



A Systematic Literature Review and Meta-Analysis Innovative Diplomacy - Theory & Practices: An Analysis of Traditional and Innovative Diplomacy Models and their Applications

Mohamed Abdulrahmn Abdulla Mohamed (Al-Faris)ⁱ

ⁱArabia Gulf University, Innovation Management, Bahrain
Ph.D. Candidate – mohamedaam@agu.edu.bh

ABSTRACT

The advent of globalization has expanded the realms of influence within international relations, transcending the confines of conventional instruments employed in countries' foreign policy. Formal diplomacy acknowledges the impact of informal diplomacy, and conversely, informal diplomacy cannot supplant the role of formal diplomacy in international relations. This contemporary diplomatic challenge involves a competition between two change dynamics: traditional diplomacy evolving from top-down official trends, and contemporary diplomacy adapting to bottom-up pressures. Practice theory explains how a change in actual behavior leads to a change in ideas. While innovative diplomacy denotes a profound transformation in diplomatic approaches, blending traditional and modern tools in international relations. It involves leveraging a state's comparative advantages to realize foreign policy objectives while embracing innovative communication methods in diplomatic endeavors. This research aims to examine literature on current diplomacy, scrutinize the discourse on the dynamic interplay between traditional and modern diplomatic practices, and survey diverse applications such as digital diplomacy, sports diplomacy, science and technology diplomacy, economic diplomacy, among others. As the global landscape undergoes rapid transformations, diplomats grapple with the challenge of harmonizing foreign policy realities with public perception while respecting deeply entrenched traditional values. Moreover, the research seeks to analyze strategies of innovative diplomacy and best practices in order to formulate a theoretical framework, with a particular emphasis on its evolving role, knowledge exchange mechanisms, and strategies for efficient adaptation to constant changes. The research explores a global perspective on innovative diplomacy, offering a framework for examining the adoption of innovative diplomatic applications that can also be implemented regionally, such as in the Arab States region, and within niche groups like Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in order to effectively engage in world politics and serve their interests. The reluctance of traditional diplomacy to evolve allows non-state actors to wield greater influence on regional international relations. While the adoption of innovative diplomacy practices, including a gender-sensitive approach, contributes to the overall innovation in diplomacy. The research's objective is to investigate how diplomacy's role is adapting to include innovative practices that foster peace and cooperation. It also aims to facilitate a two-way knowledge exchange between diplomats and researchers, sharing innovative ideas and comparative studies, as well as to identify strategies for diplomats to efficiently navigate political changes while upholding diplomatic traditions.

1. INTRODUCTION

The field of international relations and foreign policy is wide enough to encourage contributions researching various dimensions of diplomacy and in particular on innovative diplomacy. The selected sources are clustered in groups, according to their methodology and theoretical framework, subject matters they deal with, and views of innovative diplomacy. The current literature lacks such a comprehensive understanding of innovative diplomacy, as some scholars unintentionally oversee some of its major dimensions (e.g. organizational set up of diplomatic entities and foreign policy decision-making systems) or intentionally disregard them.

This systematic literature review in international relations, with an emphasis on innovative diplomacy, will focus on the following objectives:

1. **The Evolving Diplomatic Role:** To investigate how diplomacy's role is adapting to include innovative practices that foster peace and cooperation.
2. **Knowledge Exchange:** To facilitate a two-way knowledge exchange between diplomats and researchers, sharing innovative ideas and comparative studies.
3. **Adaptation and Efficiency:** To identify strategies for diplomats to efficiently navigate political changes while upholding diplomatic traditions.

The subtitle of this research is "**Theory & Practices**", but it does not imply one theory, rather aims at reviewing various theories of diplomacy in general and innovative diplomacy in particular. The word "applications" in the title of the research refers to the attempt to identify, classify and analyze contemporary experiences according to several criteria, such as the field of application, its effectiveness, tools, and lessons learned.

The research showed that good practices in the field of innovative diplomacy were accompanied by some of these elements such as specializing in a particular field, e.g. sports diplomacy, technological diplomacy, education, and, economic diplomacy. Good practices also include diplomats characterized by innovative behaviors such as communicating with the local community, having prominent activity on networking, and learning local languages. In other cases, innovative diplomacy referred to the modernization of official diplomacy procedures and introducing new diplomatic management systems in line with the era of digitization, market economics and crisis management.

In this context, this research seeks to ask and address the following Research Questions (RQs):

1. **Research Question 1 (RQ1):** How is innovative diplomacy defined, and what are its dimensions, according to existing research?
2. **Research Question 2 (RQ2):** What strategies and best practices can modernize traditional diplomacy and enhance innovative diplomacy?
3. **Research Question 3 (RQ3):** What qualifications are required for diplomatic cadres to cultivate their innovative capabilities?

The research's hypotheses are as follows:

1. Innovative diplomacy involves a top-down and bottom-up approach, integrating rational policy agendas with pragmatic diplomatic actions to serve state interests.
2. The reluctance of traditional diplomacy to evolve allows non-state actors to wield greater influence on regional international relations.
3. Adopting innovative diplomacy practices includes a gender-sensitive approach, contributing to the overall innovation in diplomacy.

This research offers a comprehensive overview of current research into innovative diplomacy. Section 2 discusses the field of innovative diplomacy. Section 3 outlines the research methodology and design used to carry out this literature review. Section 4 reports on the findings and includes a summary of the barriers and enablers to implementing innovative diplomacy, Sections 5 reflects on these findings through mentioning the gap, while Section 6 touches upon the answers to the research questions. Finally, section 7 is the conclusion - outlining the limitations and implications of the research, in addition to future research trajectories.

2. INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY

Innovative diplomacy refers to the fundamental change in diplomacy and the integration between traditional and modern tools in international relations, investing in the state's comparative advantages to implement foreign policy goals, and adopting modern methods of communication in diplomatic work. Griset (2020) questions the concept of innovation diplomacy to determine its true perimeter and its different dimensions.

