ROADMAP & IMPACT PATHWAYS FOR A EU SCIENCE DIPLOMACY AGENDA

SFIC SCIENCE DIPLOMACY TASK FORCE, DECEMBER 2021

Science Diplomacy as a topic has long been seen as a mainly national endeavour. However, during the last decades the European Union (EU) has become an important international actor in science, research and innovation with the largest cross-border funding programme – currently Horizon Europe (HE) in place. The recent EU strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation[1], the openness to international collaboration and the priorities set within the Framework Programme as well as the bilateral agreements and strategic multilateral activities the European Commission (EC) is engaging in, also have clear impacts in the Science Diplomacy context. Therefore, for quite some time now, discussions have evolved around the necessity of a dedicated European Union Science Diplomacy Agenda which would bring together efforts at both national and European levels.

The recently adopted Council Conclusions on the "Global approach to research and innovation" (12301/21) underline the importance of Science Diplomacy and "call on the Commission and the European External Action Service to develop a European Science Diplomacy Agenda and to present it to the Council". In addition, the Council Conclusions on the "Future governance of the European Research Area (ERA)" repeat (xx/21) this call to develop a European Science Diplomacy Agenda.

The goal of this document of the SFIC Science Diplomacy Task Force is to provide a concrete input to the task of developing such a "European Union Science Diplomacy Agenda" along a roadmap and impact pathway. With that, we try to explain how our activities are understood to produce a series of results that contribute to achieving the final intended impacts.

For our case - and this is also the guide on "how to read" the diagram – the **strategic objectives** are to 1) reinforce understanding and respect for EU values and principles in the world, 2) connect research, innovation, diplomacy and policy 3) provide interdisciplinary scientific and technological evidence for diplomacy and policymaking in support of tackling global challenges 4) improve integration and cooperation between Member States (MS) and the EU.

The **impacts** of our pathway are the long-term goals towards which everything is directed. For that different **inputs** (tangible-like financial, human and material resources but also contextual like the overall political climate) are available that can be used to implement the formulated series of **objectives** and **activities** (including cross-cutting measures). The defined **outputs** formulate the immediate effects, direct products or deliverables of the activities. The **outcomes** then describe the likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of the outputs.

The richness of using this method is that the stakeholders (scientific community, policymakers, diplomats, civil society, etc.) have a strong influence on the impact pathway. It is important to mention, that this exercise is based on the co-creation, dynamic and join process coming from different spheres of influence.

To exploit the full potential of the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) approach, internal stakeholders will have the freedom to identify and choose different kind of indicators that could be revised at annually basis considering the impact they want to achieve in a circular cooperation model. After one year cycle, the roadmap will form the basis for a reflection and a learning process which might then lead to the development of a new roadmap in a new cooperation cycle.

[1] COM(2021) 252 final

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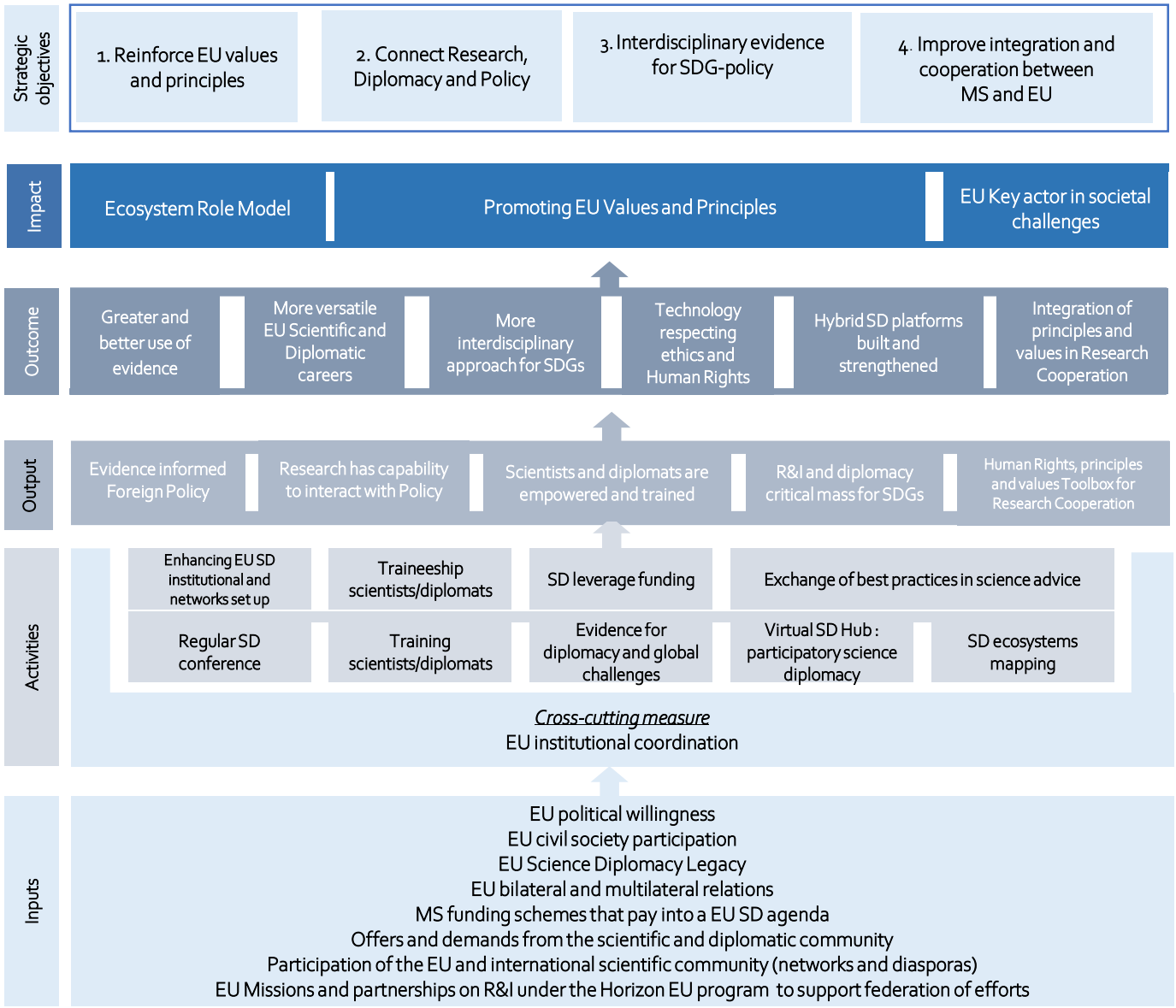

