european union science diplomacy alliance

THE EUROPEAN UNION SCIENCE DIPLOMACY ALLIANCE



Africa Science Diplomacy Conference and
Science Forum South Africa,
30 November - 4 December 2026 in Pretoria, South Africa

Co-funded by the European Union

This presentation includes input from the following Alliance members …

- IIASA
- MCAA
- TWAS + IaP
- CNR
- AIAS
- ZSI
- Uefiscdi
- Kontekst
- AUF
- APRE
- EUTOPIA
- Science Diplomacy Center (Paul Berkmann)
- DLR
- Univ AMU
- IRD
- CSIC
- University Laval
- PoliMi
- University of Montreal
- Uni Torino

Further information: www.science-diplomacy.eu

Contact person: contact@science-diplomacy.eu

How was the Alliance created? What are its main objectives?



- Build a science diplomacy community
- Create knowledge exchange platforms
- Enhance awareness on science diplomacy
- Monitor science diplomacy activities
- Foster project collaboration
- Advise stakeholders
- Provide training and capacity building

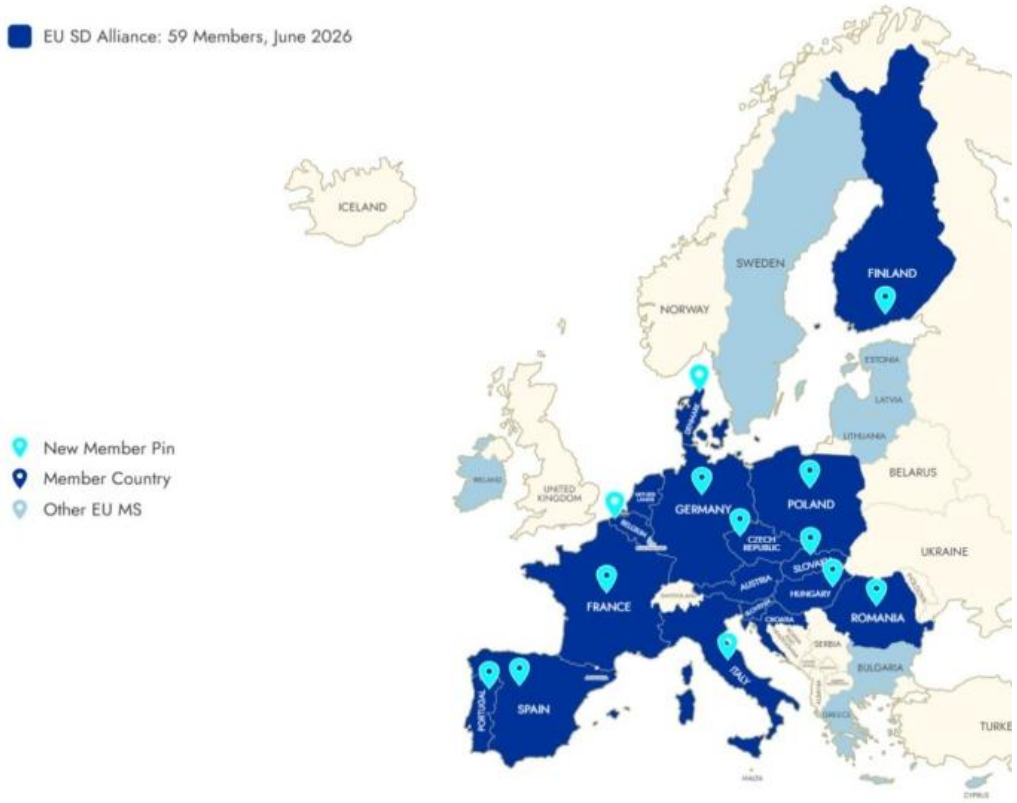
Networking and knowledge hub for science diplomacy, policy, sustainable development, education, and more

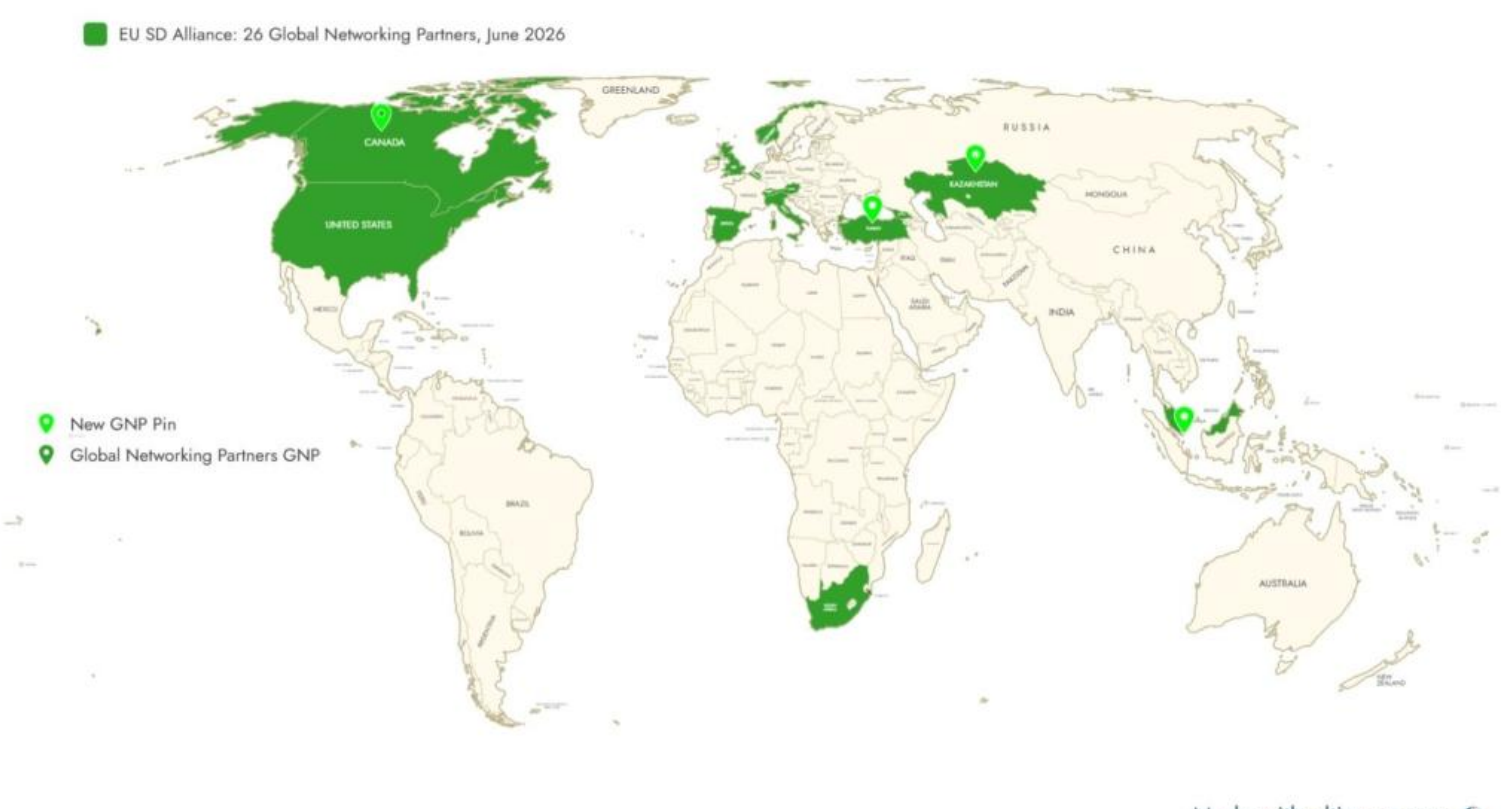
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Members and Global Networking Partners (2026)





Further information: www.science-diplomacy.eu

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EU-based members

Academia
Universities/Research Infrastructures

Public Sector
Government Agencies
National Councils/Foundations

Think Tanks/Associations/
Alliances/Networks

Further infor e-diplomacy.eu

Contact pers -diplomacy.eu

Global Networking Partners

Universities

- Universitas Bergensis
- UCL Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy
- Université Laval – École supérieure d'études internationales
- UiT The Arctic University of Norway
- Université de Montréal
- University of Birmingham
- Birkbeck University of London
- United Nations University – UNU-CRIS Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies
- AUF Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie
- International Institute of Science Diplomacy & Sustainability
- Yaşar University
- BTU Business & Technology University
- Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart Üniversitesi 1992
- Stellenbosch University iYunivesithi Universiteit
- CREST Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology

Intergovernmental Organisations

- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis IIASA www.iiasa.ac.at
- CIHEAM Zaragoza
- unesco twas The World Academy of Sciences
- CEI Central European Initiative
- ISTC International Science and Technology Center

International Associations Associations outside EU

- Science Diplomacy Center – Education Research Leadership
- SRUK CERU – Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom
- Asia-Europe Foundation

National Public Institutes Government Agencies Academies (outside EU)

- UKYoung Academy
- Swiss TPH Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
- Arctic Frontiers
- SRNSFG
- Andorra Research + Innovation

Further information: www.science-diplomacy.eu

Contact person: contact@science-diplomacy.eu

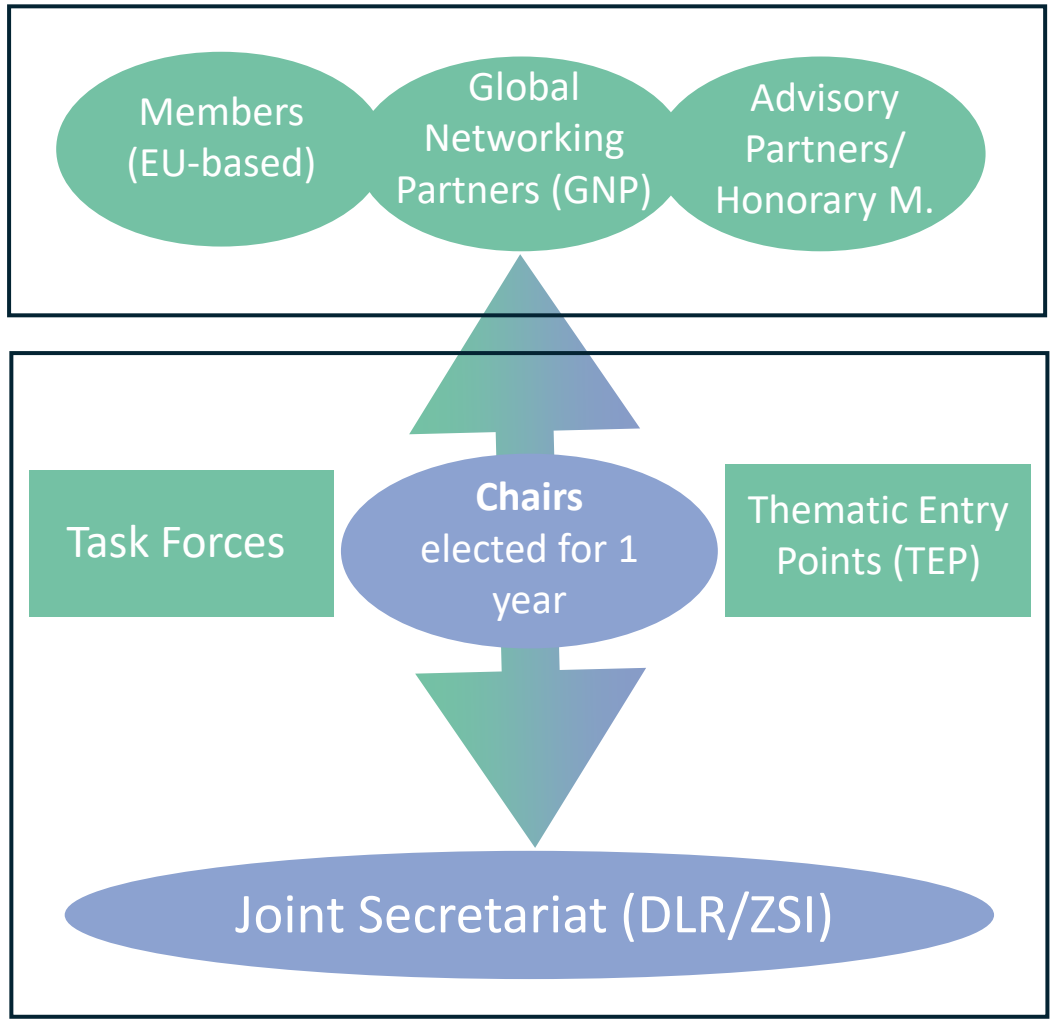
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Structure of the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance



Photo Credit: EU SD Alliance. General Assembly, 2025

Membership Categories



Working Structure

Fostering EU Science Diplomacy for a better future for all

Further information: www.science-diplomacy.eu

Contact person: contact@science-diplomacy.eu

EU SD Alliance Thematic Entry Points

Science Advice, Anticipatory Science Diplomacy and Foresight (SCIENCE ADVICE)

Research Security and Science Diplomacy (SECURITY)

Science, Technology, Innovation Diplomacy (STID) and Gender Equality (GENDER)

Industry, Non-State Actors and their Nexus with Big Science (INFRASTRUCTURES)

European research diasporas as stakeholders in Science Diplomacy (DIASPORAS)

Equitable Science Diplomacy (GLOBAL NORTH AND SOUTH)

Science Diplomacy and One Health (ONE HEALTH)

Evolving Perspectives of Science Diplomacy in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

Science Diplomacy and Art, Culture, and Cultural Heritage Protection (CULTURE)

Ocean Science Diplomacy (OCEAN)

Science Diplomacy and Academic Freedom(FREEDOM)

Further information: www.science-diplomacy.eu

Contact person: contact@science-diplomacy.eu

Co-Chairmanship July 2026 – June 2027



Further information: www.science-diplomacy.eu

Contact person: contact@science-diplomacy.eu

2026/27 Priorities



Help in the implementation of the EU's science diplomacy framework;

Succeed in providing institutional stability to the Alliance through consolidated internal practices;

Strengthen our engagement with Africa by fostering equitable partnerships, supporting collaborative research and innovation, and promoting capacity building.

Further information: https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/about/chairs-and-work-programmes

Implementing Priority 3: Strengthen our engagement with Africa



Photo Credit: EU SD Alliance. Roundtable “Shaping the Europe–Africa Science Diplomacy Dialogue” 2026



Photo Credit: EU SD Alliance. Side Event to the EU-AU Summit 2022

- Contributions to the 1st AU-EU Roundtable on Science Diplomacy 2025
- UNGA Science Summit Side Event 2024

N

S

Thematic Entry Point: Equitable Science Diplomacy (GLOBAL NORTH AND SOUTH)

Further information: www.science-diplomacy.eu

Contact person: contact@science-diplomacy.eu

Welcoming new Global Networking Partners from Africa into the EU SD Alliance

- African organizations' **Expressions of Interest** to join the European Union Science Diplomacy Alliance will be received with great attention.

- After admission by the General Assembly (which meets in summer and in winter), the new **Global Networking Partners** and Members (from EU Member States) are offered opportunities to present their work, to meet and exchange online, and to learn about the many group activities.

