

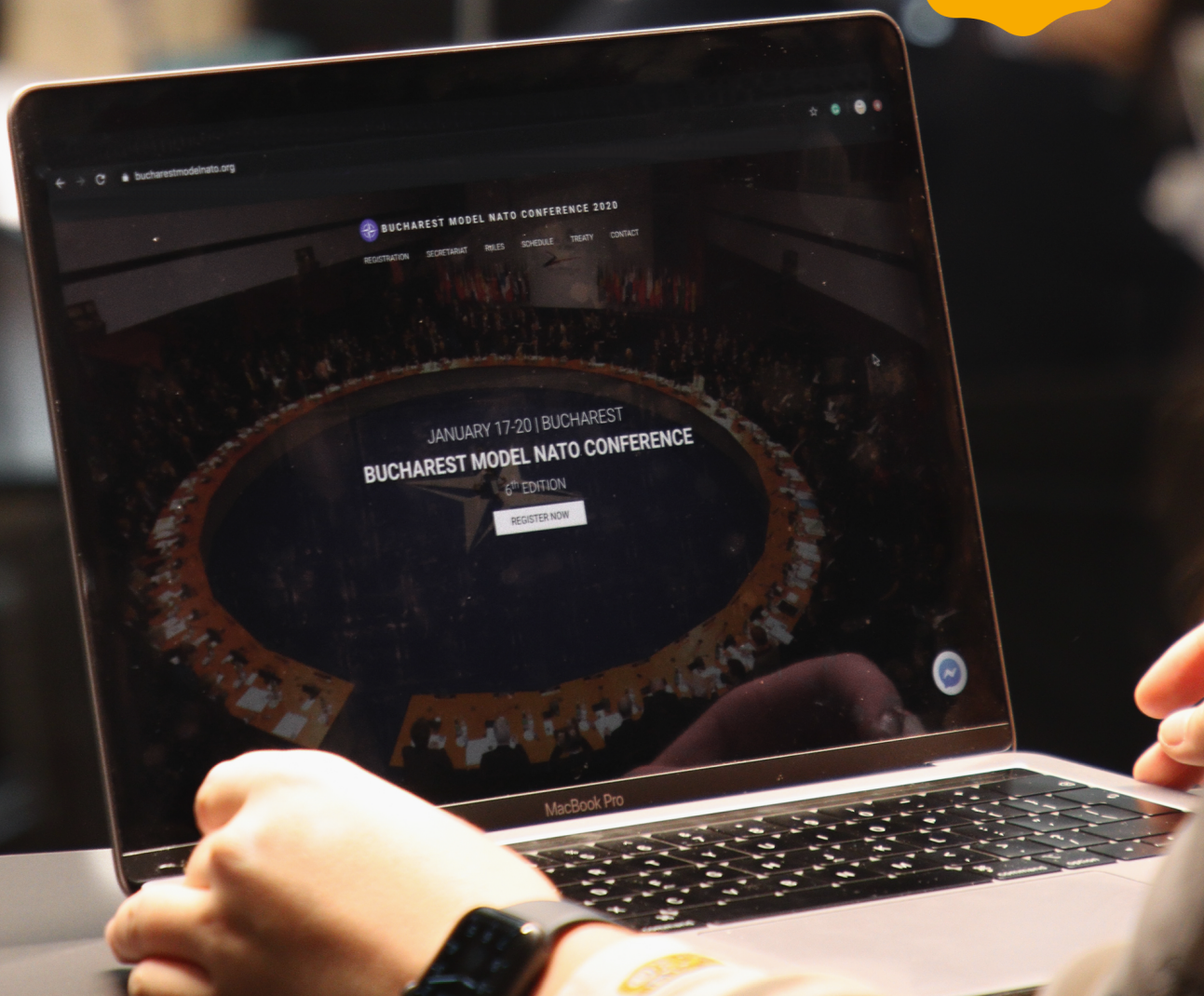
OPENING RESUME • INTERVIEWS • HIGHLIGHTS

BUCHAREST MODEL NATO

2020



6th
edition
est. 2014



BUCHAREST

MODEL NATO

2020

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The BMNATO conference is unique in the world. Since 2015, its purpose has been to simulate The North-Atlantic Summits, familiarizing the youth generation with military and security problems that world leaders, members of the Alliance, must deal with. During the four days of the simulation, participants are anchored to possible threats to which Romania itself may be directly involved in the future. BMNATO became a source of information and a career start point for many high-school and university students, reaching its 6th edition in the January of 2020.

