[Titles]
The Erasmus program has been born for 30 years. In this issue, we look at the impact on young people and on the common European project.

Several American leaders have visited Europe in recent days: the balance of these visits and relations between the United States and NATO are also highlighted in this program

In France, some demonstrations against police violence ended in riots. A situation has already been commented by the candidates for the presidency of the country
[Titles End]

Welcome to the Magazine Europa,

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Erasmus program, a European Union project that has been promoting student mobility and cultural exchange. The date is celebrated in Europe through more than 200 events in 33 countries. The Events would gather about 280 thousands participants.

The journalist Olga Pereira, of Radio Macau, recovers some of the history of the program:

RM – Olga Pereira:
"Almost 300,000 students per year have benefited from the Erasmus program over the last three decades.
According to the European Union, the aim is to support the modernization of education in Europe. In this sense, Erasmus has enabled Europeans to study, but also to receive training, to gain work experience and to participate in voluntary activities outside countries of origin.
When it was created in 1987, the project covered 11 countries. Today there are 33 nations participating in the program, which extends beyond European borders.
The project also grew in terms of content and type of beneficiaries.
Erasmus +, as it is now called, also covers professional intern-ship and a range of initiatives in the field of sport. The project covers a wider range of participants,

including professionals from various fields and organizations who are given the opportunity to participate, for example, in volunteering or learning.
We should also highlight the support that Erasmus + has given to the integration of refugees.
Launched in 2014, Erasmus + has already benefited around 2 million people.
The current seven-year program, covering the period from 2014 to 2020, has a budget of € 14.7 billion. A figure that, says the European Union, represents a 40 percent increase over previous budgets. "
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On the phone from Brussels is the resident commentator of Magazine Europa, Victor Ângelo, the international consultant based in the Belgian capital.

Hello, Victor, a lot has changed in Europe for the last 30 years. How this program has contributed to cohesion in Europe?

RM – Victor Ângelo:
"The Erasmus program has been, and indeed has become, the pearl of the European crown. It is certainly one of the most important programs in terms of promoting the European ideal. And above all, because it's covered by the young population, and in recent years, it has formed a lot of people. The program which is currently approved for the period 2014-2020 is extremely ambitious and will certainly allow not only greater knowledge of the reality existing in different European countries, but will also enable young people to establish bonds of friendship, cooperation, ties even family members, with young people from other European countries. If there is anything that has contributed to European integration and to the common program, it is certainly the Erasmus program. At the moment, Erasmus has a very large social inclusion dimension because, in addition to student exchanges, it also allows for the financing of refugee studies and, in particular, the language training of those who have recently arrived in Europe as refugees. And it also plans to finance some 7,000 projects that will promote social inclusion. And this is important at a time when a relatively signifies part of the population, especially the younger ones, feels excluded from social progress and the economy. "

What are the advantages of this experience for young people?

RM – Victor Ângelo:

"The young people who have taken part in the Erasmus program find employment more easily, they are much more mobile - and we are now in a world where there is mobility: today one can work in Portugal, tomorrow in France and within some Years in another European country. For this reason, mobility, in a more global society - and certainly in a more economically integrated Europe - is a fundamental issue. In addition, there is also the linguistic question and the openness of mentalities, because in reality the young people who participated in the Erasmus program and who could have been trained for some time in other universities in other countries came into contact with other cultures, ways of seeing things, and certainly have greatly broadened their cultural, human, and political perspectives. "

In the area of college education, the trend in the European area has been to harmonize the courses or at least the duration of courses, if we think about the Bologna process. Does this type of measure jeopardize local specificities?

RM – Victor Ângelo:

"The great European universities continue to have their identities. There are great universities with a great historical tradition and this historical tradition remains. What is true, also, is that this is now shared with young people from other parts of Europe. I do not believe that this calls into question, on the one hand, the specificity of certain universities, the quality of teaching that is taught, and certainly does not jeopardize the patriotism of young people because, while they gain a European experience And a European vision of things, nevertheless maintain a very strong link with their country of origin. In fact, most of the young people who have been part of the Erasmus program have achieved very interesting careers. And today we have enough data to show that there is a stronger link between participation in Erasmus programs and professional success. "

The Secretary of Defense was in Brussels last week to attend the NATO ministerial meeting. James Mattis sought to reassure members of the Atlantic Alliance about the position of the new US Administration:

RM – James Mattis:
"The alliance remains a pillar for the United States and for the entire transatlantic community. We are united and together. As President Trump has already stated, he firmly supports NATO. "

Each NATO member has agreed to invest at least 2 percent of gross domestic product in defense, but few do, which has come under criticism from the Trump Administration.

