

**38<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Diplomatic Training  
Malta, 27-30 September 2010**

**REGIONAL DIPLOMATIC TRAINING  
Central and South-East Europe: Lessons Learned**

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// Allow me just a quick introductory chapeau in order to contextualize the Croatian experience in benefiting from the use of regional approach in diplomatic training.//

**1. The post-Westphalian Society and globalization**

- Features: 200 plus independent States, a withering unipolarity of the US (?), emergence of new stockholders (such as PRC, a quasi-superpower), all of which fosters regional cooperation and calls for regional approach to peace, stability and development everywhere.
- Concept of “4-Is”: Internationalization, Integration, Individualization, Informatization;

**2. Global matrix of macro-regions: Europe, Central and South-East Europe**

- While US still remains the only super power, the center of economic power has been shifting towards Asia, and demonstrably so in the past few years;
- New actors benefit from regional associations (e.g., ASEAN, AIPEC, SCO, MERCOSUR) and seek further inter-regional cooperation (e.g., BRIC, S&ED, EU-China, EU-Russia), whereby both the lessons learned from intra- and inter-regional cooperation strengthen regional approach everywhere;
- EU and its regional policies have been evolving over the past several decades resulting in mature structures and effective mechanisms for development;
- Central and SEE – Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, CEI, CEFTA, RCC, the Vishegrad Group complement the core EU policies on intra and inter-regional cooperation and development.

**3. Political & developmental transformation of Central and South-East Europe**

- Post-Wall changes: democratization, market-oriented reforms, social transition;
- Aggression, war and post-war transition in the area of former SFRY: peace, coexistence and development, reforms and CBMs.

**4. Croatia, its diplomacy and diplomatic training**

- Croatia and its transitions:
  - from a socialist model to democracy and rule of law;
  - from self-managed to market-oriented economy;
  - from being a part of a federation to an independent state with all associated powers and responsibilities;
  - from the state of aggression and warfare to peace and development.

- The newly-emerged independent state and diplomacy:
  - lack of career diplomats and diplomatic experience;
  - no-preexisting diplomatic training institution, as such;
  - pre-existing strong academic and research competence;
  - nation-building or developing state-wide capacity for governance, including the foreign service;
  - training of individuals at reputable institutions from Vienna to D.C.;
  - the establishment of Croatian Diplomatic Academy at MFA.

## 5. Diplomatic training in Croatia; 'going international'

- Diplomacy exists only in an international setting: even more vivid in today's globalised world of real-time communication.
- The beginnings of Croatian diplomatic training:
  - consulting the best from Vienna and London to Paris, Brussels, Madrid and Clingendael, as well as Moscow and Washington;
  - creation of in-house training programs, with foreign component and support;
  - first institutional steps/links: from contacts and contracts with individual experts to bilateral co-operation agreements with specialized diplomatic training institutions worldwide;
  - the key role and influence of the IFDT.

## 6. Diplomatic training in Croatia: 'going international' via 'going regional'

Principal aims:

- to exchange views with appropriate regional partners on past and present activities, and future activities and plans, thus to contribute to the ongoing adjustment and adoption of diplomatic strategies and policies;
- to carry out diplomatic training activities first bilaterally, and then multilaterally, especially via existing mechanisms of regional co-operation such as CEI.
  - CEI member states (2010): Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine (18);
  - the first 1998 CEI diplomatic conference created the CEI Diplomatic Training Network (CEI-DTN), which then enabled the first direct web links among the diplomatic academies and institutes in the CEI area and beyond;
  - Since 1998, a series of annual gatherings -- entitled CEI Dubrovnik Diplomatic Forum (CEI DDF, 1998 - ) -- has been held;

### 6.1 the CEI DDF matrix:

- experienced diplomats and other experts from academia, NGOs and media discussing selected

topics in diplomacy and diplomatic training, accompanied by special programs for young diplomats, ensuing in regular CEI DDF sessions proceedings;

- participants coming from the CEI member states, but also from other interested countries, thus to enable an effective mix of achievements and approaches towards issues being discussed, all in English;
- the issue being chosen is always topical to the EU priorities and challenges, given that the EU membership and effective functioning within the Union constitute core strategic targets for all CEI countries;
- venue: Dubrovnik as an academic and tourist center widely known for its contribution to medieval and latter Mediterranean diplomacy.
- in 1999 CEI DDF evolves into a permanent international think-tank gathering (“Dubrovnik Model”).

6.2 Joint Seminar on Processes of European Integration, in co-operation with the Hans Seidel Foundation and the University of Zagreb (1999 - ):

- target group: young diplomats from Central, Eastern and South-East Europe,
- language: English;
- theme: *current trends and prospects of the EU and its approach towards the international setting*;
- lecturers: Germany, Austria, Croatia, later on also from Bulgaria and Hungary;
- *additional outcome: ‘Dubrovnik Model’ as a basis for creating similar Regional Diplomatic Winter School in Sandanski, Bulgaria, by the Diplomatic Institute of Bulgarian MFA.*

6.3 Annual Francophone Diplomatic Seminar (Seminaries diplomatique) was introduced, in co-operation with the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), Centre des études européennes de l'ENA, French and Belgian embassies (2002 - ) to provide similar Dubrovnik Model-inspired exercises in French;

- target group: mid-career diplomats from Central, Eastern and South-East Europe, and also from the Southern Mediterranean;
- language: French;
- theme: current EU trends and prospects;
- lecturers: France, Belgium, Croatia.

6.4 Other international projects in the field of diplomatic training: several dozen projects were carried out in Croatia, benefiting from esteemed partnerships with the universities of Leicester, Westminster and Harvard, wherein particular contribution of the **Dubrovnik Diplomatic Summer School (DDSS)**, in close co-operation with the College of Europe, Brugges (2000-2004), must be emphasized.