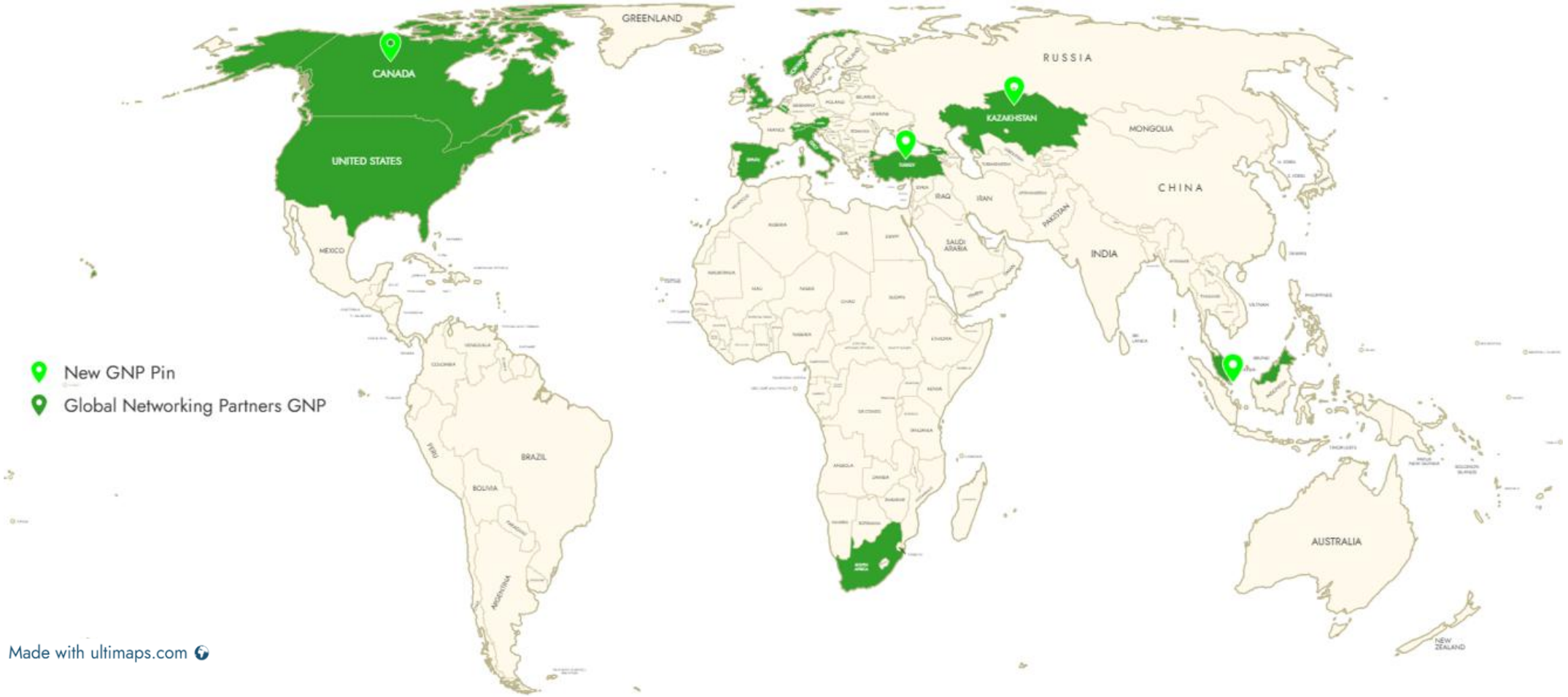
- When possible, site visits are of great value. For example, in March 2026 Stellenbosch University hosted a former co-Chair of the Alliance for a mutual exchange of information when she visited the Cape.



Further information: https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/about/our-members/

Contact person: contact@science-diplomacy.eu

There is room in the Alliance for many more Global Networking Partners from Africa



26 Global Partnerships as of June 2026

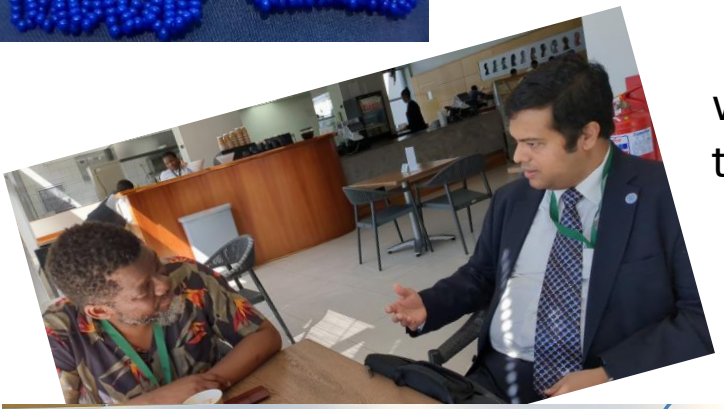
Further information: https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/about/our-members/

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Participation in World Science Forum 2022 in Cape Town: Science for Social Justice



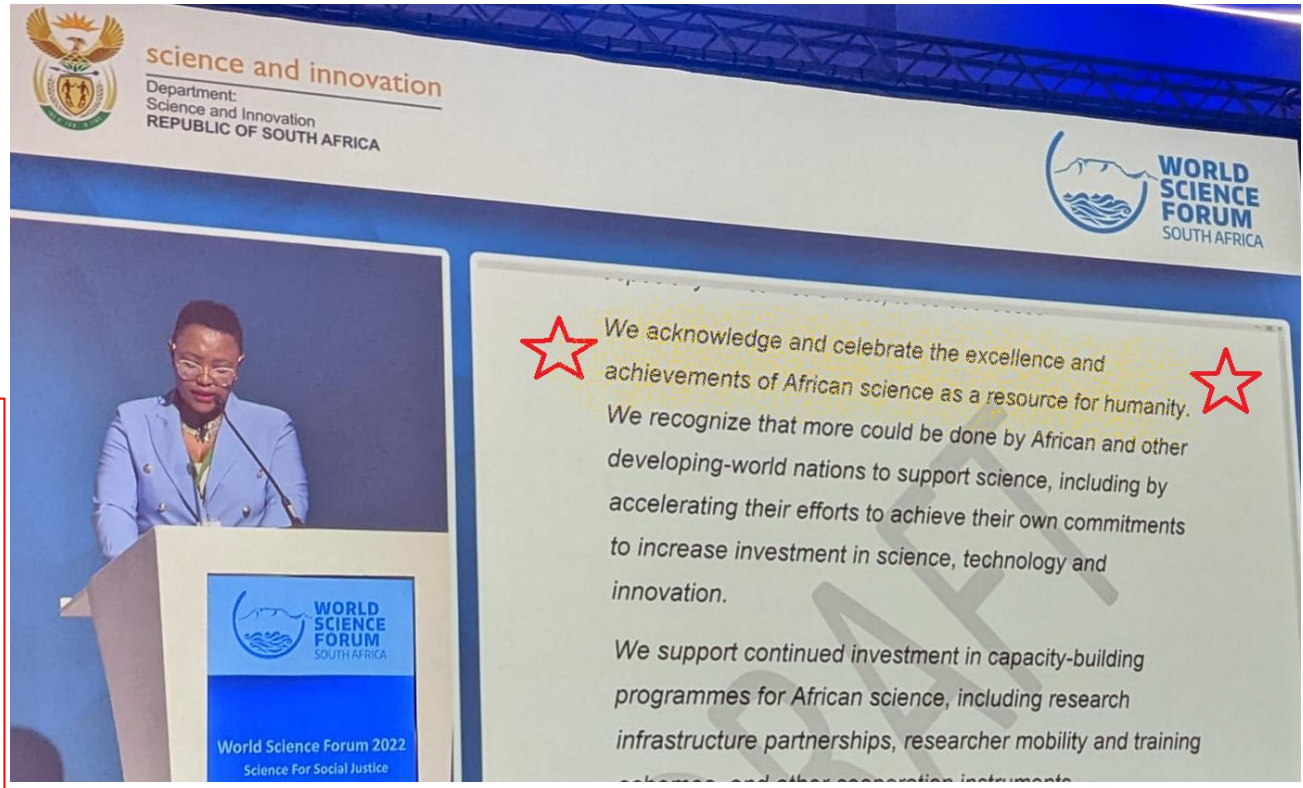
Alliance members spoke at a well-attended side session on Science Policy Advice organized by the Marie Curie Alumni Association MCAA.



Then, Alliance members were deeply impressed by the many **state-of-the-art side sessions proposed by African STEMM & social scientists.**



We were proud to see our input explicitly ★ *included in the WSF 2022 Concluding Statement.*



Further information: https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/news/wsf-2022/

Contact person: contact@mariecuriealumni.eu

EU SD Alliance core activities

Catalysing policy debates on science diplomacy: joint events









Photo Credit: EU SD Alliance. Side Event at the World Science Forum (#WSF2024)



Side event of the Science Summit at the 78th United Nations General Assembly



SCAN FOR OUR EVENTS AND EVENTS OF THE MEMBERS & COLLABORATORS

Further information: www.science-diplomacy.eu

Contact person: contact@science-diplomacy.eu

EU SD Alliance core activities

Raising awareness for science diplomacy: joint trainings



Photo Credit: EU SD Alliance

Science Diplomacy training for COST coordinators
3 editions, 2023

S4D4C

FREE

Promoting knowledge exchanges and interaction interfaces

Encouraging project collaboration

Partner search

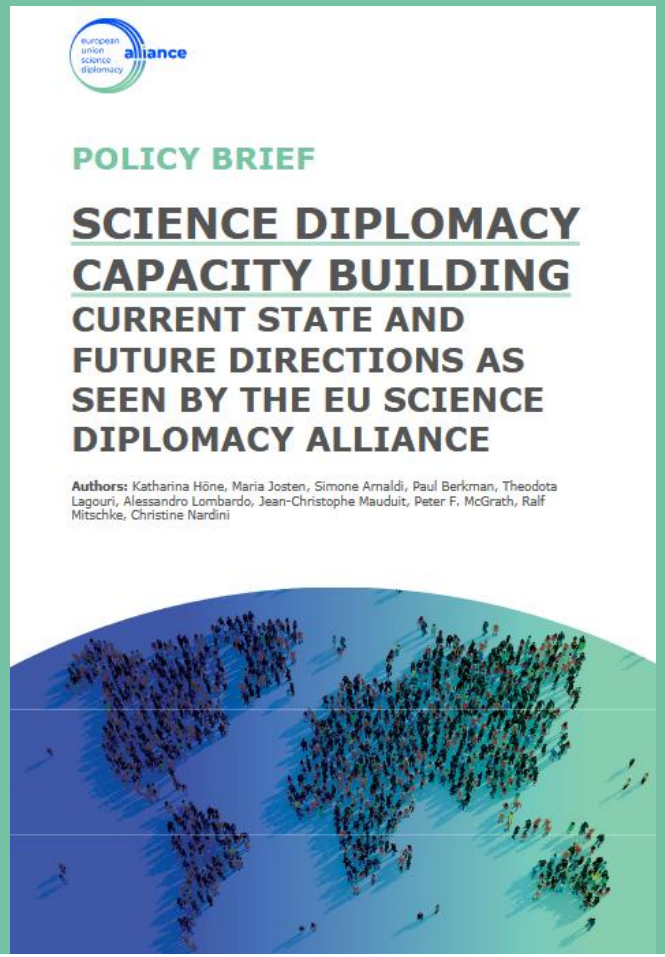
Joint drafting of the project proposals

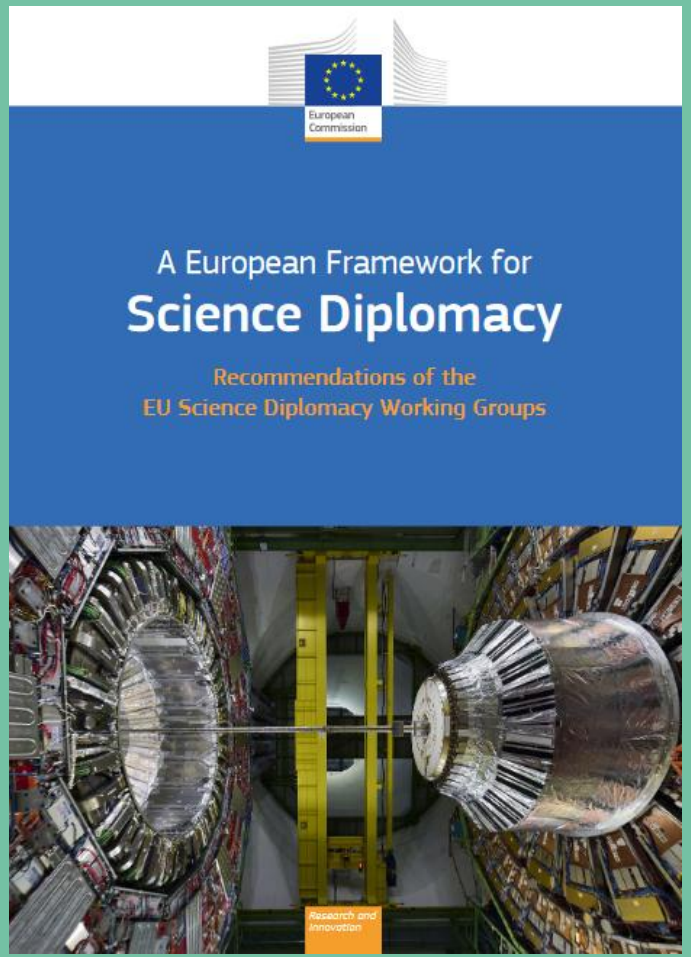
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Contact person: contact@science-diplomacy.eu

EU SD Alliance core activities

Advising policy on EU science diplomacy





Further information: www.science-diplomacy.eu

Contact person: contact@science-diplomacy.eu

European Commission

EN

Research and innovation

Home > News > All research and innovation news > Council adopts first ever EU framework for science diplomacy

Council adopts first ever EU framework for science diplomacy

NEWS ARTICLE

29 May 2026 — Directorate-General for Research and Innovation — 3 min read

Today, the Council adopted a recommendation on a European Union framework for science diplomacy, following a proposal by the European Commission.

The framework underlines our ambition to strengthen Europe's role as a global leader in science diplomacy. It enables the EU and its Member States to take a more strategic and coherent approach to science diplomacy.

Now it is time to support its implementation!

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Consolidating European Science Diplomacy (CUSP)

CUSP is a Horizon Europe project turning the European Framework for Science Diplomacy into action. Uniting 11 expert partners and anchored in the European Union Science Diplomacy Alliance (EUSDA), it fosters seamless interaction among science, diplomacy, and policy. CUSP aims to strengthen Europe's competitiveness, sovereignty, and resilience while promoting European values, peace, multilateralism, and the management of global public goods.

CUSP will organise a series of regional policy dialogues with a focus on Latin America, Asia, and Africa, to accelerate policy development beyond Europe and guide the formation of new science diplomacy partnerships and programmes.

Further information: www.cusp-project.eu

Contact person: Catarina Vila Nova, communication.officer@mariecuriealumni.eu

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Subscribe to the newsletter of the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance

European Union support for the work of the secretariat and for implementation of some of the activities does not constitute the contents which reflect the views of the implementing parties, and the European Union cannot be held responsible for them.

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EU-AU Science Diplomacy



Activities of the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance in Africa and with African partners

Science Forum South Africa

2-4 December 2026

Co-funded by the European Union

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Our mission: By applying systems analysis to risks and opportunities at all scales, the Institute provides science-based insights to decision makers, stakeholders, communities, and individuals.

