

DIPLOMACY 2.0: NEW REALITIES, NEW AGENCY, NEW STRATEGIES

*Conference schedule – DRAFT**

17-18 September 2026

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

Day 1, September 17

9:00 **Welcome coffee**

9:30 **Welcome address**

- **Prof. Dr Andreja Jaklič**, Vice Dean of Research at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana
- **Prof. Dr Rado Bohinc**, President of EMUNI University
- **Assist. Prof. Dr Jana Arbeiter**, Conference Organiser, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

followed by

High-level panel

- **Ambassador Hatem Atallah**, former Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation and member of the Governing Board of EMUNI
- **Ambassador Jernej Müller**, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia
- **Prof. Marcelo Knobel**, Executive Director of TWAS
- **Prof. Maria Cristina Pedicchio**, President of APRE and Vice-President of the Governing Board of EMUNI
- **Prof. Angelo Riccaboni**, President of the PRIMA initiative and EMUNI Ambassador

Moderated by **Prof. Dr Boštjan Udovič**

11:00 – 12:30 Panel 1: Protocol Pixels: Diplomacy Goes Online

Chair: **Nedžma Džananović Miraščija**

- **The Moral Battleground: Israel's Use of Atrocity Tweets to Legitimize its War on Gaza** – **Ilan Manor** (Ben Gurion University of the Negev)
- **The Ascent and Transformation of 'Tech Diplomacy'** – **Federica Bicchi** (London School of Economics and University of Florence)
- **Platforming Culture: Digital Cultural Diplomacy and Struggles over Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina** – **Sarina Bakić** (Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo)
- **"Toeing the line ...": The Use of Social Networks in Slovenian Diplomacy** – **Boštjan Udovič** (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana)
- **Social Media, Narrative Contestation, and Public Diplomacy: The Case of @FrenchResponse and Its Implications for Small States** – **Amadej Petan** and **Tadej Uršič**

12:30 – 13:30 Standing lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Panel 2: Science, Sustainability, and the Art of Saving the World Through Diplomacy

Chair: **Jana Arbeiter**

- **Science Policy Models as Analytical Heuristics in Science Diplomacy** – **Simone Arnaldi** (University of Trieste)
- **Science Diplomacy in the Euro-Mediterranean: Bridging Nations through Research, Innovation and Higher Education** – **Mounir Ghribi** and **Jihene Nouairi** (Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale (OGS) and EMUNI)
- **Bridging Regions Through Science Diplomacy: A Climate Finance Interface Between North Africa and the European Union** – **Amal Salhi**, Environmental consultant, Italy and Tunisia, and **Mounir Ghribi** (OGS and EMUNI)
- **Diplomacy and the New Space Race: Supporting Environmental and Social Sustainability Through Open Access to Earth Observation Data** – **Iris Koleča** (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana)
- **When Self-Interest Meets Narratives of Altruism: Diplomacy of Development Cooperation** – **Noémi Vegi** (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana)

15:00 – 15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:30 – 17:00 **Panel 3: Soft, yet Powerful: symbolism and diplomatic language**

Chair: **Oleksii Polegkyi**

- **When Reports Rule: Diplomatic Language as International Governance** – **Nedžma Džananović Miraščija** (Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo)
- **The End of Propriety: Vulgarly as a New Norm in Russian Diplomatic Practice Post-2022** – **Denis Mancevič** (New Century Corporate Communications)
- **Institutionalized Disagreement: Why No Progress is Still Progress in UN Multilateral Negotiations** – **Lise H. Andersen** (Leiden University)
- **Symbolic Power in Diplomacy: Rituals, Symbols and the Construction of Legitimacy** – **Jana Arbeiter** (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana)
- **Symbolism of Architecture in Diplomacy: The Cases of the Republic of Slovenia and the Swiss Confederation** – **Nejc Juritsch**, PhD student

17:30 **Cultural programme (TBD)**

Location: Stolnica Koper, Titov trg 1

19:00 **Dinner**

Location: TBD

Day 2, September 18

9:00 – 10:30 **Panel 4: Polycrisis: the future of global diplomacy**

Chair: **Mounir Ghribi**

- **Diplomacy and Three Types of its Proximity** – **H. E. Milan Jazbec** (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia and New University)
- **Commercial Diplomacy in Disrupted Global Value Chains: Turning Reverse Real Options into New Strategic Options** – **Andreja Jaklič** (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana)
- **From Sovereign Equality to Selective Rule-Making? Diplomacy as Practice in a Fragmenting Global Order** – **Milan Brglez** (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana)
- **From Technical Consensus to Geopolitical Contestation: Small State Diplomacy under Strain in Multilateral Organisations** – **Sabina Lange** (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana)
- **Objectivity in an Age of Multilayered Crises: Article 41 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and Sovereign Qualification** – **Arta Ibishi Puhek** (New University, European Faculty of Law)

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 – 12:30 **Panel 5: New realities: strategy, power and geopolitics**

Chair: **Boštjan Udovič**

- **Russian Diplomacy as an Instrument of Influence During the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine** – **Oleksii Polegkyi** (Institute of Political Sciences and Administration, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Non-Resident Fellow – IERES, George Washington University)
- **An Anti-democratic Pathway from National Identification to Nationalism: Evidence from Southeast Europe** – **Žan Lep** and **Žiga Mekiš Recek** (Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, and Educational Research Institute, Slovenia)
- **From Multipolar Order to Transactional Disorder: Strategic Redundancy as a Small-State Survival Strategy** – **Luka Juri** (EMUNI)
- **Dynamic Power in Asymmetric Conflict: U.S.–Cuba Relations through the Dynamic Model of Negotiators' Power** – **Aleksander Jakobčič**, PhD student

12:30 **Closing remarks**

13:00 **Lunch**