

## **Tech Diplomacy, de DiploFoundation**

This course explores the emergence of tech diplomacy as a diplomatic practice, and aims to prepare practitioners for effective engagement in tech diplomacy. In particular, the course focuses on interactions between diplomats and the tech sector, and highlights the practices of various countries.

In 2017, Denmark appointed the first-ever tech ambassador. Tech diplomacy has since become a prominent term describing new diplomatic practices and the rising power of tech companies. On a practical level, it takes the form of tech ambassadors and other envoys, dedicated foreign policy strategies, and specialised units within ministries of foreign affairs. On a more philosophical level, it raises questions about shifts in sovereignty, the future of diplomatic practice, and how to negotiate humanistic values vis-à-vis tech companies.

### **What will you learn?**

This course will enable you to:

- Explain the main ideas and concepts of tech diplomacy
- Gain a broad overview of the various actors and their approaches
- Develop a deeper understanding of countries' representation in Silicon Valley and the various related practices
- Understand and apply various tech diplomacy practices
- Critically think about some of the broader shifts, for example in state sovereignty, related to tech diplomacy
- Apply the knowledge and skills gained in this course in your field of work

### **Overview**

Tech diplomacy is a relatively new practice and there are a number of different ways to understand and define it. In this course, we are focusing on the interactions between diplomats and the tech sector. We trace the development of tech diplomacy and identify specific practices of how diplomats and the tech sector interact. In doing so, we also look at new and innovative forms of diplomatic representation.

Tech diplomacy also raises questions about shifts in sovereignty and the broader impact of the tech sector. By engaging with these topics and practices, the course aims to prepare practitioners for new forms of diplomatic practice, as well as effective interactions between tech and diplomacy.

## Course outline

- Tech diplomacy emerges: This module outlines the origin of tech diplomacy, explores various definitions and perspectives, and highlights some of tech diplomacy's key elements.
- Tech diplomacy in practice: This module outlines concrete practices, and gives an overview of the various approaches taken by countries and the tech sector. It also provides an overview of relevant country strategies, as well as possible next steps for countries 'not yet on the map', in particular the Global South.
- Interactions at the tech–diplomacy boundary: This module focuses on forms of engagement between tech and diplomacy, such as the business-focused approach, cultural tech diplomacy, the human-rights-centered approach (digital human rights, HR in business practices), discussions on values and principles, and regulation and lobbying.
- Broader questions and the road ahead: This module zooms out again and discusses the shifts in sovereignty, the role of the state, the impact of the tech sector on societies and democracy, and the responsibilities that emerge from this.