“Small minds discuss people. Average minds discuss events. Great minds discuss ideas.”

The Bucharest Model NATO Conference was born of such an idea. Six years ago, a bunch of then-teenagers interested in international affairs and national security came up with a great idea. They wanted to learn about how a NATO Summit should be conducted, but there was nothing of the sort already established. So, they took the matter into their own hands and started planning a NATO Conference simulation. With no experience whatsoever, one step at a time, they uncovered the ins and outs of a such meeting- what their topics of discussion are, what committees exist, and how delegates should conduct themselves. Working in the dark at first, they gradually gained experience in the Diplomatic field and got used to the world they wanted to someday be a part of officially.

People can now embark on a completely different journey than the one which was started six years ago. Since the second edition in 2016, the board has been changing annually based on the principle of meritocracy. This change is built on the involvement, devotion, maturity, and profound interest in this project, all of which were proven in the previous edition(s). Thus, an alleged legacy is formed, allowing the dedicated participants – delegates or chairpersons – to climb their way up the hierarchic ladder and also experience how is like to organize such an event from scratch.

Therefore, we encourage you to read on the following pages and see how things have been behind the scenes this edition. Hopefully, we will see you next year!

Warmest regards,
The BMNATO 2020 Team

MEET OUR SECRETARIAT

Răzvan Turcu



Răzvan was General Manager last year and the Best Delegate Overall the year before. His main interests are programming and leadership that he both combines in his entrepreneurial ventures and projects. Outside of the working environment, Răzvan enjoys playing tennis, running, and listening to all genres of music.

"The best way to predict the future is to create it." (President Abraham Lincoln)

Andrei Petroff

Andrei, the 6th edition's President of Councils, always feels the need to do more. From working his way up in a radio station for over two years, to interning for start-ups and MNCs alike, Andrei's professional skills are vast. Now a senior, he wishes to pursue a major in Behavioural Economics - for even though he might seem hard to approach, he finds fulfilment in interacting, getting to know, and working with others.



Sânziana Stan



From a delegate two years ago, to a chairperson last year, Sânziana was the Operations Supervisor of the 6th edition of the BMNATO Conference. She is one to always seek discomfort by trying new things and taking on each challenge that comes her way. Her former projects include international volunteering programs, internships, event-planning and online magazines, that showcase her leadership skills thoroughly.

Cristina Șerban

Cristina was the Strategy Manager of the 6th edition. Her main passions are business management and race strategy planning for Formula 1 races as well as leadership and psychology. She worked with a Formula 1 team in the past, pursuing projects in that field in an entrepreneurial manner. She also enjoys playing basketball and going for runs.



"Records are there to be beaten and history is there to be rewritten"

Special guest:

EMIL CONSTANTINESCU

(President of Romania 1996 – 2000)



Emil Constantinescu is a Romanian professor and politician, who served as the third President of Romania from 1996 to 2000.

Constantinescu first graduated from the Faculty of Law, and then from the Faculty of Geology and Geophysics of the University of Bucharest; subsequently starting a career as a geologist. He has doctorates in Geology from the University of Bucharest, and in Sciences from Duke University, USA, respectively. Since 1966, Constantinescu taught in the Geology Department of the University of Bucharest.

After the Romanian Revolution of 1989, Constantinescu became a founding member and vice president of the Civic Alliance. He was the acting chairman of the Democratic Romanian Anti-Totalitarian Forum, the first associative structure of the opposition in Romania. During his time as head of state, Dr. Constantinescu targeted corruption and was an advocate for human rights and the rule of law, having a huge contribution in Romania's first steps for joining the NATO and UE families. In 1999, at the Washington NATO Summit, Constantinescu envisioned a reconstruction of southern-east Romania and a common future alongside democratic values – “The Southeast of Europe is today the epicenter of a tragedy. Everybody is talking about war. But it is now to talk about peace and reconstruction. It is not an easy task. However, it is necessary and possible. I am addressing you on behalf of a country that had inter-ethnic problems.”

During his presidency, the USA and other Western countries saw Romania as a strong ally: a medium country, at the border between the Orient and the Occident (old and new, democracy and communism), with connection for international economic exchanges. That is because Pres. Constantinescu had the courage, strength, and vision to change the old communist dogma.

