

Questions for the panellists

Strand 1: science in diplomacy

Q1: In which scientific and/or technological domains Belgian researchers are at the vanguard so that they can significantly contribute in an advisory capacity to (international) policy making in Belgium ?

Q2: For which topics various governmental levels or administrations in Belgium are in need of scientific advice to support or even improve the decision making process ? Is this limited to the grand societal challenges or are other topics also relevant/important to address ?

Q3: Should the Belgian entities create/optimize/... a science advisory mechanism ? And if so, how should it ideally be set up and function ?

Strand 2: diplomacy for science

Q4: How can the autonomy of research performing organisations to develop their own targeted international policy (bottom-up) be complemented with broader (top down) strategies to promote our Country and/or Regions and/or Communities ?

In other words, what do researchers and research performing organisations expect from international services/ diplomatic organisations and what do diplomatic organisations/international services have to offer the researchers and RPOs ?

Q5: Which processes or structures should be put into place or are to be used (if already existing) to bring together “offer and demand” ?

Q6: With which countries, regions, **Strand 3: science for diplomacy**

geographical areas (or topics ?) the international services/ diplomatic organisations are looking for open communication channels that are (mainly) managed by researchers ?

Q7: How can researchers be sensitised (and eventually trained and activated) to take up a “diplomatic” role in function of political agenda ?

Q8: Which processes or structures should be put into place or are to be used (if already existing) to bring together “offer and demand” ?

Strand 4: horizontal issues

Q9: How to determine which countries, topics, areas, ... are the most relevant, urgent, appropriate, ... ones to address knowing that resources are limited and that choices are inevitable ?

Q10: How should the above mentioned mechanisms be monitored (= are we on track ?), evaluated on results or impact (= are we achieving the goals) and, if needed improved (e.g., did we make the right choices) ?