



EASSH General Assembly

The EU Alliance for Science Diplomacy – a short introduction

11.12.2025, Brussels Angela Schindler-Daniels, DLR-PT



DLR Projektträger



What are we talking about:

Science for Policy
Science Advice
Science Diplomacy
&
SSH



What are we talking about:

Science for Policy

the process by which information is transferred
from the scientific community or individual researcher
to policymakers with the intention to produce evidence-informed policy.

See more:

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/futures-science-policy-europe-scenarios-and-policy-implications-2023-10-10_en



What are we talking about:

Science Advice:

scientists providing advice to policy makers
and the public (on any given level).



Examples: INGSA (International Network of Science Advice, STOA (Panel for the Future of Science and Technology) SAM (Scientific Advice Mechanism)

Taxonomy of Science Advice:

<https://www.sciencediplomacy.org/article/2016/science-advice-governments>

What are we talking about:



Science Diplomacy:

Still missing a universally accepted definition;
A fluid and evolving concept

Diplomacy for Science

*Facilitating
international science
cooperation*

Science for Diplomacy

*Using science
cooperation in
international relations
between countries*

Science in Diplomacy

*Informing
foreign policy
objectives with
scientific advice*



Researcher's Definition of Science Diplomacy



History of Science Diplomacy (in a micro-nut)

A well established field with a new mission

16th-19th
century

- The Enlightenment Era: Isaac Newton and Benjamin Franklin created networks of knowledge networks. **This period laid the groundwork for the idea of science as a universal language transcending politics.**
- Institutional Foundations: Scientific societies, such as the Royal Society (1660) and the Académie des Sciences (1666), promoted international communication and cooperation.

20th Century

By integrating scientific collaboration with diplomatic efforts, science diplomacy continues to shape global interactions and policy-making.

- **Organized Science Diplomacy**
- Post-World War UNESCO (1945) science as a tool for fostering peace and collaboration.
- Cold War and Beyond: (1947–1991 e.g. joint space exploration projects,, symbolized cooperation between the U.S. and the USSR.
- Scientific collaborations addressing global challenges (nuclear proliferation (e.g., the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1957) and environmental issues

21th Century

- SD essential in addressing global challenges,.
- 2010 "New Frontiers in Science Diplomacy" by the Royal Society and the AAAS
- 2012 Enhancing and focusing EU international cooperation in research and innovation: A strategic approach
- 2019 Madrid Declaration: The universal nature of scientific principles.
- 2021: EU Global Approach
-



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Why the hype



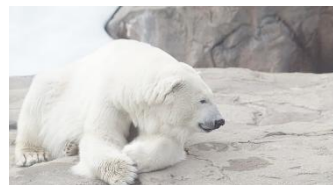
Because it:

1. Addresses Global Challenges
2. Fosters Collaboration Amid Geopolitical Tensions
3. Is a Soft Power with International Influence
4. Fosters Innovation and Economic Growth
5. Strengthens Multilateral Institutions
6. Addresses Emerging Trends and Challenges



Examples of Science Diplomacy in Action:

1. The Antarctic Treaty: An agreement to preserve Antarctica for peaceful purposes and scientific research.
2. International Space Station (ISS): A symbol of collaboration between space agencies from multiple nations, even during political tensions.
3. COVAX Initiative: A global collaboration to ensure equitable vaccine distribution.



Science is becoming a diplomatic player

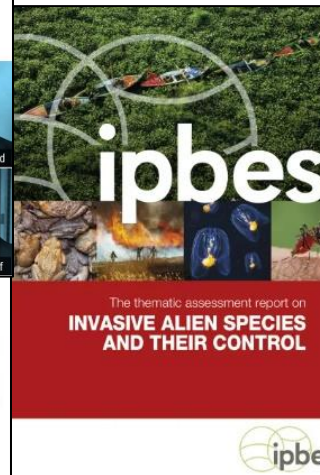


 **United Nations** | Secretary-General
Scientific Advisory Board

**We bridge science,
policy and impact.**

 Yoshua Bengio	 Lidia Arthur Brito	 Sandra Diaz	 Ismahane Elouafi	 Jeremy Farrar	 Amandeep Gill	 Andrea Hinwood
 Saleemul Huq	 Fei-Fei Li	 Alan Lightman	 Jürg Luterbacher	 Thuli Madonsela	 Tshilidzi Marwala	 Thomas Südhof

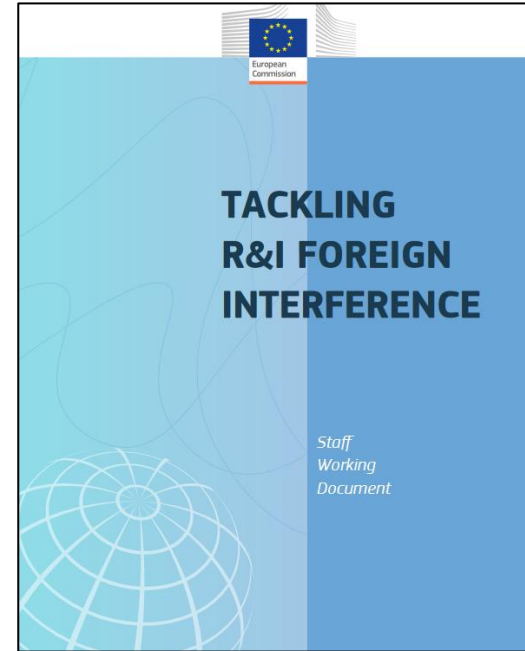
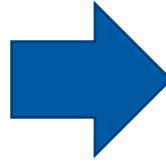
 **International
Science Council**
The global voice for science



Science Diplomacy is changing (in the EU) context



2016



2022

Towards a new European framework for Science Diplomacy



Commission and the European External Action Service are currently developing a European Science Diplomacy Agenda.



