



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA ZUNANJE ZADEVE



Diplomatska akademija



ABOUT THE DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY



Introduction



Dr Andraž Zidar, Head of
the Diplomatic Academy

Slovenian diplomacy is a mere 30 years old; it has developed and grown rapidly. During this time, we have carried out large projects and gained extensive experience. There are almost no other diplomacies with experience in obtaining recognitions for a newly emerged country. There are also not many who have experience in establishing a diplomatic apparatus, participating simultaneously in the UN Security Council and adapting the apparatus to operate in international organisations such as NATO and the European Union. Over the past 30 years, we have gained experience with the Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2008 and 2021, the Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2005 and of the Human Rights Council in 2018 and non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council from 1998 to 1999. The three decades of Slovenian diplomacy have also been marked by the establishment of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, which is presented below. We would like to thank all the participants for the successful completion of the first academic year of the Academy, and we look forward to our joint success in the future.

Our mission



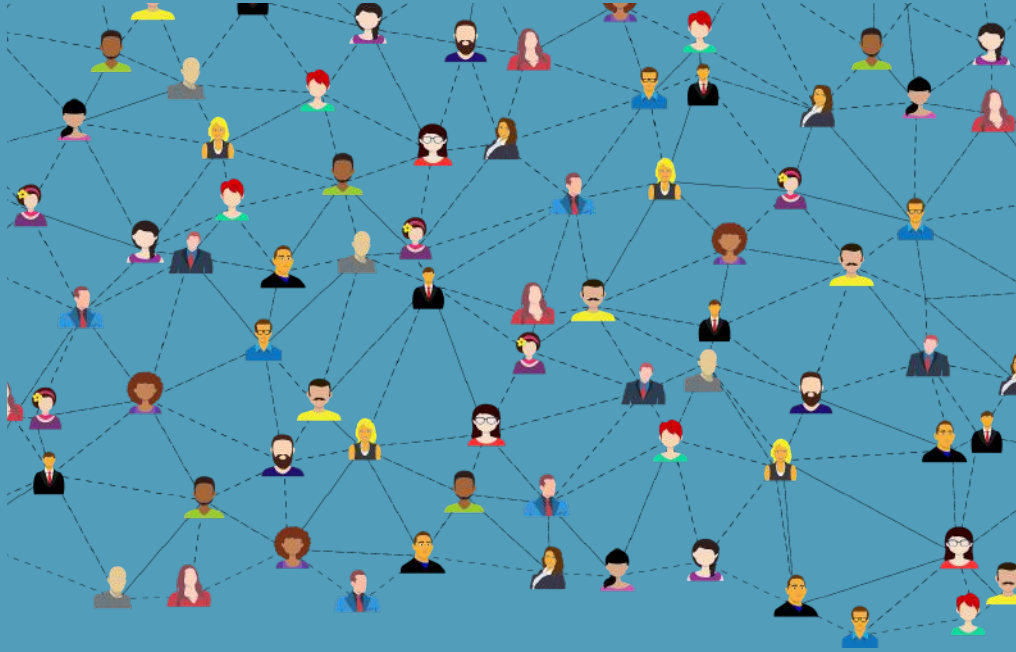
The mission of the Diplomatic Academy is to train highly skilled and versatile Slovenian diplomats, consuls and employees who will be able to respond quickly and effectively to new challenges facing Europe and the world and represent their country, its interests, values and advantages with confidence and skill. The guiding principles of our work include application, practicality, interactivity and excellence.

