



Global Diplomacy Lab

Background & idea

The nature of diplomacy is evolving. It is no longer the strict purview of national governments and international organisations. The **Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL)** is a platform for exploring a new and more inclusive diplomacy that goes beyond traditional politics. Creative professionals from various fields are thus needed to explore new tools of communication on the basis of mutual trust and to re-formulate an agenda for collective action.

What should diplomacy look like in the future?

Which competences do we need in order to define our scope of action more precisely?

These are questions that the Federal Foreign Office, under the **patronage of Federal Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel** and in partnership with the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, the Bosch Alumni Network, the Stiftung Mercator and the Global Leadership Academy of GIZ, are eager to investigate with outstanding members of their networks from all continents.

The **Global Diplomacy Lab** is managed by a Secretariat based at the Federal Foreign Office. It is responsible for organising regular meetings worldwide and fostering a permanent dialogue between partners, members and external stakeholders, designed to lead to concrete actions to shape policy-making.

The bi-annual Labs

Around forty alumni of programmes run by the Federal Foreign Office, the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Stiftung Mercator and the Global Leadership Academy are invited to apply for the bi-annual meetings of the **Global Diplomacy Lab**.

Together with the **Global Diplomacy Lab's** Dean, Ruprecht Polenz, Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Foreign Affairs from 2005 to 2013, the members first gathered in Berlin from 13 to 16 November 2014 to sketch the multiple facets of trust in global affairs. The second edition of the **Global Diplomacy Lab** took place in Istanbul from 4 to 7 June 2015 and dealt with the issues of fragmentation versus integration, while the broad and complex issue of migration was the topic of the third Lab, which was held in Berlin from 5 to 8 November 2015. In 2016, the Labs focused on the Significance of International Law and Moral Standards in Diplomacy (Berlin, 9 to 12 June) and Global Diplomacy in the Digital Age (Montreal, 3 to 6 November).

From the Labs hosted so far, it has become clear that transforming potential into practice requires both an incubating and a sustainable impact-driven framework. The first 2017 Lab was therefore held **as a GDL Incubator** in Buenos Aires from 18 to 21 June. **The next GDL Impact will take place from 19 to 22 November in Berlin.** These venues were selected by the Advisory Council as part of a competitive bidding process, reinforcing the Global Diplomacy Lab's members-driven approach.

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