He argues that what is called innovation diplomacy encompasses ancient practices at the crossroads of science, technology, economy, and culture. Innovation diplomacy can be understood only as a hybrid concept reflecting organizations and strategies rooted in older practices articulated to the challenges of the present.

States use diplomacy to establish their positions in international relations. Through negotiations and dialogue, states aimed at identifying shared interests as well as points of contention. Most often in international relations, states come to an agreement after discussions and portray the behaviors and principles that are deemed "acceptable and advantageous for both parties. This works through soft power, due to the fact that these tactics are not forcibly imposed. Some research diplomacy as traditional practice in international relations, where same theories apply. The research "The Conduct of Modern Diplomacy: Why and How" by Opeoluwa (2017) explores the evolution of diplomacy and how it is conducted in the present day. The author notes that diplomacy began in the 13th century in Europe, and after centuries of various developments, it became a complex tactic used to achieve lasting relationships and goals, relying on dialogue to manage international relations in a non-violent manner. The author also emphasized that diplomacy is concerned with enabling the security of objectives (interests and values) without the use of force, propaganda, or legal means.

2.1. Theoretical Perspectives on Diplomacy/ Theorizing Diplomacy

Pouliot, V. and Cornut, J. (2015) define diplomacy as a historically and culturally contingent bundle of practices that are analytically alike in their claim to represent a given polity to the outside world. They explored the multiple synergies between international practice theory and diplomatic studies. The timing for this cross-fertilizing exchange could not be better, as the research of diplomacy enters a phase of theorization while practice scholars look to confront the approach to new empirical and analytical challenges. From this perspective, diplomacy is seen as a historically and culturally contingent bundle of practices that are analytically alike in their claim to represent a given polity to the outside world.

On a different scale, Mamchii (2023) defined diplomacy as the art and practice of negotiation and conducting dialogues through different measures between states, groups, or people to influence the international system's decisions, events, and behaviors. It is undertaken to promote peace among nations and avoid a state of war or violence. In this perspective, diplomacy is conducted by diplomats. All the functions of diplomacy are performed by them. The functions of diplomacy include the state's representation and negotiation, the gathering of information, and the promotion of peaceful ties between

nations. The main duty of the diplomat is to represent and protect the sending state's interest in the receiving state. They facilitate and initiate treaties, conventions, and strategic agreements. They promote peacemaking and peace maintenance between two or more states.

Murray (2012) also argues that the traditional view of diplomacy is an archaic vision of the 'engine room of international relations', which he sees as parochial and does not match the realities of the modern, twenty-first century diplomatic environment where pluralistic, pacific and polyilateral networks of diplomacy are thriving. In his article, he identified three distinct Schools of diplomatic thought—Traditional, Nascent, and Innovative.

Mamchii (2023) further reinforces this idea by recognizing that the purpose of diplomacy is to conduct international relations through dialogue and negotiation to advance constructive relations between states. It secures a cooperative agreement in which each party has its interests addressed in the best way. He mentions that diplomatic practice has evolved from a secret deal-making and conspiring system under monarchical authority to a transparent democracy and a bewildering array of domestic and international politics. In modern-day diplomacy, international organizations and non-governmental initiatives are also included with state governments.

This has been underpinned in Constantinou & Cornago (2016) article, which stated that trans professional diplomacy represents the evolution of diplomatic roles over time and how they have been affected by globalization. They also explore how non-state actors like NGOs, private organizations, celebrities, and others have emerged as significant players in diplomatic space, transforming the field. Overall, the researchers suggest that the evolution of diplomacy is a functional response to the challenges of our time and an exciting development that creates new possibilities for practicing diplomacy in different contexts.

2.2. Innovative Approaches of Diplomacy



Fig. 1: Innovative Diplomacy Dimensions and Contemporary Approaches

Pajtinka & Bel (2016) highlighted the role of military diplomacy as a set of activities carried out mainly by the representatives of the defense department of states, aimed at pursuing the foreign policy interests of the state in the field of security and defense policy. The main functions of military diplomacy are gathering and analyzing of information on the receiving state's armed forces, promoting cooperation, communication, and mutual relations between the armed forces of the sending and the receiving state, organization of working visits of representatives of the defense authorities and of peaceful stay of the military units of the sending state in the receiving state, support of business contracts with arms and military equipment between the sending and the receiving state, and representation of the sending state and its armed forces at official ceremonies and other events in the receiving state.

Whereas Adesina (2017) has explored the concept of digital diplomacy and examined how countries use digital media to advance their foreign policies. Adesina argued that while digital diplomacy offers opportunities to enhance diplomatic activities and project a country's foreign policy positions to various audiences, it presents some challenges. For example, digital diplomacy can be risky due to information leakage, hacking, and the anonymity of internet users. However, countries cannot afford to be left behind in this era of digital diplomacy.

From another perspective, in his work titled 'The Necessity of Cyber-Diplomacy in the Digital Age', Bhattacharya (2022) suggests that there is a need for some form of communication and diplomacy to make peace between nations, and cyber-diplomacy can be that tool. With the digital age becoming an era in which computers and interconnected networks control most aspects of life, international cooperation and understanding among nations have never been more necessary. As well, with the increase of globalization and social media, the internet has become a primary contributor to a new type of diplomacy, but also where commerce has no borders and social issues affect everyone differently, cyber-diplomacy has become one of the most influential forces affecting international society. Bhattacharya explains that cyber-diplomacy uses the internet and digital technologies for diplomacy, allowing people in many different countries to communicate with one another very easily.

On a different level, Raynkhardt (2015) through his research of the Italy system as an example of innovative economic diplomacy and described and analyzed the functioning of the Italian national system of economic diplomacy. He highlighted the historical and economic background and conditions for the development of the Italian national system of economic diplomacy, from its earliest stages to present times. The article examines the procedures and mechanisms of interaction between the key national economic-diplomatic agents, including the ministry of foreign affairs, ministry of economic development, and public and private institutes. He suggested that the "Italy System" has developed over centuries emphasizing the tight link between instruments of "soft power" and economic diplomacy and their institutional usage. The system's distinctive features have been corporateness and coordinated actions. He also emphasized that Italy is a leader in good governance and conflict resolution, aiding other countries seeking to develop their institutional capacities and a case of innovative economic diplomacy, and concludes by noting that the unique characteristics and historical roots of the "Italy System" make it a valuable model that other countries can research and learn from.