The Concept of the Diplomatic Academy

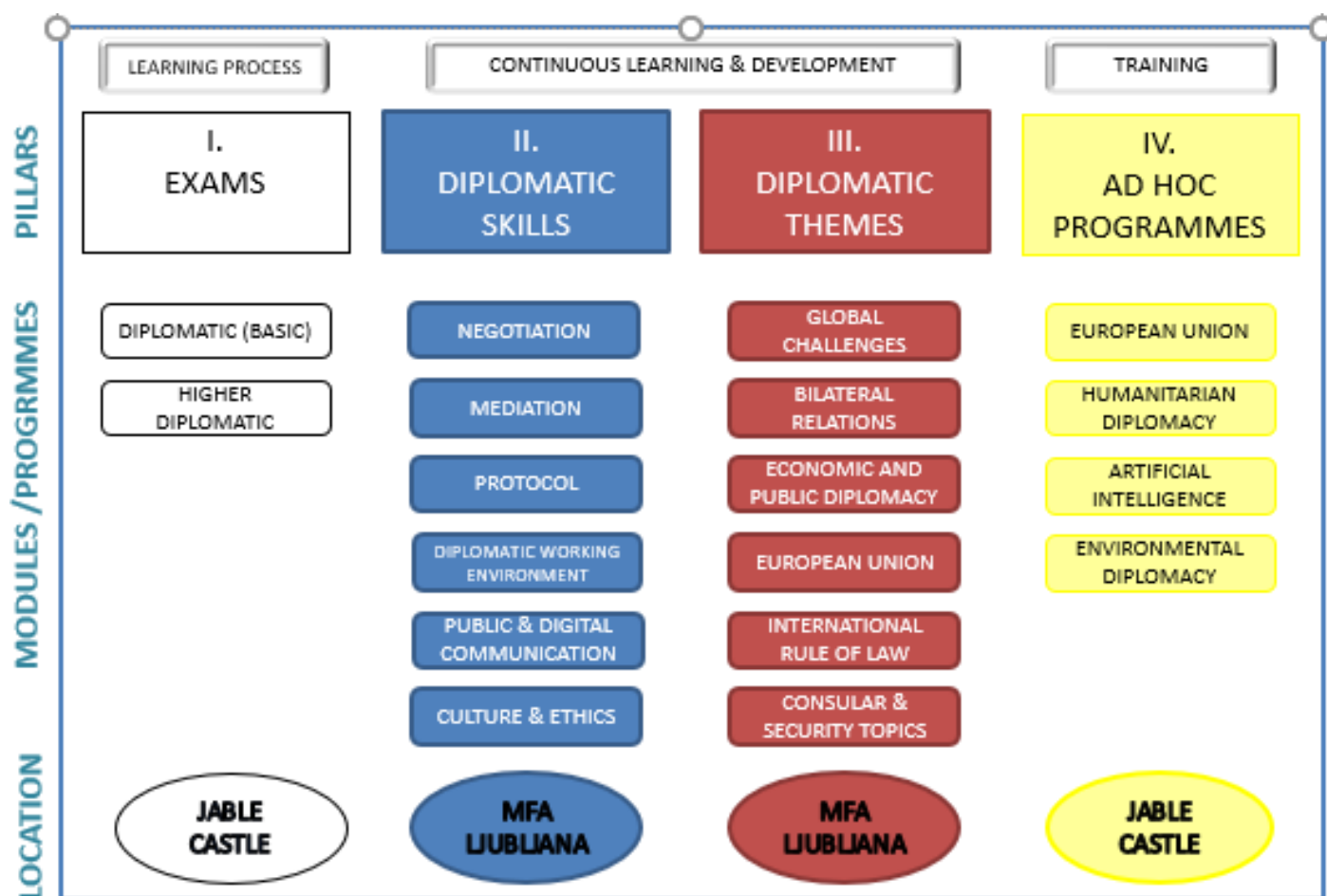
The Academy has been conceived not as an institution but as a flexible programme that allows learning in the context of the work process for practical work in diplomacy. To respond to the needs of Slovenian diplomacy, diplomatic education should focus on translating theory into practice (applied science) and on considering practical examples and experience. All participants must be actively engaged in this process. This is a conceptual leap from the pedagogical approach to the pedagogical-andragogical (connectivist) approach, which is increasingly used by adult education programmes, whereby the exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience takes place through a multi-directional approach.