20 member organizations

470 full-time and guest researchers

from **61** countries



Further information: www.iiasa.ac.at

Contact person: Susie Kitchens, kitchens@iiasa.ac.at

IIASA and Africa: research shaped by regional priorities

Working with African institutions to connect systems analysis and scientific evidence with critical decisions on water resources, climate resilience, and development.

01

A regional voice:

The Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Member Organization (SSARMO) connects 18 countries with IIASA's research network and governance.

02

Joint research:

IIASA supports research collaborations with African ministries, universities, and regional organization on questions that cross sectors and national borders.

03

Long-term capability:

Training and research exchanges build expertise within partner institutions.

African partners help shape the questions and IIASA develops the evidence needed to answer them

PARTNER NETWORK

SGCI IOSRS

أكاديمية البحث العلمي والتكنولوجي
Academy of Scientific Research & Technology

NRF National Research Foundation

Further information: www.iiasa.ac.at/members

Contact person: Susie Kitchens, kitchens@iiasa.ac.at

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Developing evidence-based understanding of river health in Uganda

SWAQ-Uganda: a national assessment, monitoring tools, and trained water specialists

~60% of Uganda's rivers assessed as being in good condition under the SDG framework

Together, Uganda's Ministry of Water and Environment, IIASA, and BOKU delivered:

1. A nationwide river water-quality assessment and detailed modeling for the Mpanga catchment.
2. A water-quality dashboard, mapping tools, and a data repository.
3. Training for Ugandan specialists in river assessment, data analysis, and water-quality modeling.

Selected snapshots of trainings at MWE in Uganda



Theoretical introduction to hydrological modelling.



Sampling macroinvertebrates using the Multi Habitat Sampling Technique, an area equal to



Group interpretation and discussion of R code for water balance investigation



Practical application of the GR4J Hydrological model



Identification of macroinvertebrates to family level in the field.

Outcome: Water managers have better evidence and practical tools to track pollution and assess emerging risks.

MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT · IIASA · BOKU

Further information: www.iiasa.ac.at

Contact person: Susie Kitchens, kitchens@iiasa.ac.at

Where can groundwater strengthen Africa's water security?

G4DR: identifying opportunities and risks in groundwater management, from continental assessments to catchment planning

01

Across Africa

IIASA leads the assessment of where groundwater could strengthen resilience and where development could create risks.

02

In Uganda's Upper Nile Water Management Zone

IIASA and partners are developing a groundwater diagnostic assessment and strategic action plan to support catchment planning.

03

Across the partnership

African water authorities work with AMCOW, IWMI, FAO, and IIASA across three pilot areas.

Intended outcome: Better evidence to guide groundwater investment and how to incorporate groundwater into basin planning.

Further information: www.iiasa.ac.at

Contact person: Susie Kitchens, kitchens@iiasa.ac.at

Planning for drought and keeping healthcare accessible

Two partnerships examine how climate extremes disrupt essential services

INTERVENE · East Africa

The question: How does drought affect water supplies, farming, and hydropower?

The partnership: IIASA and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission investigate impacts and identify adaptation pathways.

Intended outcome: Evidence to help regional planners compare drought adaptation options.

REACH · Zambia

The question: How do floods and extreme heat disrupt care for mothers and children?

The partnership: IIASA, the University of Zambia, and international partners combine field research with systems modeling.

Intended outcome: Evaluated and costed strategies to strengthen healthcare resilience.

Takeaway: Understanding the links between climate, resources, and services helps partners identify where adaptation can make a difference.

Further information: www.iiasa.ac.at

Contact person: Susie Kitchens, kitchens@iiasa.ac.at

Expertise that stays with people and institutions

Practical training and research networks extend the value of individual projects

1 **Skills within ministries:** IIASA

SWAQ-Uganda trained water specialists to assess river health and use modeling tools in their own work.

2 **Pathways for emerging researchers:** IIASA

YSSP, mentorship, and research exchanges connect African scientists with international collaborators.

3 **A stronger regional network:** IIASA

The June 2026 SSARMO exchange identified opportunities to connect existing institutions and strengthen the Sub-Saharan African Systems Analysis Center (SASAC).



Long-term goal: More African researchers and institutions able to apply systems analysis to their own research and policy priorities.

Further information: www.iiasa.ac.at

Contact person: Susie Kitchens, kitchens@iiasa.ac.at

Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA)

The **Marie Curie Alumni Association** (MCAA) is a member of the European Union Science Diplomacy Alliance (EUSDA). The MCAA has several chapters across the world, including an Africa Chapter. This chapter was established in 2020 and currently has 177 members.

- MCAA statement on science diplomacy: "Bridging research and policy: Engaging researchers in science diplomacy", published on 21 April 2026
- MCAA joint policy article on science diplomacy: "Scientific networks as strategic actors in EU science diplomacy", published on 9 February 2026

Further information:

Further information: www.mariecuriealumni.eu

Contact person: Mostafa Moonir Shawrav, mostafa.shawrav@mariecuriealumni.eu

Africa is a Strategic Priority of TWAS Capacity-Building Programmes since 1983

unesco
The World Academy of Sciences

PROGRAMME TYPE	DISTINCT PROGRAMMES
Research or Project Grants	5 programmes
PhD Fellowships	9 programmes with 9 partners
Postdoctoral Fellowships	9 programmes with 9 partners
Mobility/Exchange Schemes	8 programmes
Scientific Prizes/Awards	19 programmes
Young Affiliates & TYAN	3 programmes
Science Diplomacy	1 programme
Regional Partners	3 programmes per Regional Partner
Climate Programmes	3 programmes
Science Communication	1 programme
TOTAL no. OF CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES: 60 TOTAL no. OF OPPORTUNITIES/AWARDS OFFERED per year: 600+	

Further information: https://twas.org/opportunities

Contact person: Dr. Marcelo Knobel at edoffice@twas.org

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Strengthening education and scientific capacity across Africa

unesco
The World Academy of Sciences



- Collectively, **TWAS's activities supported nearly 5,000 African students, researchers, and institutions**, contributing to stronger postgraduate education systems, enhanced research capacity, and more sustainable scientific careers across the continent, in the framework of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

- **Science Policy and Diplomacy:**

TWAS is also actively engaged in science policy and advocacy to strengthen Africa's scientific and technological capacity. Over the past 10 years, 20 TWAS **science diplomacy workshops have been organized involving 355 participants from 41 African countries**. These workshops strengthen participants' understanding of the role of science in policymaking and international engagement, while building practical skills in negotiation, leadership, and science communication skills.

Further information: https://twas.org/science-policy

Contact person: Dr. Antonella Di Trapani (Science Diplomacy Programme) at aditrapani@twas.org

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Strengthening education and scientific capacity across Africa

Skills-Building Workshops as Educational Interventions: Continental and Intercontinental Training Workshops in Africa:

- 16-18 June 2026, Accra, Ghana - SG-NAPI TWAS Skill Building Workshop, with 26 African participants
- 21-23 October 2025, Nairobi, Kenya - SG-NAPI Skill Building Workshop, with 28 African participants
- 28 October 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - UNESCO-TWAS workshop on Science-based Solutions for Climate Action in Africa, with 37 participants
- 5-8 November 2024, Dakar, Senegal - Skill Building Workshop with 69 participants
- 28-31 August 2018, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania - Skill-Building Workshop with 39 African participants.

Contact person: Ms. Payal Patel at patel@twas.org

TWAS and IAP Networks in Africa

- 159 elected **TWAS Members** from 30 countries
- 128 **Young Affiliates and Young Alumni** from 27 countries
- **2 Regional Partners:**
  - TWAS Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Partner (TWAS-SAREP) at the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) in **Pretoria, South Africa**
  - TWAS Arab Regional Partner (TWAS-AREP) at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in **Alexandria, Egypt**

Further information: https://twas.org/twas-network

Contact person: Dr. Marcelo Knobel at edoffice@twas.org and Dr Antonella Di Trapani aditrapani@twas.org

TWAS and IAP Networks in Africa

- **InterAcademy Partnership (IAP): 153 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine – of these 24 in Africa**
  https://www.interacademies.org/network/member-academies
- The **Network of African Science Academies (NASAC)** is one of the four regional affiliated networks of IAP, responsible for managing and implementing many IAP-funded projects in Africa http://www.nasaconline.org

- **IAP produces many reports and publications focusing on Africa**, such as the *Report on the Status of Science Education,* https://nasac.africa/resource/the-state-of-science-education-in-africa-nasac-science-education-programme-sep-survey-report/

Further information: https://www.interacademies.org/

Contact person: Dr Antonella Di Trapani aditrapani@twas.org

TWAS and IAP Networks in Africa

- IAP has invested in **science literacy** through providing seed funding for three science centres for Low and Middle Income Countries, so far focused on three African countries: Benin, Ethiopia and Ghana.

- In partnership with the **Benin** National Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters and Sèmè City, the IAP has supported the establishment of **the Sèmè City Science Museum**, a flagship science centre officially inaugurated in 2025 that brings interactive STEM learning, exhibits, and public engagement to students, teachers, and local communities.

- In **Ethiopia**, the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) has expanded its Science Centre with a **Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab)** equipped with a CNC machine, secured through IAP funding. The FabLab at the EAS Science Center, which is currently under development, is equipped with 3D printers, laser cutters, and vinyl cutters. The EAS Science Center also houses a diverse range of science exhibits. These include 48 exhibits donated by Phänomenta through the Goethe-Institut in Addis Ababa, focusing on hands-on experiences in physics, perception, and technology, as well as 16 locally developed physics exhibits.

- In addition, the Center houses a **Biomechanics unit and a STEM Center**, which provide training opportunities for talented high school students. The STEM training program combines two months of theoretical classroom instruction in electronics and computer programming with practical, hands-on learning. Following the classroom component, students undertake mini-projects aimed at developing innovative solutions to societal challenges.

- In Ghana, the **Ghana** Academy of Arts and Sciences is leading plans for a **National Science and Technology Centre** that will combine physical learning spaces with virtual and mobile outreach to schools beyond the capital

Further information: https://www.interacademies.org/

Contact person: Dr Antonella Di Trapani aditrapani@twas.org

TWAS and Associated organizations' Networks in Africa

- **6,339 members of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)** from 49 African countries

- **25 OWSD National Chapters** coordinating capacity-building activities, mentorship, national policy engagement, science outreach, and the implementation of OWSD programmes.

- OWSD **GenSIS Programme (Gender in Science, Innovation and Society)** to strengthen gender-responsive national innovation systems by promoting institutional change, policy engagement, and the advancement of women in STEM research and entrepreneurship.

Further information: https://owsd.net/

Contact person: Dr. Tonya Blowers (OWSD) tblowers@owsd.net

3rd International School on Science Diplomacy. Erice 2027

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Fostering dialogue through Science Diplomacy

The third edition of the International School of Science Diplomacy will take place at the Ettore Majorana Foundation in Erice, Sicily, in autumn 2027, bringing together scientists, diplomats, policymakers and early-career professionals.

- Interdisciplinary lectures and round tables
- Dialogue across scientific and institutional communities
- Practical exchanges on global scientific challenges
- Networking and future scientific collaboration.

Connections with African partners

Applications will be open to interested participants and students from around the world, with the call expected to be published in spring 2027.



Erice, Sicily · Ettore Majorana Foundation

https://www.sciencediplomacy.it/en/le-scuole

Scholars at Risk
CNR and Academic Freedom

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Protecting scholars, safeguarding research

CNR joined the international Scholars at Risk (SAR) network in 2023 to help protect academic freedom and scholars at risk. Supporting academic freedom and scholars whose lives or research are threatened.

CNR engagement

- 27 Nov 2024: hosted the first CNR–SAR conference in Rome "ScientificResearch, Dialogue, Rights".
- Participated in SAR Italy advocacy and thematic workshops
- Contributed to training and dialogue on hosting at-risk scholars

Science Diplomacy added value

Keeping scientific communities connected in times of crisis; enabling researchers to continue their work; building institutional pathways for protection and integration.

THREE PILLARS

01 PROTECTION
Support for at-risk scholars

02 ADVOCACY
Defending academic freedom

03 RESEARCH & TRAINING
Awareness and capacity building

www.cnr.it/en/international-scientific-organization/62/sar-scholars-at-risk

Global Fellowship Opportunities in Denmark

AIAS
AARHUS INSTITUTE
OF ADVANCED STUDIES

Aim: Research career promotion, collaboration and network-building across continents



AIAS-AUFF Fellowship (Deadline October 2027)

- 10 two-year fully-funded fellowships (PhD age 2-10 years)
- Open for all nationalities and research disciplines
- Connect to Aarhus University important

NNF-IAS Fellowship (Deadline October 2027)

- Five fellowships in a joint Nordic Programme on Health and Sustainability with a Global reach (in DK, NO, SW, FI)

AIAS Visiting Fellowships (Deadline October 2027)

- For researchers on sabbatical (travel costs covered)

AIAS
AARHUS INSTITUTE
OF ADVANCED STUDIES

AARHUS
UNIVERSITY

Further information: https://aias.au.dk/

Contact person: [Lotte Holm lho@aias.au.dk

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ZSI has been strengthening EU-Africa R&I cooperation since 2013

Selected projects of Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI):

CAAST-NET PLUS (2013-2017): Strengthening the bi-regional Africa-Europe dialogue

ESASTAP 2020 (2016-2019): Strengthening Technology, Research and Innovation Cooperation between Europe and South Africa

LEAP-RE (2020-2026): Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy

mAkE (2022-2025): African European Maker Innovation Ecosystem

MSCAdvocacy (2022-2025): International Advocacy for the Strategic Alignment of MSCA Cooperation Mechanisms in Key Partner Countries and Regions

ADA-VET (2022-2023): Mobilizing Austrian Vocational Training Know-How in Africa

GSF (2023-2027): Global Service Facility in support of the Global Approach

CUSP (2026-2029): Consolidating European Science Diplomacy



Further information: https://www.zsi.at/

Contact person: Elke Dall (ZSI) dall@zsi.at

Starting an Association of African Makerspaces through the mAkE project



ZSI coordinated Horizon 2020 project with a lasting impact on the African maker innovation ecosystem.

MAKE

A transdisciplinary team from Europe and Africa

Networks coordinated from Cameroon, Germany, Ghana, UK, Spain, South Africa, Austria



- Global Innovation Gathering – GIG
- Greentec Capital - GT
- Centre for Social Innovation – ZSI
- Fab Lab Barcelona - IAAC
- Africa Makerspace Network - AMN
- Africa Open Science and Hardware - AOSH
- Association pour la promotion de la science ouvert en Haïti et Afrique - APSOHA
- Open African Innovation Research, University of Cape Town – UCT-Open AIR
- Internet of Production - IOP
- Fab City Foundation - FCF

MAKE

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101016858.

