



THE MADRID DECLARATION ON SCIENCE DIPLOMACY.

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preamble

Science diplomacy has long been a tool to develop bilateral and multilateral relationships. However, the definition and applications of science diplomacy have broadened considerably in recent years. This conceptual broadening coincides with the growing understanding that science and technology underpin so many of the challenges and opportunities that current societies face, whether as a driver or a potential solution. Integrating science into foreign policy to not only advance national interests but also to tackle shared global challenges is an appropriate response.

In this context, the EU Horizon 2020-funded project S4D4C “Using science in /for diplomacy for addressing global challenges” organized the conference “EU Science Diplomacy beyond 2020” in Madrid in December 2018. At this event, experts from around the world discussed the present and future of science diplomacy, its fundamental role in addressing global challenges and the requirements to harness its full potential in the EU and beyond.

As a result of these fruitful discussions this “Madrid Declaration on Science Diplomacy” was signed by a group of high-level experts who contributed to the conference.



vision

The “Madrid Declaration on Science Diplomacy” aims to foster agreement and raise awareness about the need to strengthen science diplomacy strategies and practices world-wide for the support of universal scientific and democratic values. These strategies are required to suitably include science and technology as key dimensions of foreign policy and international relationships at different political levels. This confluence of interests must be in the benefit of both the scientific endeavor as well as legitimate broader political and societal objectives.

Science diplomacy, in the context of this Declaration, is understood as a series of practices at the intersection of science, technology and foreign policy. The renewed interest in science diplomacy comes in response to identified challenges at the interface of science and foreign policy, where a greater scientific voice could add value to both bi- and multilateral discussions and decisions about our shared global concerns. Joint science diplomacy objectives are possible where

actors converge around such common challenges. Therefore, science diplomacy goes beyond international science collaboration, as it tackles interests that go beyond the scientific ones and may directly or indirectly serve to advance diplomatic goals. The Madrid conference highlighted the growing importance of science diplomacy on a global level. One important role for science diplomacy, in this regard, is to build bridges between science, technology and innovation practices, national and regional interests, as well as global challenges.

We firmly believe that:

- (1) Science diplomacy is often not fully exploited at all levels of governance, and especially at supranational levels;
- (2) More explicit science diplomacy strategies at national and supranational levels would allow for a more effective alignment of interests and a more efficient coordination of resources.

benefits of science diplomacy

We firmly believe that the potential of science diplomacy is yet to be fully realized. It includes:

Endeavours to address global challenges. Science and technology are global enterprises. Together with other tools in diplomacy, science diplomacy can facilitate the identification of common global challenges. Coordinated scientific efforts can help to address these global challenges. The relationship between global challenges and scientific practices goes both ways. Efforts to achieve the “Sustainable Development Goals” are an example of how global challenge-related policy-making and scientific research must be in constant dialogue.

More productive and sustainable international relations at multilateral and bilateral levels owing their interaction with science and technology. The precondition for this is that scientific activities are considered but not appropriated by broader political rationales.

Evidence-informed foreign policy supported by science and technology, aiming at substantive and resilient international agreements, treaties and policies.

Better conditions for scientific activities due to the contribution of foreign policy agendas. Diplomacy, with the support of the scientific community, has a particular role to play in the implementation of larger scientific initiatives and projects (e.g. research infrastructures, joint programmes, etc.).

Improved interfaces between science and public policies. Science diplomacy can contribute to eliminating cultural, sectoral, and knowledge barriers between different actors such as policy-makers, researchers, diplomatic bodies and civil society.

principles to foster science diplomacy worldwide

Value for citizens: governments, diplomats and researchers are encouraged to acknowledge and demonstrate science diplomacy as a fundamental and universal tool to improve international relations in general.

Methodological diversity: consider explicit and implicit types of science diplomacy objectives. This involves acknowledging that not all relevant science diplomacy practices are labelled as such. Putting the science diplomacy label on a given project, programme or policy is a strategic choice.

Demonstrable impact: the potential positive effects of science diplomacy need to be measured and recognized. At the same time, there may be unintended side effects that need to be acknowledged and

assessed. Public policies not relating to science diplomacy may also have unintended effects in the realm of science diplomacy.