Since 2001, Dr. Constantinescu has been a member of the International Board of the East-West Institute, the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, and the International Centre for Democratic Transition, among others. In 2012, he received the “Romanian Army's Badge of Honor” for his crucial contribution that led to our NATO adhesion in the second enlargement of 2004.

Special guest:
**ADRIEAN
PÂRLOG**
MAJOR GENERAL



Major General Adriean Pârlog was deputy of the Direction of Military Information in Romania and Defense, Military, Aero and Naval Attaché in the Kingdom of Norway.

He is the President of SC Integrated Corporate Security Services (ICSS), offering courses for professional forming in the business information field and corporate security. University Professor, Dr. Pârlog has published over 10 scientific publications, 49 articles, 12 research and development projects, 6 books, and 25 complex exercises. Among the scientific concerns we can list the following titles: "Producția de informații", "Metode și tehnici de analiza informațiilor", and "Activitatea de informații pentru apărare". He attended courses at the NATO Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, Centre of Defense Studies at King's College and Harvard University/JFK School of Government.

In the Opening Ceremony, Mr. Pârlog prepared a case about staying informed in the modern world. "We procure information by modern means: political influencers and experts, mass-media, leaders with biased views and the list goes on. Manipulation is a growing problem and each of us is gradually more exposed to this issue: so how do we separate fake news from trustworthy sources?"

The General called upon the USA's and Russia's inconsistent relationship following the last presidential elections. The latter created confusion in the political environment by denying any implications in the psychological profile of the American electors during the Trump v. Clinton road to the White House, even though Mr. Pârlog finds the evidence of involvement compelling. Along with presenting his point of view, he analyzed a specific interaction between a Russian official and a US journalist.

He called for us reconsider our role in society and build on the experience gained from this conference. Keeping our integrity intact while trying to face impending mass manipulation should be the general consensus. For, as Mr. Pârlog states "Listen to everyone, but understand some are simply trying to deceive you."

Special guest:
ALEX
ȘERBAN
COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST



Alex Șerban is one of the top communication specialists in government relations in Romania. He is the Founding President of the Euro-Atlantic Council in Romania, and former President of ATA (Atlantic Treaty Association), which he's been a member of since 2002.

Mr. Alex Șerban served as an adviser to the Prime Minister of Romania on NATO and international security issues. He held senior positions in the private sector, and for NGOs, being an active participant in both international delegations and conferences. He has worked as a freelance journalist at New York City's LEADERS Magazine. Further, Mr. Șerban devised and managed public affairs and corporate relations programs for multinational companies and interest groups across a broad range of industries (healthcare, retail, telecom, and defence). He is the founder and now associate of Șerban & Musneci Associates, a consultancy firm sought to become the top public affairs company in Romania.

Mr. Șerban holds an International Studies Bachelor's Degree from Wesleyan University and an International Relations Master's Degree from Columbia University. Executive education training courses at Harvard University's JFK School of Government, University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Business School, the George C. Marshall Centre for Security Studies (Germany), and the National Defence College of Romania complete his education.

At the Opening Ceremony, he gave a speech about the importance of civic involvement among young people in politics, defence, and national security. He stated that being actively involved in political associations is the engine that awakens the civic conscience of the individual. Therefore, people's awareness about worldwide problems expands, causing a change in the behaviour and mentality of closed communities - which can further influence the psychology of the masses.

OPENING CEREMONY

After the short speeches held by the Members of the Secretariat, the projection of “Turning Point (Punctul de cotitură): Romania – NATO 1996-2000” presented a brief history of democracy in Romania, centered around Emil Constantinescu’s presidential mandate. The short documentary highlighted key moments of our history, as it showcased our progress from 1996 (when URSS collapsed and the European map was reconfigured) to 2004 (when the official Romanian adherence to NATO was signed). It commented on the essential meeting with President Bill Clinton, our country's role in the Kosovo War, and on other regional conflicts. Then, Mr. President Emil Constantinescu engaged in a Q&A session, where he further answered the curiosities of the young audience.



