



InsSciDE Work Package 3: Science Diplomats: Fluid Identities and Emergent Practices	
Case Study n°3.1	Emergence and 21st century development of international activities of Academies of Science and Academies of Technology
Author	Ana Simões, Paula Urze, Maria Paula Diogo
Consortium Partner n°1	Universidade Nova de Lisboa - NOVA
Additional author affiliation	Ana Simões, FCUL, UL Maria Paula Diogo e Paula Urze – FCT NOVA

Abstract

The case study *Emergence and 21st century development of international activities of Academies of Science and Academies of Technology* focuses on:

- whether and to what extent the Academies of Sciences became an instrument or a resource for national diplomacies;
- whether they themselves developed a “track-two” diplomacy, of their own, through informal or formal channels (international cooperation and agreements);
- whether they used diplomacy / diplomatic networks to achieve their own agenda.
- how did / do the European Science Academies contribute to the scientific and technological development of Global South countries in connection, or not, with diplomats.

Introduction

In order to contribute to a shared science diplomacy in Europe, the project InsSciDE addresses the emergence and development of international academies from a historical perspective, covering a timespan from the 18th century to the present.

Across time, academies aimed at ascertaining the role of the sciences in building national identity and empowering states, as well as struggling for hegemony within and beyond Europe. Their scientific aims cannot be disentangled from implicit and explicit political ambitions. The case study will approach this history by identifying foreign correspondent members, and their varying functions, in the circulation of academicians and experts and the ways they helped build academic scientific networks of trust across Europe. We will pay particular attention to the professionalization of specific disciplines as well as their role in processes of colonization, or during the ravaging 20th century wars, from WWI to WWII and the Cold War.

Actors

Within the rich set of scientific and technological academies in Europe, we focus on a subset from both the so-called center — the Royal Society of London, the Académie des Sciences de Paris— and “peripheries” — Royal Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Russian Academy, and contrast them with the European Academy of Sciences (EurASc) mainly concerning their origins, goals and agency.



Fields and disciplines, interfaces with technology

From their inception scientific academies were crucial to build, shape and strengthen scientific networks among scholars, intellectuals and elite people across Europe, all keen on exchanging ideas, practices, objects and instruments. Although they were created as national institutions, they were also envisioned as nodes of international networks. From the thematic point of view, they evolved from covering a broad range of scientific areas (as in the emblematic cases of the Royal Academy of Sciences and the Académie des Sciences de Paris in the 17th century), to greater specialization (as in the case of the Linnaean Society of London dedicated to botany and created in the 18th century). In more recent times, scholars have reassessed the role of academies as part of an extremely complex and diverse institutional landscape, giving them greater importance as tools to counteract increasing scientific fragmentation. This is illustrated in the case of the European Academy of Sciences.

Additionally, if possible, we plan to contrast the scientific societies with technology-driven associations created more or less at the same time with complementary purposes. We have in mind the Lunar Society and national associations of engineers, as well as the recent Euro-CASE which is an illustration of the move to reduce fragmentation.

Disciplinary/methodological approach

Methodologically, our research will include archival research and interviews.