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| InsSciDE Work Package 3: | |
| Science Diplomats: Fluid Identities and Emergent Practices | |
| Case Study n°3.4 | Relations between national science diplomacies and European science diplomacy |
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Abstract

The study "Relations between national science diplomacies and European science diplomacy" aims at analyzing and answering these critical questions:

- What is (or should be) the role of research policy in the construction and implementation of the European Union's (EU) diplomacy?
- What is (or should be) the articulation between the science diplomacies of member states and the science diplomacy of the EU?

Introduction

To a varying degree, European member states have entered of their own accord into the process of science diplomacy. The EU itself has a clearly designed research policy with successful achievements. To construct a genuinely European science diplomacy policy important questions have to be addressed. Is the diversity of national approaches an asset or a weakness? Can we capitalize on good national practices to build science diplomacy at the EU level? Does European science diplomacy effectively complement member state policies?

Our research will aim to characterize with precision what could or should be the science diplomacy policy of the EU, in the view of contemporary practitioners.

Special attention will be given to the question of developing a 'European science diplomacy culture' among science diplomats. Do science diplomats from different European countries share a common culture? Is it possible to build a shared culture through formal or informal associations bringing together science diplomats of different embassies? Should joint actions by science diplomats of different countries – notably toward third countries – aim to contribute to such a result?

Actors

Paralleling member states, in which two leading departments (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Research) typically guide initiatives regarding science diplomacy, the major European Union actors of science diplomacy are the European External Action Service and the Directorate-General (DG) for Research and Innovation. For the purposes of this research, the DG is the most interesting of the two because it is in charge of developing and implementing the Union's research policy, and it exercises control over the network of scientific attachés of the EU.

Fields and disciplines, interfaces with technology

Understanding the science diplomacy of the EU requires the understanding of its research policy towards



countries outside the Union. We hypothesize that the diplomatic priorities of the Union can be derived by analyzing the granting to non-member states of rights to benefit or not from its programs and research grants. Therefore, we will provide an historical analysis of the access of researchers from non-member countries to the successive Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development. In this way all the fields and disciplines as well as interfaces with technology covered by these programs will be examined.

Politics and policies

The articulation of European science diplomacy and the science diplomacies of member states is a major policy challenge. We will explore the manners in which member states integrate the European dimension into their own science diplomacy and contribute to the science diplomacy of the EU. The findings should allow us, in company with practitioners, to generate recommendations for a fair division of competencies between the member states and the Union.

Disciplinary/methodological approach

Our analysis will rely on three sources of information:

- data on the participation of researchers from non-member countries in EU research programs and fellowships;
- interviews with “science policy makers”, at the level of both the DG for Research and Innovation and the relevant ministries of the main member states;
- interviews with the EU-level scientific attachés.

Essential references

Ruffini, P.B. (2017) *Science and Diplomacy: A New Dimension of International Relations*. Springer International Publishing.