

## **Call for expressions of interest to participate in Science Diplomacy Working Groups**

The European Commission intends to set up informal working groups composed of individuals from both, the science and diplomacy communities, to develop potential elements of a future European framework for science diplomacy. The main aim of the working groups is to bring together the relevant stakeholders in an innovative format, to develop jointly recommendations in a co-creation process.

With this message we would like to invite all European science diplomacy stakeholders to submit expressions of interest to participate in the following five working groups:

- 1) Using science diplomacy strategically to tackle geopolitical challenges in a fragmented, multipolar world**
- 2) Making European diplomacy more strategic, effective and resilient through scientific evidence and foresight**
- 3) Strengthening science diplomacy in Delegations and Embassies and fostering the EU's global science diplomacy outreach**
- 4) Building capacity for European science diplomacy**
- 5) Cross-cutting group on definition, principles and EU added value of European science diplomacy**

Each working group will be composed of approx. 20 members, ideally roughly half of them coming from the science sphere and half of them from the diplomacy sphere. Members are expected to speak in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their respective employers.

Participation in the working groups is not remunerated. Members working in academia may get travel costs reimbursed where necessary, to be agreed with the European Commission.

Each working group will be co-chaired by a scientist and a diplomat, selected by the European Commission with the support of a Steering Team advising on a European framework for science diplomacy, which consists of representatives of the major stakeholder communities.

### Mode of working

Discussions in the working groups will follow Chatham House rule. The deliberations of each working group will mostly be held online, but each Group should meet for one physical/hybrid co-creation workshop. The timing of the respective workshop may vary depending on the needs of the group.

In terms of workload, roughly one meeting every 6-8 weeks can be expected between November 2023 and June 2024. External experts may be invited for specific subjects and/or ad-hoc subgroups be created on a voluntary basis to discuss a specific subject matter. Technical support

to the working groups will be available. Each working group will have a dedicated virtual workspace with access to the relevant literature.

Each working group is expected to develop a set of recommendations, which may subsequently be validated through expert interviews with practitioners or a similar form of “reality check”. Some of the recommended actions may subsequently be tested via “Demonstrator Projects”, to be funded by the European Commission.

### Timeline

Working groups are expected to start with a virtual kick-off meeting in November or December 2023 and should complete their task by 30/06/2024 by submitting the list of recommended actions to the European Commission.

### Proposal process

**Expressions of interest must be submitted by 31/10/2023 23:59 CET via the website provided by the European Commission to this end.**

By submitting your expression of interest, you confirm that your employer agrees to your candidacy.

### Eligibility

**Candidates must have the nationality of an EU Member State, except for candidates working in academia (e.g., higher education institutions, research-performing organisations, not-for-profit academic think tanks and associations) who may either have the nationality of an EU Member State or of any country associated to the Horizon Europe programme[1] or, if having a different nationality, be employed by an academic institution established in any of these countries.**

*[1] currently Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo (this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence), Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine and the United Kingdom (which upon completion of the necessary procedures is expected to be associated as of 01/01/2024).*

### Selection process

Based on all proposals received by the deadline, the Steering Team advising on a European framework for science diplomacy will suggest to the European Commission a selection, taking into account the diversity of each group in terms of gender, geography, and expertise. The European Commission will inform the chosen candidates as appropriate.