(Andrei Petroff, President of the Councils)

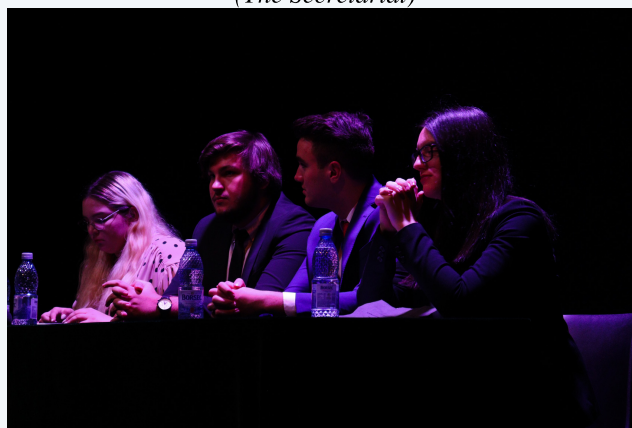
On the other hand, Adriean Pârlog presented the fake news phenomenon and gave the audience the following piece of advice: “Don’t buy what they sell to you. And stay awake if you want to sleep well”.

He highlighted the importance of symbol communication and context during public appearance.



Next on, Alex Șerban talked about the BMNATO Conference being a resemblance of a NATO simulation he organized years ago. With such an experience in event-planning, he recognized the efforts of preparation.

(The Secretariat)



Mr. Serban has been involved in projects of political, security, and defense nature and he admitted that it was an honor to be in the meetings that changed the landscape of modern politics and diplomacy.

COMMITTEE SESSIONS BREAKDOWN

"On the first day, AC developed an aviation assistance plan in the event of an attack on an allied nation."

Next on, they approached the problem of UAVs, ending it by writing a viable resolution. After that, the delegates were given a crisis scenario that tested their problem-solving skills and their diplomacy. After solving the first crisis, the delegates from AC received a second crisis: the international airport from the fictional city of "Bakarest", "Rmania" is taken over by insurgents,



AVIATION COMMITTEE

two civilian airplanes are destroyed, the prime minister is killed while the defence minister is held captive. During their last session, the delegates were lectured on crisis management by their chair, Zisis Kyrgos.



COMMUNICATION, COMMAND & CONTROL BOARD

"The first day started well with all the delegate understanding the rules very quickly."

Their first topic was: "Protocol for reaction to a high-level cyber-attack on the institution of a member state". The delegates held the opening speeches one by one. By mid-day, they had already started writing one of the resolutions which was voted to be read at the closing ceremony. The next day, the delegates were much more involved in the debate on the second topic: "Updating the framework for efficient cooperation and communication between member countries in both crisis and non-crisis situations". On the last day, the delegates finalized the second resolution and voted on the amendments.



NATO CRISIS COUNCIL

"The two councils, NATO and non-NATO respectively, both oversaw the future of the American Iranian conflict.

After a couple of hours of session, even before the member states could compromise on a viable resolution, they were met with an unforeseen "switch", as an alleged chain of terrorist attacks in Europe mixed up the delegates from the two rooms. The next hours were spent in passionate debate, both in unmoderated caucus and formal debate. Failing to reach a consensus, delegates argued their opinions with great ardour.

NON-NATO CRISIS COUNCIL

"They retired with high anticipation for the day to come."

In the following morning, delegates from both rooms came together to draft a treaty, which was then voted upon and passed. Having solved the crisis, they celebrated the bittersweet end of a wonderful and rewarding experience through funny awards and placard signings- the perfect end to a perfect BMNATO conference.



MILITARY COMMITTEE

On the first day of the committee sessions the delegates discussed the plan for the reactivation of Operation Ocean Shield. The Military Committee managed to come up with a viable resolution that effectively tackles piracy in the Gulf of Aden. The debate in the Military Committee went very smoothly, the delegates got on very well and came up with unbelievably good OCs, finishing the resolution on time.



"The last day was a lot of fun for the delegates, they had the chance to engage an interesting crisis situation that put their minds to work."



"They finished by signing the placards and laughing about everything that happened throughout the conference."

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

The Council had really fruitful debates on the topic of Kosovo. The delegates went through two brainstorming sessions during the creation of the communiques. Second day went great as all the delegates were really engaged in the debates when the final communique was discussed. Despite the heated arguments from the previous day, the result was appreciated by everyone.

NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP

"The crisis ended with USA declaring war on Germany."