Evidence-informed: in foreign affairs-related policies in relevant areas. This knowledge can be content-related (e.g. scientific evidence on climate change, global inequality, cyber security), context-related (e.g. knowledge about a specific innovation system) or process-related (e.g. evaluative knowledge on the effects and the outcome of science diplomacy interventions).

Collaboration and inclusion: science diplomacy is a multi-actor effort in which diplomats, scientists and science managers as well as other non- state actors can have a role and can contribute to its deployment. This applies at the local, regional, national and international level.

This innovative model brings new governance and coordination mechanisms that need to be managed in dialogue with all stakeholders.

Capacity building: All stakeholders involved in science diplomacy will benefit from exchange and suitable capacity building activities. Therefore, cutting-edge, interdisciplinary, intergenerational, interactive training modules are needed. These will enable diplomats, public officials and scientists to cooperate in an efficient way, strengthening future science diplomacy. This capacity building runs in parallel to the need to establish new science diplomacy positions such as science advisors in foreign ministries, scientific staff at Embassies, etc., which will also foster new career paths for science diplomacy professionals.

Independence of science: science is an extremely useful tool for addressing global challenges and for improving international relationships as long as it is not distorted by ideological goals.



SIGNATORIES OF THE DECLARATION BY ALPAHBETICAL ORDER		
Note: The experts promoting this Declaration are signing on an individual basis. Their signature does not mean endorsement by any institution.		
Name	Surname	Position
Reham	Abo-Shnaf	Researcher, Plant Protection Research Institute (PPRI), Egypt
Muhammad	Adeel	Career Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan
Yousuf	Al Bulushi	Head of Science, Knowledge and Technology Transfer Office (SKTT) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oman
Katalin	Alföldi	Policy Officer and Grant Coordinator, European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)
Khaled	Alhazmi	King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia
Nelva	Alvarado	Researcher, University of Panama
Orhan	Alta	Professor, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
Ana	Anselmo	International Matters, Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie, Germany
Ewert	Aukes	Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Twente, the Netherlands
Chagun	Basha	Policy Fellow, DST's Policy Research Centre, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, India
Zukhra	Bektepova	Project Officer, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)
Yoran	Beldengrün	Mercator Fellow on International Affairs 18/19 in Science Diplomacy
Paul	Berkman	Director, Science Diplomacy Center, Tufts University, USA
Marta	Božina Beroš	Associate Professor, University of Pula, Croatia
Philipp	Brugner	Project Manager, Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria
Neha	Bhutani	Postdoctoral Researcher, Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University, Canada

Name	Surname	Position
Veronica	Buccheri	Senior Specialist, International Relations Service, National Institute of Nuclear Physics (INFN), Italy
Melody B.	Burkins	Associate Director, John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College. Chair, US National Academies' Board on International Scientific Organizations (BISO). Governing Board, International Science Council (ISC). Senior Fellow, UArctic Institute of Arctic Policy. Advisory Board, Science Diplomacy Division of International Network of Government Science Advisors (INGSA)
Cecilia	Cabello	Director R&I Policies and Internationalization, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)
Reina	Camacho Toro	Research Scientist, Laboratoire de Physique Nucléaire et de Hautes Energies (LPNHE/CNRS), ATLAS experiment at CERN, France
Franklin	Carrero-Martínez	Board Director, National Academy of Sciences, USA
Sara	Cebrián	Science and Innovation Attaché, UK-Science and Innovation Network (SIN-UK), British Embassy in Madrid
Siti Khodijah	Chaerun	Professor, Faculty of Mining and Petroleum Engineering, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia
William	Colglazier	Senior Scholar, Center for Science Diplomacy, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), USA
Pedro	Cortegoso	Education Attaché, Spanish Embassy in Brazil
Marie	Croce	Junior Researcher, Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria
Kerstin	Cuhls	Scientific Project Manager, Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI, Germany
Elke	Dall	Senior Researcher, Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria
Alexander	Degelsegger-Márquez	Head of Digital Health and Innovation, Austrian Public Health Institute, Austria
Wolfgang	Eberhardt	Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, delegate of Germany to the Council of SESAME

