



Auswärtiges Amt

# Jahresheft Yearbook

**Internationale Diplomatenausbildung**  
Diplomacy by Networking

2023

# Stories & Impact

## Professor Ibrahim Awad (Palestinian territories)

Participant in IFAT 2018, WEP 28  
Current location: Palestinian territories

As a professor in business economics and econometrics and Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics at Al-Quds University, my research interests revolve around business, entrepreneurship, competitiveness, development and resource economics. As a matter of fact, I have published numerous papers and participated in various international conferences.

As well as being an Alumni of the Federal Foreign Office, I am also an Alumni of a programme on Business and Entrepreneurship Education organised by World Learning in partnership with the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The programme played a significant role in fostering knowledge and resource sharing among business school professionals and entrepreneurs. It facilitated discussions on business school accreditation and entrepreneurship, enhancing the connections among the participants.

Through this programme I was well prepared for my participation in the 28<sup>th</sup> Network Consolidation Programme, organised by the esteemed Federal Foreign Office from 22 to 28 October 2023. The programme's theme was "Dialogue & Crisis Diplomacy in Action: Confrontation, Co-Existence or Cooperation?" and was hosted and sponsored by the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin in cooperation with the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder).

Participating in the Diplomacy by Networking programme in 2023 has significantly impacted my career trajectory. The programme allowed me to expand my knowledge in narrative analysis, interests, dilemmas, dialogues, mediations, real-life examples and risky and promising paths. The programme's tangible and meaningful discourse has significantly contributed to my expertise.

## Noviyan Halim (Indonesia)

Participant in IFAT 2018, WEP 27  
Current location: Indonesia

Being invited as a representative of a private global energy company to participate in the NCP 27 – among diplomats and policy experts – might seem unconventional. Yet, my participation was not only warranted but immensely beneficial. The programme fostered cross-disciplinary dialogue, showcasing speaker mastery and prompting thought-provoking inquiries. Engaging with diverse perspectives on the Ukraine-Russia conflict offered invaluable insights into Europe's evolving security dynamics.

Candid conversations during the programme challenged my preconceptions, enhanced my professional acumen and deepened my passion for global security challenges. Understanding the EU's response to the conflict became pivotal, as it has widespread effects on fuel supply, inflation and food scarcity globally. This shift from regional to global impact makes the programme relevant to individuals from different backgrounds. This immersive experience not only expanded my knowledge but also transformed my approach to security policy discussions. It provided a nuanced perspective, propelling me towards a more informed and active role in shaping discourse on European security policy shifts.

Moreover, beyond the enriching discussions, the programme provided memorable social experiences: from artisan beer tasting in Brussels to savouring local delicacies like "pommes frites" and exploring Berlin's newly refurbished New National Gallery.

Looking ahead, I envision leveraging these insights as a catalyst for positive change. This experience has instilled in me a profound sense of responsibility – a commitment to a future where diplomacy serves as a beacon of progress and peace. The NCP 27 was not just a chapter; it was a volume, brimming with revelations, connections and the promise of a future shaped by informed diplomacy.

## Tamara Gómez Marín (Costa Rica)

Participant in LAK 14, WEP 20, WEP 28,  
RNC Cairo, GDL. Current location: Italy

Despite the global community navigating one of its most complex collective moments in recent history, I am convinced that multilateralism and diplomacy, as a public service, are indispensable to achieving peaceful coexistence among people. By caring for one another, we can foster real solutions to the climate crisis and build bridges between different worldviews, facilitating a future where humanity, its coexistence with our planet and human rights are at the core.

To achieve this aspiration (which should be the compass of diplomacy), dialogue, candid conversations and a readiness to listen and understand other realities, diverse priorities, challenges and cultural contexts are indispensable. That is where I see the main value of Diplomacy by Networking. Since my first experience, I have been very grateful for a programme that has brought us closer to different realities, allowing us to engage in dialogue with diplomats, civil society and the private sector from all corners of the world, in a necessary exercise to build trust and openness to recognise the aspirations of others.

During 2023 in particular, I was able to participate in spaces of debate and seminars on energy security and climate change, on how to create entry points to resume dialogue in addressing conflicts, dilemmas, interests and narratives. Above all, I participated in honest spaces that made us reflect on how to design constructive processes that would enable lasting peace. What I learned from this year was profound, interacting with individuals who expanded my horizons, as well as with teams of the highest level of expertise and generous hearts. Thank you, Diplomacy by Networking, Cairo's institutions and civil society, and the Center for Peace Mediation at the European University Viadrina.