

## Director's Address at the IAFIE Spotlight Event in Malta

### ICE: Five Years of Building Bridges in Intelligence Cooperation

Ladies and gentlemen,

It has been exactly five years since ICE was established, conceived as a kind of "Intelligence Erasmus" with the mission to build BRIDGES across the intelligence community.

We have worked to foster three key bridges:

First, a cultural bridge connecting more than 90 intelligence services from 31 nations. This cultural foundation encourages cooperation and joint action, without changing the national community or the structures of individual services.

Second, a bridge between services and academia. We utilize two main tools: a new European training dimension and intelligence studies on topics of European interest.

Third, a bridge between services and EU decision-makers, with the aim of raising awareness of intelligence and security within the European Union institutions.

The appropriation of the ICE framework is advancing at full speed, with more countries joining. In the past academic year alone, we conducted over 30 activities, reaching more than 1,300 officers and selected EU officials. We do not focus on initial training; our goal is to enhance the skills of experienced professionals.

What are our current development priorities?

We continue to provide training for future intelligence managers and experts, focusing on those working at the European level or representing their services in European forums or directly in the EU.

Two Outreach Priorities:

Developing a European academic culture through publications and research (such as IJICI and the Antonio Diaz Youth Working Group).

Stabilizing our EU-focused efforts to promote greater awareness and development of a more decent intelligence and security culture within EU institutions.

Thank you for your attention!