Further information: https://makeafricaeu.org

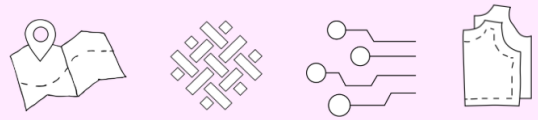
Contact person: Barbara Kieslinger (ZSI) kieslinger@zsi.at

Piloting makerspaces in libraries in Cape Town, Accra & Kumasi



ZSI coordinated Horizon Europe project with upcoming pilots in African cities.

make-a-thek creates modular, replicable set-ups of makerspaces in public libraries providing access to innovative and circular approaches to fashion, crafts and design



Funded by the European Union

Further information: https://www.makeathek.eu/

Contact person: Barbara Kieslinger (ZSI) kieslinger@zsi.at

Co-designing citizen science on off-grid renewable energy in Uganda

NUMBER OF CASE STUDIES 11

x 1,068 **FARMERS INVOLVED**

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED 20

These included: local leaders, line ministries, cooperatives, partners, and academics.

Off-grid Renewable Energy in Agriculture

Accelerating Biogas Energy Generation Systems and Adoption in Uganda

This policy brief aims to demonstrate the potential of biogas renewable energy generation systems for agricultural production. Small-scale biogas energy generation to provide off-grid electricity is of growing interest. Unlike other forms of renewable energy, biogas technology offers numerous advantages, such as waste management which is a significant problem in Africa. The adoption of biogas energy in Uganda contributes to integration into the national energy mix, aligning with sustainability goals. It also has a great potential to empower rural women, contribute to economic development, and address environmental concerns by reducing reliance on traditional biomass.



Cover photo: Farmer feeding biogas plant with cow dung (Photo credit: ARUWE)

ZSI co-designed citizen science methodologies with Ugandans (ARUWE) in the Horizon 2020 project STEP-Change.



ARUWE Action For Rural Women's Empowerment

Empowering Communities through Women and Children

Step Change

Science Transformation in EuroPe through Citizens involvement in HeAlth, coNservation and enerGy rEsearch

Horizon 2020: SwafS-27-2020 Hands-on citizen science and frugal innovation. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement n. 101006386.

Further information: https://stepchangeproject.eu

Contact person: Elke Dall (ZSI) dall@zsi.at

european union science diplomacy alliance

Building the future of Africa-Europe energy cooperation with the LEAP-RE initiative

A BI-CONTINENTAL NETWORK



ZSI participates in the bi-continental network supporting collaborative R&I projects for sustainable energy transitions.

CCSE STAKEHOLDER FORUM 2026 – Three Days. One Shared Vision.

READ MORE →



Bridging Continents for a Sustainable Future: Highlights from the LEAP-RE Forum 2025

READ MORE →



Securing the Future of AU-EU Science, Technology and Innovation collaboration on...

READ MORE →

Further information: https://leap-energy.eu/

Contact person: Olga Bolibok (ZSI) bolibok@zsi.at

Strengthening Africa-Europe Research Cooperation

LEAP-RE | Horizon 2020

LEAP-RE brought together 83 organisations from Africa and Europe to strengthen long-term cooperation in renewable energy research and innovation.

UEFISCDI's contribution:

Participated as a national research funding agency in joint transnational calls supporting 23 collaborative research and innovation projects under Pillar 1.

Co-developed and implemented the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework together with Strathmore University (Kenya).

Conducted project assessments, collected lessons from African and European research teams, and identified recommendations for more effective and equitable international funding mechanisms.

Contributed to strengthening institutional cooperation, knowledge exchange and evidence-based programme development.

LEAP-SE | Horizon Europe

Building on LEAP-RE, LEAP-SE strengthens long-term Africa-Europe cooperation in sustainable energy through joint research funding, capacity building, knowledge exchange and policy dialogue

UEFISCDI's contribution:

Participates as a funding agency in the joint transnational research and innovation calls, supporting collaboration between research organisations and businesses from both continents.

Co-leads Work Package 4, focusing on the follow-up and monitoring of projects funded through the joint calls.

Contributes to developing monitoring indicators, reporting procedures and scientific and impact assessment approaches.

Supports the transfer of lessons from LEAP-RE into LEAP-SE, with attention to research impact, institutional capacity and sustainable cooperation.

Further information: LEAP-RE; LEAP-SE

Contact person: Elena Simion elena.simion@uefiscdi.ro

Connecting Science Communication and Science Diplomacy

Kontekst

Kontekst Institute (Ljubljana, Slovenia) is an independent institute **for science communication and public engagement.**

Key activities: institutional capability building (strategy, governance, menthoring) for universities and research organisations; training and lecturing; national-scale advocacy and strategy.



Key connection with African partners:
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya (2013–2014) – innovation workshops
- Stellenbosch University, South Africa (2024) – conference workshop on communication of basic science

Further information: KONTEKST INSTITUTE, LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA www.kontekst-svetovanje.si

Contact person: Jadranka Jezeršek Turnes jadranka.jezersek@kontekst-svetovanje.si

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Linking Kenyan Biopolymer Research to Global Expertise: JKUAT, Kenya, 2013-2014

Kontekst

African partner: Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Nairobi, Kenya.

Key activities: Kontekst helped to built the business network around JKUAT's materials research and coordinated a training programme for its researchers and students. Teaching was delivered by faculty from Harvard Kennedy School, Cleveland Clinic, the German engineering association and Slovenia's National Institute of Chemistry.

Key achievement: a working research–business interface for a Kenyan university, assembled through convening, communication and network-building between a small EU member state's research base and an African partner rather than through an intergovernmental agreement – science diplomacy carried out at institutional level.



Focus: development of biopolymer materials and products from local feedstocks – sugarcane and mango processing streams.

Further information: KONTEKST INSTITUTE, LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA www.kontekst-svetovanje.si

Contact person: Jadranka Jezeršek Turnes jadranka.jezersek@kontekst-svetovanje.si

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Science Communication Conference at University of Stellenbosch, 2024

Kontekst

African partners: Stellenbosch University – CREST (Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology) – and the Kavli Foundation.
Occasion: Communicating Discovery Science, international symposium, 18–20 November 2024, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Kontekst contribution: the workshop "Catalyzing Discovery: Empowering Research Institutions for Effective Public Engagement with Basic Science"





Why it matters for EU–Africa cooperation: the institutional gap is shared, not exported. Engagement capability exists in African and European universities alike, and in both it is largely person-dependent. A panel taking this question further has been proposed for ASDC 2026 in Pretoria.

Further information: KONTEKST INSTITUTE, LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA www.kontekst-svetovanje.si

Contact person: Jadranka Jezeršek Turnes jadranka.jezersek@kontekst-svetovanje.si

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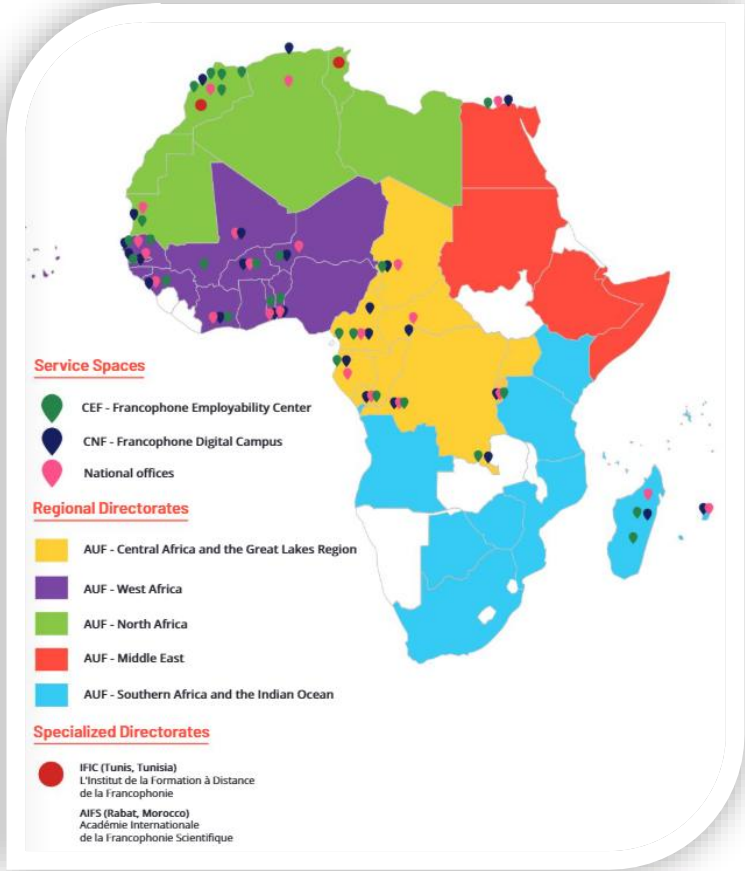
AUF promotes scientific cooperation between Africa and Europe as a key driver for sustainable development

About AUF

- Global network of 1000+ higher education institutions and research organisations
- 120 countries, 200 local offices and service hubs

Presence in Africa

- 500+ universities and research organisations members in 46 African countries
- 5 regional directorates
- 27 national officers and 65 services spaces



Further information: https://www.auf.org/

Contact person: Emilian Cioc (AUF) emilian.cioc@auf.org

VaRRIWA – Valorising Research Results and Innovation in West Africa (2021–2024)

- Co-funded by the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union under the ACP Innovation Fund
- Implemented by a consortium of 6 partners



- **Goal:** create an enabling environment for technology transfer and sustainable innovation in 4 West African countries, while strengthening links between academia, the private sector, civil society and local communities across the sub-region

- **Key results:**

14 projects launched in **4** countries : Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Togo

90 innovative companies launched

1 regional digital networking platform created to connect research and innovation stakeholders

8 research and innovation valorisation supports mechanisms established

2090+ research and innovation stakeholders and professionals trained in economic valorisation and intellectual property rights management

56 patent application submitted to the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)

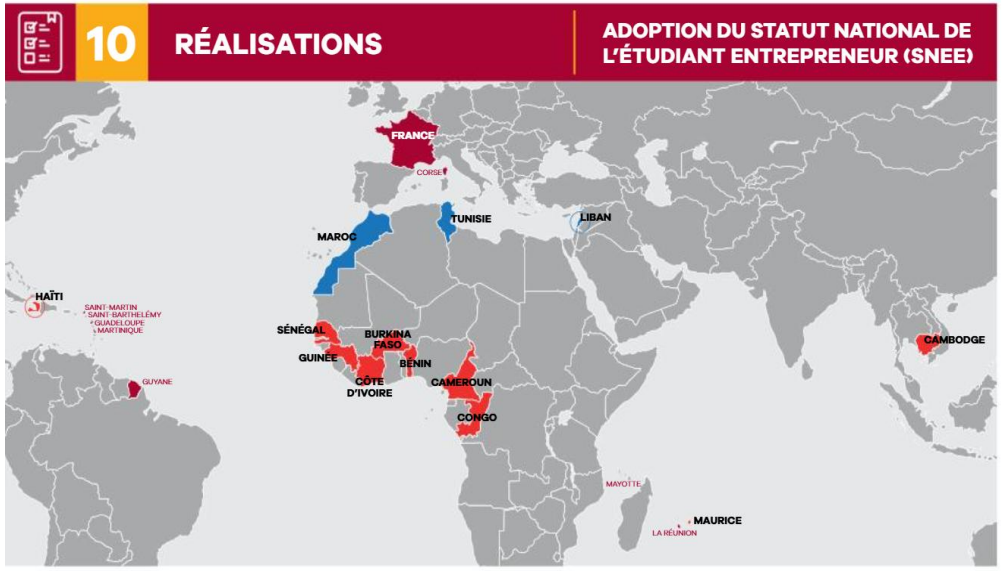
Further information: VaRRIWA

Contact person: Alioune FAYE (AUF) alioune.faye@auf.org

ENTREPRENDRE – Fostering Student Entrepreneurship (2021-2025)

- **Goal:** strengthen entrepreneurial culture and employability within higher education institutions by supporting national student entrepreneurship policies and university-based pre-incubation hubs

- **Key actions:**
  - Supporting the implementation of a National Student Entrepreneur Status in partner countries
  - Developing pre-incubation hubs



- **Key results:**

1425 projects supported

5400 students supported

271 start-ups supported

111 university innovation spaces

8 incubators created

3 fablabs created

24 beneficiary countries

Further information: https://www.auf.org/projet/entreprendre-2/

Contact person: Marine PLESSIS (AUF) marine.plessis@auf.org

APPRENDRE – Strengthening Teacher Education in Francophone Africa (2018-2027)

- Implemented by AUF and funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

- **Goal:** strengthen the initial and continuing professional development of primary and secondary school teachers, while supporting education ministries in designing, implementing and improving teacher-training policies and systems



- **Key results:**

26 partner countries	**46** education research projects funded	**8000** learners registered on the online platform	**1000+** education professionals trained	**3000+** educational resources produced	**350+** researchers supported

Further information: https://apprendre.auf.org/

Contact person: AUF programme-apprendre@auf.org

PRICNAC - Promoting Research, Innovation, and Digital Culture in Central Africa (2021-2025)

PRICNAC
Promotion de la Recherche, de l'Innovation et de la Culture Numérique en Afrique Centrale

- Co-funded by the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union under the ACP Innovation Fund, PRICNAC
- Implemented in 8 Central African countries by a consortium of 5 partners

- **Goal:** strengthen research and innovation capacities in Central Africa by consolidating innovation ecosystems, digital entrepreneurship and innovation policies in support of sustainable development

- **Selected results:**



CAMEROON

2 third places

5 mini-fablabs

1 digital municipal tax-collection solution

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

2 online learning platforms

18 indigenous knowledge resources identified

2 digital libraries

CAMEROON, CONGO AND GABON

24 innovation patent applications submitted to OAPI

Further information : https://pricnac.org/

Contact person: Jean-Luc Mahounou Konan (AUF) jean-luc-mahounou.konan@auf.org

Europe-Africa Science Diplomacy

Brussels – 8 July 2025



- AUF promotes **an ambitious, inclusive and multilingual vision of science diplomacy**, built on trust and designed to foster balanced and sustainable cooperation between Africa and Europe



- The conference brought together academic leaders, researchers, diplomats, policymakers and representatives of international organisations to explore **the role of science diplomacy in strengthening Africa-Europe cooperation**

- **4 roundtable discussions** addressed both the conceptual foundations and applications of science diplomacy

22
expert speakers from African, European and international institutions

120
in-person participants

+400
online participants

Further information: https://www.auf.org/conference-diplomatie-scientifique-europe-afrique-a-bruxelles/

Contact person: Emilian Cioc (AUF) emilian.cioc@auf.org

APRE's R&I Cooperation with Africa: over 15 Years of Activities

In the last 17 years, APRE supported the R&I cooperation with African countries through different initiatives and projects:

- ✓ **SACCESS project (2009 – 2012):** Supporting the EU access to South Africa's research and innovation programmes
- ✓ **ShERACA project (2009 – 2013):** Shaping Egypt's association to the European research area and cooperation action
- ✓ **ESASTAP PLUS project (2012 – 2015):** Strengthening Technology, Research and Innovation Cooperation between Europe and South Africa
- ✓ **ESASTAP project (2016 – 2019):** Strengthening Technology, Research and Innovation Cooperation between Europe and South Africa 2020
- ✓ **SaferAfrica (2016 – 2019):** Innovating dialogue and problems appraisal for a safer Africa

Further information: www.apre.it

Contact person: Stefania Laneve (APRE) laneve@apre.it

APRE's R&I Cooperation with Africa: over 15 Years of Activities

More recently, APRE supported the R&I cooperation with African countries through the organization of different initiatives and events. Some examples:

