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DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTE

Hanns Seidel Stiftung

Regional Conference

Science Diplomacy for South-East Europe: Building Regional Partnerships for Knowledge, Innovation, Resilience and Foreign Policy

Aligning the European Union Framework for Science Diplomacy with South-East Europe (SEE) Science Diplomacy Context

12 November 2026, Incubator Building, the Venue Hall, Sofia TechPark

A G E N D A

09:15 – 09:30
Registration

09:30 – 10:00
Official Opening and Welcome addresses

- Ms. Tanya Mihaylova, Director, Bulgarian Diplomatic Institute
- Mr. Yordan Parvanov, Director-General for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Dr. Klaus Fiesinger, Regional Director for South-East Europe of Hanns Seidel Foundation

10:00 – 10:20
Key-Note Speech by Mr. Alessandro Lombardo, Head of Project Management Office at the CEI Executive Secretariat

10:20 – 12:45
Session I: Science Diplomacy in South-East Europe: National Policy Approaches, Practices, Opportunities and Challenges

Moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zdravko Popov, President of Public Policy Institute, member of BDI National Advisory Board

- Exposé on behalf of the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic by Ms. Evgenia Beniatoglou, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in Bulgaria

- Acad. Nikolay Vitanov, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria
- H.E. Mr. Haxhi Bajraktari, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kosovo
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mürsel Doğrul, President of the Turkish Young Academy and Advisor to the President of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA)
- Mr. Todor Lakić, Associate at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Montenegro *(online)*
- Mr. Kiril Penev, Head of Innovation Projects department, Sofia Tech Park

12:45 – 13:30
Coffee Break & Buffet Lunch

13:30 – 13:50
Key-Note Speech by Dr. Jan Marco MÜLLER, Team Leader Global Approach, Multilateral Dialogue and Science Diplomacy, European Commission *(online)*

13:50 – 16:00
Session II: Science Diplomacy for Regional Cooperation and European Integration (implementing the European Union Framework for Science Diplomacy in the context of South-East Europe)

Moderated by Dr Mariana Trifonova, Program Direct and Senior Analyst, Economic Policy Institute

- Dr. Valentin Katrandzhiev, Chief Expert at Bulgarian Diplomatic Institute
- Ms. Evdokia Pasheva, Corresponding Member, Vice-President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- Mr. Borislav Bankov, Head of the NATO DIANA Test Centre at GATE Institute
- Assoc. Prof. Vesela Evtimova, PhD, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and Dragomir Mateev, vice-president, National Centre for Polar Studies, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bulgarian Antarctic Institute

16:00 – 16:30
Final comments. concluding remarks and reflections