

## SHAPING CAREERS WITH GIADA DIONISI



On the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2017, 2<sup>nd</sup> year students of Global Governance had the opportunity to meet Giada Dionisi, officer at SIOI (Società Italiana per le Organizzazioni Internazionali).

SIOI is a non-profit organization based in Rome and operating under the supervision of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, it is also a school of government, specialized in the education of international executives and diplomats addressed to the European Union, the United Nations and the most important international institutions and organizations.

Giada Dionisi accurately depicted the world of diplomacy, by showing Global Governance students what is required to enter the diplomatic career and what it means to be a diplomat. Diplomats compose a heterogeneous body of professional people who participate in various capacities in the management of current international relations, both at global and regional level. They may be members of the professional diplomatic services of their countries or international civil servants working within the framework of international organizations.

In order to be a possible candidate for the diplomatic career, specific skills are required: (a) flexibility; (b) communicational skills; (c) leadership; (d) open-mindedness; and (e) teamwork.

Giada Dionisi then distinguished three types of diplomatic careers: the Italian diplomatic career, the European Union service and the United Nations service.

Those who are interested in the Italian diplomatic career have to follow the Italian Recruitment Procedure, which requires candidates to be Italian, younger than 35 years-old and to have obtained a 2<sup>nd</sup> level degree in specific subjects, such as *International Relations, Economics, Law, Finance or Political Science*. An aptitude test has to be taken, which includes questions relating to *International and Eu Law, International Economy, History of International Relations, English* and a psycho-aptitude test as well. In order to finalize the recruitment procedure, candidates must send their curriculum vitae et studiorum, and take a written and oral test.

The Italian diplomatic career is characterized by a hierarchy: the first step is the *Segretario di Legazione*, which is a probationary period of 9 months; then, after 4 years you may become *Consigliere di Legazione*; above it we find the *Consigliere di Ambasciata*; then *Ministro Plenipotenziario*; finally, the higher step of the career is to become *Ambasciatore* (Ambassador).

Dott.ssa Dionisi then presented the Master in Diplomatic Careers – provided by SIOI and lasting 1 year – which prepares students for the diplomatic service competitive exam.<sup>1</sup>

However, this is not the only possible solution for students interested in working in the diplomatic field. In fact, there is a chance to work in a more multicultural environment within the European Union and United Nations.

For what concerns the European Union, its delegations are located worldwide and the positions to be covered can be as follow: (1) seconded national experts; (2) trainees; (3) temporary staff; (4) contractual staff; and (5) Permanent staff, which includes administrators, assistants and assistant secretary. Within the EU framework there is also the possibility of traineeship.<sup>2</sup>

The United Nations Service provides different types of job networks such as Management and Administration; Economic and Social Development; Politics, Finance and Humanitarian assistance.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For further information check the SIOI website:

<sup>2</sup> For further information check the European Personnel Selection Office Website: [www.epso.europa.eu/home-en](http://www.epso.europa.eu/home-en)

<sup>3</sup> For further information check the UN Careers Website: <https://careers.un.org/lbw/home.aspx>

This conference has been extremely useful, because many of us have probably thought, at least once, about entering the diplomatic career. Giada Dionisi made it possible for us to better understand what the diplomatic career really consists in and what are the steps to take in order to join the world of diplomacy. What we have learnt is that being a diplomat requires very hard work, but in the long-run it is worth the effort.

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