- ✓ Monitoring EU-Africa cooperation calls and promoting funding opportunities at key events such as:
  - ✓ **APRE Annual Conference 2025**
  - ✓ **Ecomondo 2026:** Strategic EU R&I projects for the Green Transition in the Mediterranean and Africa

Objective: to support and strengthen the participation of Italian R&I actors in EU-Africa cooperation opportunities and share good practices



Further information: www.apre.it

Contact person: Stefania Laneve (APRE) laneve@apre.it

APRE's R&I Cooperation with Africa: over 15 Years of Activities

APRE
Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea

In the framework of the **Global Service Facility** (GSF), APRE has been working on the following initiatives:

CONTRACT	ACTIVITY
GSF-03 - Africa HLPD 2 - Support to the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science Technology and Innovation – Phase II	Support to CCSE working group activities
GSF-04 - UfM 2 - Support to the Union for the Mediterranean Policy Dialogue on R&I and Coordination along the implementation of the R&I Roadmaps on the three Priorities: Health, Climate Change and Renewable Energy	Communication and dissemination activities for Euro-Mediterranean Hub
GSF-14 - AU-EU 2 - Initiatives to support the Implementation of the AU-EU Innovation Agenda	Organisation of online workshop "Access to finance"
GSF-21 - R&I EMC - Support to the implementation of the R&I Euro-Mediterranean cooperation - second phase	Communication and dissemination activities for Euro-Mediterranean Hub; Coordination of Funders meetings
GSF-33 HLPD 3 - Support to the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue on Science Technology and Innovation – Phase III	Support to CCSE working group activities

Further information: www.apre.it

Contact person: Stefania Laneve (APRE) laneve@apre.it

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EUTOPIA and Africa: a new kind of science diplomacy actor

EUTOPIA
Alliance of 10 European Universities

A university alliance as a science diplomacy actor

10 universities, one alliance: Babeș-Bolyai, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Ca' Foscari Venice, CY Cergy Paris Université, TU Dresden, Gothenburg, Ljubljana, NOVA Lisbon, Pompeu Fabra, Warwick

Built through the European Universities Initiative: EU-funded, jointly governed, acting externally as one entity

Global Partnerships beyond Europe: selected for geographical balance and shared values

In Africa, two partners: Université Internationale de Rabat (Morocco, North Africa) and Stellenbosch University (South Africa, Southern Africa)

Not a state, not a single university: neither state-led science diplomacy nor a bilateral partnership

Further information : https://eutopia-university.eu

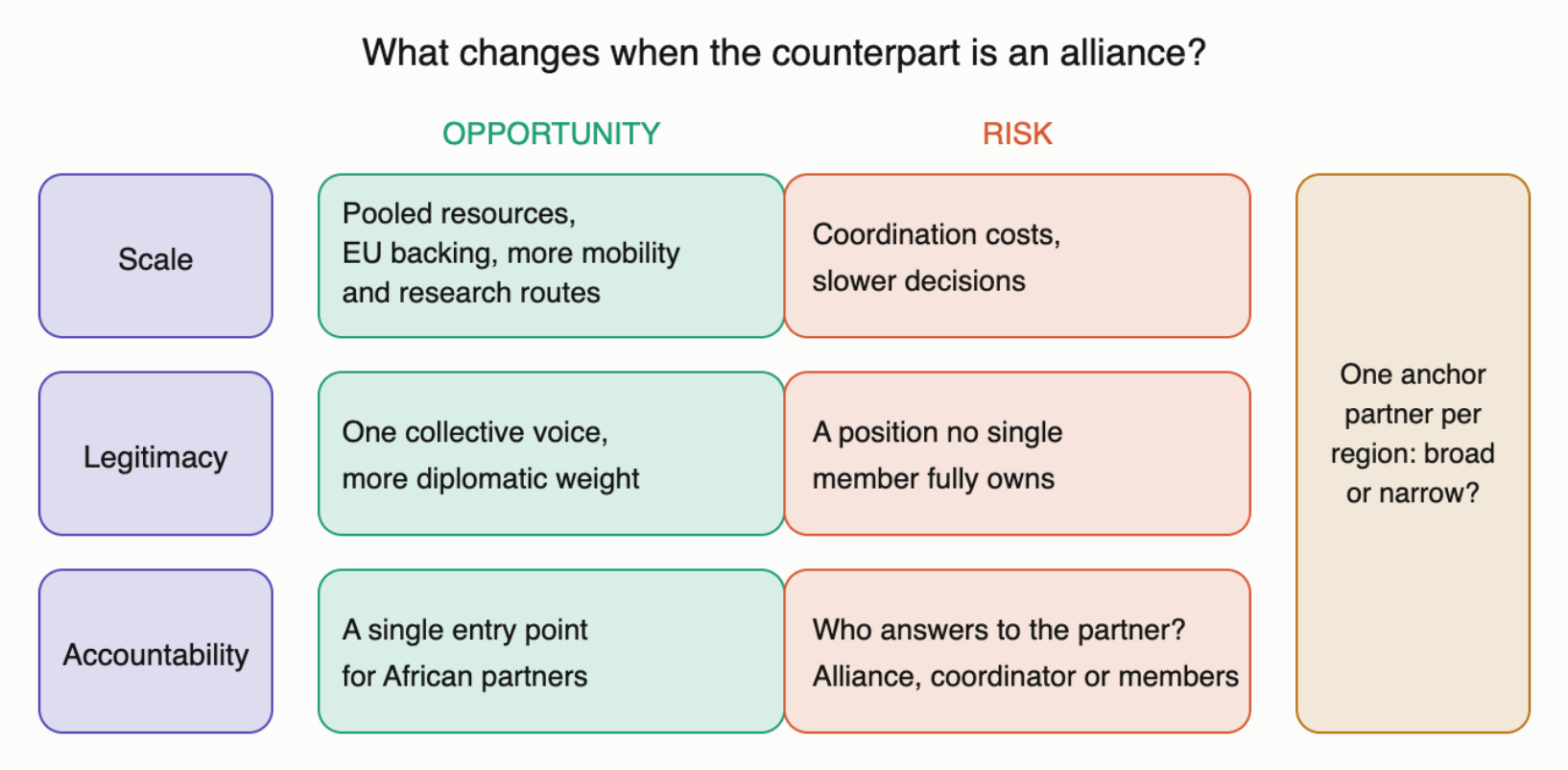
Contact person: Luciana Radut-Gaghi Luciana.radut-gaghi@cyu.fr, Eric Piaget eric.piaget@vub.be

european union science diplomacy alliance

EUTOPIA: what changes when the counterpart is an alliance?

EUTOPIA
Alliance of 10 European Universities

Scale, legitimacy and accountability: three open tensions



Further information : https://eutopia-university.eu

Contact person: Luciana Radut-Gaghi Luciana.radut-gaghi@cyu.fr, Eric Piaget eric.piaget@vub.be

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African partners inside EUTOPIA formats

EUTOPIA
Alliance of 10 European Universities

Young Leaders Academy
Early- to mid-career researchers (2 to 12 years after the PhD), appointed for two years
Stellenbosch joined for the 2024 call, e.g. Prof Rizwana Roomaney (Arts and Social Sciences)

EUTOPIA Review (peer-reviewed, science diplomacy at its core)
Issue 2 (2024) Jamel Boukouray (UIR, Rabat) on frugal innovation in the EUROMED zone
Issue 4 (2026) Sarah Van Der Westhuizen (Stellenbosch), “Towards a Responsible Internationalisation Position: A Perspective from the Global South”

University of the Month
Rabat, August 2024: innovation and entrepreneurship
Stellenbosch, May 2025: its internationalisation journey

Further information : https://eutopia-university.eu

Contact person: Luciana Radut-Gaghi Luciana.radut-gaghi@cyu.fr, Eric Piaget eric.piaget@vub.be

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Global Indigenous Youth Summit on Climate Change



Further information: https://scidiplo.org/pauls-history-with-science-diplomacy

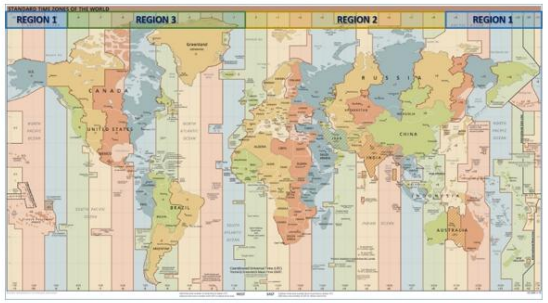
Contact person: Paul Arthur Berkman pab@scidiplo.org

Global Indigenous Youth Summit on Climate Change

GLOBAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE (GIYSCC)

"virtual dialogue by, for and among Indigenous youth with global inclusion"





Agendas decided by GIYSCC Indigenous Youth Leaders across three 8-hour times zones in 24 hours (00:00-24:00 GMT) on the INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (August 9th)

GIYSCC (2023, 2024, 2025)

- **Registration** involving nearly 3000 persons from 140 nations representing 355 languages with more than 300 Indigenous youth presenters
- **Coordination** by the Science Diplomacy Center Inc. (SDCI)
- **Hosting** by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in 2023 and FutureEarth in 2024, 2025 and 2026

Registerion Cordially Invited
GIYSCC-2026
(http://bit.ly/44VKQm9)

Further information: https://scidiplo.org/pauls-history-with-science-diplomacy

Contact person: Paul Arthur Berkman pab@scidiplo.org

Global Indigenous Youth Summit on Climate Change

SCIENCE DIPLOMACY CENTER™
EDUCATION ▲ RESEARCH ▲ LEADERSHIP

GLOBAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE (GIYSCC)

"virtual dialogue by, for and among Indigenous youth with global inclusion"

GIYSCC GLOBAL LEADS



DR. TEMITOPE SOGBANMU
Nigeria
GIYSCC-2023



DR. DEVINA LOBINE
Mauritius
GIYSCC-2024



DR. ONJA RAZANAMARO
Madagascar
GIYSCC-2025



DR. JULIANA QUAICOE
Ghana
GIYSCC-2026



GIYSCC-2023



GIYSCC-2024



GIYSCC-2025

Further information: https://scidiplo.org/pauls-history-with-science-diplomacy

Contact person: Paul Arthur Berkman pab@scidiplo.org

european union science diplomacy alliance

DLR Projektträger at a glance

Managing Research, Education & Innovation | Est. 1975 | Bonn · Berlin · Dresden · Brussels

- Independent federal project management agency
- Leading German service provider for the management of funding, research, education & innovation with 47 years of market experience
- 1.505 employees (64 % F / 36 % M)
- 2.01 billion EUR funding managed
- Partners in ~130 countries
- Member of ~430 bodies & networks
- 5 divisions: European and International Cooperation, Education and Gender; Society, Innovation, Technology; Health and Environment and Sustainability
- Core services: Strategy consulting; Designing funding instruments; Analyses, studies and evaluations; Communication; Funding management and IT-Services

Further information: https://projekttraeger.dlr.de/en

Contact person: Tanja Gillmann tanja.gillmann@dlr.de

Department for Cooperation with Africa, Middle East and Türkiye

DLR Projektträger

- Longest-running German actor in structured AU-EU R&I coordination (since CAAST-Net, 2008)
- Three complementary channels of cooperation with African partners
  1. Service contract with Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space of Germany (BMFTR)
  2. Service contract with European Commission, Directorate-General Research and Innovation
  3. Coordination of and participation in EU-funded projects e.g. FP7: ERAFRICA, ESASTAP PLUS; FETRIC; H2020: RINEA, LEAP4FNSSA, MSCAdvocacy; Horizon Europe: LEAP-ENERGY PLUS, CAPA
- Full value-chain capability: strategy → funding design → implementation → MEL → policy uptake
- In-house IT & software for complex multi-funder coordination (e.g., LEAP-Agri 24-funder matrix)
- Thematic depth: STI policy, Food & Nutrition Security, Renewable Energy, Climate Change, Innovation systems, **Science Diplomacy**
- Scale: ~€582 M portfolio, 567 partners, 79 countries – one of the largest bilateral/plurilateral R&I coordination networks in Germany

Further information: https://projekttraeger.dlr.de/en

european union science diplomacy alliance

Selected ongoing Science Diplomacy activities with African partners

DLR Projektträger



AU-EU Science Diplomacy (government-level dialogue)

- Shaping the AU-EU dialogue at ministerial level for BMFTR
  - Contact person: walter.mattauch@dlr.de
- Supporting the AU-EU dialogue at ministerial level for DG RT
  - Contact person: tanja.gillmann@dlr.de

PRIMA (Mediterranean R&I Partnership)

- DLR Projektträger serves as Germany's national contact point for PRI
- National funding advice, call management & implementation and international [illegible] 18+ national agencies
- PRIMA's science diplomacy dimension rests on six qualities: equal footing between all participating states, cross-border cooperation, global ambassador for Mediterranean research, neutral platform for dialogue, capacity building & innovation sharing, promotion of sustainability & stability
- Contact person: stephan.epe@dlr.de

Further information: https://projekttraeger.dlr.de/en

Contact persons: Walter Mattauch, Tanja Gillmann, Stephan Epe

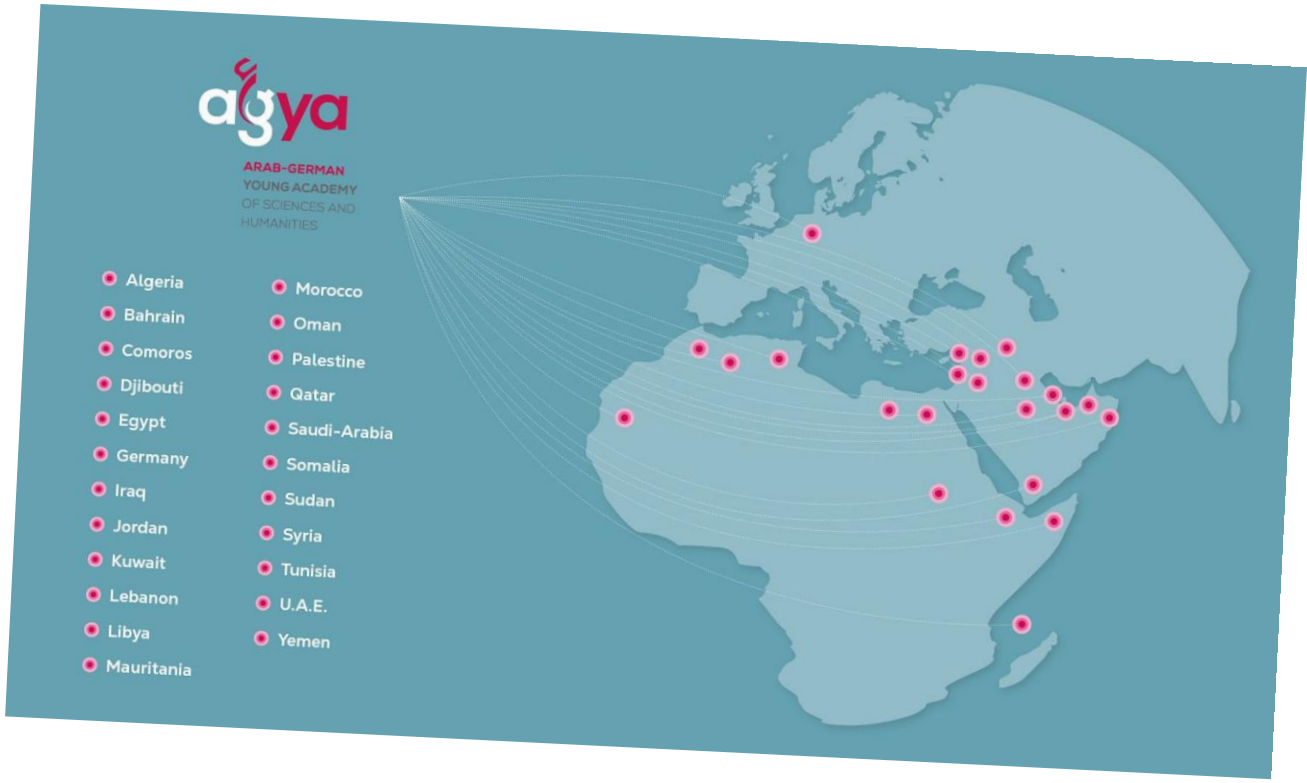
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Selected ongoing Science Diplomacy activities with African partners