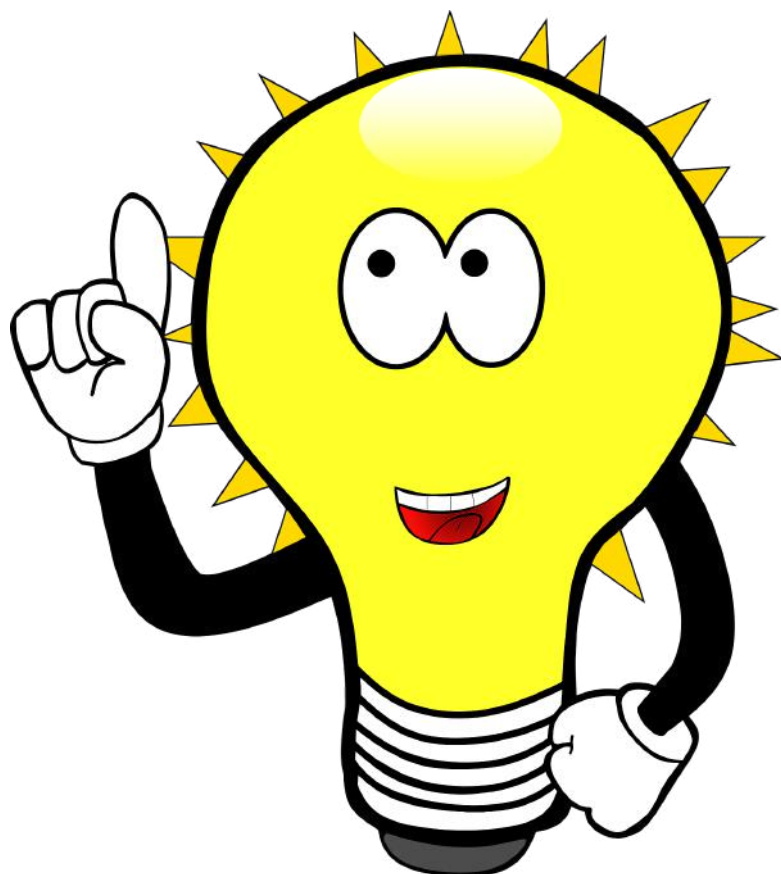
Structure of the Diplomatic Academy



The structure of the Diplomatic Academy rests on four pillars: diplomatic examinations (Pillar I), the concept of continuous training in diplomatic skills and topics (Pillar II and Pillar III), and ad-hoc events such as seminars (Pillar IV). With lectures by experienced diplomats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who represent the majority of educators at the Academy, we focus on providing training for staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the by staff, for staff approach). External lecturers, whether domestic or foreign, from theory or practice, are also welcome to participate in the programmes.



