PERSONAL INFORMATION

PANĂ MIHAELA

📍 Bucharest, Romania

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Date of Birth: ▮▮▮▮▮▮ | Nationality: Romanian

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

2021- 2025   PhD Candidate in Communication Sciences

National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest | Doctoral School
Thesis: *"Cognitive Security. Analysis of Automated Influence Operations Based on Deepfake Advertising"*

2007 - 2009   Master's Degree in Multimedia and Audiovisual Production

University of Bucharest | Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences
Thesis: *"User-generated content as a source for traditional journalistic products"*

2002 - 2006   Bachelor's Degree in Journalism

University of Pitești | Faculty of Social and Human Sciences | Degree awarded by the University of Bucharest | **Thesis:** *"Migration of Argeș County Journalists"*

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2023 - 2024   Associate professor - PhD candidate

Faculty of Communication and Public Relations, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest

- The leading of the "*Cyber Resilience*" module on the Master's programme in *Digital Communication and Innovation*

PUBLICATIONS

- Pană, M. (2025). "The age of digital deception: tracking disinformation and malvertising in deepfake advertising". *Public communication and challenges in the current digital environment,* editura comunicare.ro, 200-220;
- Pană, M. (2024). Comunicarea în guvernanța securității cibernetice în Dobrescu, P., Zeru, F. (ed). Comunicarea guvernamentală în România. O abordare strategică, București: Editura Tritonic, 215-243;
- Bârgăoanu, A., & Pană, M. (2024). "Cyber influence defence: Applying the DISARM framework to a cognitive hacking case from the Romanian digital space". ACIG, 3(1), 1-20. doi:10.60097/ACIG/190196;
- Pană, M. (coord) (2023). DAMAGE CONTROL. A Guide for the Cyber Resilient Communicator (eBook), editura comunicare.ro, ISBN: 978-973-711-649-9;
- Pană, M. (2017). "Fake news: prevenție, detecție și răspuns". *Cybersecurity Trends*, 3, 10-11;
- Pană, M. (2006). "Migrația jurnaliștilor argeșeni". *Jurnalism și Comunicare*, 2-3, 24-32.

CONFERENCES

- Pană, M. (2023). Neighbours with the War: The Digital Footprint of the Link Between Cyber Attacks and Information Attacks. Presented at the conference *"Challenges of the Current Security Environment and Their Impact on International Relations"*, Cluj-Napoca, May 11–12, 2023;

- Pană, M., Ene, D.A. (2023). *Cyber pressure in Eastern Europe. Building cyber resilience to cognitive hacking using information security frameworks*. Presented at the International Graduate Conference in Communication, Bucharest, June 15–16, 2023.

CERTIFICATIONS

2020	Internal Auditor Training – Information Security Management System (SR EN ISO/IEC 27001:2018 and ISO 19011:2018), certificate issued by SRAC Servicii Grup SA;
2014	Trainer certification by the National Authority for Qualifications, COR: 242401;
2006	Graduation certificate – Psychopedagogical Training Program, University of Pitești.

SPECIALIZED COURSES

2024	OSINT, SkillLab;
2023	*Advanced Research in Hybrid Threats Course*, European Security and Defence College;
2022	Summer School "Strategic Communication, Governance, and Security in the European Union", 2nd Edition, Bucharest;
2021	Online Course – *Strategic Communication to Counter Security Threats in the Disinformation Era*, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (CRESCEnt project)
2021	Online Course – *Cyber Diplomacy*, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs;
2020	Training Certificate – *Introduction to People OSINT / Missing People OSINT* by Joe Gray;
2017	Coursera Online Course – *End User Security Awareness*;
2016	Coursera Online Course – *International Cyber Conflicts*, The State University of New York;
	CERT-RO Training: *Cybersecurity Course for Journalists*;
2016	Open to study: *Writing for the Web*;
2015	Specialization Course in *Performance Management and Team Motivation*.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Over 20 years in journalism, digital media, and communication: Reporter at *Ziarul Argeșul* (1998–2003); Contributor and Online editor at *Academia Cațavencu / Cațavencii* (catavencu.ro & catavencii.ro) (2006–2012); Online editor at *Realitatea.net* (2007–2008); Editor at *B1 TV* (2011); Digital Marketing Specialist at *Discovery Communications* (2012–2014); Editor-in-Chief of the Online Editorial Office at *AGERPRES* (2014–2018); Founder of the cyber security awareness project *CyberM.ro* (2017).

- Since 2018: Military personnel at the *Special Telecommunications Service*

PERSONAL SKILLS

Native Language   Romanian

Other Languages:

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING	WRITING
	LISTENING	READING		
English	C1		C1	C1
EF SET Certificate - https://www.efset.org/cert/g4zqPv				
French	B2		B2	B1
Spanish	B1		B1	B1
Russian	A1		A1	A1

Reference Framework: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)