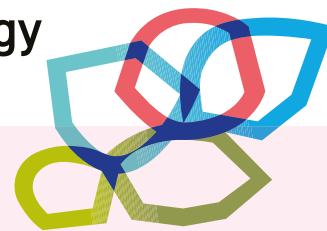


Debating Across History, Theory and Strategy for European Science Diplomacy



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InsSciDE - like Horizon 2020 research in general - is strategic research, because it is fundamental research for the purpose of answering a strategic problem of the funder. InsSciDE is strategic research into how Europe (the European Union, its institutions and member states) can benefit from science diplomacy to strengthen Europe's place in the world and improve the security and safety of the EU and its citizens.

The InsSciDE consortium of fifteen partner institutions has, from our first working encounters in July and September 2016, intensely debated the relationship between fundamental historical research into science diplomacy and the relationship with the H2020 call, European science diplomacy, and engagement of the stakeholders. The cross-cutting theme "Power With Science Diplomacy" has been a central reference in these ongoing debates.

This role was set in the earliest sketches of the structure of InsSciDE, in which a work package (WP) on power would connect the fundamental historical research WPs with those seeking to interface with the EU and stakeholders. The January 2018 photos below, from the Paris kickoff meeting of InsSciDE, allow a glimpse of the flipchart from September 2016 on which I took notes of our brainstorming that outlined InsSciDE. The WP "Power With" connects history and users.

The InsSciDE consortium with its leading historians of science and technology, science, technology, and society (STS) scholars, and also practicing archaeologists, discussed intensely what contribution history and historical research can make to strategy formulation. There are clear views that "lessons" from history are very limited, and potentially misleading. On the other side, the WP "Power With" pointed to the fallacy of "presentism" in social sciences with a too short historical memory. "Presentism", the incorrect belief that practices are recent and without historical precedents or links to the past, is blinding for both science diplomacy and strategy. European science diplomacy, if it is to exist and meet its potential and the hopes invested in it, needs to know about its past. InsSciDE itself exposes this fallacy; "science diplomacy" is a recently termed concept, but the cases in this volume show clearly the long historical legacy of using science for foreign policy purposes.

WP "Power With" is named in a contrast with "power over". The global challenges faced by the European Union require collective action, and states and non-state actors must empower each other to solve problems together. Political scientists address the concept of power naturally, while it is a problematic concept for many others. Power provides the fundamental questions and concepts of political science: what is power, who has power, why? Our work package saw power as a key concept for linking fundamental historical research on science diplomacy with the strategic research objectives for the EU. How does science diplomacy connect with different concepts of power, whether direct, agenda-setting, structural, etc.? How does science diplomacy affect changes in behavior, perceptions, norms, values, etc., and what conceptual and theoretical assumptions identify actors and explain outcomes? The ongoing consortium-wide discussions of such questions at conferences, in online seminars, and in formalized written exchanges, sharpened everybody's analytical, conceptual and strategic senses.

InsSciDE's political scientists played a defining academic role in the two Warsaw Science Diplomacy Schools (WSDS) in June 2020 and June 2021. These pilot programs were moved online because of COVID-19 restrictions, rather than taking place in Warsaw at the European Academy of Diplomacy (EAD). The consortium partners EAD and Institut Symlog de France superbly transitioned the WSDS to a global online format, enabling more than fifty early-career scientists and diplomats from six continents to work intensively on eight historical case studies and the formulation of science diplomacy strategy. Under my direction, WSDS innovated science diplomacy skills training by focusing on Risk, Safety, and Security for science diplomats, who may well operate in dangerous environments and conflict zones, and are scrutinized by intelligence and security services.

WP "Power With" proposed a European Science Diplomacy Strategy led by Dr Björn Fägersten of the Swedish Institute for International Affairs, with extensive European strategy writing experience. Dr Fägersten placed the InsSciDE research in the strategic context of the EU and identified lessons and pragmatic ways forward for European science diplomacy. "Leveraging Science Diplomacy in an Era of Geo-Economic Rivalry: Towards a European strategy", published in March 2022, was well-re-



InsSciDE - Inventing a shared Science Diplomacy for Europe - received funding under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement n°770523), 2017-22.