The Vice President of the United States participated last week in a conference on security in Munich, Germany. In what was the first official visit to Europe since taking office, Mike Spence secured US support for European countries, but insisted that all NATO members have to live up to their commitment:

RM – Mike Pence:
"At present, the United States and only four other NATO members meet this basic criterion. We commend the few nations that are in a position to achieve this goal, but the truth is that many others, including some of our greatest allies, do not yet meet these conditions; they still have a long way to go to meet this minimum goal. Let me be clear on this point: the President of the United States hopes that our allies will keep their word and fulfill their commitment. For most, that means the time has come to do more. "

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has stated that this is an objective to be achieved but difficult to implement immediately by all members of the Atlantic Alliance.

RM - Jens Stoltenberg:

"We are aware that several allies are having problems with budgets and deficits. They have been trying to figure out how to raise funds, but this is a matter of giving priority to the defense. And when the 28 allies agree, I expect all 28 to comply. But we agreed in three steps: stop the cuts, gradually increase the investment in defense and reach 2 percent. So we do not expect everyone to reach 2 percent right away. But we expect

everyone to stop the cuts and start raising the budget for defense. "
Victor, in this context, where is the European defense policy?

RM – Victor Ângelo:

"The issue of military spending is a very delicate issue at the moment in Europe, especially given that the social aspects of the economy are poorly funded, given that there are a lot of people in unemployment and taking into account that many countries are To implement austerity measures. Therefore, talking about the increase in defense spending in a context of austerity and social difficulties is politically very difficult, very complex and certainly something that is not easily understood by the public. But it is also true that there are European countries' commitments to common defense - and in particular their participation in NATO - and there has been a lot of pressure on the part of the United States in recent years for European countries to contribute more to spending Common. So the current pressure, which is a very strong, very strong pressure, goes in the same direction, it is simply more vocal, more audible. At the 2014 NATO summit in Wales, the Heads of State and Government who participated in it again committed to spending about 2 percent of their countries' gross domestic product in the area of defense. This would happen progressively and set the year 2024 as the horizon. On the other hand, also at the 2014 summit the Heads of State and Government made a very close link between military spending and economic growth. That is, the increase in financial allocations to the defense could only take place if there were economic growth in Europe. "

How can the positions taken by the Trump Administration and Russia influence the overall strategy of the European Union for foreign and security policy?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"The European Union is facing a big defense problem, which is, above all, to define what it should be understood as the common defense of the European Union. It is necessary to make a very clear analysis of what are the main threats that at present may damage Europe's sovereignty and stability. Then need to understand what the responses to these threats are. And some of these responses will certainly be military, but others will be police, for example, as regards internal security. And there are also

other aspects of defense that today must be taken into account because we are witnessing attacks - against the European Union and against the unity of the European project - which have a lot to do with counterintelligence and with Cyber espionage. These issues are not necessarily military matters - they are issues that have to do with defense, but they have to be dealt with in a different way and require, above all, a very great political understanding, a great collaboration between the Member States and certainly a New way of seeing the defense - not only seeing defense as a military force, but also as something that uses 'soft power', which uses other instruments of power, such as information, diplomacy, economic sanctions, etc. . "

Last week a meeting of the G20's ministers of foreign affairs also took place in Europe, where the head of US diplomacy also participated. On the other hand, the visit of the American Vice President, Mike Spence, is still underway. But so far, Victor, what balance does the visit of US leaders to the European continent?

RM - Victor Ângelo:

"At present, there is still much confusion in Europe about the position of the new US administration vis-à-vis Europe, and in particular with regard to the European Union. There is some clarity at this point as far as NATO is concerned. Apparently, the US government is willing to continue investing in NATO, provided that the NATO member countries also share in the common expenses, as we have said. But it is not clear about the European project. There is even much concern. Several European leaders think that the US government does not consider the European project as a viable project, does not consider that the European project can respond to the transatlantic issues that the new US administration would like to see, and also think that the Americans will mainly privilege bilateral relations with some European countries. This, of course, causes a great deal of uncertainty at the level of Brussels and the level of European capitals - especially those European leaders who still believe that the only way to face the future is a common future across Europe. "

In Romania, the population remains on the street in protest against the Government. Last Sunday, thousands turned up again in Bucharest and other cities, requiring the resignation of the Social Democrat government. The protests began after the

Romanian government had advanced with a decree decriminalizing some acts of corruption. The Executive has already gave away to this decision, but the demonstrations continue.