DLR Projektträger

AGYA (Arab-German Young Academy)

- First bilateral young academy worldwide (founded 2013)
- Funding joint research of young German & Arab researchers
- Strengthening scientific relations to address societal challenges (incl. migration drivers)
- Translating BMFTR policy objectives into practical implementation



Further information: https://projekttraeger.dlr.de/en

Contact person: Susanne Ruppert-Elias Susanne.Ruppert-Elias@dlr.de

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Selected ongoing Science Diplomacy activities with African partners

DLR Projektträger

ZADE-AI (German-South African AI Cooperation)

- Implemented on behalf of BMFTR
- 5 joint projects on AI & data applications with high social relevance (health, climate, agriculture, energy)
- Increased access to research infrastructure (e.g. data centres)
- Capacity building & promotion of early-career researchers in both countries
- Contact person: walter.mattauch@dlr.de

LEAP-ENERGY PLUS

- Participation in EU-funded project
- LEAP ENERGY+ consolidates 10 years of ad-hoc cooperation (PRE-LEAP-RE, LEAP-RE, LEAP-SE Cofund) into a permanent platform
- Concrete science-diplomacy deliverables in LEAP ENERGY+ include: AU-EU Scientific Advisory Mechanism, 15 institutional twinning agreements, 5+ AU-EU policy dialogues, lessons-learned framework, engagement of 300+ researchers
- Contact person: tanja.gillmann@dlr.de

Further information: https://projekttraeger.dlr.de/en

Contact persons: Walter Mattauch (walter.mattauch@dlr.de, Tanja Gillmann tanja.gillmann@dlr.de

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Tethys
the Euro-Mediterranean University

The Tethys network, a driving force for cooperating with Africa and the Middle East

Tethys is a Euro-Mediterranean university network created in 2000 on the initiative of Aix-Marseille University. It brings together 100 universities from 23 countries around the Mediterranean. The strength of the Tethys network relies on its ability to contribute to the major challenges of the Europe-Africa-Middle East zone.

2026 focus: **“Promoting Mediterranean Cooperation for Inclusion and Diversity.”**

The missions of Tethys

- To build a Euro-Mediterranean area for higher education, research and innovation.
- To encourage collaboration between countries to the north, south and east of the Mediterranean.
- To encourage sharing and exchanges in the areas of student and teacher training, research, sustainable development and cultural exchanges.

Further information: https://tethys.univ-amu.fr/fr

Contact person: tethys@univ-amu.fr

More Inclusive & Sustainable University Governance in the Mediterranean

How can we promote women's access to leadership positions in higher education?
This is the ambition of WE4LEAD, a project aimed at strengthening the skills of academic and administrative staff to transform institutional practices and foster more inclusive leadership. Implemented across **nine higher education institutions in the Mediterranean**, the project also reaches out to any institution committed to promoting sustainable and gender-equal governance.

Working together across both shores of the Mediterranean, academics and researchers have developed a range of practical and complementary tools, including gender-disaggregated data collection and analysis, training programmes, guidelines for creating institutional environments that support gender equality, advocacy resources, and tools to prevent and combat sexual harassment. Grounded in scientific research, **these resources can be adapted and transferred internationally**, helping higher education institutions achieve lasting progress towards fully inclusive governance.

Further information: http://we4lead.ul.edu.lb/index-fr.html

Contact person: we4lead@univ-amu.fr

IMERA : Institute for Advanced Study
Aix Marseille Université

Iméra is a sanctuary of academic freedom, welcoming researchers - scientists and artists - from all disciplinary and geographical backgrounds to its residency program.

Co-founded by Aix Marseille Université, CNRS, Inserm, EHESS, IRD and Sciences Po Aix Iméra offers a residency space to a community of leading international researchers and artists with interdisciplinary projects, for periods ranging from 5 to 10 months, depending on the call for applications.

As a University-Based Institute for Advanced Study, Iméra serves the Aix-Marseille region by fostering interaction between its residents and local research units.

Iméra enjoys **international recognition** as a member of the European network of Institutes of Advanced Study (NetIAS), as well as the international network of University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study (UBIAS).

Further information: https://www.imera.fr/en/

Contact person: Constance Moreteau : constance.MORETEAU@univ-amu.fr

Global South program to promote French-African scientific collaboration

The chair “Pays du Sud” is a programme run by the International Centre for Mathematical Meetings (CIRM) in Marseille, launched in 2024 with the support of the CNRS as part of its multi-year cooperation plan with Africa.

It **aims to strengthen scientific collaboration between France and Africa** by pairing a researcher from an African institution with a duo from a French institution. Over a period of one to two months, the researchers develop a joint research project and organise scientific activities centred on their chosen theme.

The programme thus **promotes the transfer of knowledge, the training of new generations and access to high-level scientific resources**. By bringing together mathematicians from various African countries, France and elsewhere, it creates opportunities for meeting, dialogue and the sharing of expertise. Beyond scientific exchanges, the Chair helps to **build international networks and foster lasting collaborations** between institutions.

Further information: https://www.cirm-math.com/chaire-pays-du-sud-home.html

Contact person: cirm@cirm-math.fr

Master's 2 in Probability, Statistics & Applications to the Living World

amU
Aix Marseille Université

This master's programme **trains students from French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa** in probability, statistics and their applications to the living world.
Run every two years, it has been an **international joint degree programme** between Félix Houphouët-Boigny University (UFHB) and Aix-Marseille University (amU).

- Training and support: teaching in Abidjan from October to March, scholarships for students and three-month work placements, mainly in French university laboratories.
- Scientific cooperation: recruitment across French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa and networking with French research teams.
- Training through research: the aim is to train future lecturer-researchers for Africa; more than half of graduates go on to pursue a PhD.

Further information: https://m2psav.master.edu-math.org

Contact person: PARDOUX Etienne etienne.pardoux@univ-amu.fr

european union science diplomacy alliance

Creation of the European Research Alliance for Sustainable Development (ERASuD)

Launched in Brussels in **2024**, promoting research for sustainable development and international scientific cooperation

12 European research organisations*, with strong institutional links and research partnerships across Africa and the wider Global South.

Coordinated by **IRD** (French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development).

Strategic objectives

- ***Promote equitable partnerships*** : Foster co-creation, shared ownership, inclusion and reciprocity with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- ***Influence European research policy***: Advocate for sustained EU investment, stronger research cooperation and policies informed by scientific evidence.
- ***Address global challenges***: Advance interdisciplinary research on climate, biodiversity, health, food security and inequalities.

Further information: https://en.ird.fr

* IRD and IP (France); IDOS and GIGA (Germany); Polimi (Italy); CSIC (Spain); SEI, Chalmers and KTH (Sweden); Aalto (Finland); DTU (Denmark); NTNU (Norway).

Connecting European research with African priorities

Main activities

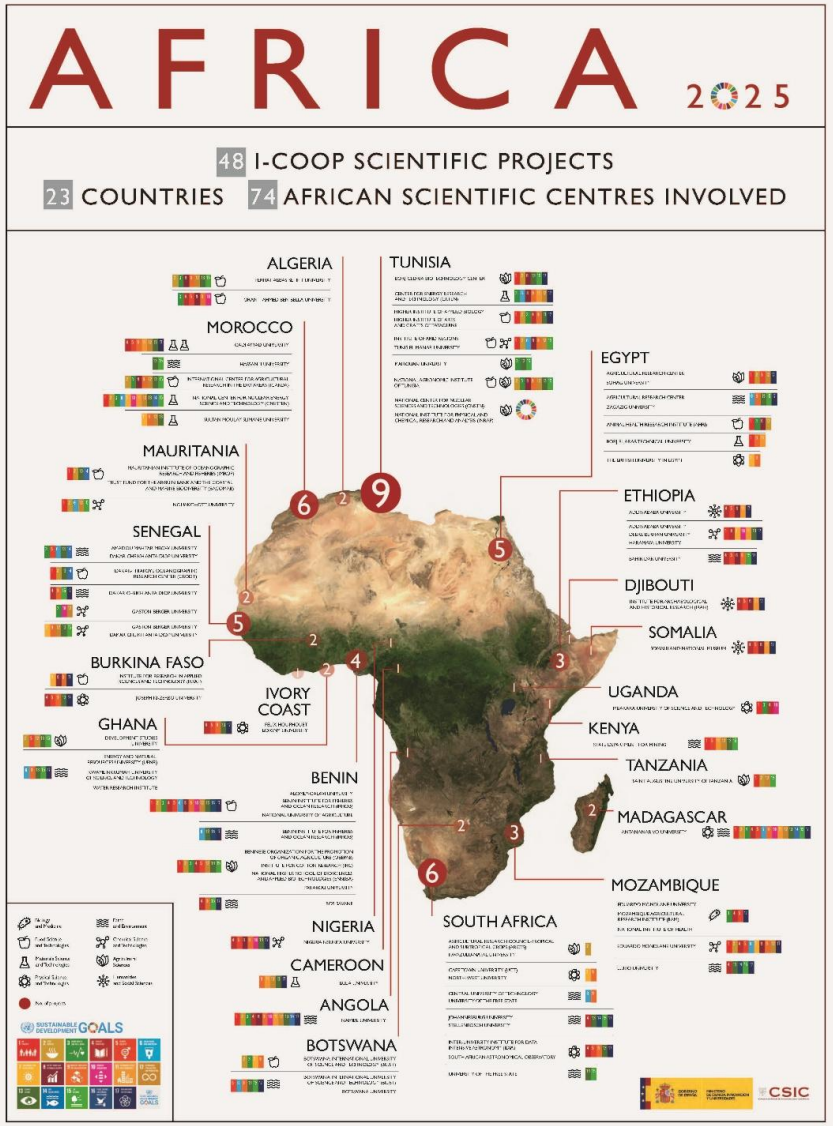
- ***Dialogue and agenda-setting***: Engage African scientific stakeholders to identify shared priorities and promote balanced international cooperation.
  - *Examples: ASDC ERASuD session on 'AU-EU science diplomacy, research partnerships and financing dialogue', AU-EU Innovation agenda*
- ***Policy recommendations***: Advocate for European research policies and funding mechanisms that support equitable partnerships and sustainable development.
  - *Example: The Guild–ERASuD joint response to the proposal for a Regulation establishing the EU funding instrument Global Europe for the period 2028-2034 (2026)*
- ***Research networks and capacity***: Strengthen institutional links, support African scientific leadership and foster knowledge exchange.
  - *Strong ties of ERASuD members with African institutions, fostering mutual learning and knowledge exchange, towards joint initiatives and projects (example: support to the EU funded ARISE programme in partnership with the African Academy of Sciences)*

Further information: https://en.ird.fr

Contact person: CSIC: Isabel Diaz vaic@csic.es; IRD: Jean-Michel Sers jean-michel.sers@ird.fr

Scientific Cooperation with Africa at CSIC

CSIC
CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS



CSIC invests 57% of the International Funds in Scientific cooperation with LMICs. (i-COOP call)

CSIC is top in collaborative HU Projects with Global South, including ERCs

aecid

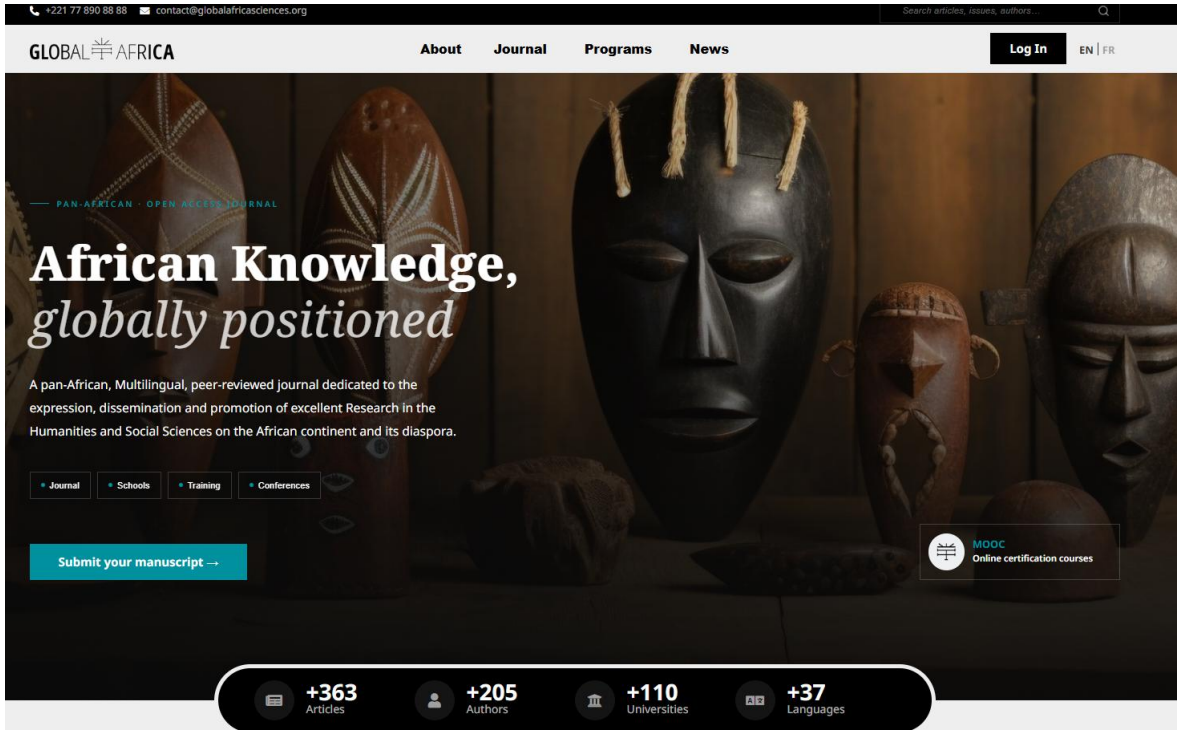
Global Gateway

The African Academy of Sciences



Global Africa: amplifying African research and scientific voices

- An African-led, multilingual, open-access scientific journal and research-strengthening initiative focused on contemporary African societies.
- Co-created by LASPAD / Gaston Berger University (Senegal), IRD (France), International University of Rabat (Morocco) and LASDEL (Niger–Benin).
- Peer-reviewed interdisciplinary publishing; mentoring and methodological workshops for early-career researchers; editorial support and capacity building for African scientific publishing.



