

Conference Invitation and Call For Abstracts

Diplomacy 2.0: New Realities, New Agency, New Strategies

Location: Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), Pristaniška ulica 14, 6000 Koper, Slovenia

Date: 17-18 September 2026

Deadline for Abstract submissions: 28 February 2026

Thematic scope of the conference:

Contemporary diplomacy operates in an era of accelerated technological, geopolitical, and societal transformations, leading to a fundamental reshaping of the field. New questions arise: **who acts diplomatically, through which instruments, and with what consequences?** The conference “Diplomacy 2.0: New Realities, New Agency, New Strategies” builds on these shifts and offers a platform for researchers of all stages, from early-career to leading, to explore the changing nature and practices of contemporary diplomacy. 21st-century diplomacy can be characterised by a **broadening of actors and fields**, alongside **increasing specialisation** with blurred boundaries among various sub-types of diplomacy. Each emphasises different instruments while upholding the fundamental postulates of traditional diplomacy: fostering relationships to achieve self-interest through peaceful means. Terminological clarity concerning specific types of diplomacy allows an **analytical shift** to address those particular challenges with coinciding concepts and theoretical frameworks. From more classical approaches to “postmodern” concepts of framing the field of diplomacy, it remains relevant that academia follows step with practice. Submissions may cover **theoretical innovations, case studies, comparative perspectives, or critiques of existing narratives**, broadly within the following thematic frameworks:

a) Protocol pixels: diplomacy goes online

(The digitalisation of diplomacy as opportunity, challenge or potential security risk; new platforms and new actors in online diplomacy; AI diplomacy; digital diplomacy; cyber diplomacy; TikTok diplomacy; influencer diplomacy; ...)

b) Everyone is a diplomat now: transcending a state-centred understanding of diplomacy

(The broadening scope and reach of diplomacy and the changing role of the State within that; new actors in global diplomacy and their influence on classical diplomacy; city diplomacy; non-state diplomacy; terrorism diplomacy; youth diplomacy; ...)

c) Science, sustainability, and the art of saving the world through diplomacy

(Climate change and the role of diplomacy; sustainable development diplomacy beyond climate negotiations; environment diplomacy; water diplomacy; conservation diplomacy; science diplomacy; ...)

d) Polycrisis and geopolitical shifts: the future of global diplomacy

(Rising global tensions and their impact on diplomacy; crisis of multilateral diplomacy; how geopolitical tensions are reflected in diplomacy; changing role of diplomacy as we know it)

The conference will take place on **17-18 September 2026** at the **Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), Pristaniška ulica 14, 6000 Koper, Slovenia**. We invite you to collaborate by submitting your own contribution. When registering, please provide the title of your submission, an abstract of up to 200 words, five keywords, and your current research profile (stage). A conference fee of 110€ covers coffee breaks and the reception (the conference fee will be waived for PhD students). Contributions are accepted in English. Please send your abstract by email to cdeps@fdv.uni-lj.si by the **end of February 2026**. The organising committee will review the submissions received and develop the conference programme accordingly. You will be notified of the committee's decision regarding your contribution by the **end of March 2026**.

Members of the organising committee:

- Assist. Prof. Dr. Jana Arbeiter (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana)
- Prof. Dr. Rado Bohinc (Euro-Mediterranean University)
- Prof. Dr. Boštjan Udovič (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana)
- Prof. Dr. Mounir Ghribi (Euro-Mediterranean University)
- Assist. Noémi Vegi (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana)