

**ERASMUS+ BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMME
“ORGANISED CRIME AND DRUG TRAFFICKING”**

Coordinating Institution: University of Maia – UMAIA

BIP coordinators: Prof. Olga Cruz; Prof. Ana Guerreiro

Physical mobility period: 20-24 July 2026

Virtual mobility: 28 July 2024

ECTS: 3

OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

This Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) aims to provide participants with a comprehensive set of knowledge, skills, and competencies essential for a critical understanding of organized crime in the context of drug trafficking, both in Portugal and at the international level. Through a critical approach, the programme will explore key concepts and characteristics of drug trafficking and organized crime, distinguishing them from other forms of criminality and examining various theoretical perspectives. Additionally, contemporary challenges in combating organized crime, particularly drug trafficking, will be analyzed, including transnational dynamics and institutional responses. This BIP will ensure the developing of the critical capacity of students applied to the analysis of concrete cases. Furthermore, students will enhance their skills in interpreting data and reports on the evolution of organized crime and drug trafficking in Portugal, as well as in relating legal and institutional aspects to the practical reality of law enforcement.

Topics:

- Organized Crime: main concepts and characteristics.
- Theoretical perspectives on organized crime.
- Challenges in Organized Crime
- Drug (ab)use in Portugal: main dynamics and current trends
- Drug legislation in Portugal: a brief history of its evolution
- Current Portuguese legal framework on drugs: the supply and the demand
- Drug trafficking in Portugal: main dynamics and current trends

The contents of this programme have been structured to ensure the progressive acquisition of the knowledge, skills, and competencies defined in the learning objectives, focusing on the study of organized crime and drug trafficking. Organized around two main topics, the contents of this course initially aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the definition, concepts, and fundamental characteristics of organized crime, offering students an essential theoretical foundation to grasp the specificity of this criminal phenomenon. The discussion of the challenges posed by organized crime ensures that students understand its complexity and evolution, fostering reflection on the difficulties faced by justice and security systems. The inclusion of drug trafficking as one of the main illicit markets of organized crime reinforces this perspective, enabling students to interpret the global and national dynamics of trafficking, as well as its social, economic, and legal impacts. Thus, the curricular contents maintain internal coherence with the learning objectives, ensuring that students acquire solid knowledge, develop critical and investigative skills, and are capable of applying the studied concepts to the analysis of organized crime and drug trafficking in Portugal and the global context.

METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology adopted in the BIP aligns with the learning objectives of the programme, ensuring an active and participatory approach that fosters critical thinking, autonomy, and students' analytical skills. The combination of intensive in-person activities and online work promotes a dynamic and in-depth learning experience, enabling the consolidation of theoretical knowledge and the development of essential practical skills for studying organized crime and drug trafficking.

VIRTUAL COMPONENT DESCRIPTION

During the in-person component, the balance between lectures, critical-reflective debates, and case study analysis ensures that students not only acquire theoretical knowledge about organized crime and drug trafficking but also develop the ability to apply this knowledge in interpreting real-world phenomena. The online component complements this approach by encouraging independent work and scientific research, which are fundamental for strengthening students' analytical and interpretative competencies. Continuous digital interaction with faculty members ensures effective supervision, promoting the practical application of studied concepts and enhancing students' ability to communicate clearly and substantively on the discussed topics.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment structure reflects this methodological coherence, encouraging both individual participation and teamwork in in-person activities (50% of the total assessment) as well as independent research and presentation of findings (50%), ensuring that students develop a well-balanced set of knowledge, skills, and competencies.

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