



## POLICY BRIEF

# STRENGTHENING SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN AND FOR EUROPE THROUGH HORIZON EUROPE

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# Executive Summary

The European Union Science Diplomacy Alliance ([www.science-diplomacy.eu](http://www.science-diplomacy.eu)) presents this policy brief as a contribution to the ongoing discussion on future research requirements in the final work programme of Horizon Europe 2025-2027. When reflecting on research needs to support development of science diplomacy as a tool for Europe, it is important to acknowledge certain diverse challenges: the heterogeneity of functions attributed to science diplomacy; the normative or moral implications associated with the concept; the need to reconcile science diplomacy's adherence to Open Science with growing calls for technological sovereignty; and, finally, the limited anchoring today of science diplomacy in universities, research centers and diplomatic bodies.

Given the current state of science diplomacy in the EU and the evolving geopolitical situation, three interrelated strategic goals could be selected to orient actions supported by Horizon Europe:

- **Safeguard and promote European principles and values of research** –as open as possible, respecting research freedom, integrity, and gender equality; as closed as necessary.<sup>1</sup>
- **Deploy scientific cooperation in 'the European neighborhood'**, with consideration to countries that neighbor the EU as well as the neighbors of the neighbors.
- **Mobilize science and diplomacy for the global commons** and for tackling the challenges of climate change, pandemic, digital transition, and green transition.

To address these strategic goals and develop and sustain science diplomacy within the EU, we propose that Horizon Europe can support research under two priorities, broken down into the following actions.

## **Priority 1 - To strengthen science diplomacy in Europe:**

1. Launch a Coordination and Support Action for science diplomacy.
2. Create a European Science Diplomacy Platform.
3. Build capacity for science diplomacy studies in both European Higher Education Institutions and diplomatic bodies, and train the practitioners.
4. Create a Horizon Europe work programme on Science Diplomacy Studies and Practices.

## **Priority 2 - To foster EU regional science diplomacy:**

1. Foster regional studies in science diplomacy.
2. Enhance EU neighborhood studies.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8824-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

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3. Establish linkages between science diplomacy and other forms of hybrid diplomacy.

Regarding the third strategic goal, mobilizing science diplomacy for the global commons, we have indicated broader domains likely to benefit in the short term from the targeted actions that can be supported by Horizon Europe:

1. Join forces in tackling the climate crisis and promoting a just energy transition and global action.
2. Strengthen ties with like-minded countries all over the world to build up common front in addressing global challenges.
3. Use science diplomacy as an instrument of continuous dialogue with relevant geopolitical actors.

Funded initiatives should enable transdisciplinary linkages between the academic community interested in science diplomacy and the policy-makers, practitioners, and diplomats who deploy and give space to science and scientific advice in and through their professional activities.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The European Union Science Diplomacy Alliance<sup>2</sup> (EU SD Alliance) presents this policy brief as a contribution to the ongoing discussion on future research requirements in the final work programme of Horizon Europe 2025-2027. The brief provides recommendations on areas to be prioritized by the EU and its Member States. It proposes the establishment of a research program aimed at developing science diplomacy capabilities in and for Europe and focuses upon three strategic domains: promotion of European research values and principles; engagement with the European neighbors and partner countries in line with the Global Approach on Research and Innovation; and mobilization of science towards tackling global challenges, which require humanity to operate together on a planetary scale in the short to long term. Additionally, the work programme should directly address certain opportunities or barriers related to the development of science diplomacy capabilities in and for Europe.

### **Background: Call for an EU-coordinated approach to science diplomacy**

The European External Action Service has traced<sup>3</sup> and acknowledged the short history since 2012 of science diplomacy developments at European level. Recently, the European Commission's Communication on a Global Approach to Research and Innovation<sup>4</sup> (18 May 2021) makes brief mention of science diplomacy. A growing operational focus on this tool is manifest in the Council of the European Union's Conclusions on the Global Approach<sup>5</sup> (28 September 2021) in which the Commission and the European External Action Service are called upon to develop a European science diplomacy agenda, and also to articulate the governance of international research and innovation relations in the European Research Area (ERA). Significantly, the first biennial report from the Commission on the implementation of the Global Approach<sup>6</sup> (29 June 2023) includes extensive reflection on the effective and the desirable integration of science diplomacy. It