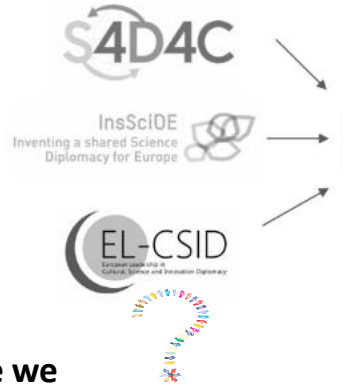
And the (many) challenges to Science Diplomacy are e.g.:

- 1. Political Challenges: Geopolitical Tensions; National Security Concerns: Sovereignty Issues:.**
- 2. Institutional Challenges: Fragmented Governance; Bureaucratic Hurdles; Lack of Representation** (Smaller or developing countries struggle to have an equal voice in international scientific collaborations).
- 3. Cultural and Communication Barriers (including Science versus Policy)**
- 4. Resource Constraints: Funding Issues; Human Resources; Access to Technology:**
- 5. Ethical and Normative Issues**

- 6. Emerging Challenges**
 - **Misinformation and Distrust in Science:**
 - **Rapid Technological Changes:**
 - **Global Inequalities:**

Science Diplomacy needs leadership, mutual trust, capacity-building initiatives, and the development of inclusive, adaptable frameworks for global scientific cooperation....and inter- and transdisciplinary research

The EU Science Diplomacy Alliance at a glance



Who are we

- Bottom-up collaborative initiative; launched 2021
- Connect and nurture a science diplomacy community in the EU and globally
- Raise awareness, catalyse policy debate on science diplomacy
- Promote knowledge exchange and interaction interfaces
- Contribute to Science Diplomacy capacity building (open online course)
- Encourage project collaboration



Co-funded by the European Union



The EU Science Diplomacy Alliance – what have we done so far



27-28 April 2022
in Brussels and online

Science advice under pressure



NEWS

AU-EU Summit: Science diplomacy as a powerful instrument to foster European-African cooperation



For example:

- Trainings: COST, EEAS, Institut Pasteur
- Events: 2 UNGA Science Summit Workshops, 3 Brussels: FutureTalks; SAPEA Workshop, 1st EU Science Diplomacy conference, World Science Forum side-event
- Policy Briefs



Co-creating a European Framework for Science Diplomacy: Sneak Preview of the Expert Recommendations
Wednesday, November 30, 2024

NEWS

New Policy Brief on Capacity Building in Science Diplomacy



POLICY BRIEF

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY CAPACITY BUILDING CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS AS SEEN BY THE EU SCIENCE DIPLOMACY ALLIANCE

Authors: Kátharina Hino, Maria Jostan, Simone Arrabbi, Paul Berkinjan, Theodora Lagari, Alessandra Lombardi, Jean-Christophe Neutzi, Peter F. Neutzi, Raf Mucikau, Christine Hardin



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The EU Science Diplomacy Alliance – what's on our agenda



1. Current Priority: How to built equitable Science Diplomacy between the North and the South
2. March 27, 2025: Science diplomacy training for science diplomats – A workshop organized with UNESCO and co-funded by the EU COM, Paris
3. Further key topics the Alliance is working on: academic freedom, research security, tech diplomacy etc.
4. Save-the-date: 2nd European Science Diplomacy Conference, 17./18. December 2026, Copenhagen (**registered now closed – virtual attendance possible**)
5. Establishing the Alliance as an AISBL

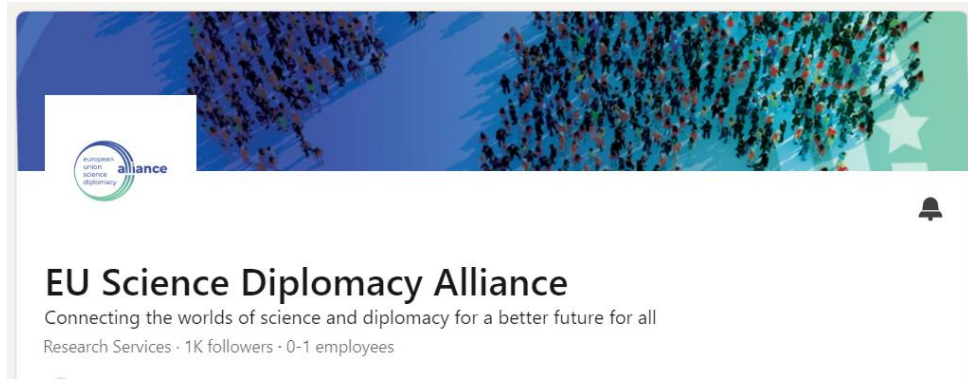


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Let's connect:

Your contact at the DLR Project Management Agency in Brussels



Angela Schindler-Daniels
Head of Brussels Representation
Rue du Trône 98
1050 Brussels
Angela.schindler@dlr.de