Moreover, scholars highlight that historically, gender has not been a major concern in diplomacy, as only 15% of the world's ambassadors are female, and the number becomes even smaller when we look at negotiators and chief mediators in peace negotiations Skjetne & Grønning (2018). Today, gender has moved to the top of many governments' and international organizations' agendas. The UN resolution called "International Day of Women in Diplomacy" marked on 24 June reiterates that the participation of women, on equal terms with men and at all levels of decision-making, is essential to the achievement of sustainable development, peace and democracy. However, at the highest diplomatic levels, out of the 193 Member States of the United Nations, only 34 women serve as elected Heads of State or Government, and according to a new UN report (2023), at the current pace of progress, equal representation in parliament will not be achieved until 2062.

Sports diplomacy has also evolved into a dynamic and influential force in international relations, and scholarly discourse has increasingly explored its intricate relationship with innovative diplomacy. Scholars such as Murray (2018) and Rofo (2016) have highlighted the transformative potential of sports diplomacy in building bridges between nations and fostering cross-cultural understanding. This unique aspect of diplomacy extends beyond traditional approaches, marking a paradigm shift in how nations engage with each other on the global stage. The agility and adaptability inherent in sports diplomacy align with the principles of innovative diplomacy, emphasizing the importance of dynamic and flexible approaches in the pursuit of diplomatic objectives. A noteworthy aspect is the integration of digital platforms into sports diplomacy practices. Ratten (2020) delves into the emergence of sports through technology, where the global reach of sports events is amplified through digital mediums. This evolution corresponds with the broader trend in innovative diplomacy, which emphasizes leveraging technology and modern communication tools to enhance international engagement. The digital dimension not only expands the reach of sports diplomacy but also opens new avenues for nations to project their cultural values and aspirations globally. This integration underscores the dynamic and forward-thinking nature of the relationship between sports diplomacy and innovative diplomatic practices.

The synergy between sports diplomacy and innovation is further substantiated by the works of additional scholars such as Dubinsky (2023), who explored the role of sports in public diplomacy and nation branding. As nations seek novel ways to enhance their global image, sports diplomacy emerges as a strategic instrument within the broader landscape of innovative diplomatic strategies. The ability of sports to foster connections and adapt to the digital age positions it as an influential force in shaping the future of international relations. As nations navigate the complexities of modern diplomacy, integrating sports diplomacy within innovative frameworks offers a promising avenue for enhancing soft power and promoting constructive global engagements.

Furthermore, as new approaches to diplomacy are needed in the current era of globalization, countries need to demonstrate solidarity and address issues peacefully. Multilateralism and cooperation are necessary to protect the world collectively from the pandemic, and new approaches to diplomacy from several different aspects will be observed moving forward. In the field of diplomacy, digital use and a focus on health, science, and environmental diplomacy will become prevalent in the future. The synthesis of diverse scholarly perspectives reflects a compelling convergence of the symbiotic relationship between these new approaches in diplomacy and innovative diplomacy.

As nations navigate the complexities of global affairs, the strategic integration of these various types of diplomacy within the broader innovative diplomatic framework emerges as a promising avenue for enhancing international engagement, fostering positive relations, and transcending traditional diplomatic boundaries.

2.3. Innovative Diplomacy and New Trends

Science & Technology Innovation (STI) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) have become widely familiar and used in researching innovative diplomacy. According to Nesta (2016), diplomats have never had exclusive rights to international relations. The power of the global science and international innovation community has gone so far as to influence foreign policy, thereby shaping international relationships. The trend is gaining momentum and some countries have prioritized "Innovation Diplomacy" as important in increasing mutual economic and societal benefits. On the other hand, Gallo (2021) criticizes the general understanding of STI. In her MA' thesis, she studied the EU social innovation diplomacy, focusing on the role of Sweden as

an innovative leader. She argued that innovation activities tend to be geographically concentrated, and therefore a comprehensive approach to innovation requires the adoption of the cluster perspective.

Practitioners emphasize the evolving nature of diplomacy and stress the importance of human resource development and training for diplomats. Rana (2016) highlights global shifts in diplomatic training, emphasizing the adoption of new trends and best practices by foreign ministries. He advocates for distance learning as a cost-effective and flexible option, suggesting the inclusion of non-state representatives in training programs. Saner (2002) delves into the changing role of diplomats over the centuries, citing increased complexity due to expanded international relations. Stein's (2021) work emphasizes the importance of learning from global experiences and analyzing diplomatic training practices worldwide. The research recommends closer collaboration between foreign ministries and diplomatic institutions, promoting cultural sensitivity, diplomatic acumen, technological proficiency, and communication expertise for effective international cooperation.

Palahusynets (2020) underscores the evolving demands for diplomats in the information age, emphasizing the need for modernization in diplomatic services and enhanced training. Diplomatic skills encompass essential attributes such as effective communication, analytical prowess, critical thinking, problem-solving, conflict resolution, peace-making, and peacebuilding.

