

Joanna Siekiera

University of Bergen, Norway

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0125-9121>

e-mail: joanna.siekiera@uib.no

European Science Diplomacy and its Applications to Global Challenges

European Academy of Diplomacy *Warsaw Science Diplomacy School*. Warsaw, (June 22-26, 2020), European Academy of Diplomacy and Inventing a shared Science Diplomacy for Europe (InsSciDE)

Abstract: Warsaw Science Diplomacy School 2020 was the 1st edition of summer school held together by the European Academy of Diplomacy, based in Poland, and the European Union led programme Inventing a shared Science Diplomacy for Europe (InsSciDE). The week-long venue took place online, due to the coronavirus pandemic, between 22-26 June 2020. Class of 2020 consisted of 28 participants from 6 continents, 10 European Union member states and 27 countries in total, where vast majority possessed different nationality and country of residence. Also, the mentors and instructors of the school came from over 13 institutions gathered in the InsSciDe consortium. Participants were divided into 4 teams where they were discussing study cases of how European science diplomacy applies to global challenges. The chosen challenges were the following: Natural resources as public goods for global health; A Matter of Global Epidemic Diplomacy; Scientists in diplomacy during the Scramble for Africa; and A co-production of science and diplomacy in the Law of the Sea.

Keywords: *diplomacy, science diplomacy, summer school, European diplomacy, Europe, European Union*

Warsaw Science Diplomacy School (WSDS) 2020 was the 1st edition of summer school held together by the European Academy of Diplomacy, based in Poland, and the European Union led programme Inventing a shared Science Diplomacy for Europe (InsSciDE). The week-long venue took place online, due to the coronavirus pandemic, between 22-26 June 2020. WSDS gathered an international and interdisciplinary group of students in online sessions focused on science diplomacy and its applications to global challenges. Class of 2020 consisted of

28 participants from 6 continents, 10 EU member states and 27 countries in total, where vast majority possessed different nationality and country of residence, just like in Joanna Siekiera's case who was representing Norway¹ and Poland.

The science-policy nexus, scientific advice and science diplomacy became key concepts, tools and bridges to effectively answer on modern global challenges. Science diplomacy (sometimes also referred to as scidip/SciDip) is a term used for scientific cooperation made in order to build international dialogues, partnerships, and more formal commitments. Besides collaboration with and between scientific institutions such partnerships may encompass international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental ones, nation states, diplomatic mission and consulate offices, governmental and local level agencies, voluntary organizations, religious groups, and business/industry. Universities and university networks can, and very often are the first to, engage in science diplomacy and thus create innovative channels for scientific advice. Increasingly, the world requires effective partnerships between scientists, policymakers and diplomats. At the beginning of the 21st century humanity's greatest challenges can be solved by its most promising opportunity – through science².

Answering global and regional problems, like climate change, diseases, risk management and many more, is being achieved through joint cooperation and coordination, as well as updated knowledge, skills and good will of the parties. The European Union, as a regional organization, globally recognized IGO, is fully aware of the need for forging next generations of scientists, diplomats, and now, when combining those two routes – science diplomats. The EU has acknowledged its own responsibility of creating the better future. InsSciDE has received funding under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme for the years 2018-2021. The financed project is centered on development of a shared science diplomacy across Europe through international, interdisciplinary and groundbreaking research. The project aims to generate an inclusive and innovative dialogue, highlighting the contribution of science academies and networks of science diplomats in order to address global challenges. Not only InsSciDE explores the history of science diplomacy, but it also offers a framework for understanding, and finally delivers stakeholder-supported strategy and policy recommendations³. Its sister-project, which is also financed by the EU Horizon 2020, is called "S4D4C Using Science for/in Diplomacy for

¹ The author's affiliated institution, being the University of Bergen in Norway is well engaged in science diplomacy. SDG Bergen is a University of Bergen strategic initiative to engage in science diplomacy, in particular toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The university is official SDG14 (Life below water) Hub for United Nations Academic Impact and the International Association of Universities. More: <https://www.uib.no/en/sdgbergen>.

² Retrieved from: <https://www.uib.no/en/sdgbergen/131501/science-diplomacy-age-sdgs>.

³ Retrieved from: <https://www.insscide.eu/about/>.

Addressing Global Challenges⁴. This programme was created to support current and future European science diplomacy for the benefit of European capacities, EU foreign policy goals and development of the global challenge solutions. S4D4C inter alia organizes courses of European Science Diplomacy⁵.

As it is typical for science diplomacy, the variety of students' backgrounds, educations, professional profiles and interests was enormous. There were also many crossovers between initial fields of training and present areas of expertise among participants, future science diplomats. Students chosen among many candidates held a rich assortment of experiences and ambitions. Those participants were graduates of various disciplines, mostly of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), humanities and social sciences, diplomatic training and international relations, although several hybrid situations appeared. For instance, one of the students were both a medical clinician and an innovator. There were several persons with advanced degrees in public policy, like in the author's case, some were already playing international relations roles in large science organizations or in diplomatic missions.

When it comes to principal organizers and instructors, they are all engaged in the InsSciDE consortium, to which belong the following institutions: Sorbonne Université, Universitetet i Tromsø, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, National Technical University of Athens, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Università degli Studi di Padova, Universität Wien, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, The Swedish Institute of International Affairs, Chalmers University of Technology, University of Veterinary Medicine in Budapest, The University of Manchester.

During the week-long virtual training, students were participating in open webinars (lectures), as well as small coaching group sessions. WSDS 2020 participants were divided into 4 thematic teams:

- 1) Natural resources as public goods for global health: Biodiversity negotiations,
- 2) Dealing with the Plague in Oporto 1899-1900: A Matter of Global Epidemic Diplomacy,
- 3) Barbosa du Bocage: Scientists in diplomacy during the Scramble for Africa,
- 4) UN Convention on the Law of the Sea: A co-production of science and diplomacy, where the author was put due to her research on legal consequences of ocean change.

Not only had the students arrange and present the outcome of their group's settlement, but also, they were asked to introduce the future application to the European and global diplomacy and policy making processes through the lessons learned from the past. The course finished with graduation ceremony and mentor placement for each of the students on their further path with science diplomacy.

⁴ Retrieved from: <https://www.s4d4c.eu/>.

⁵ The author has accomplished this course earlier in May 2020.

The next similar venue will be held in Spain in September 2020 by the Barcelona Science and Technology Diplomacy Hub. The Science and Technology Diplomacy Summer School is open especially for those who have a graduate degree in a relevant field (any branch of science, technology, engineering, international affairs, public policy and political science) and ideally at least 3-5 years of related work experience in research, international relations or project management⁶.

⁶ Retrieved from: <http://www.scitechdiplomahub.org/>.