

## Visit to the Air Force Academy in Pozzuoli: “Leadership, rules and creativity”. Students and cadets: different ways to see leadership



On Wednesday 18th of February, first and second year students of Global Governance, went to the Air Force Academy in Pozzuoli to take part to the seminar “Leadership, rules and creativity: an actual deep in an air force prospective”.

The Air Force Academy was established in 1923 and it is one of the oldest military academy in Italy. It’s major aim throughout the years has been to form new Air Force officials, in order to do so the academy provides several 5 years courses:

- degree in air force sciences for pilots and shooters,
- degree in law or economics for the administrative personnel,
- degree in medicine for battlefield physicians.

As it can be read on the Academy website, it’s highest purpose is: *«preparing young officials with strong moral principles, motivated and in possession of personal qualities, military and professional, needed to work at the best at the Country service»*.

It has been a two days full immersion in the cadets’ life in the academy, where students had to touch with hand what military discipline looks like.

Since our arrival a great “empathy” developed between us and the cadets, establishing a synergetic connection.

The first part of the seminar, was dedicated to leadership, rules and creativity, held by **General Giaccotti**, the lecture aimed to find an integrative way between our different worlds. This first part was a journey from the origins of men to our days, studying and understanding the reasons and the needs of leadership both as protection, it was taken into example a video of paleo-men saved by one peer from a pack of wolves, and as administration and how these two perspective are deep one into the other and how dangerous could be one without the other.

During the afternoon, instead, we joined the cadets in some of their daily activities, from flying an airplane to shooting simulations, passing through a challenging activity called *combat fitness*, pushing our bodies forward to complete all the exercises.

In the evening we had the chance to go out for dinner all together as civilians and we could know each other much better. After dinner, tired and strained we went to bed as the alarm clock was set for 6:30 a.m!

The following day we continued our seminar from where we left. We also had a great lecture from **Colonel Surace** about *complex systems*, a very interesting focus on how our world works from the smallest living agent a cell to the Arab Spring dynamics. This second seminar aimed to give important concepts to think complex and not complicated, to reassemble a chaotic situation in to a simple one which our brain is set to solve. It was very interesting and definitely it gave both us and the cadets a lot of food for thought.

After lunch we packed our belongs and said hello to our new friends. Conscious of a new world, we finally came back home.

This experience was an enrichment for everybody, cadets, students but also for military instructors and professors: everyone had the chance to confront on issues essential for their careers current or future.

For us students of Global Governance was a further proof, that what we do or aiming to is just one of the many perspectives to make this a better world. Unlike what people may think about the military world, we had to think again and realize the key role these young women and men will play in our society.

It was the greatest opportunity for team building, but this time with other peers in a different environment.

Probably the best thing that students and cadets have learned from this experience is: even if we made different choices, have different points of view and backgrounds, we have much in common, and a lot to share, on different roads linked with the same desire, we have to work together to make the world move towards a better and sustainable future.



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