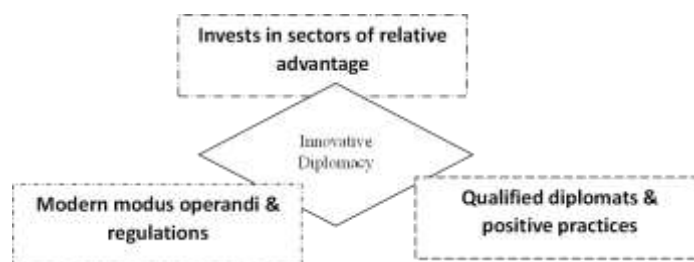


Fig.2: Innovative Diplomacy – An integrative process framework

2.4. Country/Case Studies of Innovative Diplomacy

Several studies delve into the evolving landscape of diplomatic practices and strategies. For instance, Kayani and Rehman (2022) explore Pakistan's employment of nation branding and public diplomacy to rectify negative international perceptions. The scholars advocate for innovative nation-branding and public diplomacy strategies, emphasizing the need for targeted advocacy campaigns to promote positive assets and cultural richness. Ayasreh (2023) analyzes Jordan's use of science diplomacy, noting its awareness of the discipline's importance in fostering global relations and addressing challenges. The research highlights the creation of local institutions to integrate science diplomacy into Jordan's overall political strategy. Kozhanbergenova et al. (2023) research cultural diplomacy development in Kazakhstan, examining its connections and differences with "public diplomacy" and "soft power." Additionally, Epping (2022) investigates the institutionalization of science diplomacy through a comparative research of Science and Innovation Centers in Germany and Switzerland. The research underscores the role of these centers in promoting international collaboration and competition.

Additionally, Soler (2021) emphasizes the power of science diplomacy in addressing regional challenges in the Mediterranean, fostering cross-border cooperation, and achieving regional objectives, and Aljaifri (2023) focuses on the definitions and modern forms of diplomacy, highlighting the current significance of parliamentary diplomacy in strengthening official/state diplomacy. Other scholars such as Tomalová & Ullrichová (2020) discuss EU water diplomacy, exploring new practices in the field and the interaction between scientists and diplomats, while Yenigun (2021) examines Oman's soft power in foreign affairs, emphasizing the nation's cultural tolerance, mediation capability, and humble diplomacy. Tursunova (2023) analyzes the concept and legal aspects of diplomatic activity, diplomatic service, and diplomatic law in Uzbekistan, emphasizing the need for modern legislation. Moreover, Marczuk (2021) explores the capabilities and competencies required for modern diplomats in Poland's Foreign Service, focusing on critical thinking, communication, cultural awareness, and technological proficiency.

Moreover, Pakin (2022) describes the UAE's transition from military intervention to innovation-based diplomatic missions, showcasing its multidimensional "innovation diplomacy" and Abduazimov (2021) studies South Korea's public diplomacy, highlighting its recent structural transformation into a polycentric framework of public and private partnership. Pouliot, V., Cornut, J. (2015) define diplomacy as a historically and culturally contingent bundle of practices, emphasizing the role of international practice theory in diplomatic studies. Furthermore, Constantinou et al. (2021) explore the concept of practicing diplomacy, aiming to develop or revise practice theory through productive disagreements over diplomatic practice definitions, while Bueger and Gadinger (2011) note the growing interest in practice within international relations, particularly in the context of international practice theory (IPT), offering new perspectives on world politics. These studies collectively contribute to understanding the diverse dimensions of innovative diplomacy, encompassing innovative strategies, scientific collaborations, cultural exchanges, and the evolving role of diplomats in an interconnected world.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY & DESIGN

The report adopted the **PRISMA** compilation scheme, focusing on the 2010-2023 period, although this time frame was expanded due to historical changes in diplomacy and the importance of accessing it to understand contemporary reality. Several sources and search engines have been used for available literature in diplomacy and their dissenting theories, such as SCOPUS (which is known to be the best abstraction and citation database for peer-reviewed

journals), Google Scholar, Academia, Research Net, ResearchGate, etc., and patrols specializing in international relations and diplomacy. The PRISMA method helps identify relevant sources for research topic. It also enables us to evaluate and organize records in a systematic form that also shows reasons for inclusion and exclusion of records, and enhance credibility of the literature review, but also to update the flow diagram while conducting the research. By minimizing the risk of subjectivity and/or overlooking relevant literature, the SLR research can produce a reliable platform for advancing our understanding of a specific concept and enable related theoretical extensions (Snyder, 2019).

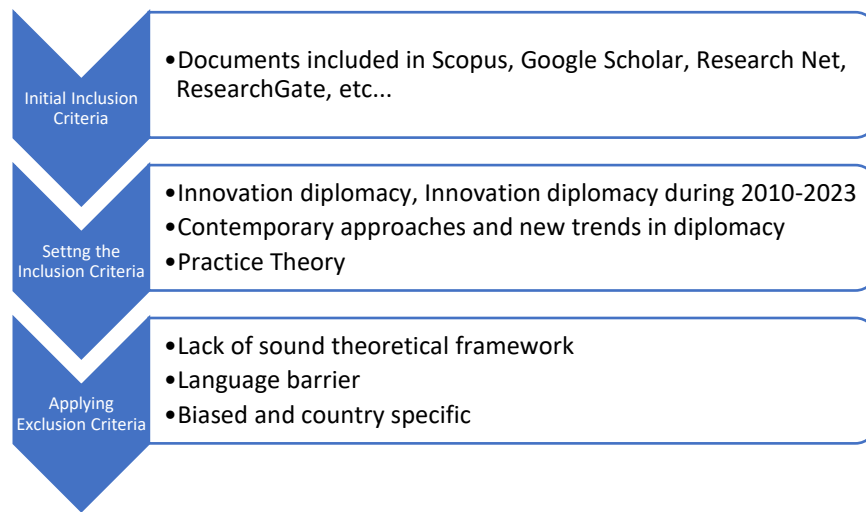


Fig. 3: Research Method Outlin

3.1. Research Boundaries, Scope & Methods

The flow diagram consists of two parts: the left part corresponds to **databases and registers**; the right part represents other sources such as **websites and organizations**.

Horizontally, there are three sections. The first section is identification which presents the number of records found after searching sources. The second section, screening, shows the result of assessing records, which are included/excluded and why. The third section presents actual sources which the report would build upon. Aligned with the scope of the research, this research employs cross-referencing and screening to eliminate duplicates and filter out irrelevant sources.