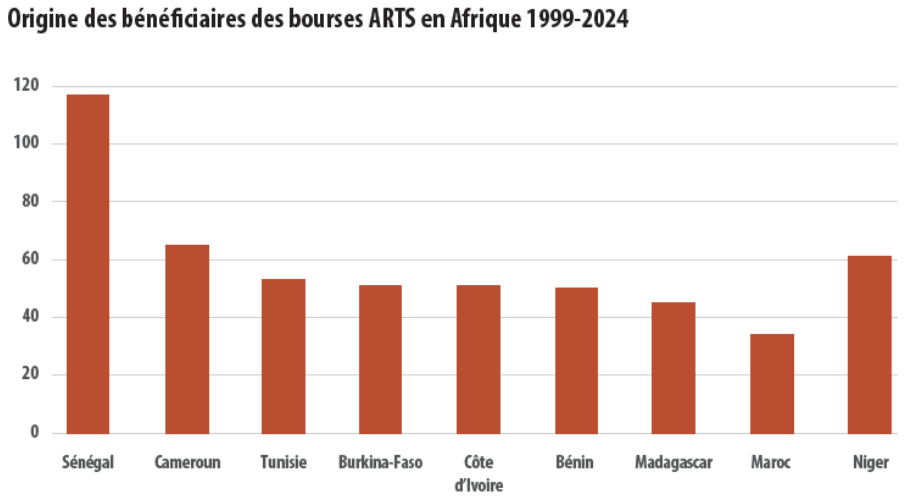
- 11 issues and nearly 100 articles published; research disseminated in African and international languages, including French, English, Arabic, Swahili and Amharic.

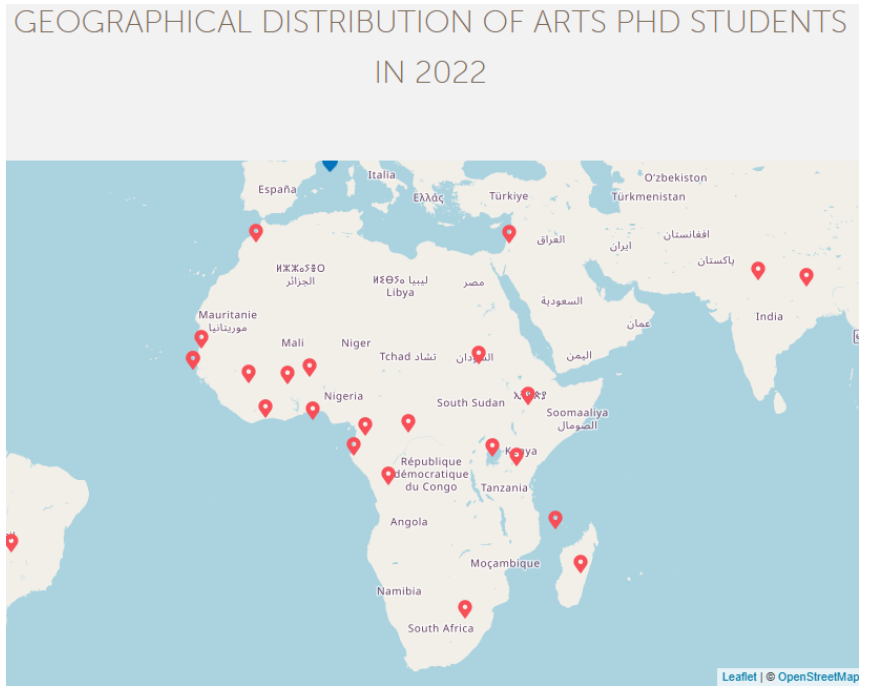
Further information: https://www.globalafricasciences.org/

Contact person: Jean-Michel Sers jean-michel.sers@ird.fr

ARTS: training the next generation of African researchers

- IRD Research Grants for a Thesis in the Global South (ARTS) support doctoral researchers through joint supervision by IRD and a partner laboratory in the Global South.
- Up to 36 months of support; alternating research stays, access to facilities and expertise, professional development and scientific networking.





- 598 doctoral researchers supported between 1999 and 2024: 402 in West and Central Africa (67%), 114 in the Mediterranean region (19%), and 82 in East/Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (14%).

Further information: https://en.ird.fr/programmeARTS

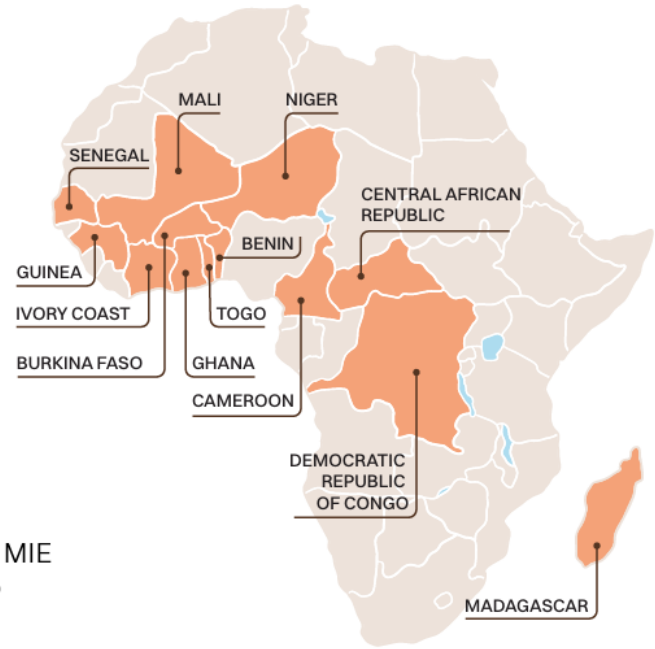
Contact person: Jean-Michel Sers jean-michel.sers@ird.fr

AFROSCREEN: strengthening genomic surveillance in Africa

- Launched in 2021 to strengthen pathogen sequencing, genomic surveillance and epidemic preparedness beyond COVID-19.
- Coordinated by ANRS Emerging Infectious Diseases (Inserm), with Institut Pasteur and IRD; €10 million in funding from the French Development Agency (AFD).
- 25 partners in 13 sub-Saharan African countries; sequencing capacity reinforced across 21 laboratories and 77 sentinel sites supported in 11 countries.
- More than 150 professionals trained in sequencing, bioinformatics and data sharing; approximately 10,000 SARS-CoV-2 sequences contributed to GISAID.

THE AFROSCREEN NETWORK

- 21 laboratories and 8 partner scientific institutions across 13 countries in West Africa, Central Africa and Madagascar
- Collaboration with national health authorities, Africa CDC and WHO
- Coordination by ANRS MIE in partnership with IRD and Institut Pasteur



Africa CDC: Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention; ANRS MIE: ANRS Emerging Infectious Diseases; IRD: French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development; WHO: World Health Organisation.

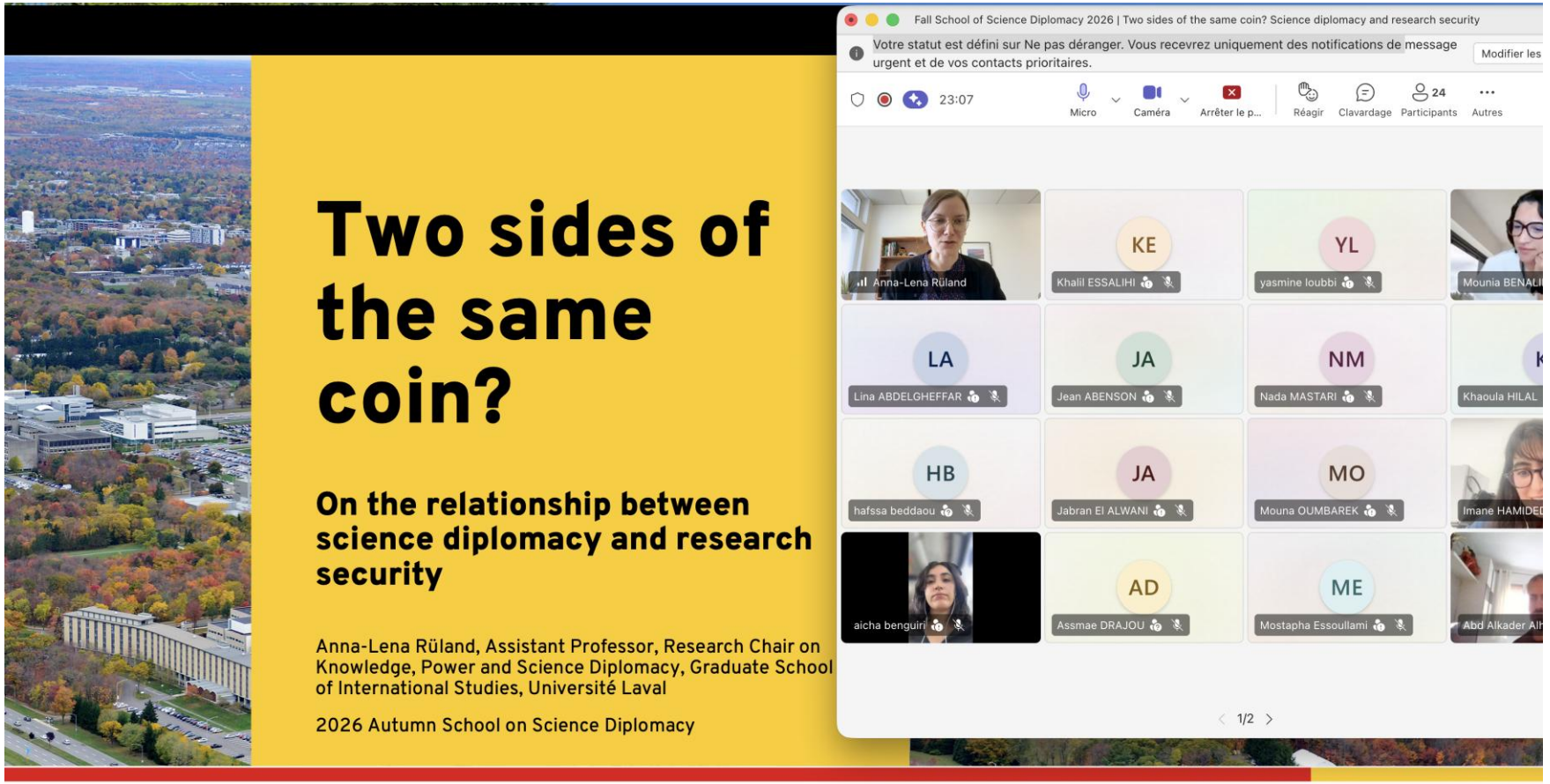
- A regional laboratory network ready to support detection and response to emerging threats such as mpox, influenza, dengue and other epidemic-prone pathogens.

Further information: https://www.afroscreen.org/

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2026 Autumn School on “Science and scientific diplomacy in Africa: Rethinking sovereignty”

UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL
École supérieure d'études internationales



- Organized by IAS UM6P – Institute for Advanced Studies at Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique, Benguerir, Morocco
- Led by Dr. Mounia Benalil
- Bilingual (French/English)
- Anna-Lena Rüland presented conceptual reflections on the relationship between science diplomacy and research security

Further information: https://ias.um6p.ma/science-diplomacy-programme-2026

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Science diplomacy rooted in cooperation with Africa

POLITECNICO MILANO 1863

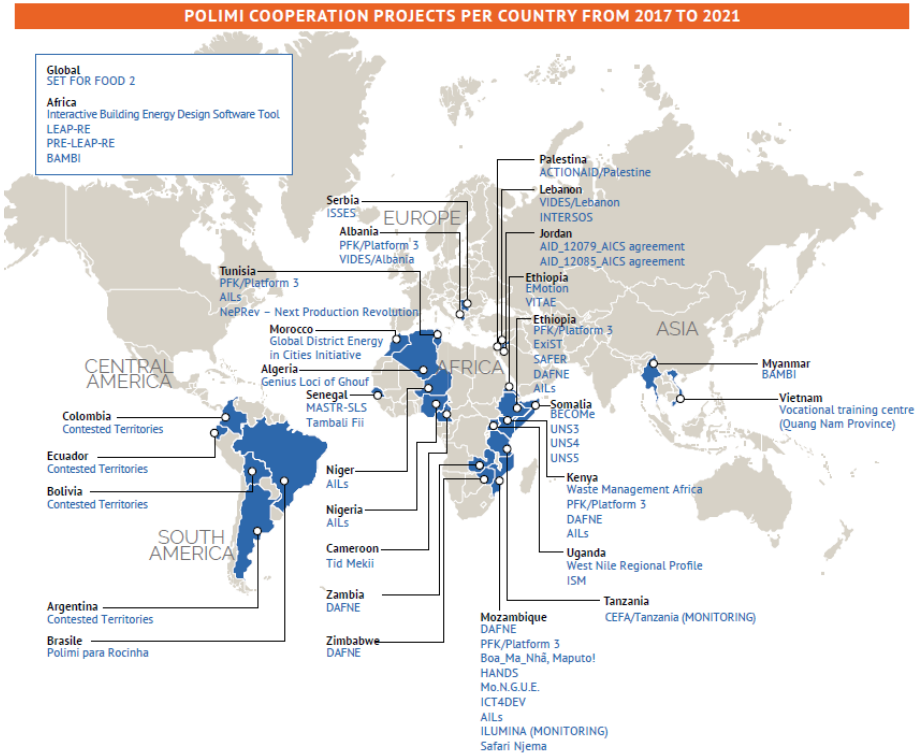
At Politecnico di Milano, science diplomacy in Africa has a long tradition and grew out of development cooperation. Education and research support local development in partner countries and link science with public policy.

Science diplomacy

Science-policy dialogue with intergovernmental organisations, networking for advocacy, and training researchers in science diplomacy.

Development cooperation

Projects for institutional capacity, research for development and local innovation, funded by Horizon Europe, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the Mattei Plan.



In Africa today: AICS projects led by PoliMi in Tunisia, Mozambique and Ghana, and a newly approved Joint STI Campus with Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania and Mauritania.

100
cooperation initiatives

11
departments involved

70%
of initiatives in Africa

100%
of science diplomacy initiatives involve Africa

Further information: https://www.polimi.it/en

Contact person: Emanuela Colombo (Politecnico di Milano) emanuela.colombo@polimi.it

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LEAP-RE: a Horizon project that is much more than R&I

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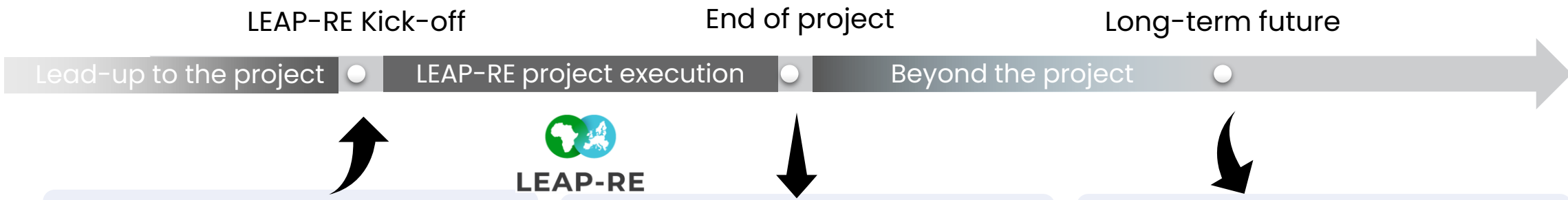
LEAP-RE
Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy

Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Renewable Energy

Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Action (2020–2026) run by more than 80 European and African partners.

