

# Subnational Diplomacy Shaping Global Affairs

15.06.2025

**Sunday**

19.00h

**Welcome Dinner**

Rheinhotel Dreesen, Rheinstrasse 45-49, 53179, Bonn

16.06.2025

**Monday**

08.30h

**Registration**

Rheinhotel Dreesen, Rheinstrasse 45-49, 53179, Bonn

09.00h

**Welcome Address**

**Dr. Mayssoun Zein Al Din**, Executive Director of the Academy of International Affairs NRW

09.15h

**Towards a Brighter Heartlands Future: US and European local leaders on a successful heartland region economic and social renewal**

**Roundtable**

**Speakers:**

**John Austin**, AIA NRW

**Thomas Dermine**, Mayor of Charleroi, Belgium

**Martina Guzmán**, Creator of the Detroit-Berlin Connection

**Steve Patterson**, Mayor of Athens, Ohio

**Ryan Sorenson**, Mayor of Wisconsin

**Jürgen Hein**, Managing Director, University Alliance Ruhr

**Anne Mervenne**, Co-director of the Michigan Political Leadership program

**Kent Smith**, State Senator, Ohio Senate

10.45h

Coffee Break

11.15h

**The link between traditional diplomacy and paradiplomacy**

**Panel Discussion**

**Speakers:**

**Joanna Ciesielska-Klikowska**, University of Lodz

**Tomasz Kamiński**, University of Lodz

12.45h

Lunch Break

14.00h

**Municipalities: A Key Element of Germany's China Policy?**

**Roundtable**

**Speakers:**

**Andrea Frenzel**, Freelance Academic Author

**Nadine Godehardt**, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

**Nils Hegewisch**, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

**David Schulze**, Universität Bochum

**Anna Shpakovskaya**, AIA NRW

15.30h

Coffee Break

16.06.2025

**Monday**

16.15h

**Science Diplomacy**

Rheinhof Dreesen, Rheinstrasse 45-49, 53179, Bonn

Workshop

**Speaker:**

Charlotte Gehrke, IDOS

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**Local Diplomacy and Alternative Governance: Pathways to Stability, Justice, and Conflict Transformation**

AIA NRW, Rheinallee 24, 53173, Bonn

Panel Discussion

**Speakers:**

Summar Iqbal Barbar, AIA NRW (online)

Ifedayo Malachi, AIA NRW (online)

Mujtaba Ali Isani, DAAD Long-term Guest Professor of Political Science, Quaid-e-Azam University

Oyewole Simon Oginni, Senior Researcher, Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies, bicc

17.45h

19.00h

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21.00h

**"Rheinischer Abend", with Stephan Eisel, author and piano cabaret artist, Chairman "Bürger für Beethoven"**

AIA NRW, Rheinallee 24, 53173, Bonn

17.06.2025

**Tuesday**

09.00h

Workshop

**PART I: Subnational diplomacy and multi-level governance**

Rheinhof Dreesen, Rheinstrasse 45-49, 53179, Bonn

**Speakers:**

Steven Frigerio, Hive Ventures

Oliver Rohde, DLR

Landry Charrier, DLR

Felix Rudroff, DLR

Alexander Plé, Institute for Qualifying Innovation Research and Consulting, IQIB

10.30h

**Coffee Break**

11.00h

**PART II: Subnational diplomacy and multi-level governance**

12.30h

**Lunch Break**

SUMMER ACADEMY

17.06.2025

**Tuesday**

**14.00h**

**From Gridlock to Groundwork: How Cities lead Climate Mobility Action in Times of National Uncertainty**

Rheinhotel Dreesen, Rheinstrasse 45-49, 53179, Bonn

**Roundtable**

**Speakers:**

**Paul Costello**, German Marshall Fund

**Janina Stürner-Siovitz**, European Philanthropic Initiative for Migration, Brussels

**Helen Yu**, City Practice Lead, Mayors Migration Council, Paris

**Empowering Youth for Cross-Border Collaboration: Sub-National Diplomacy and Climate Action**

AIA NRW, Rheinallee 24, 53173, Bonn

**Roundtable**

**Speakers:**

**Chisomo Banda**, AIA Fellow

**Stuart Brown**, CEO of Scotland-Malawi Partnership

**Willow Fortunoff**, UNFCC

**Stuart MacDonald**, ICR Research; AIA Fellow

**Andy Paice**, CrownShy (online)

**15.30h**

Coffee Break

**16.15h**

**Local Democracy and Innovation to Resist Illiberal Governments**

Rheinhotel Dreesen, Rheinstrasse 45-49, 53179, Bonn

**Roundtable**

**Speakers:**

**Paul Costello**, German Marshall Fund

**Tamara Ehs**, AIA NRW

**Juraj Hurný**, Head of the Urban Studies Bratislava

**Oliver Pilz**, Policy Secretary to the Mayor of Budapest

**Shaping progressive city agendas**

AIA NRW, Rheinallee 24, 53173, Bonn

**Roundtable**

**Speakers:**

**Debora Figueiredo Mendonça do Prado**, AIA NRW; Federal University of Uberlândia, UFU

**Gabriela Iacobuta**, Independent consultant for the Global Environment Facility (GEF); Associate Researcher IDOS

**Karolina Kluczevska**, AIA NRW

**Tim White**, LSE London; FU Berlin

**17.45h**

End of day

**SUMMER ACADEMY**

**Subnational Diplomacy: Shaping Global Affairs**

18.06.2025

Wednesday

09.00h

**"Fostering Inclusive Environments: Unlocking the Potential of Subnational Diplomacy"**

Rheinhotel Dreesen, Rheinstrasse 45-49, 53179, Bonn

Workshop

**Speakers:**

Tonka Kostadinova, University of Cyprus  
Agata Rydzewska, University of Warsaw

10.30h

**Coffee Break**

11.00h

**Regional Diplomacy Simulation**

Workshop

**Speaker:**

Joanna Ciesielska-Klikowska, University of Lodz

12.30h

**Closing Session: Lessons and Ways Forward**

**Speakers:**

Katja Freistein, AIA NRW  
Manuel Becker, AIA NRW

13.00h

**Lunch Break**

16.00h

**Meet-up to commute to Bonn City Hall**

AIA NRW, Rheinallee 24, 53173, Bonn

17.00h

**Reception at Bonn City Hall**

Bonn City Hall (Rathaus), Markt 2, 53111, Bonn

**Speakers:**

Dr. Ursula Sautter, Honorary Mayor, City of Bonn  
Dr. Mayssoun Zein Al Din, Director, Academy of International Affairs NRW

19.00h

**Farewell Party**

AIA NRW, Rheinallee 24, 53173, Bonn

SUMMER ACADEMY