Databases and registers (left part of the diagram):

1. **Phase 1 (Identification):** 136 records were initially identified by searching databases and registers using the following keywords: “diplomacy + innovative”, “diplomacy + modern”, “international + relations”, “practice + theory”, “critique + to + traditional + diplomacy”, “globalization + impact”, “diplomatic + culture + emotional + sensitivity”, “science + technology + innovation”, “artificial + intelligence”, “human resources + training + for + innovative + diplomacy”, “country + case + studies”, “cyber + diplomacy”, “digital + diplomacy”, “economic + diplomacy”, “military + diplomacy”, “Covid-19 + diplomacy”, “gender-responsive + diplomacy”, and “sports + diplomacy”.
2. **Phase 2 (Screening):** 8 records were excluded before screening (6 records were duplicates and 2 were excluded for other reasons). After initial screening, it was found that 6 records were excluded, thus remains 122, then 3 records (reports) could not be retrieved, leaving 119 records for eligibility check, where 5 records were excluded due to the lack of a sound methodological component.
3. **Phase 3 (Eligibility):** The 136 records were reduced to 114 by analyzing the abstracts of the documents. Only relevant records were retained.
4. **Phase 4 (Inclusion):** Final records considered for preparing this report were 114, from databases and registers.

The same structure applies for the websites and organizations (right part of the diagram):

1. **Phase 1 (Identification):** 350 records were identified from websites and organizations (e.g. reports), 9 of which could not be retrieved.
2. **Phase 2 (Screening):** 322 records of the remaining 341 records were excluded due to lack of sound methodological framework (e.g. comments and essays less relevant for the research topic though titles were implying otherwise).
3. **Phase 3 (Eligibility):** 19 records remained eligible for inclusion in the research.
4. **Phase 4 (Inclusion):** Final records considered for preparing this report were 19 records, from websites and organizations

Hence, the **total number of records**¹ used to prepare this research (from all sources) added up to **133 records**, which are cited in the “**References Section**”. For an overview of journals included in the research sample refer to Table 1.

Note: At the screening phase, sources are identified and filtered using keywords to generate records. The utilization of inclusion criteria might have resulted in the exclusion of records that did not employ the specified keywords in the search, thereby representing a limitation in the scope of the research.

Table 1. Overview of journals included in the research sample

JOURNAL	NUMBER OF ARTICLES
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND REVIEW	2
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE	2
EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	2
EUROPEAN SECURITY	2
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY	2
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL	2
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INTEGRATIVE SCIENCES (IJIS)	1
THE HAGUE JOURNAL OF DIPLOMACY	1
ONLINE JOURNAL MODELLING THE NEW EUROPE	1
EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF FUTURES RESEARCH	1
EJTS EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF TRANSFORMATION STUDIES	1
JOURNAL OF AFRICAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS	1
JOURNAL OF LIBERTY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	1
JOURNAL OF SOCIAL POLITICAL SCIENCES (JSPS)	1
OTHER JOURNALS	37

¹ Disclaimer: All the records used to prepare this research and its outcomes are mentioned in the references section, but they are not directly cited in the body of this research paper due to space limitations.

PRISMA FLOW Diagram for systematic review which included searches of databases, registers, and other sources

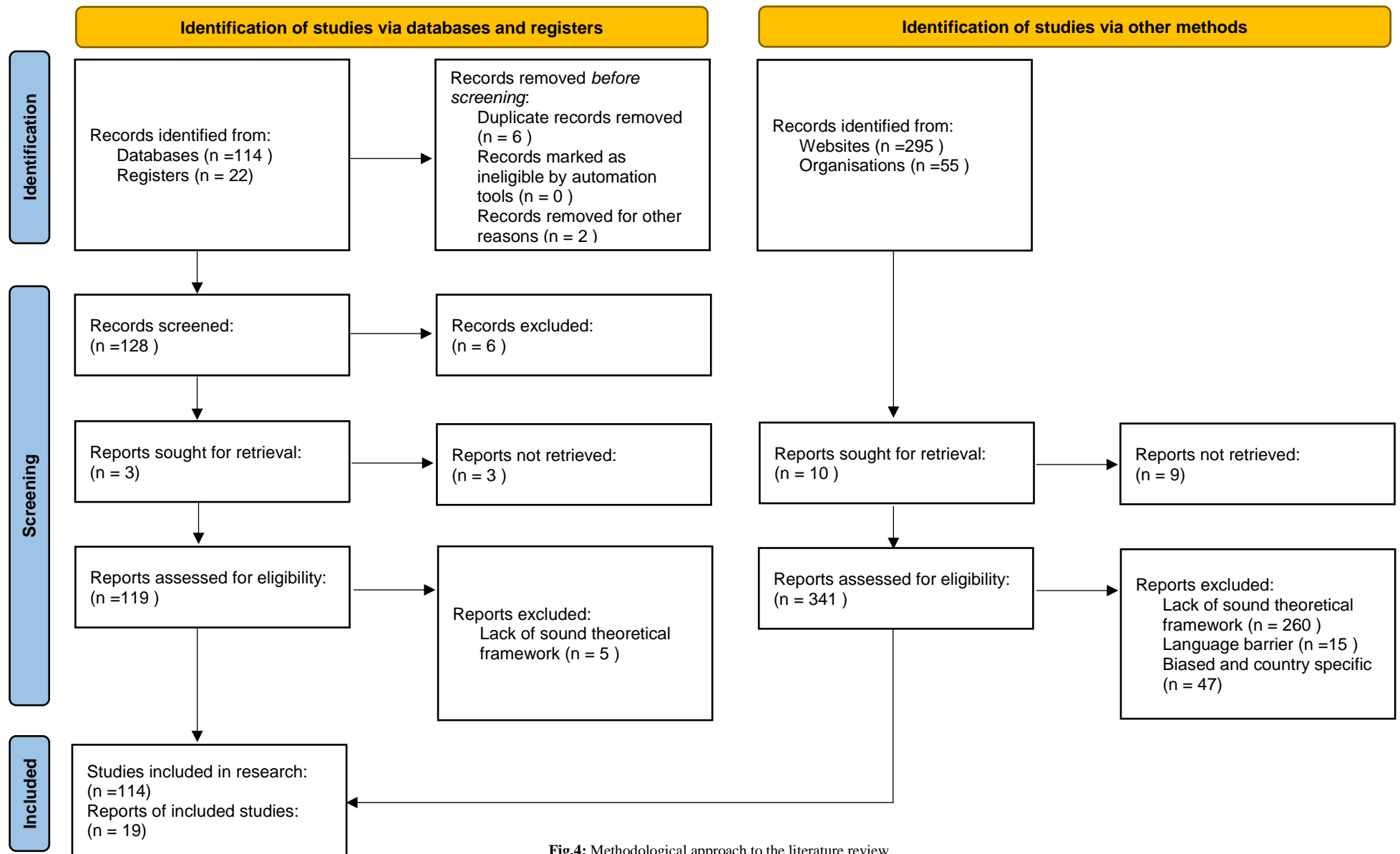


Fig.4: Methodological approach to the literature review.