Born from policy dialogue

LEAP-RE was promoted within the EU-Africa High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on science, technology and innovation, as a shared commitment of the two unions to act on renewable energy. PoliMi coordinated WP3 and WP13 and took part in WP1,4,5,12.



Diplomacy for science: thanks to EU-AU HLPD and partnership on climate change and sustainable energy (CCSE), an international research and innovation programme on renewable energy was selected.

Science in Diplomacy: development of multi-annual roadmaps (MARs) to inform decision-making at EU/AU level and define future R&I priorities. The elaboration of the methodological approach adopted in LEAP-RE will also be provided as an output.

Science for Diplomacy: the thematic clusters and scientific infrastructures are expected to enable further diplomatic relations between the EU and the AU.

Further information: https://www.leap-re.eu

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Contact person: Emanuela Colombo (Politecnico di Milano) emanuela.colombo@polimi.it

LEAP-ENERGY PLUS: AU-EU science advice for energy

POLITECNICO MILANO 1863

Horizon Europe CSA, 2026–2030. It builds on LEAP-RE and LEAP-SE to turn AU-EU energy research cooperation into a lasting platform. African partners include DSTI and CSIR (South Africa), SACREEE (Namibia), EACREEE (Uganda), IRESEN (Morocco), NM-AIST (Tanzania) and MESRS (Algeria).

A task dedicated to science diplomacy, led by PoliMi with MESRS (Algeria), DSTI (South Africa), DLR and EERA

Task 7.2 · months 1–24 · joint science in/for diplomacy principles

1 Advisory mechanism

Design an AU-EU Scientific Advisory Mechanism for sustainable energy, drawing on the EU SAM and on African bodies such as NASAC.

2 Meta-analysis

Review AU-EU energy research in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe and classify its contribution to science in and for diplomacy.

3 Recommendations

Propose how future AU-EU projects and policy dialogues can build science diplomacy in from the start.

Task 8.2 · months 25–48

Piloting the mechanism

Scientists and diplomats use it to co-develop policy briefs for AU-EU summits, linked to the third AU-EU policy dialogue.

Further information: https://leap-energy.eu

Contact person: Emanuela Colombo and Diana Shendrikova (PoliMi) diana.shendrikova@polimi.it

european union science diplomacy alliance

AMBITION: PhD ambassadors for the sustainable transition – PoliMi led

AMBassadors for sustainable transITION. Erasmus+ cooperation partnership coordinated by PoliMi and the first joint EU-AU project of the IDEA League. Its Joint Honours Programme (Sep 2023 – Sep 2026) trained PhD students to bring research evidence into policy-making in Europe and Africa.

28	PhD ambassadors, 4 per university
7	universities from Europe and Africa, plus 1 NGO
3	Sustainable Innovation Schools, two in Nairobi
1	network of Ambassadors for Sustainable Transition

What the ambassadors did

- Schools hosted by Strathmore University in Nairobi (Nov 2023) and TU Delft (May 2024)
- Evidence-based policy briefs drafted jointly by the PhD candidates
- Web series
- Game-based lessons on global development, taught in local high schools



African partners

KNUST (Ghana), Strathmore University (Kenya), Green Growth Africa Sustainability Network (Nigeria, NGO)

European partners

Politecnico di Milano (coordinator), Chalmers, ETH Zurich, RWTH Aachen, TU Delft

Further information: https://www.phdambition.org

Contact person: Emanuela Colombo and Diana Shendrikova (PoliMi) diana.shendrikova@polimi.it

A national science diplomacy agenda for Italy, open to Africa

Nine Italian institutions are preparing a joint position on how Italy can apply the EU Council Recommendation on science diplomacy (29 May 2026): CNR, Politecnico di Milano, the Universities of Turin, Trieste and Padua, INCE, CASD, TWAS and SiDnet.

Two preparatory working tables, Chatham House rule

20

EU Member States already have a chief science adviser, a science envoy or a foreign-ministry unit. Italy does not yet.

Science impacting diplomacy

Evidence and advice for foreign policy, multilateral negotiations, trust-building

Diplomacy impacting science

Research cooperation and mobility, research security, infrastructures

10 November 2026

Joint document on UNESCO World Science Day for Peace and Development

The Africa perspective PoliMi brings to the working tables

- The Recommendation asks Member States for roadmaps with geographic priorities. PoliMi argues for Africa, in line with the Mattei Plan and the priority countries of Italian development cooperation.
- The draft calls for fairer partnerships with scientifically emerging countries that value local knowledge and reduce asymmetries.

Further information: joint document to be presented on 10 November 2026

Contact person: Emanuela Colombo (Politecnico di Milano) emanuela.colombo@polimi.it

Our ongoing projects in Africa

UNITÉ DE SANTÉ INTERNATIONALE
ÉCOLE DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

USI

Université de Montréal

Strengthening Human Resources and Health :
Pedagogy applied to health sciences
in partnership with Mohammed VI Foundation and affiliated universities

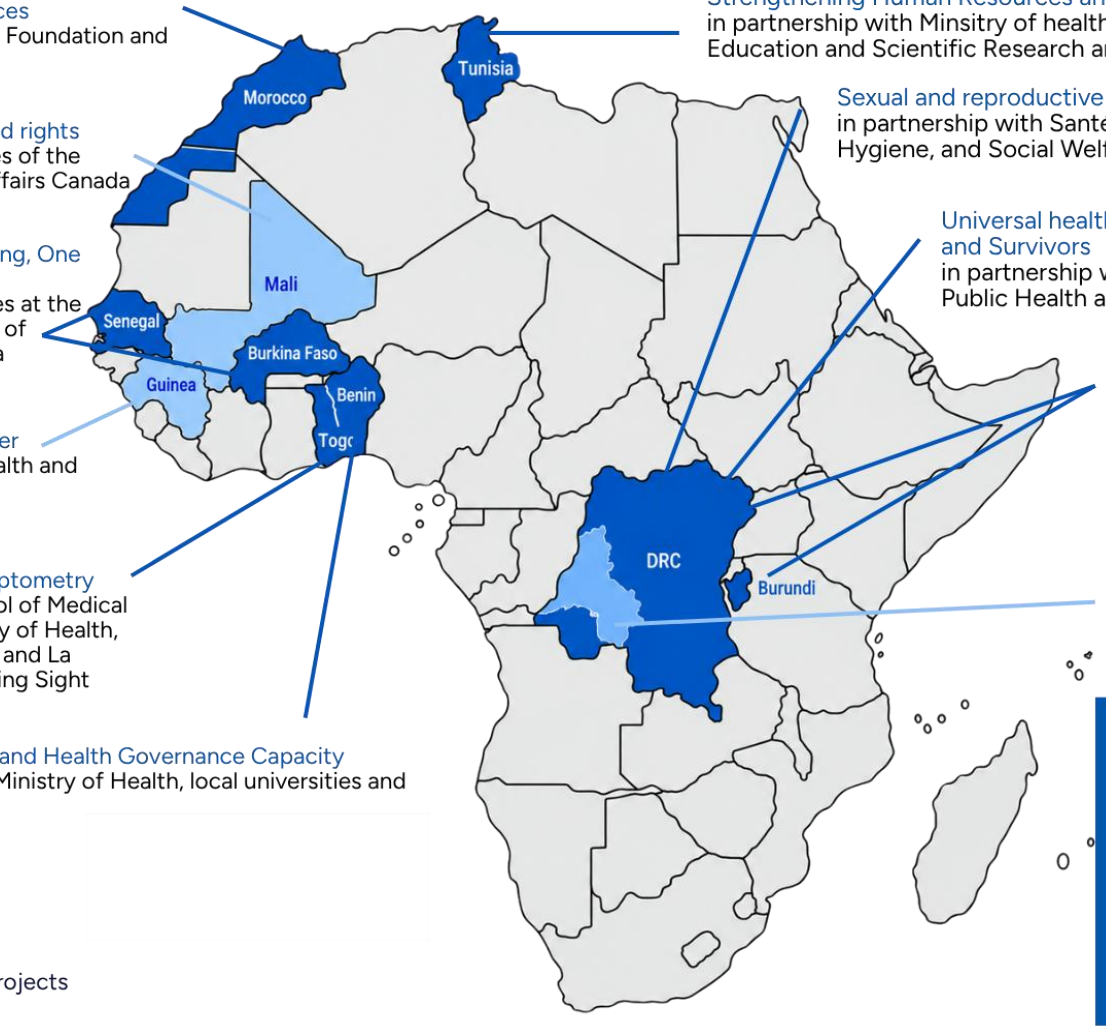
Sexual and reproductive health and rights
in partnership with CECI, ministries of the Government of Mali and Global Affairs Canada

Community-based capacity building, One Health approach
in partnership with several faculties at the Université de Montréal, University of Guelph, and Global Affairs Canada

Capacity building of hospital center
in partnership with Ministry of Health and Netsen Group

Strengthening Health Systems, Optometry
in partnership with National School of Medical Assistants in Lomé, Togo's Ministry of Health, Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie and Optometry Giving Sight

Strengthening Human Resources and Health Governance Capacity
in partnership with Care Canada, Ministry of Health, local universities and Global Affairs Canada



Ongoing projects

Recently completed projects

Strengthening Human Resources and Health
in partnership with Minsitry of health, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Besrour Foundation

Sexual and reproductive health and rights
in partnership with Santé Monde and Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene, and Social Welfare and Global Affairs Canada

Universal health coverage and Health of Women, Girls, and Survivors
in partnership with Panzi Foundation, National Institute of Public Health and Marcelle and Jean Coutu Foundation

Sexual and reproductive health and rights
in partnership with Panzi Foundation, the Hygeia Observatory, Lawyers Without Borders Canada, Global Strategies and Global Affairs Canada

Capacity-building of hospital center and paramedical reform
in partnership with Ministry of Health, Education, University of Brazzaville, and Global Affairs Canada

Affiliated with the School of Public Health of the Université de Montréal (ESPUM), the USI develops and implements transformative and inclusive projects that address complex global health challenges, in close partnership with an extensive network of ministries of health and education, universities, health organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs).

Further information: usi.umontreal.ca

Contact person: Karina.dubois-nguyen@umontreal.ca

european union science diplomacy alliance

Africa-Europe Youth Academy (AEYA) links young leaders across Africa and Europe

Programme: An EU-funded initiative under the Global Gateway and Youth Action Plan that strengthens youth leadership and supports sustainable development projects across **20 sub-Saharan African countries**.

Duration and budget: 48 months and a **€15 million budget.** Expertise France is the lead **Implementing partner**: Expertise France (EF) and the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

Challenges addressed: Limited access to education, young people's underrepresentation in decision-making, and gender inequality.

Objectives: Enable young people to act as leaders and multipliers in their communities supporting and implementing sustainable development projects. AEYA contributes to SDGs 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17.

Further information: CISAO project page | EU AEYA profile | UniTO HUB on Science Diplomacy

Contact person: Cristiana Peano (UniTo AEYA scientific lead) – cristiana.peano@unito.it

UniTo and the partnership built through co-design

- **UniTo contribution:** Through **CISAO**, UniTO **coordinates** the activities (New Leaders Lab, Hackathon and AEYA Learning Platform) in five countries, contributing in co-design online and local training.

- **Co-construction in practice:** Focus groups and Training Needs Assessments to tailor the trainings according to local context

- **Partner universities:** Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo (Burkina Faso), Université Abdou Moumouni (Niger), University of Zambia (Zambia), Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Malawi), and Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (Mozambique).

- **Local ownership:** Partner universities deliver contextualised training playing a central role in managing local training courses.

Further information: CISAO project page | EU AEYA profile | UniTO HUB on Science Diplomacy

Contact person: Cristiana Peano (UniTo AEYA scientific lead) – cristiana.peano@unito.it

Project activities

Strengthening local capacities in leadership and sustainable development

New Leaders Lab (NLL): 90-120 h of interactive training, to strenght youth leadership and sustainability skills, tailored to local context and needs. Three cycles per country, with 20-30 young people per cohort.

Hackathon: five intensive days to co-create project ideas, addressing local challenges and competing to win a prize (1’500€, 1°; 1’000€, 2°; 500€, 3°).

Online learning across 20 countries

Online Platform: create a specific learning section for AEYA on Start@UniTO. It will be composed by six online modules on sustainable development topic.

- Six modules: CLIMATE CHANGE, GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

Further information: AICS New Leaders Lab | EU AEYA profile

Contact person: Cristiana Peano (UniTo AEYA scientific lead) – cristiana.peano@unito.it

Strengthening African-Italian Museum Partnerships



Project: a three-year initiative (April 2025–April 2028), funded by Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

Cooperation: UniTo coordinates the partnership under the scientific leadership of Prof. Cecilia Pennacini, working with African and Italian museums and universities. The partnerships is led by the University of Turin, and brings together the University of Milan, the MUCIV-Museo delle Civiltà in Rome and the Centro Conservazione e Restauro "La Venaria Reale".

Focus: joint research on African collections, professional training, conservation and cataloguing, alongside the development of a shared digital platform to improve access to cultural heritage. The collaboration with source and diaspora communities is central to SAIMP approach. SAIMP contributes to science diplomacy by strengthening institutional relationships and creating opportunities for knowledge exchange and intercultural dialogue between Africa and Italy.

UNIVERSITÀ DI TORINO

UNITO HUB ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

SAIMP
Strengthening African - Italian Museum Partnerships

Further information: UniTO HUB on Science Diplomacy

Contact person: Cecilila Pennacini, Scientific Coordinator (UniTo) cecilia.pennacini@unito.it

european union science diplomacy alliance

A network of African and Italian museums

African museums: Uganda Museum; Ethnological Museum of Addis Ababa University; National Museum of Ethiopia; Musée National de Lubumbashi, RDC

Italian museums: MUCIV-Museo delle Civiltà; Musei Reali di Torino; Residenze Reali Sabaude; UniTo's Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (MAET)

University links: Addis Ababa University, Makerere University and the University of Lubumbashi work alongside UniTo and the University of Milan.

The network develops shared approaches to researching, conserving and presenting museum collections.

UNIVERSITÀ DI TORINO

UNITO HUB ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

SAIMP
Strengthening African - Italian Museum Partnerships

Further information: UniTO HUB on Science Diplomacy

Contact person: Cecilila Pennacini, Scientific Coordinator (UniTo) cecilia.pennacini@unito.it

european union science diplomacy alliance

Museum training and collection access

Museum training and conservation

1. September 2025: workshop in Addis Ababa on African heritage in a global perspective. Museological Research, Legal Framework and Ethical considerations
2. March 2026: workshop in Rome and Venaria on cataloguing, digitisation, provenance and participatory research
3. October 2026: Erasmus Plus module in Addis Ababa on «Museum practices and Exhibition Design»

Shared catalogues and digital access

Collection documentation: Partners are developing inventories, digital catalogues and a shared platform with object records, images and documents.

Public access: These resources aim to support research and wider access for museums, local communities and diaspora.

Further information: UniTO HUB on Science Diplomacy

Contact person: Cecilila Pennacini, Scientific Coordinator (UniTo) cecilia.pennacini@unito.it