



Draft Work Programme n°4

July-December 2022

Guiding theme: “Empowering Science Diplomacy”

Chaired by: UNTRAD (VUB and UNU-CRIS)

1. Priority: Continue to empower the governing function and structural organization of the Alliance

Since its inception, the Alliance has taken impressive strides towards ensuring science diplomacy remains firmly on the EU agenda. Continuing this is a key priority, to be met by introducing new working groups on emerging topics of relevance, bolstering existing ones, and raising the visibility of the Alliance.

Moreover, the work conducted by the Alliance hitherto is remarkable given it operates on a volunteer basis with no budget. However, it is assumed that if the Alliance were to obtain a legal personality, an operating budget, and a secretariat dedicated to its functioning, the objective of advancing the role of science diplomacy in the EU would be even more successful. Thus, another priority regarding the empowerment of the Alliance will be to look into establishing these official parameters.

What?	Who?	When?
Investigate the feasibility of setting up a legal personality for the Alliance	UNTRAD and any other volunteers – this would constitute a new working group that presents an assessment to the General Assembly for a vote	As soon as possible. UNTRAD will map interested members over the summer and aim to chair the first working group at the end of August / start of September
Support the functioning of the Alliance by raising money via (i) sponsoring and (ii) installing a fee structure	Members of the aforementioned working group to start, then moving on to the Alliance as a whole	As above, UNTRAD will take note of interested participants during the summer and convene a meeting at summer’s end
Subject to the success of the two prior actions, investigate the establishment of a secretariat to support the Alliance’s work	Members of the aforementioned working group, along with potential sponsors	Depends upon the timeline of the two actions above

Bolstering existing working groups and creating new ones, such as a WG for administrative and budgetary questions and one for SD and authoritarian states	UNTRAD and any other volunteers with a vested interest in existing or new working groups	Throughout
Mapping of potential new members of the Alliance	UNTRAD, drawing upon the suggestions of all members	Throughout
Continue to raise the visibility of the Alliance through social media, networking, and events.	UNTRAD with the help of all Alliance members	Throughout

2. Priority: Empowering academia in the field of science diplomacy

While science diplomacy has increasingly become a buzzword amongst policy makers, it has yet to infiltrate academic discourse on a wide scale. This can be because science diplomacy has yet to acquire strong theoretical roots, and also because the potential that academic institutions hold as science diplomacy actors is underappreciated. Thus, the second priority will be to empower universities as science diplomacy agents, highlight the role HEIs can play as stewards of the global commons of knowledge, and to continue expanding the theoretical conceptualisations of science diplomacy.

What?	Who?	When?
Organize an awareness and capacity building exercise on science diplomacy in universities	UNTRAD with the EUTOPIA Alliance (subject to funding)	After the summer
Establish an informal platform to discuss research results and needs	All interested members of the Alliance	After the summer
Side event at the UNGA in NYC: Science Diplomacy and the Global Commons of Knowledge	UNTRAD and others (tbc)	September
Conference at the VUB in Brussels: "Thinking, debating and shaping Science Diplomacy as a Practice and a Field of Studies"	UNTRAD, UiT (Norway-EU Science Diplomacy Network) and other members of the Alliance that wish to contribute	December