Graphic scheme

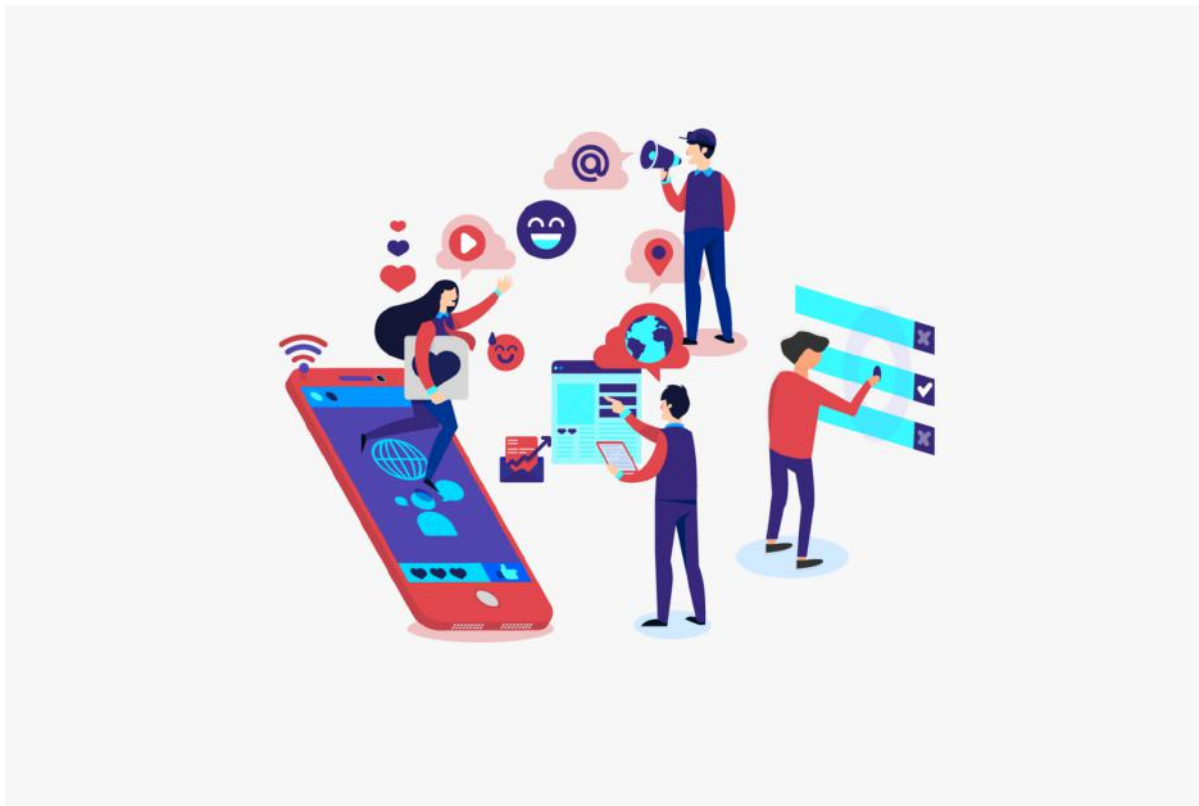


The Diplomatic Academy in practice



Diplomacy is one of the world's oldest crafts; however, due to changes in the world of international relations, new challenges and threats and new communication and information technologies, its techniques and skills must constantly be tuned to the needs of the present time. Modern diplomats need to possess the skills and knowledge of traditional diplomacy and also the skills and techniques introduced by modern diplomacy. During the COVID-19 crisis, online diplomacy prospered, replacing the currently undesired handshake. Representing the state, protecting its interests, negotiating, observing, reporting and developing political, economic, cultural and scientific relations with other countries requires the knowledge of both traditional diplomatic skills and techniques and modern skills introduced by other players in the international community that also bring new information and communication technologies.

The unenviable COVID-19 crisis has prompted a widespread leap into digitalisation, which has also enabled us at the Diplomatic Academy to organise events digitally and to follow them from our offices or homes, both in Slovenia and abroad. From the very beginning, we have based our work on modern technologies, using AVK technology (webex), Facebook, online classrooms in Moodle, and e-notification environments. The simple use of educational tools has made the events widely accessible.



In line with modern trends, we have set up an online classroom offering lectures on diplomatic topics. You can also follow our activities on the Diplomatic Academy Facebook page. It is also important to highlight the International Law series – a book collection jointly published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and FDV Publishing House. Publications from the series, which constitute the basic literature for diplomatic examinations, are also available free of charge through the International Law series website.



Facebook page of the Diplomatic Academy



Potrdila o izobraževanju v modulih Diplomske akademije

Vse zainteresirane obveščamo, da je Diplomska akademija začela z izdajanjem potrdil o udeležbi v programih stalnega izobraževanja zaposlenih, ki obsegajo II. steber (diplomatske veščine) in III. steber (diplomatske teme). Gre za udeležbo v trenutno štirih moduli diplomatskega izobraževanja.

Potrdila pridobijo vsi tisti, ki se udeležijo oziroma si ogledajo vseh pet predavanj v določenem modulu v spletni učilnici Diplomske akademije MZZ ter uspešno rešijo preizkus znanja v obliki krajšega kviza. Spletna učilnica je dostopna na: <https://zad.vlada.si>

Moduli v II. stebru so:

- pogajanja,
- mediacija,
- protokoli,
- diplomatsko delovno okolje,
- javno nastopanje in digitalne veščine ter
- etika in kultura.

V III. stebru so naslednji moduli:

- globalni izzivi,
- odnosi med državami,
- gospodarska in javna diplomacija,
- Evropska unija,
- mednarodna vladavina prava ter
- konzularne in varnostne teme.

