

Udice 2023 Forum

Round table summary

Round Table 1 *As open as possible, as closed as necessary: a conversation on scientific diplomacy, research security and "smart cooperation"*

The first round table, moderated by Karine Samuel, Vice-President of International Relations at Université Grenoble Alpes, was devoted to scientific diplomacy and research security.

The various speakers shared their points of view on the following questions: how can we improve dialogue on science diplomacy, cooperation and research security between governments and universities? How can we clarify government guidelines for international collaboration? How can we better assess risks in a context of permanent crisis? How can we make better use of the expertise of research universities to address these risks?

In her opening speech, Valérie Brisset, Deputy Director of Influence Diplomacy at the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), presented the orientations and actions of France's science diplomacy policy. France suffers from a lack of international recognition as a scientific nation, and dialogue between political and academic players is essential to define and promote a visible and attractive French scientific offering. The MEAE wishes to make Udice a priority interlocutor in building this offer. French scientific diplomacy also operates in an unstable context of growing international tensions, making it necessary to strike the right balance between international openness and risk management. The MEAE has a range of tools at its disposal (Embassies network, funding, operators, support for institutional strategies) to implement this strategy.

During the round-table discussion four speakers to expressed their views on the challenges of scientific diplomacy and research security from the perspective of research-intensive universities.

The following lessons emerged:

- The need to secure scientific research is undeniable and recognized by all players, both political and academic.
- The security of research is an important element of national security; the defense of national interests therefore involves the protection of research, and requires a link between national policy and local practices.
- The scientific community - with universities at the forefront - needs to organize itself to be able, on the one hand, to conduct this dialogue with the authorities and, on the other, to anticipate, assess and respond to risks.
- Information sharing between ministries, between ministries and universities, and within universities must be improved, in particular to clarify decision-making processes.
- Dialogue and cooperation must be maintained not only for the advancement of science, but also to share and promote the values shared by research universities.