The pilot programme ‘Towards the establishment of the European Diplomatic Academy’ has the objective to design and test a permanent training structure for European diplomats. The pilot project is funded with a budget of EUR 990 500 allocated by the European Parliament to the 2022 European External Action Service budget and consists of three separate components:

1. Pilot Academic Programme: EUR 130 000 were awarded to a consortium formed by the College of Europe Bruges and the College of Europe Natolin;

2. Feasibility study: EUR 132 000 were awarded to a consortium formed by the European Institute for Public Administration and the European University Institute of Florence;

3. Scholarship scheme: EUR 654 000 were allocated to pay boarding, lodging and study visits expenses of participants.

The sending States/institutions selected participants among officials in their junior grade. In this first pilot programme, officials of the national diplomatic services of the Member States, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Turkey, Western Balkan partners and EU institutions participate.

To strengthen the EU as a global player, more well-trained European diplomats are needed. Therefore, the European Diplomatic Academy will prepare young national diplomats on EU issues and working methods and promote a European diplomatic culture. In the longer term, the European Diplomatic Academy will help create a critical mass of European diplomats with a deep understanding of EU’s global role, principles and interests, preparing them for posts both abroad and in the national structures dealing with EU matters.