ROADMAP & IMPACT PATHWAYS FOR A EU SCIENCE DIPLOMACY AGENDA

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. **Reinforce respect for EU values and principles in the world**
   To stand for and promote in the EU and beyond the values and principles in research and innovation, shared by EU MS and like-minded countries involved forums[2]: academic freedom, gender equality, research ethics, openness, multilateralism, and science advice as core assets of science that need to be promoted in the EU global strategy and MS foreign policies.
2. **Connect research, diplomacy and policy**
   To ensure researcher and diplomat careers (incentives and skills) and EU institutions (via capacity building, science diplomacy training, funds and awareness) are enabled to connect scientific knowledge with EU foreign public policy processes to address EU and global challenges and to strengthen the trust for science in the society.
3. **Interdisciplinary evidence for SDG-policy**
   To ensure interdisciplinary international research and innovation cooperation facilitating evidence-informed responses to societal challenges and SDGs in the EU (ensuring an adequate SSH perspective).
4. **Improve integration and cooperation between MS and EU**
   To improve integration and cooperation between MS and EU institutions in scientific areas to make societies green, digital and healthy leading the global knowledge.

IMPACT (a long-term result that may not be achievable even during the life cycle of the roadmap)

- **Ecosystem Role Model**
  EU is seen as a role model regarding openness, diversity and inclusiveness, and a gender-balanced ecosystem for researchers, academics, entrepreneurs, civil society, policymakers and diplomats.
- **Promoting EU Values and Principles**
  EU is recognized as an essential global actor promoting a common understanding and implementation of values and principles in education, research and innovation in its cooperation with the rest of the world, based on reciprocity and mutual interests.
- **EU as a key actor in societal challenges**
  EU is acknowledged as a key actor to deliver innovative solutions to make societies green, digital and healthy while strengthening its open strategic autonomy and respecting democratic principles, security and the well-being of people and the planet.

OUTCOMES (long-term results)

- **Greater and better use of evidence**
  Greater demand and use of knowledge as well as scientific / technical evidence (including SSH) by the EU institutions and MS in the area of foreign and security policies, using R&I to inform policymaking and political decisions and to involve society in scientific endeavors.
- **More versatile EU and national Scientific and Diplomatic careers**
  Enhanced attractiveness of EU and national scientific and diplomatic careers through diversified career paths based on better interaction and exchange.
- **More interdisciplinary approach for SDGs**
  European interdisciplinary research and innovation supporting the SDGs fostered through mission-oriented funding, ensuring a SSH perspective is also included.

[2] OCDE, G7, etc.

- **Technology respecting ethics and Human Rights**
  European technologies developed for the benefit of individuals and societies and respecting high ethical standards and human rights (including EU dual-use regulation for research institutions).
- **Hybrid Science Diplomacy platforms built and strengthened**
  European Science Diplomacy hybrid platforms bridging the scientific and the diplomatic communities are built and strengthened; working towards effective, well-adapted and co-created solutions to EU and global challenges and successful containment of disinformation and misinformation through dissemination of trusted scientific results and the strong involvement of society in scientific endeavors.
- **Integration of principles and values in research cooperation**
  A common set of principles and values developed underlining values of EU and national R&I cooperation (ethics and integrity; freedom of scientific research; gender equality and equal opportunities), setting out better working conditions (free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology across the Union; pursuit of excellence; value creation and impact of R&I) and increasing cooperation (coordination, coherence, commitment; global outreach; inclusiveness; societal responsibility).

