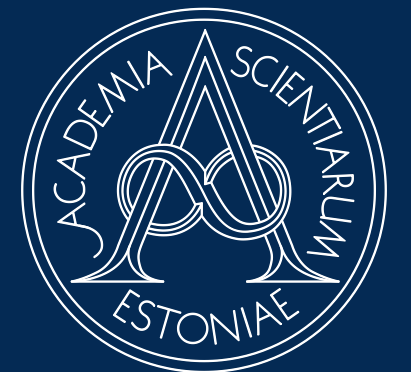


# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

JÜRI ENGELBRECHT,  
ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



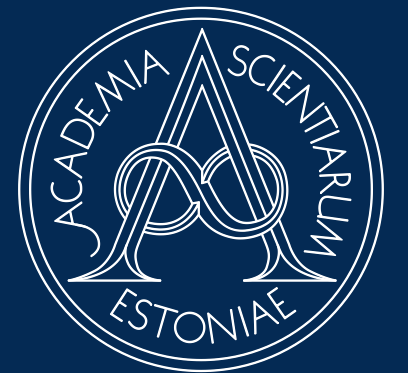
# INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF EAS

## 1. International activities of the EAS:

- regional
- European
- worldwide

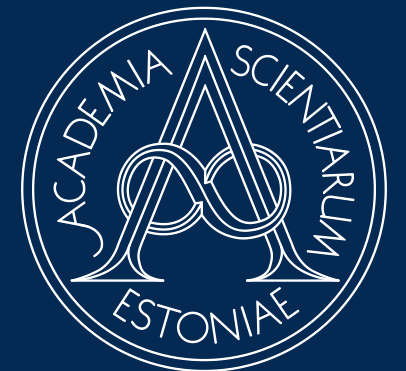
## 2. Science diplomacy

## 3. What can a small country do?



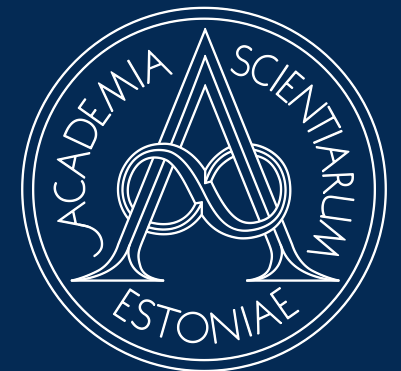
# REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Supporting research cooperation:
  - Bilateral exchange programmes, starting from 1987
  - Altogether – 34
  - Active now – about 6 joint programmes, exchange of ~30 researchers a year
- Regional activities in Baltic Sea area
  - Joint scientific activities
  - Conference series on Intellectual cooperation (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)
    - 1936–1940: governmental initiative, annually
    - from 1999 on: initiative of academies, biannually  
revived by the Latvian Academy of Sciences  
Finland participating



# EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES I

- ALLEA (The European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities)
  - EAS – the founding member since 1994
  - J. Engelbrecht – the President of ALLEA 2006–2011
  - R. Uibo – a member of the ALLEA Ethics Committee
- EASAC (The European Academies Science Advisory Council)
  - EAS representative: A. Kahru
  - Panel members: T. Soomere, E. Lust, J. Kurnitski, Ü. Niinemets
- SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies)
  - part of the SAM (Science Advice Mechanism) at the EU
  - Group of Chief Scientific Advisors: M. Kruusmaa
  - European Science Advisors Forum. (ESAF)  
Chair: T. Soomere (2020–2023)



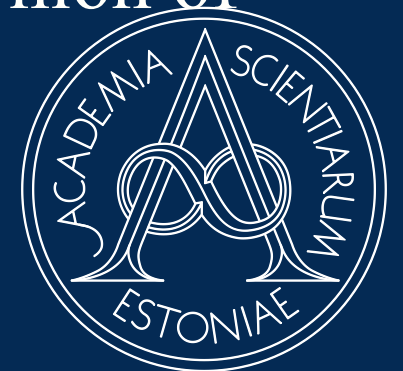
# EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES II

- European Science Foundation (EAS member 2000–2011)
- European Research Council (ERC) Grant Agency supporting excellence
  - M.Saarma, member, Vice President (2013–2016)
- EAS members in:
  - EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organisation)
  - CERN (The European Organisation for Nuclear Research)
  - The European Marine Board
  - The European Polar Board



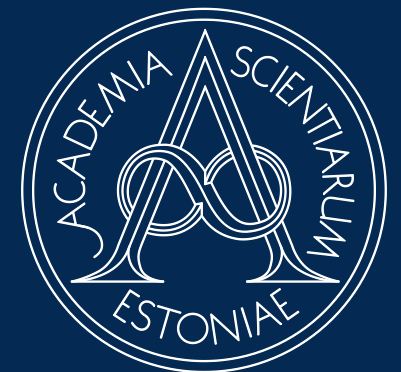
# WORLD WIDE ACTIVITIES

- ISC (International Science Council)
  - Former ISCU and ISSC merged
  - EAS member since 1992
  - ICSU Council member J. Engelbrecht
  - EAS chaired the European Group of the ISC, T. Soomere, 2022–2024
- IAP (InterAcademy Partnership)
  - Conference „Winning from Greater Inclusion“, 2022, T. Soomere, A. Realo
- UAI (Union Académique Internationale - The International Union of Academies)
  - Humanities and Social Sciences
  - J. Undusk



# NOT ONLY EAS

- The Estonian Young Academy of Sciences (EYAS), since 2017
- Alumni:
  - UK, Oxbridge Club
  - Germany, Humboldt Club
- ERC Ambassador Ü. Niinemets
- Conferences "Estonian Young Scientists working abroad" (Oxbridge Club + EYAS)
- Lindau meetings: nobelists and young scientists