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Name	Surname	Position
Ana	Elorza	Science Advice Coordinator, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)
Javier	Escudero	President, Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom, UK
Omololu	Fawunga	Researcher, University of Huddersfield, UK
Andrew	Fenemor	Senior Scientist Integrated Catchment Management, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, New Zealand
Tim	Flink	Post-doctoral researcher and lecturer, Humboldt University of Berlin , Germany
Cristina	Fraile	Deputy Head of Mission, Spanish Embassy in the US
Wiebke	Frey	Researcher, Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research (TROPOS), Leipzig , Germany
Laura	García Ibáñez	Specialist in Immunology, Cancer and Health Policy, Brussels, Belgium
Silvia Herminia	García Martínez	Auditor, Instituto de Fomento Municipal, Guatemala
Miguel	García-Herráiz Roobaert	Former Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Spain
Rolando A	Gittens	Researcher, Instituto de Investigaciones Científicas y Servicios de Alta Tecnología (INDICASAT AIP), Panamá
Peter	Gluckman	Chair of the International Network for Government Science Advice, New Zealand
Didier	Goosens	Head of Corporate Communication, Fonds National de la Recherche, Luxembourg
Robin	Grimes	Professor, Imperial College London. Former Chief Science Adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of the United Kingdom, UK
Nicole	Grobert	Chief Scientific Advisor, Science Advice Mechanism, European Commission

Name	Surname	Position
Marga	Gual Soler	International Science Diplomacy Advisor, Member of the Research, Innovation, and Science Experts (RISE) High-Level Group to European Commissioner Carlos Moedas, Spain
Adrián	Gutiérrez	Science & Technology Counsellor, CDTI representative, Spanish Embassy in New Delhi, India
Claudia	Guerrero	Director of International Cooperation, Panama
Jürgen	Haberleithner	Professor and Researcher, Universidad de Colima, Mexico
Martina	Hartl	Deputy Head of Department, Department of International Research Cooperation and Science Diplomacy, Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research, Austria
John R.	Helliwell	Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, University of Manchester, UK
Ralf	Hermann	Head, German Office for International Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (GOVET)
Alma Cristal	Hernández-Mondragón	Director, Science, Centers and Transfer of Knowledge, SECTEI, México City Government
Mirabbos	Hojamberdiev	Research Professor, Department of Natural and Mathematic Sciences, Turin Polytechnic University, Uzbekistan
Viktoria	Holler	Project Manager, Diplomatische Akademie Wien, Austria
Maximilian	Huck	Project manager, Diplomatische Akademie Wien, Austria
Niccolò	Iorno	Science Officer, Swiss Federal Department Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
Borja	Izquierdo	Director, International Science Department, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)
Agnieszka	Jarzewicz	Independent Expert for the European Commission

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Name	Surname	Position
Maria	Josten	Senior Scientific Officer, German Aerospace Center / Project Management Agency (DLR)
Dirk-Jan	Koch	Chief Science Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Jacek Łukasz	Kolanowski	Principal Investigator, Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry PAS in Poznan, and Vice-Chair-Elect Polish Young Academy, Poland
Thomas	König	Head of Strategy and Scientific Services, Institute for Advanced Studies Vienna, Austria
Olga	Krasnyak	Lecturer in International Studies, Underwood International College, Yonsei University, Korea
Radenka	Krsmanović Whiffen	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow, ENEA Casaccia Research Centre, Rome, Italy
Stefan	Kuhlmann	Professor, University of Twente, the Netherlands
Léonard	Laborie	Researcher, CNRS, Deputy Coordinator of the Horizon 2020 project "Inventing a shared science diplomacy for Europe" (InsSciDE), France
Luis Miguel	Lacerda	President, Portuguese Association of Researchers and Students in the UK, UK
Izaskun	Lacunza	Head of Unit, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)
Angela	Liberatore	Head of Unit, Social Sciences and Humanities, European Research Council Executive Agency
David	Mandelweit	Researcher, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain
Júlia	Mascarello	Master Student, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil
Katja	Mayer	Scientific Project Manager, Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria
Claire	Mays	Executive Director, Horizon 2020 project "Inventing a shared science diplomacy for Europe" (InsSciDE), France