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<sup>2</sup> The European Union Science Diplomacy Alliance (EU SD Alliance) is a collaborative initiative launched in 2021 by the Horizon 2020 science diplomacy study projects S4D4C, InsSciDE and EL-CSID to sustain and grow the networks, impact and momentum consolidated by the three projects. It aims to further develop, maintain, and organise regular exchanges, joint research projects, policy advice, capacity building, and training activities on the topic of science diplomacy. As of February 2024 the Alliance counts 35 institutional Members and Global Networking Partners, as well as Advisory Partners. <https://www.science-diplomacy.eu>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/science-diplomacy-eu-level\\_en/](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/science-diplomacy-eu-level_en/)

<sup>4</sup> COM (2021) 252 final; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2021:252:FIN>

<sup>5</sup> 12301/21; <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12301-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

<sup>6</sup> COM/2023/356 final; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0356>

acknowledges the continuing pertinence of the Van Langenhove (2017) report<sup>7</sup> conclusions, that science diplomacy efforts of the EU Member States remain largely uncoordinated, lacking synergies and an EU-wide approach. It reemphasizes that science diplomacy in the present geopolitical context has gained importance and that the absence of an EU coordinated policy creates vulnerabilities when other international actors are using science diplomacy in a much more targeted manner. On 28 July 2023, the research ministers of the European Union discussed science diplomacy for the first time at ministerial level. They gave impetus to the ongoing active development by the Commission and the EEAS, with the support of the ERA Forum and in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, of a framework for European science diplomacy.<sup>8</sup> The first European Science Diplomacy Conference (Madrid, 18-19 December 2023) gathered a diversity of panelists and stakeholders to examine progress towards “a European approach” and the directions in which it should be reinforced; outcomes are published.<sup>9</sup> In the first semester of 2024, five informal Working Groups<sup>10</sup> each composed of 25-30 relevant experts from science and diplomatic communities will co-construct potential elements for a future European framework.

The EU SD Alliance finds in this dynamic a stimulus to detail concrete proposals for how the Horizon Europe work programme can develop and promote European capacity to use the tools of science diplomacy.

## 2 FRAMING SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: CHALLENGES FOR THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL DEVELOPMENT

Science diplomacy is identified as an important strategic and tactical tool in international relations and science policy, in Europe and many other regions abroad. When reflecting on research needs to support development of the tools for Europe, it is important to acknowledge certain very diverse challenges.

A first challenge may lie in the heterogeneity of functions represented by science diplomacy in the view of different stakeholders. Science diplomacy has become a container concept that includes: the mobilization of diplomacy for science; the use of science and scientific cooperation as an instrument supporting foreign policies; the use of diplomatic tools for bringing scientific results to policy makers, or for defending the values of science against those who attack science or misuse it in the context of fake news; and myriad other applications. At the same time, science diplomacy is deployed for hybrid diplomacy to advance the objectives of supra-

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<sup>7</sup> Tools for an EU Science Diplomacy, Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2017. <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/e668f8cf-e395-11e6-ad7c-01aa75ed71a1>

<sup>8</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/science-diplomacy\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/science-diplomacy_en)

<sup>9</sup> <https://eu-science-diplomacy.service-facility.eu/en/outcome>

<sup>10</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/launch-eu-science-diplomacy-working-groups-results-call-expressions-interest-published-2023-12-06\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/launch-eu-science-diplomacy-working-groups-results-call-expressions-interest-published-2023-12-06_en)

national regions, sub-national regions, cities, and last but not least it is leveraged by global institutions.

A second challenge pertains to the normative or moral implications associated with the concept. Science diplomacy is understood by the Commission as “the direct or indirect use of science, scientific evidence and scientific cooperation to advance diplomatic goals.”<sup>11</sup> However, a plethora of other definitions or goal statements exist. For example, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Center for Science Diplomacy was founded “with the overarching goal of using science and scientific cooperation to promote international understanding and prosperity.”<sup>12</sup> This view, echoing the premises of scientific internationalism formulated in the late 19th century, relies on the image of scientists as uniquely qualified to build bridges because they speak a universal language of science and are driven by the same (western) values of objectivity and empiricism. In this case it could be observed that selecting this as the primary framing of science diplomacy may not align with aspirations to respect and interact effectively with the diversity of values and practices that may be found in the extended European neighborhood. Similarly, limiting focus to an instrumental partnership between scientists and foreign relations actors in the interests of peace may be inadequate support for short-term actions to meet global challenges, or may naïvely ignore other *de facto* uses of science diplomacy to advance goals of competition or rivalry.

