



**IECLO**

International & European  
Criminal Law Observatory  
ON CULTURAL ISSUES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY

## **SURVEY ON TRAINEESHIP**

### **ERASMUS+ STUDENT MOBILITY FOR TRAINEESHIP**

***Mrs. Mihaela Botnarencu***

**Q: Would you please indicate your first and last name as well as the sending institution?**

A: My name is Mihaela Botnarencu and my sending institution is the Transilvania University of Brasov.

**Q: What did drive you to choose IECLO and the University of Salerno as hosting institution?**

A: I chose IECLO and the University of Salerno as my hosting institution because of their strong academic reputation and focus on European and international legal studies, which align closely with my academic and professional interests. IECLO's work in comparative legal research, legal observatories, and its involvement in European projects offered the perfect environment for me to deepen my understanding of legal systems and broaden my perspective. Additionally, the University of Salerno's welcoming international atmosphere and its location in a vibrant, culturally rich region made it an ideal place not only for academic growth but also for personal experiences, such as discovering Italian culture, traveling, and enjoying the local lifestyle during my two-month stay.

**Q: How long did your traineeship last?**

A: 01.07.2025-31.08.2025

**Q: How was the reception from the Mentor and from the other Members of the Observatory?**

A: The reception was excellent. From the first day, my mentor made me feel welcomed and supported, offering clear guidance and encouragement throughout the experience. The other members of the Observatory were equally kind, open, and willing to share their knowledge. I appreciated the collaborative spirit and the friendly atmosphere, which made it easy to integrate, participate actively, and feel part of the team. This positive environment greatly enhanced both my learning and overall experience.

**Q: Could you please explain in detail your occupations during the traineeship?**

A: During my traineeship at IECLO, I was involved in a variety of academic and research-related tasks. I conducted legal research on topics related to European and international law, particularly focusing on areas such as human rights, judicial cooperation, and comparative legal systems. I assisted in drafting and editing legal reports and summaries, reviewed academic publications, and helped prepare materials for conferences and internal meetings.



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In addition, I had the opportunity to attend seminars and discussions organized by the Observatory, which allowed me to better understand the methodologies used in legal observatory work. I also contributed to ongoing projects by analyzing case law, legal documents, and policy papers, and occasionally collaborated with other interns and researchers. These activities allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical context and to develop valuable skills in legal writing, critical thinking, and professional communication.

**Q: Did you have any colleagues? Were you included in a team of similarly tasked personnel?**

A: Yes, there were several students practicing. We had team tasks and worked in pairs.

**Q: What did you enjoy the most of this experience?**

A: What I enjoyed the most about this experience was the combination of professional growth and cultural discovery. On the academic side, I truly appreciated being part of an intellectually stimulating environment where I could deepen my knowledge of European and international law through practical work and engaging discussions. Collaborating with experienced professionals and being involved in real research projects gave me a sense of purpose and motivation.

At the same time, I loved the opportunity to explore the region around Salerno. I had time to enjoy the beach, travel to nearby cities, and immerse myself in Italian culture. This balance between work and leisure made the traineeship both enriching and memorable, and it helped me grow personally as well as professionally.

**Q: Has the traineeship in some way changed the way you look at or approach working?**

A: Yes, absolutely. This traineeship has helped me develop a more structured and proactive approach to work. I've learned the importance of managing my time effectively, setting clear goals, and adapting to different working styles in an international environment. Working within a research-oriented and collaborative team showed me how valuable communication, critical thinking, and flexibility are in achieving high-quality results.

**Q: Do you believe this working experience has deepened your knowledge in the field of International and European Criminal Law in comparison to your level at the start of the traineeship?**

A: Yes, without a doubt. This traineeship has significantly deepened my knowledge in the field of International and European Criminal Law. At the start, I had a theoretical understanding gained through academic studies, but working at IECLO allowed me to apply that knowledge in a practical context. Through legal research, case analysis, and exposure to current developments in European criminal justice, I gained a clearer understanding of how legal principles are applied in real-world situations.



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Q: Do you believe this working experience has honed your skills in work management (e.g., team-working, time management, etc.) in comparison to your level at the start of the traineeship?

A: Yes, definitely. This experience has helped me improve several key work management skills. Working in a collaborative academic environment enhanced my ability to communicate effectively within a team, share responsibilities, and adapt to different working styles. I also developed better time management by learning how to prioritize tasks, meet deadlines, and balance independent research with group activities.

Q: Do you feel that your working/career aspirations and goals have in some way changed since the start of the traineeship?

A: Yes, this traineeship has had a meaningful impact on how I view my future career path. While I was already interested in international and European law, this experience confirmed my desire to work in a research-oriented or policy-focused environment with a strong international dimension. It also opened my eyes to the possibility of pursuing a career in legal research, EU institutions, or NGOs working on justice and human rights.