4. FINDINGS

As mentioned in the previous section, 133 records were retained for analysis. These records were classified into groups in terms of: (1) Country (where research/research was conducted/record with a specific focus on a country), (2) Source of the record (databases and registers, other sources such as websites and organizations), and (3) Focus areas of the literature.

4.1. Country

In terms of records addressing specific regions: 14 records covered the region of Europe/the European Union, while 1 record covered Africa and the rest of the globe. With regards to Arab countries, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Jordan had one record each. The following countries also had one record each: India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Singapore, Malaysia, Ethiopia, Switzerland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, Japan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, South Africa, United States of America. Germany had 2 records each.

Most of the records did not have a specific focus on a particular country, or countries more generally. However, some of them mentioned countries/regions in the literature as part of supporting evidence (Such as: the United Kingdom, China, Sweden, Norway, Greece, Spain, Canada, Afghanistan, Egypt, the Mediterranean, the African Union, ASEAN, the Middle East, the Arabian Gulf, Latin America).

- **Note:** 47 records (from other sources: websites and organizations) were excluded during the initial screening phase because they were biased and country specific.

Fig. 5 below shows the compiled body of literature from 2009 to 2023. Majority of the records used in this research were published in 2023 (24 records). There were 9 records that were used in the research from years prior² to 2009, due to the relevance of the information to the focus areas of the literature review.

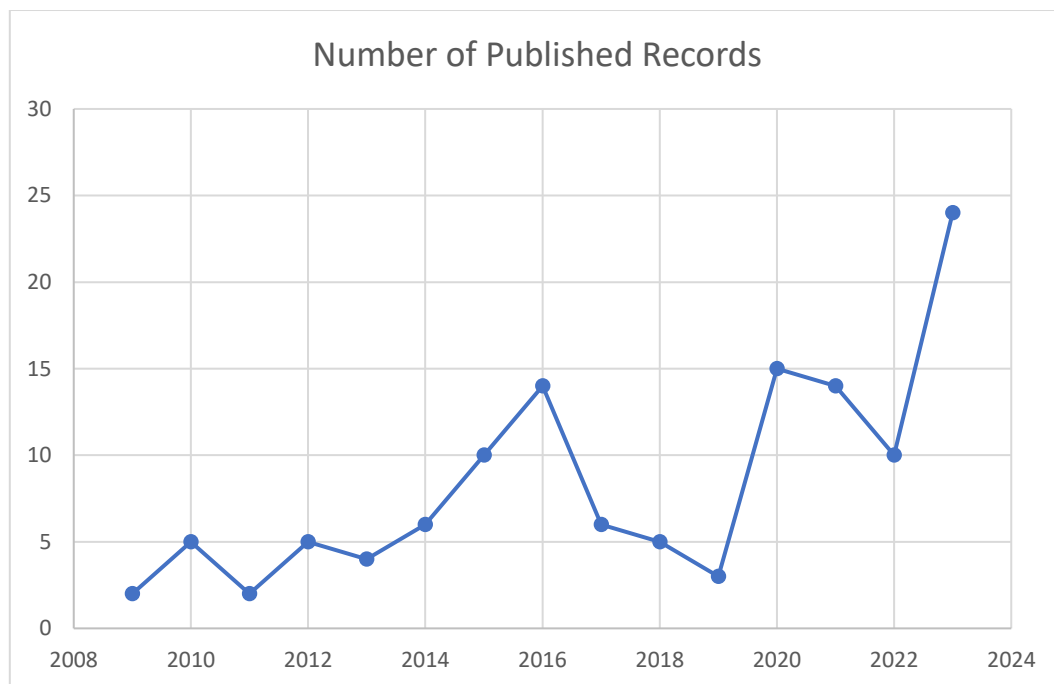


Fig. 5: Yearly distribution of peer-reviewed published researchs used in this literature review

4.2 Literature Review Focus

The records are divided into five categories reflecting their focus (Refer to Table 2.). **Of 133 resources:**

1. **Innovative Diplomacy – Definition:** 25 records explored the meaning and definition of the term “Innovative diplomacy”.
2. **Theoretical Perspectives on Diplomacy/Theorizing Diplomacy:** 21 records addressed the theoretical perspectives on diplomacy/theorizing diplomacy.
3. **Contemporary Approaches of Diplomacy:** 24 records introduced, highlighted, and discussed contemporary approaches to diplomacy.

² The records were from the years: 1984 - 1, 1990 - 1, 1997 - 1, 1999 - 1, 2002 - 2, 2004 - 1, 2005 - 1, 2006 - 1, 2007 - 1

4. **Innovative Diplomacy – New Trends:** 53 records highlighted new trends in innovative diplomacy. This included: Cyber Diplomacy, Digital Diplomacy, Economic Diplomacy, Military Diplomacy, Covid-19 Diplomacy, Gender-Responsive Diplomacy, Sports Diplomacy.

5. **Country/Case Studies of Innovative Diplomacy:** 21 records covered country/case studies of innovative diplomacy.

