligence Studies was thus established, a dynamic research entity through which the Academy managed to become competitive in research and win

projects with European funding, alongside prestigious university consortia.

However, the path of the Academy has not always been linear and upward. Its accelerated modernization process, the development of graduate and postgraduate education programs, the pioneering years of the doctoral school meant both good practices and obstacles not always well managed and many lessons learned. Beyond these, however, we can say that the determination with which the Academy assumed the need for reform and the honesty with which it went through this process, not always comfortable, made it continue to develop. It is no coincidence that the last decade has been marked by progressive internationalization. Ten years ago, in 2012, MVNIA organized its first international conference and brought together at the same table the biggest names in the field of intelligence studies with practitioners from the region. A year later, the first international training program “Security in the Black Sea Region” was launched, organized together with Harvard University and the National Intelligence University in the United States.

This retrospective look at the path of the “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy also allowed me to make my own retrospective. This year I started my second mandate as Rector of the Academy and entered my fifth year of university managerial activity here. The mission I received from the management of the Romanian Intelligence Service at the beginning of my mandate was to develop young officers in accordance with the profile of the world they live in. During all these years I sought to promote ethics and academic honesty, to strengthen quality assurance mechanisms in educational and research processes, and to encourage its internationalization course. The educational offer has therefore been reshaped into a new paradigm that adequately responds to the training needs of the intelligence community in an increasingly digitized, interconnected, and rapidly changing world. As far

as the Romanian Intelligence Service is concerned, the Academy has become in these years the only gateway to continuing education and training.

In 2020, we signed, on behalf of Romania, the Letter of Intent for the foundation of the Intelligence College in Europe (ICE). In parallel, MVNIA became a member of the European Security and Defence College, having in both cooperation forums an active role in the development of European training programs in the field of intelligence studies.

All these things make me look to the future with confidence. The Academy is in a European and international academic validation process, based on the quality of the educational processes and scientific results obtained. It has developed and it will continue to develop master's and doctoral programs in international joint supervision, through European framework programs. It will continue to initiate research projects aimed at increasing societal resilience to threats such as social polarisation, radicalisation, propaganda, and disinformation. At the same time, alongside the taking over of the presidency of the Intelligence College in Europe in 2023, we will continue the efforts to develop a common strategic culture of intelligence and security, in order to be able to strengthen cooperation and comprehensive knowledge of the threats that the European democratic society will face in the following years. It is an effort that the academic and research community must make in order to support the development of a European vision shared by all member states and to contribute through objective knowledge to an effective approach to threats.

On the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the first Romanian modern intelligence school, I want to thank all those who have contributed over time to this project and urge my colleagues not to lose their vision, their determination, and enthusiasm for the academic training of young officers.