

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Enabling the Future: Developing the Space Workforce (5)

Author: Ms. Costanza Ludovica Crivelli Visconti
European Space Policy Institute (ESPI), Austria

ESPI'S EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT THE SERVICE OF THE SPACE WORKFORCE: HOSTING
FLINDER'S UNIVERSITY FELLOWS AND HOLDING A SEMINAR AT EUROPEAN FORUM
ALPBACH 2024.

Abstract

A strong European space sector requires a thriving educational ecosystem. Thus, as the only European think tank exclusively dedicated to space and a core member of global civil society, the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) has developed an education programme focused on attracting, nurturing and retaining the present and next generation of European and global leaders in space. We propose a presentation of ESPI's education programme, targeted to 1) representatives of IAF member organisations that would like to consult or engage in similar partnerships opportunities, 2) students, young professionals and established civil servants who would benefit from participating in our programme and 3) high-level national and regional decision makers interested in boosting their space education portfolios. ESPI's extensive education portfolio will be briefly presented, ranging from global university lectures and space agency secondments to institutional workshops, and the establishment of a Space University Hub. The paper will then dive into two flagship projects devoted to the formation and development of the next generation of European and global space talent – a summer bootcamp, and a student fellowship programme. First, ESPI's inaugural summer bootcamp will be hosted during the European Forum Alpbach in August 2024 and is designed to strongly integrate space skills in the next generation of European leaders. This dynamic engagement encompasses a five-day seminar, offering a deep dive into the role of space in addressing critical challenges, from security threats to democratic empowerment. Second, an innovative international student traineeship programme was recently conducted at ESPI, whereby three students from Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia, were hosted at ESPI premises for eight weeks. The purpose of the traineeship was to contribute to training the next generation of experts in developing foresight recommendations for the Australian space security ecosystem, based on learnings from the European experience. Finally, the paper will explore challenges and opportunities stemming from the set of interactive techniques used during the seminar, along with feedback from the participants, as well as reflections and lessons learned from the traineeship programme.