Table 2. Focus areas of the literature in this review

#	FOCUS AREA	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF RECORDS
1.	INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY – DEFINITION	THIS INCLUDES ALL DEFINITIONS OF INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY	25
2.	THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON DIPLOMACY / THEORIZING DIPLOMACY	THIS INCLUDES THEORIES AND PERSPECTIVES PERTAINING TO DIPLOMACY	21
3.	CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES OF DIPLOMACY	THIS INCLUDES ALL CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES OF DIPLOMACY	24
4.	INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY – NEW TRENDS	THIS INCLUDES NEW TRENDS IN INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY	53
5.	COUNTRY/CASE STUDIES OF INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY	THIS INCLUDES COUNTRY/CASE STUDIES AND REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES WHERE INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS IS EMPLOYED	40

NOTE: SOME RECORDS INCLUDE MULTIPLE FOCUS AREAS.

4.3 Discussion

Diplomacy lives between two worlds, the first represented by traditional practices and the second by modern ideas and tools. This relationship is sometimes competitive and sometimes cooperative, and this entanglement is the theoretical basis of innovative diplomacy, i.e. 'integrative diplomacy' (Hocking & Melissen, 2015). The emergence of digital diplomacy did not replace traditional diplomacy, but complemented it and helped States to achieve their foreign policy objectives (Adesina, 2017). The argument that there is "one theory" of diplomacy is inaccurate, because there are several competing theories, each of which is evident in reality and literature. The barriers and enablers to implementing innovative diplomacy are summarized in Table 3. below.

TABLE 3. BARRIERS AND ENABLERS TO IMPLEMENTING INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY

AREA	BARRIERS	ENABLERS
MODERNIZING TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY AND ITS MODUS OPERANDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ INNOVATIVE DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES EXTEND BEYOND CLASSICAL CONCEPTS, FOCUSING ON PUBLIC OPINION, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND NON-STATE ACTORS. ▪ AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES TEND TO SUBORDINATE INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY TO TRADITIONAL METHODS. ▪ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY SHOULD NOT DIVORCE ITSELF FROM SOCIAL VALUES AND HUMAN GOALS, PRIORITIZING THE IMPROVEMENT OF GLOBAL QUALITY OF LIFE AND SUSTAINABILITY. ▪ RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADOPTION OF DIGITIZATION IN DIPLOMATIC WORK. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY CAN COMPLEMENT AND PROMOTE TRADITIONAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES, CONTRARY TO THE NOTION OF INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY RIVALING TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY. ▪ TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY, BUT THEY INTEGRATE POSITIVELY, I.E. INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY REQUESTS INNOVATION IN DIPLOMACY. ▪ IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES. ▪ ENSURING ALIGNMENT BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AND INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY TO CREATE HARMONY

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESISTANCE TO CHANGE. 	<p>WITHIN PUBLIC OPINION AND DECISION-MAKING INSTITUTIONS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY IS A TOOL FOR THE ACQUISITION/DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND A MEANS OF INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION. INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY REINFORCES THE SOFT POWER OF THE STATE (RATHER THAN RELYING ON COERCION).
<p>REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT & INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS</p> <p>(POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC DECISION-MAKING MECHANISMS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY IS EVOLVING AT AN UNPRECEDENTED PACE. CHALLENGES TO THE TRADITIONAL DIVIDE BETWEEN STATE AND NON-STATE DIPLOMATIC ROLES AS LINES BETWEEN THEM ARE BLURRED. GROWING ROLE OF INFORMAL DIPLOMACY. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR DECISION-MAKERS TO EMBRACE INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY AS A COMPETITIVE AND STRATEGIC APPROACH THAT MAXIMIZES NATIONAL INTERESTS AND FOSTERS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. LEVERAGING COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATION FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES BY ALL ACTORS (FORMAL AND INFORMAL). STRATEGICALLY EMPLOYING INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY TO BOLSTER COMPETITIVE FOREIGN POLICY TO INVEST IN SECTORS WITH RELATIVE ADVANTAGE (E.G. HIGH-TECH, CULTURE, ETC.).
DIPLOMATIC STAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONTINUOUS CHALLENGES FACED BY DIPLOMATIC STAFF DUE TO GLOBALIZATION, CHANGING NATURE OF CONFLICTS AND NEGOTIATIONS, THE SCIENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS REVOLUTION, AND THE EMERGENCE OF NON-TRADITIONAL ACTORS IN FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUCH AS COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS HAVE ALTERED THE ROLE OF A DIPLOMAT. INCREASED SPECIALIZATION, GENERALISTS REACHING THEIR LIMITS, AND AN UNPRECEDENTED REQUEST FOR INFORMATION. LIMITED FOREIGN SERVICE BUDGETS AND STAFFING LEVELS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMPHASIZING EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND ENHANCING DIPLOMATIC STAFF SKILLS IN ADVANCING INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY EFFORTS AND SUPPORTING SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM TRADITIONAL TO INNOVATIVE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. PROMOTING THE USE OF E-LEARNING PLATFORMS AND OTHER FORMS OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE TRAINING ENHANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE IS TO PROVIDE PROPER AND EQUAL TRAINING FOR BOTH WOMEN AND MEN.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN TAKING INITIATIVES AND NOT CONFRONTING HEADQUARTERS WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI. 	
THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL KNOWLEDGE OF INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MOST STUDIES FOCUSING ON NEW APPLICATIONS OF DIPLOMACY DID NOT DISTINGUISH THEM FROM TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY. ▪ GENDER HAS RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION IN SCHOLARLY WORK ON DIPLOMACY AND FOREIGN POLICY. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MONITORING INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN DIPLOMACY AND DIPLOMATS' SKILLS IN COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN THE TECHNICAL WORLD IS REQUIRED TO FURTHER DEVELOP THE THEORY OF INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY. ▪ INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF GENDER-BIASED DIPLOMACY ON WOMEN, AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT ON INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY.

