

DSA I Civil Society Study Group webinar

“Public diplomacy’s new civic actors:
NGOs, women-mediators’ networks and diasporas”

27/05/2022

The background of the slide is a dark, teal-green color. It features several dandelion seed heads. One large, fluffy seed head is in the bottom left corner, partially cut off. Several other seed heads are scattered across the frame, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a sense of depth and movement. The text is overlaid on this background.

Diaspora as a diplomatic tool in the era of New Diplomacy

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New Diplomacy

- Diplomacy has been changing
- Diplomacy has gone public
- The number of actors has pluralized
- The emergence of new technologies

Changes in Diplomacy

- An ongoing expansion of the number and types of actors engaged in diplomacy, including the aforementioned MNCs, NGOs, as well as, regional and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs).
- A rapid expansion to a very broad array of the different sectors of public policy and government activity, broadening the domain and scope of diplomacy.
- Diplomacy now takes place at several levels; local, domestic-national, bilateral, regional, global.
- Changes in the apparatus and machinery of foreign relations and diplomacy.
- Changes in the modes, types, and techniques of diplomacy.

Diaspora

“A people with a common origin who reside, more or less on a permanent basis, outside the borders of their ethnic or religious homeland - whether that homeland is real or symbolic, independent or under foreign control. Diaspora members identify themselves, or are identified by others -inside and outside their homeland- as part of the homeland's national community, and as such are often called upon to participate, or are entangled, in homeland related affairs.”

(Cohen, Safran & Weil in Shain & Barth, 2003)

Relocation – Connection – Return

Diaspora – Then and Now

- Ukraine
- Classic diasporas and diaspora diplomacy historically
- New diasporas – China and India
- Greece
- Ireland

Diaspora Diplomacy

“A collective action that is driven, directed, and sustained by the energy and charisma of a broad range of migrants who influence another country’s culture, politics, and economics.” (Gonzales, 2012)

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- Polylateral diplomacy
- Multiple actors
- Diasporas are independent actors

Changes in diaspora composition



NOT ONLY SENDING
MONEY



DIVERSE GROUPS



NOT ORGANIZED AS IN
THE PAST

What is Ireland doing?

- Inclusive approach – ‘Whoever wants to be Irish is Irish’
- Cooperation with universities, NGOs, companies, and individuals
- From brain drain to brain gain

Initiatives



GLOBAL IRISH NETWORK



GLOBAL IRISH CONTACTS
PROGRAMME



IRISH DESIGN WEEK



Irish Technology
Leadership Group

Knowledge & knowledge sharing

- Talent and skills as an asset
- Knowledge can circulate
- Knowledge can be more important than money
- Education, mentoring, and entrepreneurship
- Remove bureaucratic obstacles

Network Creation

- Networks play a central role
- MFA connection with diasporas
- Benefit from the network of diasporas

Necessary Changes

- Mentality – open and approachable
- Long term strategy
- Tangible sub-goals
- Facilitating role

In this world of 'New Diplomacy' where non-state actors play an increasingly more active role in diplomacy, diaspora as an independent actor will also play a more active and unrestrained role. Consequently, it becomes even more important for the home-country how it will manage its state-diaspora relationship.

Learn from other countries, but remember that every diaspora is unique and so should each country's diaspora strategy be.

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