The first day was expected to be a little rougher, but the delegates totally exceeded any expectations with flowery speeches, creating an ideal atmosphere in the committee. The second day was a wild ride as they had to help the crisis committee and also finish their own resolutions.



The third day started by wrapping up the committee work. After that, they had the funny awards and received a little crisis about NATO being split by a tweet for Trump.



(Delegates at the Closing Ceremony)

INTERVIEWS

1. How did you find out about BMNATO? What convinced you to join us?



(Alexandru Gîrban)

Alexandru Gîrban, Delegate of Italy, Military Committee, first-timer: “From some friends who had gone to previous editions. I thought it was interesting, and because I’m passionate about politics and debate, I decided to sign up.”

Ada Pîrvulete, Chairperson of the C3B: “This is my third BMNATO conference; I initially found out about it from some friends who would not stop talking about it after attending.”

Iulian-Nicușor Murgoci, Delegate of Romania, North Atlantic Council, returning delegate: “Last year, from Facebook. I was amazed by the fact that the conference was at its fifth edition already. And, being passionate about NATO and global security threats, I thought I should give it a try. From every new experience, you can learn so much. While the concept wasn’t familiar to me, but the committee structure and acclaimed topics convinced me.”

Elena Osain, Chief of Staff: “My first contact with BMNATO was three years ago, grace to Daniela Bordei, who advised me to apply as a delegate. I represented the Netherlands in the Partnership and Cooperative Security Committee.”

2. What expectations did you come with? How has this experience shaped you?

Alexandru Gîrban: “I expected an exact NATO simulation - which is exactly what this experience was. I got better public speaking and critical analysis skills. Overall, I learned to be more open.”



(Ada Pîrvulete)

Iulian-Nicușor Murgoci: “I was afraid of speaking in public, but I was able to overcome my fear. For this edition, as well as last year’s, I chose to represent Romania, the host country after all, as a way to fully immerse myself in the committee. Winning last year’s best first-timer award, I think this experience grew me.”

Ada Pîrvulete: “I joined the 4th edition as a delegate and I was very shy at the beginning - I just didn’t know what to expect from the others. But I moved past my shyness rather quickly. After the conference, I could feel my mind blooming, just thinking about how much I’ve learned. It’s not only about politics, you can also find out many interesting facts about History or Economics.”

3. What would you change about this edition?

Iulian-Nicușor Murgoci: “Maybe the delegates should be more careful about the official language. But, from last year’s edition, I can see an improvement regarding the lunch breaks and the official schedule.”



(Iulian-Nicușor Murgoci)

Ada Pîrvulete: “At C3B the atmosphere was great, from the delegates to the staff members. I felt very relaxed, everything was working like clockwork, everyone was very respectful. Next year, I would like to see more communication between the committees, so that everyone could have the chance to meet as many people as possible.”

Elena Osain: “For the next edition, a training or a workshop before the opening ceremony would be useful, so that the information could be received by every volunteer. The staff members’ role is essential during BMNATO, they become our ears and eyes in every committee.”

4. Elena, what was it like to switch from receiving orders to giving them out? How do you feel now, as the Chief of Staff, compared to when you were a delegate?



(Elena Osain)

“At first I was quite shy, but I got confident rather quickly. Even though such a responsibility looks all too exciting, it comes with unexpected challenges - you have to tell everyone what to do in detail, so that they know where to go and how to act. The first day especially was tough, as not every staff member respected his/her duties, but, after talks with the GM and President, I managed to make them understand the importance of their roles.”

As we close the last page of our 6th chapter, we are not nostalgic. Rather, we feel pride at succeeding to bring such a talented, motivated, and passionate group of young individuals together once more. For four days, you've been able to prove to both us and yourselves, that there is a viable future for diplomacy, and that we will be ready to step up, to take responsibility when the time calls for us to do so. If you participated as a volunteer, chairperson, or delegate, you've shown that you are determined to better yourself academically, professionally, and personally. And we wish that your attendance to BMNATO 2020 will not be the last time you show this determination.

We'd like to thank each and everyone of you for giving life to our event. For without you, the conference would not have been possible. As such, we extend our warmest invitation to attend the 7th edition. You'll hear from us soon.

See you next year,
The Bucharest Model NATO Team

Special thanks to:

Canon
studentconsulting
aiming for the best
group^m

UNIAPPLY
hot
spot
RADIO GUERRILLA^{FM}
BINILI ÎNVINGE!