The global geopolitical situation is wracked by war, dissensus regarding collaboration with political, cultural or commercial rivals, and division on political values even within nations or regions. In this context, a third challenge is how to reconcile the (often implicit) adherence of science diplomacy to the Open Science movement with the growing calls for technological sovereignty, the fear of espionage, and the use of sanctions that limit international collaboration.

A fourth challenge stands in the fact that despite the enthusiasm for science diplomacy in academic circles and amongst policy-makers, science diplomacy research and practice is not yet well anchored in universities, research centers, and interface institutions and diplomatic bodies. This means that parallel developments may take place without benefiting from synergy or consolidation. Insufficient anchoring also may limit both resources for competence building among specialists of international affairs, and the constitution of a pool of science actors whom states could rapidly and confidently mobilize for involvement in science diplomacy.

Given our focus on Horizon Europe, the latter point may be developed in more detail. Several EU Member States have in recent years engaged in science diplomacy activities. But as observed above, there has been little or no coordination of the national initiatives, and there have been few attempts to anchor science diplomacy studies in higher education institutions (HEI). The EU

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<sup>11</sup> *Ob cit*: COM/2023/356 final

<sup>12</sup> Alan Leshner in testimony before the Committee on Science and Technology, United States House of Representatives, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress (July 2008).  
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-110hhr43350/html/CHRG-110hhr43350.htm>

SD Alliance sees one central issue to be the lack of absorption capacity in Europe for science diplomacy projects within both research-performing organizations and diplomatic corps. With only a few research centers focused on science diplomacy study or engagement, the scientific community has insufficient knowledge of science diplomacy roles across disciplines, there is low knowledge and discussion among the diplomatic community, and there are few interface organizations bringing together both communities. Moreover, at academic level, there are hardly any bridges between International Relations Studies, Diplomacy Studies and Science and Society Studies. As a result, the shared knowledge of science diplomacy practice is less than could be expected. There is both little evaluative research on the impact of science diplomacy initiatives, and little effective dialogue and common understanding among the research and diplomatic communities that might lead to opportunities for state-level coordination. These basic insufficiencies co-exist with a proliferation of practices that are labeled science diplomacy. At this juncture, it would be urgent that the scholars and practitioners active in science diplomacy be empowered to constitute a recognizable epistemic community.<sup>13</sup> This community should moreover take the measure of multilingualism, in Europe and across the globe, as science diplomacy theory and practice are developing in parallel in different linguistic communities. Turning to European instruments of solution, this overall situation would call for investment in both Research and Innovation Actions (RIAs) and Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) in order to facilitate dialogue and exchange between academics, policymakers and diplomatic corps.

### **3 STRATEGIC GOALS OF EUROPEAN SCIENCE DIPLOMACY**

The EU SD Alliance proposes that science diplomacy, in all its forms, should be seen as a means to achieve specific strategic objectives rather than as an end goal in itself. These objectives may be related to the science system, the diplomatic system, or any other policy domain that incorporates both science and diplomacy. As the actors of the European Union advance on the path of creating a shared European science diplomacy framework aimed at developing and deploying capacity, the Alliance observes the value of Horizon Europe to provide resources for supportive actions. These can forward defined strategies for RTD, or more broadly to foster peace and security. Such actions can be combined with instruments to build awareness and capacity for science diplomacy at the level of scientific communities, ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Research and Higher Education, and other policy bodies both at the level of Member States and at the level of the EU. In all, they should contribute to forming indeed a European science diplomacy that is more than the sum of its Member States' parts.

Respecting the various Council and Commission communications referenced above, and based upon our assessment of both the current state of science diplomacy in the EU and the changing geopolitical situation, we propose that the

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<sup>13</sup> The European Union Science Diplomacy Alliance itself is a mindful attempt to form and consolidate such a community, and is moreover taking steps to become a legal entity.

upcoming Horizon Europe work programme could usefully select three interrelated strategic goals:

- Safeguard the European principles and values of research.
- Deploy scientific cooperation in 'the European neighborhood' and countries that neighbor the EU as well as the neighbors of the neighbors.
- Mobilize science diplomacy for the global commons and for tackling the challenges of climate change, pandemics, digital transition, green transition.

