

Presse release

Geneva - 23 January 2023

Apply for the 2023 Science Diplomacy Week immersion program!

From 8-12 May 2023, the Geneva Coalition on Anticipatory Science and Diplomacy will organize the second edition of the Science Diplomacy Week in International Geneva to promote anticipatory Science and Diplomacy as an effective tool for a renewed multilateralism. The Science Diplomacy Week features an Immersion Program and an Open Forum for exchange, capacity development and mutual learning between the diplomatic and scientific communities. The call for expressions of interest to participate in the Immersion Program is now open until 28 February 2023. Details on the Open Forum will be announced in March 2023.

The world is experiencing breakthrough science and technological advances at an unprecedented speed. These discoveries will reshape how we view ourselves as humans, how we relate to each other in society and how we care for our environment. To prepare for this future, our current and future scientific, diplomatic, and business leaders need to understand and jointly promote Anticipatory Science Diplomacy as an effective tool for a renewed multilateralism. The Geneva Coalition on Anticipatory Science and Diplomacy, initiated by GESDA, was created in 2021 to coalesce 14 Swiss and global institutions to empower the current and next generation of leaders with a «multilingual» mindset in science and diplomacy and foster boundary-spanning professionals and institutions. These include CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research), DiploFoundation, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Geneva Science Policy Interface (GSPI), Geneva Graduate Institute, International Network of Government Science Advice (INGSA), International Science Council (ISC), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), SDG Lab led by the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG), SiDLab (powered by ETH Zürich and the University of Geneva), University of Zürich and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

Hosted in the historic Palais des Nations – the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva –, the Science Diplomacy Week Immersion Program will provide an unparalleled field visit, learning and networking experience into the Science and Diplomacy ecosystem of International Geneva. As the operational hub of the UN and the host city of more than 41 international organizations, 180 embassies and 700 NGOs, Geneva serves as perfect platform for anticipating the role of science and technology diplomacy for the future of multilateralism.

Built around interactive workshops, expert dialogues, open lectures, institutional visits and simulation exercises based on the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar®, the program will bring together current and future leaders from the diplomatic and scientific communities, as well as from industry, NGOs and civil society. "The aim is to foster a common understanding of each other's perspectives and to work together on devising the diplomatic envelopes needed to maximize beneficial uses of frontier technologies for all", said Marga Gual Soler, GESDA's Head of Science Diplomacy Capacity Building. Participants will benefit from a customized educational program as well as access to the activities under the public Open Forum.

"The Science Diplomacy Week Immersion Program is a great training opportunity that helps to better understand the connection between science and diplomacy and how to better mobilize such a connection to increase our impact and our capacity to attain important social objectives like the Sustainable Development Goals or the responsible development of artificial intelligence with a Human Rights lens. It is the combination of a well-crafted training program and the opportunity to meet dedicated people from around the world that makes it a truly unique experience. I highly recommend it", said Catherine Régis, professor of Law and Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy at the University of Montréal, who participated in the inaugural edition in 2022.

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Another 2022 participant, Cristina Gomez Garcia-Reyes from Colombia, lead of Urban-Nature Based Solutions at the World Economic Forum, said: "The program not only showed us that our day-to-day activities can be framed as a new discipline, but also that it is a field of work with a wonderful array of practitioners advocating for a stronger and more effective intersection between science and decision-making in a world mired in misinformation, fragmentation and shallow assumptions. "

Applications are expected from individuals and institutional representatives working at or interested in the interface of science and diplomacy in four focus areas: 1) Advanced artificial intelligence and the quantum revolution, 2) Global health and human augmentation, 3) Climate change, decarbonization and the future of the global commons and 4) Anticipatory science diplomacy tools and new diplomatic methods.

The cohort will count approximately with 30 participants, ensuring a good mix of disciplines and sectors, as well as gender and geographical balance. Partial and full scholarships will be offered by GESDA on a case-by-case basis.

For more information on the program and application process please visit

<https://gesda.global/immersion-program>

The application deadline is 28 February 2023.

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