Name	Surname	Position
Peter	McGrath	Coordinator, Science Policy/Science Diplomacy Programme, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Italy
Lorenzo	Melchor	EU Science Advice and Diplomacy Officer, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)
Margoth	Mena Young	Researcher, Universidad de Costa Rica
Nadia	Meyer	Senior Scientific Officer, German Aerospace Center / Project Management Agency (DLR)
Alexandra	Middleton	Assistant Professor, University of Oulu, Finland
James	Moran	Ambassador, Associate Senior Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies, Belgium
Pier Francesco	Moretti	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Italy
Felix	Moronta-Barrios	Programme Specialist, ICGEB Biosafety. Full Member of the Global Young Academy. Vice-Director of Persea Foundation
Jan Marco	Müller	Head of Directorate Office, Coordinator for Science to Policy and Science Diplomacy, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria
Dicky	Muslim	Associate Professor, Universitas Padjadjaran (UNPAD), Indonesia
Bashirullah	Najimi	Transform Fund Specialist, The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Division of Science, Technology and Innovation (IDB-STI), Saudi Arabia
Ababacar Sadick	Ndoye	Chairman, Partner Relations Commission, Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal
Mona	Nemer	Chief Scientific Advisor to Canada's Prime Minister, Canada
Eduardo	Oliver	Secretary-General, Network of Associations of Spanish Researchers and Scientists Abroad (RAICEX), Spain

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Name	Surname	Position
Miguel	Oliveros	Cultural and Scientific Diplomatic Counselor, Spanish Embassy in London
Gonzalo	Ordoñez Matamoros	Assistant Professor, University of Twente, the Netherlands
Marinella	Perosa	Trieste, Italy
Minh-Hà	Pham	Vice President for International Relations, Université PSL, France
Steven	Phipps	Senior Research Fellow, University of Tasmania, Australia
Sergiu	Porcescu	Founder, Knowledge HUB Moldova, Moldova
Alexander	Raer	PhD Candidate, University of Tübingen, Germany
Moaz ur	Rahman	Principal Scientist, National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (NIBGE), Pakistan
Pauline	Ravinet	Assistant Professor, University of Lille, France
Jonas	Reiche-Weiland	Academic Coordinator, Arab-German Young Academy, Germany
Margarida	Ribeiro	Policy Officer, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
Alexis	Roig	CEO, SciTech DiploHub – the Barcelona Science and Technology Diplomacy Hub, Spain
Marco	Rondón Robles	Biologist, Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (SERNANP), Perú
Raquel	Saiz	Director of Strategy and Analysis, Asociación Española de Bioempresas (ASEBIO), Spain
Gulsen	Saray	Lecturer, HBVU University, Turkey
Wagdy	Sawahel	Research Professor, National Research Centre (NRC), Egypt

Name	Surname	Position
Fernando	Simón	Director, Spanish Coordinating Centre for Health Alerts and Emergencies
Paramdeep	Singh	Associate Professor, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, India
Zehra	Sayers	Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Sabancı University, Turkey
Klaus	Schuch	Scientific Director, Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Austria
Mostafa Moonir	Shawrav	Vice-Chair, Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA)
Abdel Nasser	Tawfik	Professor of Physics, Nile University (NU), Egypt
Chaibi M.	Thameur	Director of Research, Institut National de Recherche en Génie Rural Eaux et Forêts (INRGREF), Tunisia
Francesca	Tolve	Office for European and International Relations National Research Council of Italy (CNR), Italy
Ramón	Torrent	President of OBREAL, Coordinator of EULAC Focus
Mario	Torres	Director of the European Institute of International Studies, Sweden
Moctar	Touré	Vice-President, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS),Italy
Riccardo	Trobbiani	Project Researcher, United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS), Belgium
Luk	Van Langenhove	Scientific Ccoordinator, EL-CSID project (European Leadership for Cultural, Science and Innovation Diplomacy, Belgium
David	Velázquez	Communication Officer, EU Polar-net. Alfred Wegener Institute, Germany
Yoan Israel	Viamonte Garrido	SciTechIntel Consulting Services, Ecuador
Tom	Wang	Former Director, Centre for Science Diplomacy, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), USA

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Name	Surname	Position
Akadiri	Yessoufou	Associate Professor, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin
Mitchell	Young	Assistant Professor, Charles University, Czech Republic
Lassina	Zerbo	Executive Secretary, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

Would you like to sign the declaration as well? Send us your name, affiliation, and motivation to sign the declaration to s4d4c@fecyt.es!



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