DAN MIHALACHE

Diplomat • Political Strategist • Political Scientist
Professor • Commentator



Dan Mihalache is a Romanian diplomat, political strategist, political scientist, professor and commentator whose professional career has spanned journalism, politics, government and presidential administration, parliamentary activity, academia and diplomacy.

He began his professional career in journalism in the early 1990s, while studying at the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest. Between 1991 and 1993 he worked for the daily Azi as a reporter and editor, and later as a columnist and political commentator. In 1993 he also contributed as a columnist and commentator to the weekly Timpul - 7 zile. His journalistic experience marked the beginning of an enduring interest in political analysis, public communication and writing that would accompany, in different forms, his subsequent work in politics, state institutions and diplomacy.

From the mid-1990s onward, his work shifted towards public and government administration. He served as a government expert and adviser on relations with Parliament and, between 2001 and 2004, as an adviser to the Prime Minister of Romania. He subsequently held the office of Deputy Secretary General of the Government in 2012 and served as Deputy Secretary General and then Secretary General of the Romanian Senate between 2013 and 2014.

His parliamentary activity included a term as a member of the Romanian Parliament between 2004 and 2008, representing Maramureș County, as well as service as an observer and subsequently a member of the European Parliament in 2006-2007, in the context of Romania's accession to the European Union.

An important part of his professional career has been devoted to political analysis, electoral strategy and strategic communication. From 2009 onward, he headed, at different times, the political analysis and communication structures of the National Liberal Party and took part in several electoral campaigns. In 2014 he was responsible for the strategy of Klaus Iohannis's successful presidential campaign.

Following the presidential election, between December 2014 and June 2016, Dan Mihalache served as Presidential Adviser, Head of the Presidential Chancellery and Head of the Presidential Administration, holding one of the central positions in the decision-making architecture of the Romanian Presidency during the first part of President Klaus Iohannis's term.

In 2016 he began a diplomatic chapter lasting almost a decade. From June 2016 to December 2020 he served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. His mandate in London coincided with Brexit and the major transformations it produced in the United Kingdom's relationship with the European Union, during a period of particular significance for the large Romanian community in the country.

In January 2021 he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to the Republic of Cyprus, an office he held until 2026. His diplomatic work in Cyprus encompassed the development of bilateral political and economic relations, European affairs, regional developments in the Eastern Mediterranean, cultural diplomacy and engagement with the Romanian community.

Dan Mihalache graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest in 1994 and obtained a PhD in Political Science from the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration - SNSPA in 2008. He graduated from the National Defence College in 1998. His international professional education includes the 14th Common Security and Defence Policy High-Level Course «Simone Veil» of the European Security and Defence College and the Generals, Flag Officers and Ambassadors Course of the NATO Defense College, both completed in 2019.

Dan Mihalache is a professor at Dimitrie Cantemir Christian University, a position he has maintained throughout the years, regardless of the public offices he has held. Between 2009 and 2016 he taught the course «Political Marketing». Beginning this year, he will teach «Artificial Intelligence: Politics and Global Governance» within the university's master's programme in artificial intelligence.

Since 2019 he has been a Visiting Senior Fellow at LSE IDEAS - Diplomacy and Strategy, London School of Economics and Political Science, an affiliation he continues to hold.

His academic and publishing activity complements his political and diplomatic career. He is co-author, with Iulia Huiu, of Trei ani la urne, vol. I (Nemira, 2012). In 2024, together with Sabin Drăgulin, he coordinated the collective volume Regimuri politice totalitare și autoritare. Italia și Europa Orientală în perioada interbelică (Curtea Veche Publishing), devoted to authoritarian and totalitarian political experiences in interwar Italy and Eastern Europe.

Following the completion of his diplomatic mandate, Dan Mihalache returned more prominently to the public sphere through journalism, commentary and political analysis, addressing Romanian and European politics, foreign policy, diplomacy, the functioning of institutions and transformations in the international order. This renewed engagement with writing and analysis reconnects the current stage of his career with the journalism in which his professional journey began.

Dan Mihalache was awarded the National Order «Star of Romania» in the rank of Knight, Romania's highest national order, conferred by the President of Romania for his professional activity, his contribution to promoting Romania's interests internationally and his role in modernising and improving the effectiveness of the Presidential Administration. He was also awarded the Patriarchal Order «Faith and Communion» by His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel, Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, in recognition of his contribution to supporting the Romanian Orthodox Church and promoting its international presence and mission.

In 2022 he was awarded the title of Honorary Citizen of the Municipality of Baia Mare, in Maramureș County, which he represented in the Romanian Parliament. The distinction recognised his contribution, through the public offices and responsibilities he held, to promoting and enhancing the standing of Baia Mare in Romania and abroad. He is fluent in English and German.