## **4 PROPOSED PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY FOR HORIZON EUROPE**

In light of the foregoing, the EU SD Alliance proposes two priorities and associated actions that can be addressed by Horizon Europe. Their implementation through the research and development programme can contribute to developing and sustaining science diplomacy in support of larger EU aims.

Our proposals reflect our conviction that any European initiative to develop science diplomacy should incorporate the strengthening of the capacity of Higher Education Institutions and research-performing organizations, through establishing theoretical and practical science diplomacy studies, building an interdisciplinary know-how database and transdisciplinary networks.

Moreover, the EU initiatives should construct and reinforce linkages between the academic community interested in science diplomacy and the policy-makers, practitioners, and diplomats who deploy and make space for science and science advice in their professional activities.

- Priority 1 - To strengthen science diplomacy in Europe.
- Priority 2 - To foster EU regional science diplomacy.

We further suggest that these priority actions will contribute to mobilizing science diplomacy for the global commons.

### **4.1 Priority 1: To Strengthen Science Diplomacy in Europe**

#### **4.1.1 Action 1: Launch a Coordination and Support Action for science diplomacy**

Horizon Europe could request an overall Coordination and Support Action to boost European science diplomacy, taking as an example the development by the European Commission of policy for cultural diplomacy. "Culture in EU External Relations" (2012) was a preparatory action to support ongoing policy reflection and to nurture future work in this area. Its centerpiece was an inquiry that covered 54 countries, capturing the ways in which culture and cultural expression were deployed by European actors in multiple relationships with their counterparts elsewhere. This approach uncovered a very considerable potential for culture in Europe's international relations and produced recommendations to define a



strategy for cultural diplomacy. The European Parliament voted for a budget of 500,000 EUR for this preparatory action that was implemented by the European Commission through a call for tenders.

#### 4.1.2 Action 2: Create a European Science Diplomacy Platform

Horizon Europe could provide for the design and launch of a European Science Diplomacy Platform to strengthen the ability of the EU to engage meaningfully in multilateral dialogue with different audiences and stakeholders in third countries, as well as international organizations. This Platform could use the existing EU SD Alliance as its germ, supporting and advising EU institutions.

Again, the field of cultural diplomacy can serve as a source of inspiration for a similar initiative in science diplomacy. The Cultural Diplomacy Platform, a follow-up of the recommendations of the preparatory action discussed above, was launched in January 2016. It facilitates meaningful engagement between the EU and diverse audiences and stakeholders in third countries, through cultural diplomacy activities, supporting and advising EU institutions such as the EU Delegations across the globe, and setting up a global cultural leadership programme. The specific objectives of the Cultural Diplomacy Platform are (i) to support the further development of cultural diplomacy policies, activities, methodologies, tools and training programmes, within the broader framework of EU Public Diplomacy; (ii) to assist in policy dialogues and advise on cultural diplomacy issues; and (iii) to strengthen communities/networks of cultural diplomacy practitioners.

Consequently, the specific objectives of such a European Science Diplomacy platform could be:

- i. Support the further development of science diplomacy policies, activities, methodologies, tools and training programmes, within the broader framework of EU Public Diplomacy;
- ii. Assist in policy dialogues and advise on science diplomacy issues;
- iii. Strengthen communities/networks of science diplomacy practitioners;
- iv. Coordinate and explore the relevance of science diplomacy in the other EU priorities, such as EU missions, including EU Green Deal and how science diplomacy could be used to tackle those challenges;
- v. Create an impartial space for a dialogue that involves scientists, innovators, policymakers, civil society, and Galison's "trading zones,"<sup>14</sup> aimed at developing common language, and agreeing on common concerns;
- vi. Found a peer-reviewed journal of European Science Diplomacy to welcome practitioner as well as academic articles, helping to consolidate the knowledge exchange.

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<sup>14</sup> P. Galison, 1997. *Image and logic: A material culture of microphysics*. Chicago, University of Chicago.