Moduli se bodo v prihodnje še dodajali, med drugim tudi znotraj IV. stebra (ad-hoc programi).

Potrdila se izdajajo na podlagi prostovoljne udeležbe v stalnem izobraževanju Diplomske akademije MZZ. Gre za izkaz določene strokovne usposobljenosti (znanje, spretnosti in veščine) s področja diplomacije v pisan obliki, ki se lahko uporabi v Republiki Sloveniji ali v Evropski uniji. Zapisano je v slovenskem in angleškem jeziku.

Za nami je prvo študijsko leto Diplomske akademije. Veliko smo dosegli - hvala vsem za sodelovanje!

Z novo, sodobno Diplomatsko akademijo MZZ smo začeli septembra 2020 z uvodnim predavanjem ministra dr. Logarja o strateških usmeritvah slovenske diplomacije. Odlej smo dvakrat tedensko organizirali predavanja o diplomatskih veščinah in temah ter druge dogodke. Vse do začetka julija 2021 se je izvršilo več kot 70 predavanj, seminarjev, okroglih miz in predstavitev.

Še posebej smo veseli, da smo se vam lahko približali s pomočjo novih tehnologij. Preskok v digitalnost, spodbujen s pandemijo, je omogočil, da smo lahko v tem težkem času dogodke spremljali v pisarnah ali na domu, tako v Sloveniji kot v tujini. V povprečju je bilo z nami 20-30 udeležencev. Z obvestilnikom Diplomske akademije smo vas sproti obveščali o naših načrtih, z objavami na naši [Facebook strani](#) pa ste bili na tekočem s povzetki naših predavanj.

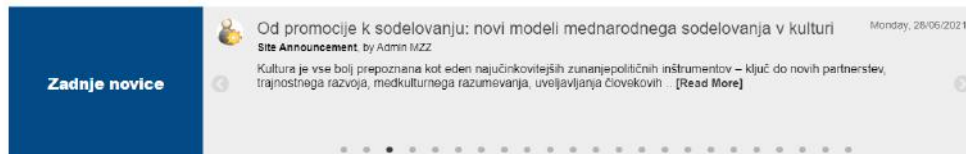
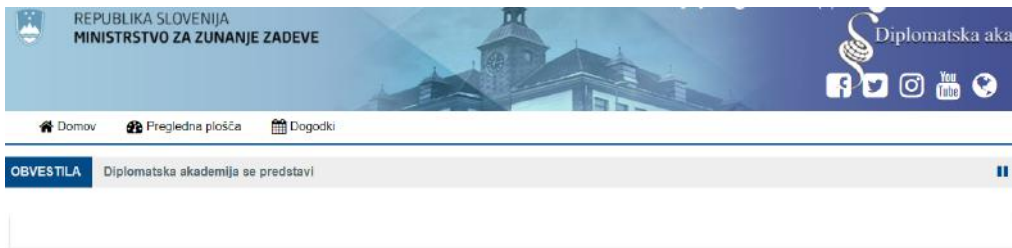
Vsa predavanja smo posneli in jih uvrstili v našo spletno učilnico na <https://zad.vlada.si>. Do tedaj pa vsem želimo prijetno, čim bolj mimo in zadovoljstva polno poletje!

Naj ta krajši povzetek našega prvega leta sklenem z vabilom, da nas spremljate tudi v novem študijskem letu. Z naslednjim, zaradi PSEU nekoliko prilagojenim študijskim letom, začnemo septembra.

In seveda zahvala vsem, ki ste bili v tem letu z nami in nas spremljali v živo ali preko spletne učilnice, bodisi v Sloveniji ali na mandatu v tujini. Diplomska akademija je namenjena vsem nam. Namenjena je povezovanju, krepljivi, podpori in profesionalni rasti slovenske diplomacije. Rek "znanje je moč" izvira iz starodavnih kultur in prav gotovo tudi v našem delovnem okolju velja, da diplomatsko znanje pomeni diplomatsko moč in usposobljenost.

