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European Cyber Agora

23 - 24
APRIL
2024

AN INCLUSIVE
MULTISTAKEHOLDER
INITIATIVE FOR A
DIGITAL EUROPE

The Future of Multistakeholder Cyber Diplomacy: 2025 and Beyond

EU Cyber Direct



2024

Workstream 1- The Future of Multistakeholder Cyber Diplomacy: 2025 and Beyond

In our interconnected world, the digital realm assumes a critical role in global affairs, influencing everything from economic prosperity to national security. At the forefront of this digital landscape, strengthening global cyber diplomacy engagement and discourse has emerged as a crucial element in fostering stability and trust among nations. Central to these efforts is the UN framework for Responsible State Behaviour in cyberspace, which provides essential guidelines for promoting peace, security, and stability in the digital domain.

Yet, navigating the intricate landscape of cyber diplomacy presents its own set of challenges. With a constantly expanding array of international issues—from emerging threats, confidence building measures to capacity building—on the agenda, it becomes imperative to ensure that all stakeholders possess the necessary knowledge and skills to engage meaningfully in discussions and negotiations.

In response, EU Cyber Direct has initiated two complementary initiatives to promote substantive involvement from both State and non-State actors in the realm of cyber diplomacy. Firstly, it has launched a fellowship program designed to cultivate expertise and foster engagement among participants through trainings and on-site visits. Secondly, it is actively involved in scenario-based exercises aimed at deepening our collective comprehension of responsible state behaviour in cyberspace. These efforts are geared towards enhancing collaboration and knowledge-sharing in addressing cyber-related challenges on a global scale to advance a stable and secure cyberspace for all.

EU Cyber Diplomacy Fellowship 2023-2024

The EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – [EU Cyber Direct](#) together with [EU CyberNet](#) has launched the [EU:CD Fellowship](#). Some of its activities are an integral part of the broader European Cyber Agora initiative, under the workstream titled "*The Future of Multistakeholder Cyber Diplomacy: 2025 and Beyond*." This fellowship program, scheduled to run from January 2023 to July 2024, is designed to empower participants to actively contribute to international cyber diplomacy debates by equipping them with the requisite skills and insights.

The EU:CD Fellowship stands as a tangible manifestation of the commitment to fostering multistakeholder engagement in international cyber diplomacy. Aligned with the vision of the workstream, the fellowship program serves as a cornerstone for empowering individuals from partner countries and non-governmental sectors to actively participate in shaping the future of cyberspace.

The primary objective of the EU:CD Fellowship is to bolster the capacity of partner countries and non-governmental stakeholders to participate effectively in international cyber diplomacy discussions. By focusing on the development of individual skills and knowledge, the fellowship

seeks to cultivate a cadre of cyber diplomats capable of navigating the intricate challenges of the digital age.

A key emphasis of the fellowship is on facilitating knowledge transfer among participants, fostering collaboration, and strengthening cooperation between nations, both in the global North and South. Through targeted engagement with issues such as the UN framework for responsible state behaviour, regional approaches to countering cybercrime, international cooperation on digital governance, and participation in fora like the European Cyber Agora, fellows will gain a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of cyber diplomacy.

At the conclusion of the EU:CD Programme, it is anticipated that fellows will emerge with enhanced capabilities to:

- Identify and analyse key policy dilemmas across various cyber, digital, and technological domains.
- Engage with stakeholders at national, regional, and international levels to advance shared interests and objectives.
- Influence the development of domestic policies related to cyber and digital issues, drawing upon insights gained during the fellowship.
- Contribute substantively to national and regional perspectives on cyber diplomacy through active engagement with international organizations, the crafting of opinion pieces, and participation in workshops and conferences.
- Disseminate acquired knowledge and expertise within their respective national ecosystems, thereby fostering a culture of informed dialogue and collaboration.

For more information, check out the [leaflet](#) and the [booklet](#) of the 2024 cohort.



Scenario-based Exercise

In the 2022-2023 edition of our fellowship program, one of the highlights was the fellows' visit to Brussels, which served as a cornerstone for the practical application of the acquired knowledge stemming from the master classes in cyber diplomacy. During this visit, on the 23rd of November 2023 at the Microsoft Innovation Center, we organized an event that brought together a diverse group of multistakeholder participants, encompassing experts from various sectors including government, academia, and the private sector. This collaborative effort was made possible through our partnership with Microsoft.

The **'Nation State Under Attack'** simulation (**facilitated by Microsoft**) aimed to engage fellows in a real-time scenario that tested their abilities to respond to a hypothetical (inter)national crisis. The exercise not only emphasized the importance of confidence building among the participants but also aimed at enhancing their preparedness for real-world challenges. It provided a practical platform for testing the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the fellowship program.

The event facilitated a dynamic exchange of ideas and strategies, illustrating the intrinsic value of such exercises in building a collaborative and responsive community. The fellows were able to apply theoretical knowledge in a controlled, yet intense environment, receiving immediate feedback on their decision-making processes and crisis management skills.

