

ERASMUS BIP Programme

Diplomacy in the age of artificial intelligence: Negotiating global AI regulation in a digital environment

Format: 5 days in person + 3 days virtual

Content: The aim of the proposed BIP is to explore the challenges and opportunities that the rapid development of digital technologies – including different forms of artificial intelligence – mean for diplomacy and international relations. The programme combines improved conceptual knowledge and understanding of the field with practical experience, making use of the blended organisation of the programme.

Planned programme

In-person component

Day 1 (Monday): Digital Diplomacy and AI: Concepts, Actors and Practices.

This module will introduce the students to the main concepts and theories of digital diplomacy, as well as case studies of best practices and successful actors.

Afternoon: Arrival, Introduction to METU.

Introductory lecture and activities: How are digital technologies and AI transforming the practice of diplomacy? (2×90 minutes)

Day 2 (Tuesday): The need for regulation: Artificial intelligence in international politics

This module explores what artificial intelligence is and the various ways in which international politics is affected by the increasing importance of digital technologies, focusing on the competition for technological supremacy, on the impact of AI on economic and military power, and the various effects on human rights, liberal democracy and other European and global values.

Morning: How does AI work? Geopolitical competition and Artificial Intelligence. (2×90 minutes)

Afternoon: State power and AI. Political systems and Artificial Intelligence. (2×90 minutes)

Day 3 (Wednesday): The global governance of AI

This module explores the various governance models that are emerging around AI in various parts of the world (especially as developed by the EU, China, and the United States), and efforts at developing global governance in this issue area. Participants explore what such regulatory models look like from the perspective of their own countries. The module provides the necessary background for the participants for the online negotiation module.

Morning: Diverging state interests and regulatory models in global politics. Exploring the interests, stances and policies of the major stakeholders and of participating countries. (2×90 minutes)

Afternoon: free activities

Day 4 (Thursday): Digital Diplomacy II. Digital Technologies and Diplomatic Skills.

This module will equip the students with the necessary skills and tools to use digital technologies – with a focus on tools of artificial intelligence – effectively and creatively in diplomatic settings. The module will cover topics such as digital communication, data analysis and visualization, and digital storytelling. The practical tasks will be related to the topic at hand: regulating AI.

Morning: Building practical digital skills for diplomatic tasks. (2×90 minutes)

Afternoon: Building skills for the use of AI in diplomacy. (2×90 minutes)

Day 5 (Friday): Negotiating in a digital context

Morning: Presentation of materials prepared in Day 4. (90 minutes)

Summary of the in-person component and preparation for the online component. (90 minutes)

Afternoon: free activities

Online component

This module will allow the students to apply their knowledge and skills in a simulation of diplomatic negotiation taking place in virtual space. With the guidance of the instructors, the participants can explore the differences between in-person and online interaction and develop strategies to handle the situation.

Day 1 (Monday): Opening of negotiations, presentation of country statements (90 minutes)

Day 2 (Tuesday): Backstage negotiations, creation of proposals (2×90 minutes)

Day 3 (Wednesday): Backstage negotiations, presentation of country statements, vote on proposals. (2×90 minutes)