**RICOMET Workshop**

**“AN INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE DIPLOMACY”**

***Navigating the Complex Interface between Science, Technology, Innovation and International Relations***

**Summary:** The current COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the limit health, social, economic, and labour systems and provoked huge turbulence in regional, international and multilateral relations. During this crisis, the relations between scientific evidence, public policy and international affairs has shown different frictions across the world, and yet ensuring scientific evidence feeds national and international policymaking has become a crucial dimension of the answer to the crisis. Considering that this global health problem is just one of many of the existing global challenges that the society of the 21st century needs to cope with (climate emergency, ageing, cybersecurity, migration fluxes, etc.), better tools, practices and professionals are required to navigate this complex interface.

For the last decade, science diplomacy has received huge attention from both the scientific and the diplomatic communities. Science diplomacy has been referred as the umbrella term to include all different activities in the intersection between science, technology, and innovation, with foreign policy and international relations. As such, Nation states are the main stakeholders in science diplomacy, but the role of international organisations, regions and local cities, research and academia, private companies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and other parties, is increasingly important.

This interactive workshop will cover an introduction to science diplomacy: its definition, its diverse stakeholders and networks, its different approaches, practical examples of science diplomacy in action, and a brief overview of professional profiles who work in this complex interface. Attendees will be encouraged to participate in an active discussion.

**Date**: 3rd September 2020 | 15:00 – 17:00

**Programme:**

15:00 Introduction

15:05 Icebreaking session

15:15 Part 1: Understanding science diplomacy

15:45 Q&A

15:55 Break

16:05 Part 2: Interactive debate around science diplomacy practices.

16:30 Part 3: Careers and skills in science diplomacy

16:50 Q&A

17:00 End

**Lecturer:** Lorenzo Melchor has a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology by the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (2008) and Master Student in Policy Analysis in the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. He works as EU science advice and diplomacy officer in the [Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)](http://www.fecyt.es), being directly involved in [S4D4C](http://www.s4d4c.eu), a Horizon-2020 funded project to advance European science diplomacy. Formerly he has been science adviser in the Spanish Embassy in London between 2015-2018. Additionally, Lorenzo has been a biomedical researcher for 13 years with an international career in Spain, US, and UK, and over 30 peer-reviewed scientific articles. Lorenzo is a specialist in designing and executing different schemes to bring scientific knowledge and public policies together. Lorenzo is founding president of the Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom, expert member in knowledge management and transfer in the Scientific Advisory Council of Fundación Gadea Ciencia, and coordinator of Ciencia en el Parlamento, an initiative to foster legislative science advice in Spain.