



Striving for a Strong and Global Europe in Challenging Times:

The Role of International Cooperation in Research, Innovation and Higher Education

21 June 2022

Programme

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

Main conference moderator: Paul Adamson, Forum Europe

13:00 – 13:15 Welcome remarks

- Michael Vorländer, Head of Unit Education and Research, Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the EU
- Patrick Nedellec, Head of International and European Affairs, French Ministry of Higher Education and Research
- Christiane Schmeken, Director Strategy, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

13:15 – 13:30 Input by Oleksii Shkuratov, Deputy Minister on European Integration, Ukraine

13:30 – 15:00 Thematic Session 1: Global Europe in a new “Ice Age”? Maintaining the (soft) power of international collaboration in research, innovation and higher education

Format: Three keynote impulse statements:

- Jens Brandenburg, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany
- Maria Cristina Russo, Director for Global Approach & International Cooperation in R&I, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Vaughan Turekian, Executive Director National Academies' Policy and Global Affairs Division, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, USA

followed by a first round of discussion with the audience.

Moderator: Paul Adamson, Forum Europe

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 16:30 Thematic Session 2: International collaboration in research, innovation and higher education – practical experiences at various levels

- Reece Smyth, Director for Science & Technology Cooperation, U.S. Department of State (Embassy Science Fellows programme)
- Muriel Attané, Secretary General, European Association of Research & Technology Organisations (EARTO)
- Claudia Matthes, Project lead “Co-Teaching Seminar” between the University of North Carolina and Humboldt University Berlin (IVAC Programme)
- Angela Schindler-Daniels, Head of Brussels Representation DLR Project Management Agency (EU Science Diplomacy Alliance)

Moderator: Benedikt Brisch, Director DAAD Regional Office New York

16:30 – 17:30 Thematic Session 3: Towards stakeholder empowerment: Roles and responsibilities in “Science Diplomacy”

Panel discussion with representatives of the different stakeholder levels: institutions, associations, students, policy makers.

- Lidia Borrell-Damián, Secretary General, Science Europe
- Christiane Schmeken, Director Strategy, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- Thomas Jørgensen, Director of Policy Coordination and Foresight, European University Association (EUA)
- Jeffrey Rathke, President of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC, USA
- Matteo Vespa, European Students’ Union (ESU)

Moderator: David Matthews, ScienceBusiness

17:30 – 17:45 Coffee Break

17:45 – 18:45 Thematic Session 4: #TeamEurope: Fostering synergies and coordination between policies and activities of the EU and Member States as well as like-minded global partners

Open discussion between the audience and policy makers

- Christian Ehler, EPP coordinator in the ITRE Committee, Member of the European Parliament
- Axel Leisenberg, Co-chair of the European Research Area (ERA) Forum Standing Sub Group on the Global Approach in Research and Innovation, Ministry for Higher Education and Research, France
- Jan Marco Müller, Science & Technology Advisor, European External Action Service
- Kristin Danielsen, Executive Director for Internationalisation and the Research System, The Research Council of Norway
- Audrey Goosen, Head of Department Research & Innovation, Space and Atomic Affairs, Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the European Union

Moderator: Florin Zubascu, ScienceBusiness

19:00 – 21:00 Reception and Networking

Political context and aims of the conference:

- The Russian war against Ukraine has not only sharpened the debate about the maintenance (and trust-building) capacity of dialogue and collaboration in research, innovation and higher education, when certain fundamental values are no longer shared. It has also merged it with the debate about the role of science diplomacy in the EU's external action.
- The concept of "Global Europe" differs from attempts by some powers to instrumentalise research and innovation for global influence and social control and instead focusses on "promoting rules-based multilateralism, pursuing reciprocal openness in research and innovation cooperation to facilitate global responses to global challenges and exchanging best practices".¹
- Against this background the implementation of the following strategic documents, which highlight in various ways the increasing importance of international cooperation in higher education, research and innovation for Europe's role and influence in the world, need to be discussed in a coherent and forward-looking manner:
 - o the "Global Approach" in research and innovation (Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world),
 - o the European strategy for higher education institutions, the "Global Gateway" strategy of the EU,
 - o the Bonn Declaration on Freedom of Scientific Research,
 - o the Rome Ministerial Communiqué in the context of the European Higher Education Area (Bologna process),
 - o the Marseille Declaration on International Cooperation in Research and Innovation,
 - o the Council Conclusions on Principles and Values for International Cooperation in Research and Innovation, including an annex with a statement of the Council on Russia's military aggression against Ukraine and its impact on research and innovation (to be adopted by the Council on 10 June 2022),
 - o as well as the outcome/deliverables of the upcoming G7 meeting of science ministers.

The conference therefore aims to:

- Engage in a global dialogue about the role of collaboration in research, innovation and higher education in fostering a "Global Europe"
- Deepen the transatlantic dialogue on research and higher education collaboration
- Explore the relationship between "Science Diplomacy" and tackling "Foreign Interference"/"Knowledge Security"
- Discuss practices and approaches from various national and regional perspectives
- Empower stakeholders to become active and more informed players in "Science Diplomacy", thereby striving for "smarter" international cooperation.

¹ [European Commission: Global Approach to Research and Innovation](#), May 2021

Background:

Research and higher education institutions thrive in international settings that value collaboration. In the recent EU strategy on higher education, universities are described as essential for the “European Way of Life.” How can a “Global Europe” benefit from the activities of higher education and research collaboration, while respecting institutional autonomy, academic freedom, freedom of scientific research, excellence and reciprocity? How can the principle “as open as possible, but as closed as necessary” in international cooperation in research, innovation and higher education be implemented best in different settings in a tailor-made way? How have the sanctions against government-related/controlled Russian and Belarussian research and higher education institutions changed our perspective on “Science Diplomacy?” Are we witnessing a new era of “Realpolitik” in “Science Diplomacy?” How does the concept of “Science Diplomacy” interrelate with tackling “Foreign Interference?” What roles and responsibilities do stakeholders have? These questions will be addressed in this international conference, against the background of strong transatlantic ties and a vision for more international collaboration as “Team Europe” at the global scene.

Format and venue: On-site, hybrid – Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU (Brussels)