

International Conference

17-18 SEPTEMBER 2026
KOPER - CAPODISTRIA, SLOVENIA

DIPLMACY 2.0:

NEW REALITIES, NEW AGENCY, NEW STRATEGIES

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



DAY 1, SEPTEMBER 17

9:00 **Welcome coffee**

9:30 **Welcome address**

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

High-level panel

Moderated by **Prof. Mouin Hamzé**, Chairperson of the EMUNI Management Board

- **Teodoro Miano**, Secretary General of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
- **Ambassador Jernej Müller**, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia
- **Ambassador Tanja Miškova**, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia
- **Ambassador Hatem Atallah**, Member of the EMUNI Management Board - North African perspectives and practical strategies to address shared challenges
- **Mohammad Sanad Abu-Darwish**, Director of the Department of Science and Scientific Research, ALECSO - Regional preparedness and collective approaches to food and water security
- **Giuseppe Provenzano**, Project Manager for Research, Innovation, and Higher Education of the Union for the Mediterranean.

11:15 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 13:00

Panel 1: 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 Euro-Mediterranean University)
- **Diplomacy and the New Space Race: Supporting Environmental and Social Sustainability Through Open Access to Earth Observation Data** – **Iris Koleča** (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences)
- **When Self-Interest Meets Narratives of Altruism: Diplomacy of Development Cooperation** – **Noémi Végi** (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences)
- **"Toeing the line ...": The Use of Social Networks in Slovenian Diplomacy** – **Boštjan Udovič** (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences)

13:00 – 14:00

Standing lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Panel 2: Soft, yet Powerful: Symbolism and Diplomatic Language

Chair: **Noémi Végi**

- **When Reports Rule: Diplomatic Language as International Governance** – **Nedžma Džananović Miraščija** (University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Political Sciences)
- **The End of Propriety: Vulgarly as a New Norm in Russian Diplomatic Practice Post-2022** – **Denis Mancevič** (New Century Corporate Communications)
- **Symbolic Power in Diplomacy: Rituals, Symbols and the Construction of Legitimacy** – **Jana Arbeiter** (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences)
- **Symbolism of Architecture in Diplomacy: The Cases of the Republic of Slovenia and the Swiss Confederation** – **Nejc Juritsch**

16:30	Optional walking tour of Koper
17:30	Organ Concert by Uroš Pele Location: Stolnica Koper, Titov trg 1
19:00	Dinner Location: Casa Popo, Kopališko nabrežje 1, 6000 Koper

DAY 2, SEPTEMBER 18

9:00 – 10:30	Panel 3: 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 (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences) • From Sovereign Equality to Selective Rule-Making? Diplomacy as Practice in a Fragmenting Global Order – Milan Brglez (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences) • From Technical Consensus to Geopolitical Contestation: Small State Diplomacy under Strain in Multilateral Organisations – Sabina Lange (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences) • 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 4: 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** (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, and Educational Research Institute, Slovenia)
- **Dynamic Power in Asymmetric Conflict: U.S.–Cuba Relations through the Dynamic Model of Negotiators' Power** – **Aleksander Jakobčič**

12:30

Closing remarks

13:00

Lunch

The conference was made possible with the financial support of the FDV Development Fund, the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), the project "(Growing) Cultural distance and stereotypisation in small transition states: the case of the ex-Yugoslavia countries (J5-50173)", and the research programme "Slovenia and Its Actors in International Relations and European Integrations (P5-0177)", which is funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS).