

Young Women and Next Generation Initiative in Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Mentorship Programme Final Meeting

28-29 April 2022

Hybrid format

Background

The Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) and the International Affairs Institute (IAI) in the framework of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (EUNPD) Consortium have launched a *Young Women and Next Generation Initiative*, a new initiative to encourage young women and the next generation to enter the non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament field.

Driven by the widely shared perception of age and gender imbalances among experts and practitioners in the non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament field, the *Young Women and Next Generation Initiative* aims to help address such imbalances by exposing college and university level students to arms control issues, increasing their awareness of them and encouraging their participation in events and workshops. The initiative also aims to respond to the very limited offering of relevant courses on WMD issues in colleges and universities at undergraduate and master's level. The goal is to help students understand how to pursue a career in the field, making the best use of their own skills.

The Initiative includes the creation of a mentorship programme, the conveying of workshops and meetings, and the organization of outreach visits at universities.

Mentorship Programme

Inspired by the [CNS Young Women in Nonproliferation Initiative \(YWINI\) Mentorship Program](#), the Young Women and Next Generation Initiative (YWNGI) Mentorship Programme is aimed at offering a similar opportunity for young women in undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate studies in Europe and third countries by pairing successful candidates (mentees) with well-established experts (mentors).

Final Meeting

The final meeting will be an opportunity to bring Mentors and Mentees together, and for them to meet in person and strengthen their network. The meeting will also be an occasion for participants to exchange views and suggestions on the programme and get more insights into their mutual experiences.

The meeting will be held in Rome, at IAI's premises. It will be preceded by a welcome dinner the day before. A cultural activity around the city of Rome will also be organized in the afternoon to facilitate network-building.

YWNPD Mentorship Programme Final Meeting

28-29 April 2022

Hybrid format - Tentative Agenda

Day One – 28 April 2022

Mentors and Mentees arrive in Rome

19:30 Welcome Dinner

Day Two – 29 April 2022

09:15 Mentors and Mentees arrive at the Istituto Affari Internazionali,
Via dei Montecatini, 17, 00186 Roma

09:45 Welcome Remarks

Nathalie Tocci, Director, International Affairs Institute (IAI), Rome

10:00 **Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation: Current and Emerging Challenges and Opportunities** - Roundtable discussion featuring Mentors

Moderator: *Elena Sokova, Executive Director, VCDNP*

11:30 **Topical Presentations on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament**

Moderator: *Mara Zarka, Research Associate and Project Manager, VCDNP*

Speakers:

Intan Bedisa, Communication & Digital Officer at International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID) and Civil20 (C20) Communication Lead for G20 Indonesia 2022

Stella Blumfelde, PhD Candidate, University of Genoa

Emily Faux, Postgraduate Student, University of Leeds and incoming PhD Candidate, Newcastle University

12:45 Lunch Break

14:00 **Reflections on the Mentorship Programme and Lessons Learned**

Moderator: *Federica Dall'Arche, Senior Research Associate, VCDNP*

15:00 Closing Remarks

Ettore Greco, Executive Vice President, IAI

15:15 Participants go back to the Hotel

15:30 Guided Walking Tour of Rome – Meeting in the Lobby of Hotel Santa Chiara

18:00 Arrive back at Hotel Santa Chiara

19:30 Group Dinner (optional)

