

Science Diplomacy in Northern Europe (SciDiNE)

Evidence-based knowledge and scientific approaches are critical for designing and implementing effective policies to overcome the current and upcoming challenges. This project investigates activities known as science diplomacy (SD) in its regional dimension or scale. It focuses on the regional cooperation and governance systems operating in Northern Europe (NE), the area covering the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and the European Arctic Region (EAR).

There is still a gap in the scholarship that answers if and how science diplomacy can effectively contribute to the political process of regional cooperation and regional governance. Therefore, we ask three primary: 1 why and how do states and regional organisations in NE create their SDs, and how do they apply them in the regional context; 2. how do regional governance systems take advantage of the states' SD and incorporate and co-create scientific knowledge in their activities; (3) what are the outcomes and impacts of SD in the regions.

Our research is a multi-case exploratory study of science diplomacy in Northern Europe concentrated on two types of entities: 1) the states (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden); and 2) intergovernmental organisations that shape two interrelated regional governance systems: the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Cooperation, the Nordic Council, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission, the Council of Baltic Sea States.

The choice of this region was a conscious decision since it encompasses multiple organisations creating two governance systems - BSR and EAR, different approaches of states to SD, it faces various challenges which SD could support, and it is justified by our expertise in SD studies and the area studies devoted to each region. Hence, as the research team, we are very well oriented at the state of knowledge concerning the investigating concepts, and we perceive it as broad, but at the same time missing essential elements which may bring a new light on the topic.