

EUROPEAN UNION FRAMEWORK FOR SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

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What is science diplomacy?

Science diplomacy is the direct or indirect use of science, scientific evidence, and scientific cooperation to support diplomatic objectives at different levels as well as the deployment of diplomacy to support scientific progress. Developed in the early 2000's, the concept can be structured into four strands:

Science in diplomacy:

Informing foreign and security policy objectives with scientific advice

Science for diplomacy:

Using science cooperation to improve relations between countries

Diplomacy for science:

Facilitating international science cooperation by diplomatic action

Diplomacy in science:

Using diplomatic skills and tools in and by science

Why an EU framework for science diplomacy?

In an age of geostrategic rivalries and growing global competition in science and technology, in particular with respect to disruptive technologies, research and innovation (R&I) has become a critical asset, translating into power, competitiveness and geopolitical influence. Science diplomacy fosters dialogue with the Union's friends and partners, as well as its adversaries if necessary, and can support a strong and independent Union through the deployment of the Union's R&I assets. Through initiatives such as [Choose Europe for Science](#) and the EU's [association policy](#) to the Horizon Europe programme, the Union has taken important steps in capitalising on its R&I strengths to build a strong and independent Europe, while implementing the necessary safeguards in terms of economic and research security.

Several Member States have developed national science and/or tech diplomacy strategies, or are currently developing such strategies, underscoring the need for a coherent Union approach on the matter. At the same time, many countries and regional organisations around the world are strategically investing in science diplomacy. In 2025, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) hosted the first [Global Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy](#). It is therefore necessary that the Union adopts its own coordinated framework for science diplomacy to ensure leadership in this rapidly evolving field. This is why the European Commission is proposing a Council recommendation on a European Union framework for science diplomacy.



Which are the objectives of the EU framework for science diplomacy?

The main objective of the EU framework for science diplomacy is to provide a shared vision, common narrative and pragmatic code of conduct in the field of science diplomacy, in particular in support of:

- **defending** the Union's democratic values, strategic interests and technological & data sovereignty,
- **strengthening** the Union's competitive position as one of the leading global science and technology actors,
- **maximising** the deployment of the Union's R&I potential for the pursuit of peace and a rules-based international order, and
- **reinforcing** the Union's commitment to managing global goods and commons sustainably, fighting the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Another objective is to foster coherence and optimise resources, both at Union and Member State level. To achieve this, the proposed EU framework provides for coordination and guidance to Member States and relevant stakeholders by suggesting a number of strategic, operational and enabling actions, complemented by supporting actions at Union level.

How has the proposal been developed?

The proposal for a Council recommendation on a European Union framework for science diplomacy builds on the expert report [A European Framework for Science Diplomacy – Recommendations of the EU Science Diplomacy Working Groups](#), which was published by the European Commission in February 2025, being the result of a year-long consultation process that involved 130 science and diplomacy experts.

The development of the proposal was also informed by a [call for evidence](#) and the consultation of major stakeholders, such as the [EU Science Diplomacy Alliance](#) and the EU Ministries of Foreign Affairs Science Diplomacy and Advice Network. The proposal is underpinned by collected expertise, including the results of three Horizon 2020-funded science diplomacy projects ([S4D4C](#), [EL-CSID](#) and [InsSciDE](#)), a large number of science diplomacy publications and reports produced by a vibrant community of science diplomacy scholars and practitioners in the EU and beyond and the proceedings of the 1st and 2nd [European Science Diplomacy Conferences](#).