Examples of newsletter

Online classroom of the Diplomatic Academy

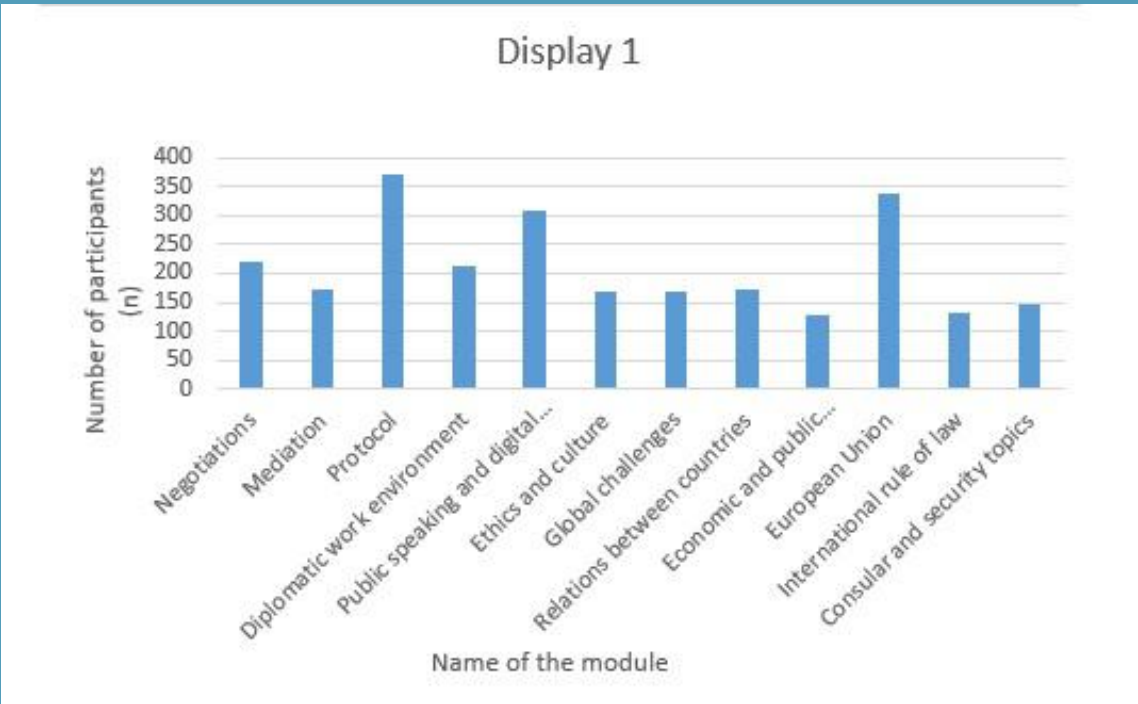


International Law website



The Diplomatic Academy in numbers

In the 2020–2021 academic year, more than 3,300 participants attended the Diplomatic Academy events, either live via Webex or later in the Diplomatic Academy online classroom, with an average of 45 participants per event.



Display of participation by modules (II and III pillar)



Certificates issued by the Diplomatic Academy

The modular approach represents the backbone of continuous staff training. Its flexibility allows employees to acquire the skills and knowledge required for effective and efficient diplomatic work in a fast-changing world. In accordance with the Adult Education Act, the Diplomatic Academy issues certificates for those participants who meet the requirements of hearing all five lectures in a particular module and passing tests in the form of a quiz. The certificates demonstrate the competence acquired through diplomatic training.





Certificates of participation in continuous employee education programmes include Pillar II (diplomatic skills) and Pillar III (diplomatic themes). It is about participating in the current twelve modules of diplomatic education. Participation in the Pillar II and Pillar III lectures is voluntary for employees, so certificates do not constitute an obligation for Ministry staff nor are they a substitute for passing the diplomatic exam or the higher diplomatic exam. They are primarily intended to demonstrate qualifications in the field of the diplomatic profession, which have been acquired as part of continuous education, training and other courses at the Ministry. With these certificates, the participants can demonstrate their professional qualifications (know-how and skills) in the field of diplomacy in a written form that can be used in the Republic of Slovenia or the European Union.

