



European Diplomatic Programme

21st edition 2020/2021

Together for Europe's Recovery

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1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The European Diplomatic Programme (EDP) offers an exciting learning opportunity to junior diplomats of EU member states and officials from European institutions. With up to 65 colleagues participating in a varied programme of fourteen days, in four countries, over a period of an academic year, the EDP is a truly unique event. The EDP creates a learning environment in which the participants can experiment, develop their core diplomatic skills, have open discussions and build up a pan-European network from which they could benefit the rest of their career. The programme fosters understanding between member states and institutions and, focusing on EU external policy, contributes to true “European diplomacy”.

The EDP is now entering its 21st year. It was first established in November 1999 by the former Political Committee (doc 10509/00). To take account of developments since then, a revised set of principles governing the EDP (doc. 6488/09) was agreed in February 2009 by the Working Party on “CFSP Administrative Affairs and Protocol”. Its current version was approved by COREPER on 7 November 2012 and adopted by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 November 2012 (doc 15086/12).

1.1 Aims

- To create personal networks among European diplomats.
- To raise common diplomatic awareness with regard to a specifically European dimension of diplomacy.
- To provide a learning environment where officials can be trained within an original framework which has no direct parallel within the national setting.

1.2 Target Group

The EDP is aimed at diplomats of all national Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as officials from the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council. Priority is given to the training of junior diplomats and officials.

1.3. Training methods

The EDP cycle consists of four modules. During each module participants will attend presentations, workshops and skills training sessions. Their main purpose is two-fold: to increase individual knowledge of the subject matter and to enhance understanding of positions of the EU member states and institutions, as well as improve core diplomatic skills.

The languages of instruction are English and/or French.

1.4 Certificate

A certificate is awarded to the participants upon completion of the course, on behalf of the EDP managers, by the closing Presidency (Module IV). No certificate will be awarded to participants who miss more than one module.

1.5 EDP On line

Information on previous editions of the EDP can also be found online: http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/edp/index_en.htm. A virtual workgroup will be available for participants to exchange and receive information and debate.

2. 21st EDITION OF THE EDP

The 21st Edition will take place under the Presidencies of Germany and Portugal. Exceptionally due to the unprecedented crisis with COVID-19, the first Module will take place online from Berlin, 17 -18 September 2020 and will conclude in Lisbon, end of May/beginning of June 2021.

2.1 Dates of the 21st Edition

Module I

17 - 18 September 2020, online from Berlin, Germany

Module II

October 2020 – end February 2021, exchange visits to the EU Member States/EU Institutions

Module III

Second half of April 2021 (dates TBC), Brussels, Belgium

Module IV

End of May/Beginning of June 2021, Lisbon, Portugal (dates TBC)

2.2 Themes for the 21st EDP

The central theme of the 21st edition of EDP will be “**Together for Europe’s Recovery**’. During the four modules, participants will approach this subject from a theoretical and practical point view focusing on content and skills.

The sub-themes will be crisis response and management; multilateralism; global health diplomacy and science diplomacy. Participants will focus on these sub-themes throughout the programme (working groups during Module I and IV).

Participants will, by the end of the four modules, have a better and holistic understanding of how the European Union is facing global challenges as well as individual Member States’ views on these issues.

In the times of unprecedented COVID-19 crisis diplomatic work has changed significantly. It requires training of new skills and EDP would give the chance to participants to practice negotiation skills in times of crisis (including online negotiation), networking, public diplomacy and communication.

2.3 Preliminary programme

Detailed programmes for the four modules will be circulated several weeks before each module takes place.

Module I 17-18 September 2020, online from Berlin, Germany

An initial plenary session, in which also the Training Directors will participate, will give the broad outline of the meeting activities, and will also be an opportunity to learn about the German Presidency priorities. The programme will also include online workshops and skills training related to the program subthemes crisis prevention; crisis management and multilateralism.

This event will coincide with the first informal Training Directors meeting which will also be held online.

Module II: October 2020 to end February 2021

(Exchange visits to the EU Member States/EU Institutions)

The exchange visits have multiple aims. Chief among these are to get to know the decision-making process of another Member State, the European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council or the EEAS, their view with respect to the themes of the programme, and to network with counterparts.

Should the participant be unable to visit the assigned host member state or institution, an alternative programme would be developed by the assigned host and the participants to fulfil the objectives of the European Diplomatic Programme.

Module III: second half of April 2021 (dates TBC), Brussels, Belgium

This Module is divided into two parts.

During the first part the EEAS, the General Secretariat of the Council and the Commission will organise a day and a half programme of presentations on topics related to the main theme, including question and answer sessions.

The second part will consist of a simulated three days negotiation in which the diplomats will represent the interests of a Member State or Institution. The negotiation training will be provided by experienced trainers who have conducted similar trainings during previous editions of the EDP.

Module IV: end of May/beginning of June 2021, Lisbon, Portugal

(Final module and evaluation of the 21st Edition)

An initial plenary session, in which also the Training Directors will participate, will give the broad outline of the meeting activities. Module IV will include as well a workshop and skills training related to the program subthemes global health diplomacy and science diplomacy.

After the final presentations and discussion, the certificates will be presented to the participants.

This event will coincide with the second informal Training Directors meeting.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE 21st EDITION

3.1 Procedure

EU Member States, the EEAS, the General Secretariat of the Council and the Commission may nominate 2 candidates until **7th August, 2020**.

All nominated candidates must be available to follow all four modules as listed above.

Training Directors/EDP coordinators should arrange for the attached application form to be completed for each candidate and returned by 7th August, 2020 to the address indicated on the application form. Contact details and enquiries can also be found on the form.