Regarding point iii) above, it is important to highlight the role that the European scientific diaspora can play in EU science diplomacy. The EU scientific diaspora is very active in different parts of the world and its role can be explored further for science diplomacy. Existing platforms can be leveraged for this need, such as EURAXESS, which with the support of OSTA regularly organizes meetings and discussions.

The project CONNECTS-UK, which brings together the different associations of EU researchers in the UK and has just secured 580,000 EUR of funding from the EU Commission<sup>15</sup> can be used as an example of how civil society can help build bridges between European and foreign institutions and defend the interests of the EU in third countries. Similarly, the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) is an international organization with members in 150+ countries and counting 35 geographical chapters. Of special value as an example is the Western Balkan Chapter; in a region characterized by political conflict, the chapter members established collaboration supported by a science diplomacy vision.

#### **4.1.3 Action 3: Build capacity for science diplomacy studies and for engagement, in both European research-performing organizations and diplomatic bodies, and train diplomats and other science diplomacy professionals**

Building capacity for the next generation of science diplomats is crucial both within European HEI and in other professional training of diplomats<sup>16</sup> and science diplomacy practitioners. The current offer by HEIs is limited to just a few graduate and postgraduate programmes or specialized courses focused on science diplomacy applications. The transdisciplinary aspect of science diplomacy is insufficiently taken into account, by siloing of potentially complementary courses of study (e.g. political sciences, international relations, energy engineering, biodiversity studies, and many more). Further formal research structures are needed, as are coordinated training offers for practitioners, all leveraging the strengths of transdisciplinarity. Horizon Europe and related instruments could provide for several initiatives:

- i. Reinforce and support the European Union Science Diplomacy Alliance that has organically emerged from its Horizon 2020 basis as the main epistemic community bringing together practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders;

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<sup>15</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/prospect/internal/noauth/externalDocumentDownload.htm?id=1756130&lang=en>

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Stressing-the-Importance-of-Science-Diplomacy-within-EU-Higher-Education\\_final.pdf](https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Stressing-the-Importance-of-Science-Diplomacy-within-EU-Higher-Education_final.pdf)

- ii. Mobilize the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and COST actions for stimulating mobility and networking across the science diplomacy community; promote fellowship activities;<sup>17</sup>
- iii. Explore mechanisms for a fellowship scheme for scientists to work in EC, EEAS or MS government institutions;
- iv. Stimulate science diplomacy study and training in the context of the European Universities initiative.<sup>18</sup>

#### 4.1.4 Action 4: Create a Horizon Europe work programme on Science Diplomacy Studies and Practices

All types of involved actors, whether located in HEI, in diplomatic bodies, or other stakeholder bodies, need resources and instruments to support their development of the science diplomacy aims indicated above. The EU SD Alliance suggests that their needs could be addressed by calls for projects to develop and consolidate Science Diplomacy Studies and Practices. These could include in a first stage:

- **Call 1: Theorizing science diplomacy**
- **Call 2: Mapping and analyzing the practice of science diplomacy**
- **Call 2: Assessing the impact of science diplomacy**
- **Call 3: Coordination and Support Action (CSA)**

The calls complement each other. Although some conceptualization and theorization have been undertaken, this must be seen as an ongoing task creating spaces for reflection. The Horizon 2020 science diplomacy projects successfully established a first repository of practical and analytic knowledge, which lay excellent groundwork for new developments. By contrast, impact assessment of science diplomacy activities, which would greatly enrich policy planning as well as empirical and theoretical debate, is almost absent today. Finally, a CSA could improve cooperation among EU stakeholders to co-construct a common European science diplomacy approach. This call would welcome standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising, communication and networking activities, policy dialogues, mutual learning or studies. It is important to highlight that the aforementioned calls need to go beyond academia to ensure the transdisciplinary involvement of science diplomacy practitioners, whatever their institutional attachment. Direct links could be made with the foundation of a peer-reviewed transdisciplinary journal, as noted in Action 4.1.2 above (European Platform).

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<sup>17</sup> MSCA presently funds postdoctoral researchers to spend between 6 months up to one year as a secondment to another organization working on a science-diplomacy related topic.