## 7. Lessons learned from regional approach to diplomatic training in Croatia

Challenges shared across the region often call for shared solutions. Challenges of immature states and markets and economies and polities in transition, and especially a need for capacity building in state administration, call for similar training solutions;

In diplomacy this calls for:

- broadening of diplomatic and executive skills to meet the challenges of an ever more technically complex world (the “Leonardo approach”);
- strengthening the MFA HQ’s capacities in strategic and policy planning, management and coordination with and among line-ministries;
- strengthening bilateral and multilateral ties, networking and building alliances via maintaining good-neighborly relations and regional cooperation in support and affirmation of regional strategies for attaining policy aims within the brackets of EU and NATO.

In diplomatic training this calls for:

- continued cooperation of national educational and training institutions, esp. diplomatic academies, in established formats (i.e., “Don’t fix it if it isn’t broken”);
- further specialization and fostering of national-as-regional centers of excellence;
- further adaptation and innovation in training formats and methods thus to respond to evolving complexity and hence multiple specialization in diplomatic profession (this meeting’s emphasis on e-diplomacy corroborates best this point!)
- tailor-made teaching materials for conducting diplomacy training to meet particular needs of small countries.

## 8. Regional diplomatic training goes further: the ball is rolling ...

The following mix of traditional and innovative themes and formats demonstrates the vitality of regional diplomatic training, wherein the upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> CEI next year in Dubrovnik will test the validity of inter-regional cooperation in the context of EU’s regional approaches and policies:

- Dubrovnik, 11-15 October 2010: *the 12<sup>th</sup> Joint Seminar on Processes of European Integration for Young Diplomats*;
- Dubrovnik, 19-22 October 2010: the 9<sup>th</sup> Francophone Diplomatic Seminar on ‘CFSP’ (*La politique étrangère et de sécurité commune*);
- Rome, 22-24 October 2010: *Festival of Diplomacy*, organized by the Italian MFA and its Diplomatic Institute in co-operation with the John Cabot University in Rome and the European Commission;
- Dubrovnik, 6-9 April 2011: the 14<sup>th</sup> CEI DDF on “*EU and Its Neighbors: Mediterranean, Russia and Eastern Partnership*”, in co-operation with the CEI as well as with the Euro-Mediterranean University and the Russian Diplomatic Academy.

## **APPENDICES**

### **CEI DUBROVNIK DIPLOMATIC FORUMI Dubrovnik, Croatia, 1998-**

- **2010: STRATEGIC PUBLIC DIPLOMACY**
- **2009: MODERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY AND DIPLOMATIC TRAINING**
- **2008: DIPLOMATIC TRAINING AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION**
- **2007: LIFE-LONG LEARNING AND DIPLOMACY**
- **2006: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR NEGOTIATING WITHIN AN ENLARGED EU**
- **2005: CULTURAL PROMOTION AND DIPLOMACY**
- **2003: PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND MEDIA**
- **2002: DIPLOMACY AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION**
- **2001: ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY IN COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION**
- **2000: DIPLOMACY IN THE ERA OF GLOBALISATION**
- **1999: DIPLOMACY FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**
- **1998: THE ROLE OF DIPLOMACY IN COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

### **INTERNATIONAL FRANCOPHONE DIPLOMATIC SEMINARS**

**IN THE FIELD OF THE EU  
October, 2002 -, Dubrovnik, Croatia**

**SEMINAIRES INTERNATIONAUX DIPLOMATIQUES FRANCOPHONES  
DANS LE DOMAINE DE L'UE  
Octobre, 2002 - , Dubrovnik, Croatie**

This series of annual international francophone seminars is a part of the co-operation programme with the International Organisation of the Francophonie which is co-organised by the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia and the Embassy of the French Republic in the Republic of Croatia as well as the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in the Republic of Croatia, with expert support of the ENA Centre for European Studies.

*Cette série de séminaires internationaux diplomatiques francophones est organisé dans le cadre de la coopération de l'Académie diplomatique du Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de l'Intégration européenne (MAEIE) de la République de Croatie avec l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, l'Ambassade de France en Croatie ainsi qu'avec l'Ambassade du Royaume de Belgique en Croatie et avec le soutien du Centre des études européennes de l'ENA.*

- **2010: CFSP - COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY – TO BE HELD FROM 19 TO 22 OCTOBER**  
***LA POLITIQUE ETRANGERE ET DE SECURITE COMMUNE - PESC LE SEMINAIRE SE TIENDRA DU 19 AU 22 OCTOBRE***
- **2009: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE IN THE FIELD OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY**  
***LES ENJEUX ET LES PERSPECTIVES DE L'ESPACE EUROPEEN DE JUSTICE, DE LIBERTÉ ET DE SÉCURITÉ (JLS)***
- **2008: THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EU IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGES**  
***L'ACTION DE L'EU EST DANS LES DOMAINES DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE L'ÉNERGIE ET DU CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE***
- **2007: FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK OF THE EU AND ITS MAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES**  
***LE CADRE FINANCIER DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE ET SES DEUX PRINCIPALES POLITIQUES D'AIDE FINANCIERE***
- **2006: LEGAL TOOLS OF THE EU**  
***LES OUTILS JURIDIQUES DE L'UNION EUROPEENNE***
- **2005: CFSP AND ESDP**  
***LA PESC ET LA PESD***
- **2004: INSTITUTIONAL FUTURE OF THE EU**  
***L'AVENIR INSTITUTIONNEL DE L'EUROPE***
- **2003: EU AND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS**  
***L'UNION EUROPEENNE DANS LES NEGOCIATIONS MULTILATERALES***
- **2002: CFSP - COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY**  
***LA POLITIQUE ETRANGERE ET DE SECURITE COMMUNE – PESC***