Diplomatic Academy premises

Lectures of the Diplomatic Academy take place on the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. So far, lectures have been held in the Press Salon, which is best suited for AVK events. Events in hybrid form have also taken place in the Round Conference Room, in premises on Gregorčičeva ulica and in the Main Conference Room and the Small Conference Room. Major events and training for diplomatic exams have been carried out at Jable Castle.



Jable Castle



Lecture in Main
Conference
Room



Premises on Gregorčičeva ulica



Round
Conference
Room

Cooperation of the Diplomatic Academy with other institutions

The Diplomatic Academy supports outreach. Thus, we have opened several of our events to external participants, i.e. certain lectures, seminars, and the presentation of books from the International Law series. We have been actively engaged in the European Digital Diplomacy Exchange and other digital diplomacy and strategic communication events. Dr Andraž Zidar, Head of the Diplomatic Academy, took part in adult education events and moderated the discussion of the statesmen at the Bled Strategic Forum 2021 on EU enlargement to the Western Balkans.

Our didactic methods and programmes are developed in cooperation with the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education. We are part of the European Diplomatic Programme based on connections between, and the training of, diplomats in the European Union, bringing together heads of diplomatic academies in the EU member states, representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and young European diplomats. We have also established links with other related institutions, such as the British, Dutch, Viennese and Emirates diplomatic academies.



Seminar on Digital Diplomacy



Clingendael lecture for Slovenian diplomats

The European Diplomatic Programme

On 11 and 12 November, Slovenia, as the country holding the presidency of the Council of the European Union, hosted Module I of the European Diplomatic Programme international conference. The two-day event entitled “The EU as a global actor – strategic autonomy, resilience and multilateralism” took place at the Cankarjev dom congress centre and brought together both Slovenian and foreign experts in foreign policy and science.



The conference attendees included some 70 junior diplomats from EU member states and representatives of European institutions, while heads of European diplomatic academies and Slovenian experts from their respective fields attended separate meetings on new developments in diplomatic education.



From left to right: Dr Andraž Zidar, Head of The Diplomatic Academy, State Secretary Gašper Dovžan, Minister of Digital Transformation Mark Boris Andrižanič and Dr Marko Rakovec Acting Director-General for International Law

State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gašper Dovžan and Minister for Digital Transformation Mark Boris Andrižanič addressed the participants at the opening plenary session, with State Secretary Dovžan underlining the value of such programmes: “They offer a unique opportunity for young European diplomats to learn more about communication and negotiation skills, about EU priorities and activities and about developing personal connections”.

The Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the European External Action Service (EEAS), structured the conference around three thematic streams coinciding with the priorities of the Slovenian Presidency 2021 – digital sovereignty, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, the green economy, and the Western Balkans. All these topics were discussed by experts from Slovenia and abroad from specific fields, including climatologist Dr Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, CER Executive Director Ana Struna Bregar, Ambassador at Large for Climate Diplomacy at the EEAS Marc Vanheukelen, Director of International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO Prof John Shawe-Taylor, Ambassador Samuel Žbogar, and Director of the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education Dr Nataša Potočnik.



Panel discussion on
Green Economy



"Train the trainers"
workshop for Training
Directors

The conference was also marked by workshops for training junior diplomats, which were divided into three main thematic groups – the Western Balkans, the green economy and digital sovereignty, and cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. Separate training sessions on the same topics were also provided for heads of diplomatic academies, such as a workshop entitled “Train the trainers” organised by Ron Ton from the Clingendael Institute, which focused on how to align training curricula with diplomatic career paths (junior, mid-level, senior). In addition to this workshop, heads of diplomatic academies were also provided with a platform to discuss a range of topical issues.



The objective of the European Diplomatic Programme, namely to promote networking and strengthen the European spirit among the younger generation of diplomats, was delivered by experienced educators from the two most prominent European diplomatic centres, the Clingendael Institute and CENAD. The workshop on the Western Balkans was led by Dr Alenka Verbole in collaboration with Slovenian experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Launched in 1999, the European Diplomatic Programme takes the form of four modules that make up the academic year.