

BACKGROUND:

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY CONFERENCE

‘Science diplomacy’ is a recently emerging term at the broader international level with the first widely diffused reports by the UK Royal Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. .

When international cooperation in research and innovation (R&I) goes beyond the advance of science and technology (S&T) and the strengthening of competitiveness, and also affects external dimensions of other policies – from peace and security, to sustainable development, to health – then it becomes a powerful external policy tool :

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY, an instrument of ‘smart, soft power’ and a mechanism for improving relations with key countries and regions around the world,

Science cooperation can have a particular added value in highly religious or ideological societies as it provides a non-ideological and non-religious framework for exchange of ideas between people, regardless of cultural, national or religious backgrounds

By engaging scientists, civil society and policy makers in effective dialogue and common activities it acts as a bridge between science, society and policy. Its ultimate goal is to employ research, science and innovation as channels for nourishing a culture of cooperation, conflict prevention and transformation

Concept Note for Conference on Science Diplomacy

Last year The Foundation for World wide Cooperation, the Pontifical Academy and MIT Technology Review Italy gave an important Contribution to a 'one day Conferece' organized in Rome on Technology for Poverty Alleviation. The conference with high level Participants such as Nicholas Negroponte, Jeffrey Sachs and Cardinal Turkson (PAS) had a remarkable success.

In May 2017, in tight cooperation with the EU and we will be , discussing the issue of Science Diplomacy, with focus on case studies of specific topics such as,

1) **Scientific research** as a tool to connect People normally experiencing very difficult relations if any: SESAME a Light synchrotrone for experimental Phisics built in Jordan with an Institutional Strucure similar to CERN but centered around all tne Middle Eastern Countries (including Israel, Iran , the Palestinian Authority,Egypt,Siria,.....) has started working very recently having been promoted by UNESCO.

Apparently the effort of using high level Scientific Research to create new opportunities for dialogue is now working.

2) **Large Epidemics Control** (AIDS, SARS, Ebola, Zyka) : Confrontation among Governments, Media, Science will be discussed by Scientists, Politicians who, referring to large Epidemics, will highlight the difficulty of political decisions in presence of even highly alarming Society.

3) **Environmental Policies**, the case of the 'Climate Change Paris Conference, with a final agreement involving the major polluters of the world (China, US India, who had never been even close to an Agreement before. After Paris, Marrakesh did not show the same positive drive, but most of all worrying the stop from Trump to the fight against global warming. What next? Will be the main question for the session...

4) what next is also the question for the session on a **Complex international negotiations** such as the nuclear Deal among Iran and the UN 5+1.

The great achievement of an agreement reached by two MIT Scientists using a sophisticated scientific language had been the success of a 'neutral' scientific language and a joint culture. (Ernest Moniz, MIT Professor for many years , [Secretary of Energy](#) with President Obama, and Ali Akbar Salehi , an Iranian academic phd from MIT, and the head of

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran , were able to do this thanks to the 'mens and Manus' Culture of MIT)

Now neither Monitz nor Salehi are there . Since the agreement is not signed by the US only, but by all the UN Security Council Members plus Germany and the EU it is not clear how it will move forward .

Will Science help diplomacy again or in a purely political discussion, diplomacy will need to start from scratch ??