

Essay Competition: Glass Doors into the Backroom

The time of westphalian-style diplomacy is long gone. International law, deals and treaties are influencing our everyday life more and more and people want to get involved. Or do they? The organizers from IFAIR and the OGIE want to know your thoughts on **transparency in international diplomacy**. We do not only focus on diplomacy narrowly understood but also on tangible solutions to publicly discussed problems: The negotiations surrounding the TTIP agreement or the Global Compact for Migration have often been criticised by the European public as not being transparent enough. The key for improved communication might just simply be talking to the public. Or is it? The BREXIT vote offered a unique example of how the extensive involvement of the parliament can in some cases impede the process of efficiently finding an agreement. To address these seemingly contradictory narratives we call for **innovative ideas and approaches** to one or two of the following key questions:

- Does international diplomacy lack transparency?
- If yes, how do we implement or improve transparency?
- How can this potentially tackle the crisis multilateralism is facing?
- How can people take part in decision-making processes?
- How can the need for efficiency and transparency be balanced?

How is the competition structured?

1. You are a young person and under 30 years old? Write your **short essay of max 1.000 words** on the interconnections of diplomacy, democracy and transparency and submit it together with the Personal Data Form until **15th April 2020**.
2. A selection of applicants will be invited for the **regional decisions (Rome 29th April, Göttingen 13th May, Berlin 25th May)**. Each competitor will be given five minutes to present his or her idea with an additional five minutes of Q&A from the regional jury and guests. The decision on the winner of the first round will be made by the regional jury consisting of students, professors, and decision makers in diplomacy and politics. You will have to organize a possible travel to the selection on your own.
3. The three winners of the first round will be invited to Berlin from 25th to 27th June – expenses paid – to take part in our grand finale: All finalists will have the opportunity to take part in a **three-day workshop in Berlin**. They will have the chance of discussing political ideas with professionals and the hosts as well as visiting political institutions in Berlin. During the finale, every competitor will have the chance to present his or her idea again (10 Minutes) – an audience vote will determine the winner.
4. The **winner will get an award of 1,000 Euros and the contribution** (as possibly other contributions from the competition) will be considered by the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. They will receive the report and potentially implement some of the ideas laid out by the winner. The winning essay shall be published.

Local competitions at the following universities