

## **Visit to The Italian Air Force Academy in Pozzuoli, 29-30<sup>th</sup> May, 2017**

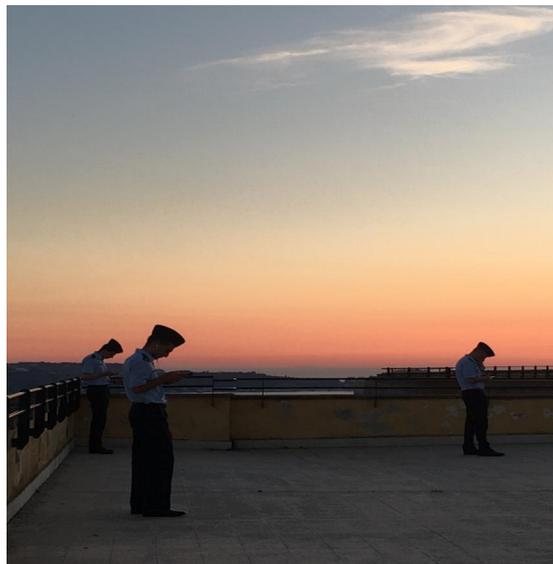
At the sunrise of 29<sup>th</sup> of May, we, first year Global Governance students left Tor Vergata to challenge ourselves during a two days' experience at The Italian Airforce Academy in Pozzuoli.

We were greeted by General Giancotti, Colonel Cristiano Galli and some of the first-year cadets with whom we were going to attend the "LEADERSHIP, CREATIVITY AND RULES" course. After a welcome coffee, everyone gathered in the Aula Magna and the course started.

It aimed to stress our attention on the common path of our education: team work. Although different backgrounds, both the cadets and us strongly believe the group to be the only tool to achieve great goals and objectives, in an efficient and rapid way.

We learned how to establish balanced relationships within a group through a perfect combination of theory and activities. On the one hand, we understood that there is no possible leadership without a good followership: leaders should be able to set a dialogue with their followers. They have to establish rules and make decisions out, taking into consideration the followers' opinions as well.

On the other hand, through simple group exercises, we realised that every theory needs application in real context to be fully understood. At this point, we had the opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with the cadets. That was indeed the main purpose of the Pozzuoli visit.



**Cadets enjoying their weekly 20 minutes of phone freedom.**

We had the opportunity to compare our values and culture with the military ones. Cadets live a stricter and tougher life, with several rules to be respected and many punishments in case of disobedience. It is a reality so far from us, which we could observe and appreciate as much as possible.

The cadets have huge hopes and dreams for their future, same as us. However, they are willing to sacrifice the freedom that every civilian has, in the name of a higher purpose: to serve their nation and to have the guarantee of a certain job in the Academy. This is the main difference between them and us; we will struggle more to get a job, which is not ensured by our graduation.

In conclusion, it was an incredibly enriching experience, which made us mindful of a different lifestyle, completely unknown to us before.



**Flag-raising ceremony at 7:10 am**

Lavinia Apicella and Francesco Bono