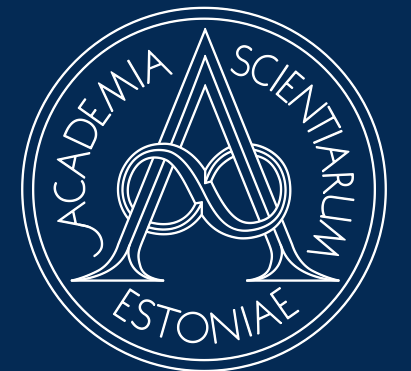
# SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

- **Diplomacy for Science:**
  - facilitating international scientific collaboration
- **Science for diplomacy:**
  - science as a soft power for building bridges
- **Science in diplomacy:**
  - support diplomatic processes through science (scientific advice)

## Activities:

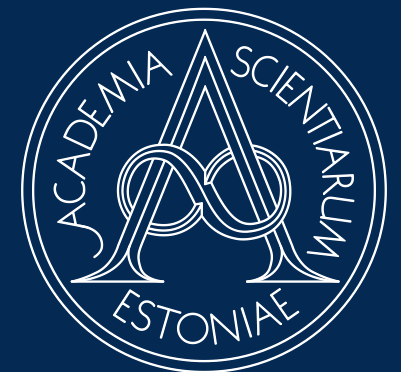
Many organisations pay attention to science diplomacy:

- EU
- ISC
- UNESCO



# SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: EU I

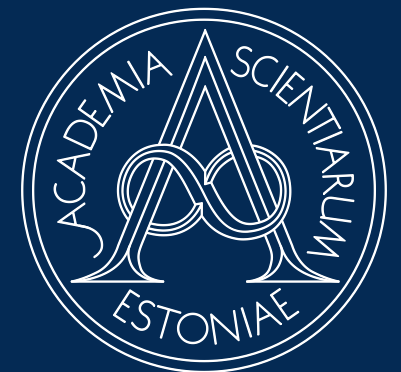
- A European Framework for Science Diplomacy. Recommendations of the EU Science Diplomacy Working Groups, 2025, Brussels.
- From the Executive Summary:  
„Our vision for European science diplomacy is for it to become a key instrument in the EU's diplomatic toolbox, fostering peace, European competitiveness, and a safe, sustainable and prosperous future for all by harnessing the power of science and technology in a responsible way.“
- Recommendations: actions, instruments, ...



# SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: EU II

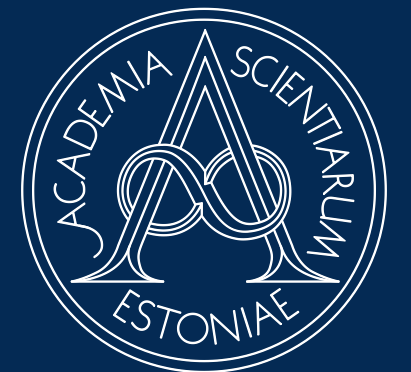
- European Science Diplomacy Conferences:  
1st: Madrid, 2023  
2nd: Copenhagen, 2025
- From Copenhagen Conference:  
Europe should use science diplomacy to promote its strategic interests and competitiveness.

Keywords: free movement, values, partnerships,  
best scientific evidence, ...



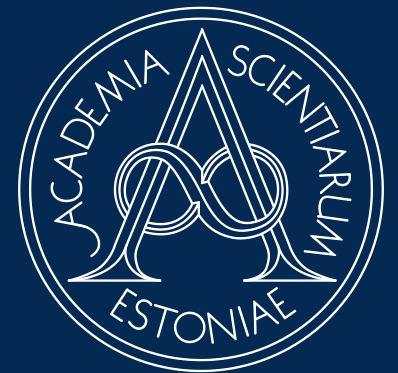
# SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: UNESCO

- 2025 Global Ministerial Dialogue on Science Diplomacy:
  - Support Member States in formulating Science Diplomacy strategies
  - Foster the dialogue between Science and Diplomacy
  - Enhance the institutional and human capacities



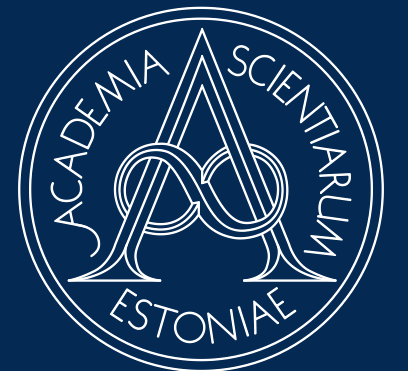
# WHAT CAN SMALL COUNTRY DO?

- T. Soomere chaired a panel at the EU Madrid Conference „Making European diplomacy more strategic, effective and resilient through scientific evidence and foresight“.  
He stressed:
  - mutual understanding between fellow scientists is a tool for diplomatic channels;
  - communication between scientific communities improves diplomatic relations.
- Mary McAleese, the President of Ireland 1997–2011, visited Estonia in 2001.  
She said:  
„The more we speak to each other, the more we understand each other!“



# MATERIALS FROM THE YEARBOOKS

- J. Engelbrecht (2021) The Estonian Academy of Sciences in international arena in 1991-2021.  
see the 2021 Yearbook of EAS pages 52–58
- T. Soomere (2023) Science diplomacy is much more than science in diplomacy.  
see the 2023 Yearbook of EAS pages 84–86





THANK YOU  
FOR THE ATTENTION!

