

Work Programme n°9

July 2026 – June 2027

Chaired by Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) and Aarhus
Universitet, School of Culture and Society

Co-Chairs: Maria Rentetzi and Casper Andersen

Guiding theme: Consolidating the Alliance as a global platform for science diplomacy

The past year has been marked by increasing recognition of science diplomacy as a strategic instrument for addressing global challenges. The adoption of the Council Recommendation on a European Union Framework for Science Diplomacy and the growing engagement of international organisations, research institutions, and diplomatic actors have created new opportunities for strengthening cooperation between science and foreign policy. In this context, the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance is well positioned to contribute to the implementation of the Framework, while expanding its role as a platform for dialogue, networking, and capacity building. Building on the achievements of previous chairmanships, the Alliance will continue to strengthen its institutional foundations, increase its visibility, and deepen engagement with partners beyond Europe.

To this end, the 2026–2027 Work Programme will focus on three strategic priorities: 1. supporting the implementation of the EU Framework for Science Diplomacy, 2. strengthening the institutional foundations of the Alliance, and 3. expanding global engagement, particularly with African and Global South partners.

Priority 1: supporting the implementation of the EU Framework for Science Diplomacy

A) *Supporting mechanisms*

What? Contribute to discussions, consultations, and activities related to the implementation of the European Framework for Science Diplomacy and support the dissemination of its principles among Alliance members and external stakeholders. Support especially the 3rd European Science Diplomacy Conference in Athens in 2027.

Who? Co-Chairs + Alliance Members + Thematic Entry Points

When? July 2026 – June 2027

B) *Promoting the Alliance through strategic events and partnerships*

What? Support and promote Alliance activities through participation in international events, workshops, and conferences; strengthen cooperation with European and international partners; joining forces with other Alliances, increase the visibility of Alliance initiatives and achievements.

Who? Co-Chairs + Secretariat + interested Alliance Members

When? July 2026 – June 2027

C) ***Strengthening member engagement through networking activities and thematic entry points***

What? Organise thematic coffee chats and other networking activities to facilitate exchanges among members, share project outcomes, and encourage participation in Alliance initiatives.

Who? Co-Chairs + Secretariat + Alliance Members

When? July 2026 – June 2027

Priority 2: Strengthening the institutional foundations of the Alliance

Advancing the establishment of a legal entity

What? Continue work towards establishing the Alliance as a legal entity and assess governance models that support long-term sustainability, visibility, and access to funding opportunities.

Who? Co-Chairs + Legal Entity Task Force + interested Alliance Members

When? July 2026 – June 2027

Priority 3: Expanding global engagement and strengthening cooperation with Africa

A) ***Follow-up to the first meeting with African partners in Brussels***

What? Facilitate follow-up discussions with African partners and identify opportunities for joint activities and policy dialogue.

Who? Co-Chairs + African partners + interested Alliance Members + TEP on SD and the Global South

When? July 2026 – June 2027

B) ***Preparing the Aarhus Science Diplomacy Event in 2027***

What? Prepare a major science diplomacy event to be held in Aarhus in Spring 2027.

Who? Co-Chairs + Aarhus University + Secretariat + partner organisations

When? September 2026 – Spring 2027