In France, there have also been protesting in the last week. Hundreds of people came to the streets in several French cities to protest against police violence because a young man who has been sexually abused by French police officers, as radio journalist André Jegundo tells us:

RM - André Jegundo:

"The demonstrations began by being peaceful, with hundreds of people taking to the streets in solidarity with young Theo. In some cases, the protest ended up in breaking shop windows, burning cars and clashes between protesters and authorities.
Théo, 22, denounced the alleged abuses that occurred earlier this month. Following this complaint, two officers were charged with assault and one with rape.
The case comes at a time when the campaign for the presidential elections in France is taking place.
Marine le Pen, the right-wing candidate, has blamed politicians who have ruled the country for years for the riots in the French capital, adding that security forces have been "scoured." Words criticized by Socialist Party candidate Benoît Hamon who accused the National Front leader of encouraging violence with a 'hate speech'.
François Fillon, the right-wing candidate, regretted that a demonstration had been authorized when "the risks were evident."
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Victor, this case draws attention to the problem of minority integration in France. What is failing?

RM - Victor Ângelo:

"What is failing in France is what has failed over many years. And this is not the first time we have this kind of street demonstrations and this kind of social problems with certain minorities living in France. For many years the French project has for decades

been based on the creation of satellite cities on the outskirts of large cities, which are mainly dormitory towns, as well as emigrant people, poorer people or people with less paid jobs. There was a firing of these emigrant populations to certain peripheral urban centers. There was, on the other hand, little concern to create in these peripheral urban centers the social, cultural, etc. infrastructures that would be necessary if this were not just a dormitory. And the reality is that we have, today, around the big cities, many problems and we have cities, peripheries, which are mostly peripheries of people who have immense difficulties in life. In the present case, the periphery in question is the periphery of department 93, which is Seine-Saint-Denis. In this area, 27 per cent of the population is poor, about 30 per cent of the population of Seine-Saint-Denis is emigrant and it is clear that these people feel excluded, especially young people. There is a high unemployment rate in France, but this unemployment rate is particularly important for those between the ages of 18 and 24. "And if allegations of police abuses are confirmed, this case also shows that there is a problem in the Mode of action of the authorities ...

RM - Victor Ângelo:

"The French police - and the authorities in general, but especially the French police - practice a way of working that is based on racial filtering. People are stopped on the street and are identified taking into account their physical appearance. It's what we call racial filtering. And there is also a lot of institutional racism, particularly at police level. This has been a constant, has been a problem that has not been solved, and is something for which a solution needs to be found. There are also those who are now wondering why this phenomenon of police violence appeared in France on the eve of a very important electoral process. "What consequences can these events have at a time when the extreme right-wing candidate for the presidency of the "Some people ask if this police violence we are witnessing in France will not be inspired by elements of the National Front to give the impression that the police can not control the violence. Peripheral neighborhoods and therefore the peripheral neighborhoods need an even stronger treatment in terms of police intervention and the state needs to be an even stronger state in terms of political direction, ie it needs to be a directed state By Marine Le Pen. "

Analysis by Victor Ângelo, resident commentator of Magazine Europe.

A closing the seventh art. *Cidade Pequena*, by Portuguese director Diogo Costa Amarante, won the Golden Bear for Best Short Film at the Berlin International Film Festival. The film tells the story of Frederick, a six-year-old boy who one day discovers at school that People die because their hearts stop beating.

It's the second consecutive year that the award goes to Portugal, after last year Leonor Teles was distinguished by the film Ballad of A Batráquio.
See you next week!

Magazine Europa is presented by journalist Sofia Jesus, with the comments of Victor Angelo, a former undersecretary general of the United Nations, and Rui Flores, coordinator of the Jean Monnet Project Magazine Europa, coordinates it.

The opinions expressed in this magazine do not represent the official opinion of any institution of European Union.

The Jean Monnet Project Magazine Europa is a partnership between the University of Macau and the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM), co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union.

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