<sup>18</sup> <https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-universities-initiative>

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## 4.2 Priority 2: To Foster EU Regional Science Diplomacy

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### 4.2.1 Action 1: Foster regional studies in science diplomacy

Horizon Europe could support the generation of knowledge pertinent to science diplomacy focused on the EU's priority areas<sup>19</sup> and important geopolitical actors, such as Brazil, China, India, Russia, while paying specific attention to strategic areas for the EU, such as the MENA Region and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Support could be provided for analyzing developments in historical and geographical perspectives, various instruments and know-how used in the science diplomacy field, communities and actors within the R&I systems.

### 4.2.2 Action 2: Enhance EU neighborhood studies

A similar approach could be taken focusing specifically on EU neighborhoods, such as the eastern neighborhood, or the Western Balkans.

### 4.2.3 Action 3: Establish linkages between science diplomacy and other forms of hybrid diplomacy

The rapid and competitive pace of digitalization and artificial intelligence and their border-crossing capacity prove that tech and innovation diplomacy are key areas for national and international politics. Horizon Europe can provide for the establishment of connections and collaborations between specialists and stakeholders in these areas, through actions that are themselves instances of science diplomacy.

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<sup>19</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_7021](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_7021)

## 5 PERSPECTIVES AND CONCLUSION

This contribution by the European Union Science Diplomacy Alliance to the Horizon Europe programming discussion provides background to the EU science diplomacy challenges, proposes the selection of strategic goals, and outlines a series of actions grouped under two priorities: Strengthening science diplomacy in Europe; Fostering EU regional science diplomacy.

We have suggested priorities and actions that appear tailored to the instruments of Horizon Europe, MSCA, COST, etc. Several further areas should be kept in view as they are liable to benefit in the short term from strengthening and mobilizing European science diplomacy.

Europe is a powerhouse for research, technological development, and innovation; the EU is one of the biggest funders of research in the world. This is scientific capital and action capacity that can be mobilized, for example, in the current geopolitical context of energy transition, where China and the United States compete for leadership in the green tech race. The EU, pioneer of climate pledges, can leverage science diplomacy in this context to activate its research and innovation potential and affirm itself as both a key provider and a key geopolitical actor in this transition.

As for Europe's capacity to address the global commons through science diplomacy, several broad domains should be kept in view during the development of the Horizon Europe work programme, and could be translated into actions:

- Cultivating and supporting global collaboration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - Facilitate international partnerships, information exchange, and capacity building to tackle ocean challenges, supporting the UN 2030 agenda and UN Decade of Ocean Science, to ensure a healthier, sustainable ocean for future generations (SDG 14).
- Tackling the climate crisis and promoting a just energy transition
  - Foster global green energy transition through available global diplomacy instruments such as the Conference of the Parties (COP).
  - Promote evidence-based policymaking and science advisory mechanisms (e.g. the Science Policy Advisors Committee, SPAC) as valuable assets with a focus on the tools and methods that enable effective engagement between scientists and policymakers in addressing global challenges.
- Strengthening ties with like-minded countries all over the world to build a common front in addressing global challenges
  - Support democracies and identify strategic partners, especially in the Global South and in the context of climate crises, to address e.g. exacerbation of inequalities produced by the jagged energy transition, to guard from political backlash against climate pledges. The Multilateral

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Dialogue on Values and Principles facilitated by the European Commission delivers a model in this regard.<sup>20</sup>

- Analyze global challenges in terms of their potential to be addressed through science diplomacy activities, and suggest strategies and mechanisms for exerting impact and leadership. Relevant topics are pandemics, health, artificial intelligence, etc.
- Leveraging science diplomacy for continuing dialogue with geopolitical actors of high strategic importance and/or when other instruments are absent or suspended (China, Russia, etc.)
  - Support the practical role of international research organizations as politically unbiased platforms for the maintenance of dialogue.

We have recommended that initiatives supported by Horizon Europe should strengthen theoretical and practical knowledge of science diplomacy, in Higher Education Institutions and research-performing organizations, in a goal of co-constructing know-how with stakeholders and practitioners. In this perspective, these initiatives should enable transdisciplinary linkages between the academic community interested in science diplomacy and the policy-makers, practitioners, and diplomats who deploy and give space to science and scientific advice in and through their professional activities.

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<sup>20</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/multilateral-dialogue-values-and-principles\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/multilateral-dialogue-values-and-principles_en)

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