



# Workshop on Science Diplomacy Training

## Objectives, Practices, and Recommendations

Organized by the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance in partnership with UNESCO and supported by the European Union and UNESCO

27 March 2025, 9:00–17:45 CET

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

### Background

Following the UNESCO Global Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy, this workshop focuses on science diplomacy training in a format of active engagement between participants and speakers. Organized by the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance in partnership with UNESCO, the workshop seeks to translate the insights and commitments from the high-level discussions into practical action related to capacity-building and training.

The increasing importance of science diplomacy in addressing global challenges and navigating the changing geopolitical order creates a growing demand for science diplomacy training. As a result, dedicated programs and sessions have emerged worldwide from diverse institutions to help equip diplomats, scientists, and policymakers with the appropriate skills and competencies.

This interactive workshop will assess current science diplomacy training activities, identify best practices across various contexts, identify the gaps and provide actionable recommendations for customizing training according to target audiences. The workshop also intends to incorporate and expand upon the recommendations provided by the informal EU Science Diplomacy Working Groups.

### Format

In-person and online participation. The workshop will offer a combination of short presentations, panel exchanges and open discussions.

### Topics and objectives of the workshop

- What are the key training needs in science diplomacy?
- What programs and organizations on the national, regional and global level offer science diplomacy training?



- Which issues and topics have gained the most attention in training, and how do approaches differ across countries and organizations?
- How should science diplomacy training be structured – who should be trained, on what topics, and how?
- What strategies can enhance the development and effectiveness of science diplomacy training?
- What are the essential elements of a science diplomacy competency framework?
- How can training programs be made more coherent, strategic, and adaptable to different institutional and national contexts?

### Target group

Participants from the full spectrum of science diplomacy training roles are invited to exchange experience and deepen reflection.

- Representatives from ministries of foreign affairs, from research ministries, science attachés
- Trainers and coordinators of science diplomacy programs
- Alumni of science diplomacy training initiatives
- Experts from international organizations engaged in science diplomacy training
- Representatives from academic and funding institutions managing international collaborations
- Researchers involved in large-scale international research projects

### Draft Agenda

9:00      **Opening remarks**

9:30      **PART 1: What are the training needs of key actors?**

**What responses are provided?**

**Identifying training needs and target audiences**

- ✚ What are the skills expectations of institutions (Ministries of foreign affairs, international organizations, academic and research institutions)?
- ✚ What skills are prioritized by individuals (diplomats; mid-career scientists...)



- ✚ What skills are required to respond to current developments such as global crisis, emerging technologies, and the current geopolitical context?

11:15 Coffee break

11:45 **Overview of science diplomacy training efforts**

**Mapping the key providers and trends:**

- ✚ Which organizations offer SD training activities?
- ✚ Which topics have attracted most interest, and why?
- ✚ What are similarities and differences between the training activities in different countries/organizations worldwide?

13:00–14:00 Lunch break

**PART 2: Advancing science diplomacy training: towards developing a competency framework**

14:00 **Training for whom, on what and how?**

- ✚ What has worked well in SD training (training evaluations, personal testimonies, experiences and examples of good practice)?
- ✚ What are the gaps and possible improvements in training offers?

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 **Elements for a science diplomacy competency framework**

Wrap-up discussion: Sharing experiences and ideas for the development of a science diplomacy competency framework.

- ✚ What are the commonly agreed learning outcomes?
- ✚ How to provide more coherence and strategic orientation in science diplomacy training?
- ✚ How can different institutional and national contexts be effectively taken into account?

17:30 **Closing remarks**

European Commission, EU SD Alliance (AVRIST), UNESCO

17:45 **End of workshop**