OUTPUTS (midterm results which are achieved after implementing targeted activities)

- **Evidence-informed Foreign and Security Policy**
  CFSP/ CSDP, and national foreign, security and defence policies, are informed by scientific evidence, sharing knowledge between EEAS, EC and EU MS' MFAs / MS Ministries of education, research and innovation as well as research institutions, the scientific community and society. Bridges between scientists and diplomats are reinforced to better inform policymaking using science diplomacy as a fully-fledged instrument in the EU's diplomatic toolbox.
- **Research has capability to interact with Policy**
  Capabilities of EU and MS research institutions to engage with policymakers are enhanced.
- **Scientists and diplomats are empowered and trained**
  Scientists, innovators, educators, policymakers and diplomats are empowered and better prepared to work together taking advantage of the global STI community operating on shared understandings and common conditions as the basis of mutual trust.
- **R&I and diplomacy critical mass for SDGs**
  EU and national diplomacy and R&I ecosystems are equipped with a critical mass of efforts devoted to tackling common global challenges in the most needed regions of the world such as clean energy solutions; healthy oceans; infectious diseases and public health emergencies. Efforts are spread to the most needed regions of the world, pooling resources and reducing overlap to maximize collective impact following the 'Global approach to research and innovation - Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world'.
- **Human rights, principles and values toolbox for research cooperation**
  Human rights (HR), principles and values toolbox for research cooperation are developed including the aspect of Science Diplomacy, promoting the awareness that Science can be used as leverage for HR.

ACTIVITIES (in relation to the objectives)

Exchange of best practices in science advice

1.1. Promotion and exchange of good practices in international and European networks of scientific and technological advice through relevant channels (e.g. websites, networks). Development of guidelines and/or recommendations for procuring and using scientific evidence in foreign and security policies for use by the EEAS and MS MFAs and enhancing the robustness of scientific advice to EU and MS policymakers

Regular science diplomacy conference

1.2. Organisation of a regular EU science diplomacy conference as main get-together of the scholar and practitioner communities. This might be linked to a European science diplomacy award.

Traineeship scientists and diplomats

2.1. Establishment of traineeship / fellowship / secondments scheme for scientists in the EEAS and MS MFAs and short-term fellowships of EU and national diplomats in research organizations.

Training scientists and diplomats

2.2. Training of scientists and diplomats in science diplomacy to empower both communities to work together (to address for example SDGs) involving scientific networks (EU alumni of EU programmes e.g. MSCA, ERC) in the EU and living in third countries. Lecture series for EEAS Headquarters and Delegations about current STI matters.

Science diplomacy leverage funding

3.1. Leverage funding and establishment of new joint funding schemes among EU and MS for supporting interdisciplinary research initiatives to tackle societal and global challenges (Horizon Europe, the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument and others).

Evidence and foresight for diplomacy and global challenges

3.2. Preparation of reports and other scientific evidence or foresight materials on topics of interest to diplomats by the European scientific community with the support of "evidence champions" in the EEAS and MS MFAs (e.g. Science advisors, science advisory boards, etc.).Likewise, promote a European institutional collaboration to reap opportunities for the use of scientific advice in upcoming multilateral negotiations and strengthen cooperation through international research and innovation missions, platforms and strong partnerships. The power of science diplomacy should be harnessed in relation to international spaces which deal with global commons (e.g. UN and its agencies, OECD, G7, G20, etc.).

Enhancing EU SD institutional and network set up

4.1. Review of the current institutional setup of science diplomacy in the EU institutions, to enhance network of science advisors and science diplomacy coordinators in EEAS / MS MFAs for better knowledge sharing.

SD ecosystems mapping

4.2. Mapping of science advice local, national and international ecosystems in the field of sustainable development, foreign and security policies

Virtual science diplomacy Hub: Participatory science diplomacy

4.3. Study the feasibility of a European Science Diplomacy platform or "Virtual Science Hub" designed to better connect EC and MS SD activities and engage with scientists (networks and diasporas) and citizens in the EU and abroad (Participatory science diplomacy).

Cross-cutting measures

EU and MS institutional coordination

Agreements, guidelines and/or recommendations for procuring and using scientific evidence in foreign and security policies between the EEAS and key evidence providers, including JRC, as well as MS Agencies.

INPUTS (resources available for developing and implementing a joint EU Science Diplomacy Agenda)

- EU political willingness
- EU civil society participation
- EU Science Diplomacy Legacy
- EU bilateral and multilateral relations
- MS funding schemes that pay into a EU SD agenda
- Offers and demands from the scientific and diplomatic community
- Participation of the EU and international scientific community (networks and diasporas)
- EU Missions and partnerships on R&I under the Horizon EU program to support federation of efforts

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ACRONYMS

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