



USING SCIENCE DIPLOMACY
FOR ADDRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

CYBER SECURITY: MAPPING THE ROLE OF SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN THE CYBER FIELD

CYBER SECURITY HAS ENTERED THE AGENDA OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND HAS QUICKLY BEEN TRANSFORMED FROM A PURELY TECHNICAL TOPIC TO AN ISSUE OF DIPLOMACY. THE TERM 'CYBER DIPLOMACY' HAS COME INTO GLOBAL USE, AND COUNTRIES ARE KEENLY DEPLOYING THEIR OWN 'CYBER DIPLOMATS'.

Cyber diplomacy still has very distinct state character. In the three countries studied (the Czech Republic, Germany and France) and the EU, there were very different approaches to the promotion of science diplomacy in relation to cyber security. Of the three, France is the most focused on this type of diplomacy. Germany has apparently realised its importance and is planning to expand its efforts in terms of funding, personnel, and international cooperation. The Czech Republic does not possess a sustainable framework for science diplomacy through which it could promote this type of international cooperation despite its cyber potential.

However, the three countries' science diplomacy activities share certain common aspects in its relation to cyber security. The first is the role of diplomats who have a particular focus on cyber security. Each of the countries studied has diplomats with a responsibility for cyber security issues although they are not necessarily cyber experts themselves. While the Czech Republic and Germany have cyber diplomats deployed around the world, France has decided to use a slightly different model and named a digital ambassador. Besides the cyber diplomats, all three states have also deployed science diplomats, often in the same embassies. Second, none of the three countries or the EU have a clear idea about what science diplomacy encompasses in relation to cyber security nor do any have a strategic approach for linking the two disciplines. Finally, all of the national cases show that the relationships between diplomats and scientists remain quite weak and involve very few actors. Their relationships are often informal and very weakly institutionalised.

On the EU level, three elements should be highlighted. First, ongoing EU activities are aimed at more strategic and better coordinated responses to the challenges of science and technology in the cyber field, including better integration of Member States' national resources; facilitation of trans-sectoral synergies between actors from industries, laboratories and institutions; and, inside some of the funded projects, better cooperation between disciplines (such as computer and social sciences). Second, the EU's scientific diplomacy agenda is being institutionalised. Several recent initiatives seem to be trying to bring various types of scientific expertise into diplomatic initiatives, which includes cyber issues. Third, certain challenges for cyber science diplomacy can be identified, particularly the high turnover among EU officials working in various departments of the Commission and the European External Action Service, means regularly having to rebuild relationships and mutual understanding of technical issues.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS CASE STUDY

- » There are no predefined cooperation schemes or interfaces between cyber and science diplomats who are deployed in the same embassies of France, Germany or the Czech Republic. Their cooperation internally depends on their personal desire to link their spheres of responsibility.
- » Cooperation externally also depends on the personal interests and previous experience of those engaged in science diplomacy, who have leeway to determine their own approach to diplomacy and undertake particular activities independently. This often results in cooperation between government and academia that is more ad-hoc and lacks stability and sustainability.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Clarification of the term 'science diplomacy' is needed for science diplomats to have a clearer idea of the rich spectrum of activities they can develop under their mandate to pursue science diplomacy, how it can be articulated with 'cyber diplomacy', and the kind of actors with whom they can cooperate on science diplomacy topics.
- » New processes and interfaces between cyber and science diplomats deployed in the same embassies should be developed to improve their cooperation within the embassy workspaces.



New processes and interfaces between cyber and science diplomats will create added value in international cooperation.

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