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DIPLOMACIA de SUSTENTABILIDADE

Can ethical science save the world? The importance of science with awareness for the SDGs and science and technology diplomacy

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(On line)

Call for papers

Abstracts of up to 500 words and 5 keywords can be sent until November 12, 2022 in Portuguese or English to the e-mail diplomaciacientifica2022@gmail.com

https://www.uc.pt/fduc/ij/projetos-de-investigacao/rede-diplomacia-de-sustentabilidade-ambiental/

"The scientific adventure is fascinating! What technical progress, what an improvement in our standard of living! Science, by increasing the knowledge available to man, constantly increases his control over his environment, allowing him to use his imagination to improve your condition and to make your daily life easier."

(Edgar Morin, Science avec Conscience, 1982)

Scientific progress raises more and more ethical problems, both in terms of the object and methods of research, and in the exploitation of results, often contributing to increasing disparities between developed and developing countries. Thus, scientific and technological diplomacy is essential to give substance to the ethical stance that calls for the sharing of data and knowledge, in order to reduce inequalities and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

The objective of these Conferences is to discuss the role, methods and ethical limits of scientific and technological diplomacy in the broadest sense: the processes of production of scientific knowledge justified by ambitions of political, cultural, geostrategic or economic influence; the processes of concealment or transparency of experiences or scientific discoveries; the processes of active dissemination of science and technology in the form of partnerships, technology transfers, humanitarian aid, etc. Ethical challenges and legal objectives are the main theme, as scientific and technological diplomacy aims to respond to demands for justice in reducing social and environmental inequalities in an international context through scientific and technological progress.

The competition between technological giants - Big Tech -, the competition between countries or economic blocks in the race for scientific and technological supremacy certainly stimulates scientific evolution. However, it can also generate disadvantages such as duplication of costs, dispersion of efforts, waste of scarce resources, health risks, slowing down progress and, at the same time, increasing inequalities.

Encouraging innovation is necessary to achieve sustainable development goals, being a transversal element of many of them. Food security (goal 2), quality health (goal 3), sustainable management of water resources (goal 6), renewable and accessible energy (goal 7), for example, absolutely depend on scientific progress and sharing of knowledge. The role of research is therefore decisive to achieve these goals and the production of knowledge plays an important role for vulnerable and developing countries. On the other hand, scientific and technological diplomacy is equally essential for reducing inequalities and requires a necessary balance of priorities. Above all, it requires going beyond an endogenous vision of scientific progress, inward-looking, in favor of a more altruistic approach, reflecting a "fair return", particularly when scientific progress from developed countries has benefited from material data and intellectual contributions from developing countries. Scientific and technological diplomacy necessarily implies the creation of synergies and the development of relationships between knowledge ecosystems whose ethical foundations, material modalities of execution and collaboration procedures must be identified and critically analyzed.

The complexity of the subject implies an interdisciplinary approach, which includes philosophical, linguistic, legal, political, economic, geographical, biotechnology, computer sciences, etc.

By way of illustration, here are some examples of scientific and technological diplomacy in a broad sense, which can be dealt with in the conferences:

- EU climate diplomacy, for the fundamental importance of raising awareness of third countries to accelerate the implementation of COP26. The EU and its Member States, in a Team Europe approach, should engage with partners around the world to address climate challenges and work actively together to respond to the sectoral calls of COP26 (https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/02/21/climate-diplomacy-council-calls-for-accelerating-the-implementation-of-the-glasgow-cop26-outcomes/)

- The responsibility of international standards organizations such as ISO (https://www.iso.org/) for the development of voluntary, consensus-based, market-relevant international standards that support innovation and provide solutions to challenges global. Standardization requires international agreements to eliminate technical barriers to trade in the context of the World Trade Organization, aimed at ensuring that technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures are non-discriminatory and do not create unnecessary barriers to trade (https://www.wto.org/). Scientific and technological diplomacy plays a role here.

- The role of international cultural organizations since the recognition by UNESCO in the last century of the crucial importance of scientific development for countries. UNESCO recognized the ability to produce knowledge as one of the aspects that distinguish the wealth and poverty of a people (https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark://48223/pf0000246417).

Since then, scientific knowledge gained centrality and was recognized as essential for politics, society, companies, art, etc.

- With the recognition of the centrality of life – human and non-human – in scientific and technological production, the social and human sciences gain importance, contributing to address social, environmental and bioethical problems. Indeed, while technical solutions are often fundamental prerequisites for new economic and political outcomes, technology is insufficient to have a significant impact on the digital and ecological transition. The transdisciplinary integrative movement, from the dialogue of Social Sciences and Humanities with technological, biological and economic sciences, has been an important resource and a commitment of European research programs. (https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4f198f8e-4599-11eb-b59f-01aa75ed71a1/)