The main arguments can be summarized **as follows:**

- While technical development often accompanies innovative diplomacy, cases like Turkey's emphasis on education and Brazil's focus on diplomatic staff skills demonstrate instances where technical superiority is not a prerequisite for innovative diplomacy.
- The conventional correlation between democratic/open societies and innovative diplomacy is challenged by examples like China, which strategically employs diplomacy to bolster its trade power.
- Contrary to the notion of innovative diplomacy rivaling traditional diplomacy, real-world scenarios, such as sports diplomacy between China and the United States in the 1970s, indicate that innovative diplomacy can complement and promote traditional diplomatic practices.
- Although innovative diplomacy traditionally relies on science and technological advancement for national interests, the era of globalization compels all actors, both formal and informal, to increasingly leverage communication technology and digital communication for various purposes, including adapting to challenges like the Covid-19 pandemic. Science and technology diplomacy should not divorce itself from social values and human goals, prioritizing the improvement of global quality of life and sustainability.

In summary, innovative diplomacy is evolving at an unprecedented pace, surpassing the world order established before World War II. Innovative diplomatic practices extend beyond classical concepts, focusing on public opinion, civil society organizations, and non-state actors. This shift challenges the traditional divide between state and non-state diplomatic roles. The impact of innovative diplomatic society on decision-making is waning, emphasizing the need for decision-makers to embrace innovative diplomacy as a competitive and strategic approach that maximizes national interests and fosters international cooperation. The call is for a transition from traditional to innovative diplomatic missions.

4.4. Outline

The review shows that “successful” or at least recognized examples of innovative diplomacy have achieved one or more of the three fundamental dimensions of innovative diplomacy: competitive foreign policy to invest in sectors with relative advantage (e.g. high-tech, culture, etc.), modern modus operandi of diplomatic work, and, qualified diplomats.

By highlighting the variations of pro-innovation foreign policies, the theoretical framework enhances analytical precision and generates more robust explanations for the presence, adoption, and practice of innovative diplomacy. For instance, variations in pro-innovation foreign policy may be traced by examining the extent to which gender-balanced strategies in diplomacy are developed by states.

4.5. Key Findings

After analyzing the literature, **the following findings were reached:**

- Diplomacy today is different from what it has been for decades, owing to the evolution of individual performance, cumulative skills, and awareness among diplomats (skills, approaches), the changing role of diplomacy in political decision-making (decision-making and systems analysis), changing global conditions and power balances (power approaches in international relations), as well as in the light of the economic dimension of international relations (feasibility). Scholars noted that the ways in which States interact with each other has changed more in recent decades than in 350 years since the Treaty of Westphalia (Melissen, 1999),

- Traditional diplomacy does not conflict with innovative diplomacy, but they integrate positively, i.e. innovative diplomacy requests innovation in diplomacy. **This means that:**
 - Traditional means of diplomacy (diplomatic representation, negotiation, good offices, mediation...) remain the official crossing point for the State. The tools of innovative diplomacy, although they come from outside traditional diplomacy (e.g. social networks), end up with it, in the form of impetus/pressure on the official diplomat. As noted by Cohen (1999) in his research of the evolution of diplomacy throughout history, managing international relations is still in the hands of the State and the official organs that make its foreign policy, but this should not distract attention from the growing role of informal diplomacy,
 - The competition between the instruments of traditional diplomacy and innovative forms of diplomacy escalates steadily whenever traditional diplomacy is transparent and vulnerable to democratic accountability, as it will ensure harmony with the influence of innovative diplomacy in public opinion and decision-making institutions (especially social networks, the business community). Innovative diplomacy creates a context of a positive Win-Win, while authoritarian regimes tend to subordinate innovative diplomacy to traditional diplomacy,
 - Innovative diplomacy is the output of globalization that has weakened formal and material constraints on the movement of ideas, individuals, and funds, reflecting open competition between forces and individuals both internally and externally. Its effectiveness depends on its efficient use, i.e., skills and competitiveness, as we see for example in trade relations, media, or technology, which means that a freer and more open society is more active in the areas of innovative diplomacy,
 - Innovative diplomacy is not just a subset of scientific diplomacy, public diplomacy, or modern diplomacy, because its strategies are more diverse, and its objectives are much broader, as innovative forms of diplomacy arise and change in a renewed context. Innovative diplomats do not wait for guidance from traditional diplomacy or a formal decision but rather interact with their context and surroundings, as we see in the dynamics of networks, or the developments of science and technology and its applications in unlimited areas such as artificial intelligence (AI),
 - Innovative diplomacy is also a tool for the acquisition/dissemination of knowledge and is therefore a means of intercultural communication that helps to communicate, understand, and negotiate among political communities. This organic relationship between innovative diplomacy and multicultural communication strengthens the power of the State, and thus "diplomatization" is the dissemination of human knowledge, and,
 - Innovative diplomacy reinforces the soft power of the state, defined by Joseph Nye as the ability to set the agenda in global politics by persuading and attracting others through the strength of one's beliefs, values and ideas, not through military or economic coercion. Innovative diplomacy's approach utilizes and at the same time sustains and maximizes the soft power of the nation's institutions, culture, policy, and foreign policy, to shape the preferences of others, rather than relying on coercion (Nye, 1990).

5. GAPS

The research shows that most literature addresses innovative diplomacy as a result of globalization's impact on foreign policy instruments and the nature of international relations. It considers that modern diplomacy relies on the investment of scientific and technological innovation to promote foreign policy. Literature focuses on the role of digitization as a basis for individual, collective and international relations and examines its impact on the instruments of traditional diplomacy, wondering whether it is a blessing or a curse? Traditional diplomacy was therefore considered under pressure. But few have addressed contemporary practices in diplomacy and international relations, noting that the greater trend among nations is towards innovative diplomacy, which opens up to various tools and can contain, integrate, or adapt to non-traditional tools (such as social media networks), and initiates more renewed practices.

From the review of the literature, there is an absence of an integrated view of innovative diplomacy that needs to be seen as an open approach and not limited to a particular distance or area. By definition, it is "creative" and is characterized by a continuous renewal unlike traditional diplomacy, which is based on stable elements even when the performance is modernized because it expresses the official authority of the State, which by definition is stable. There is a gap in the literature and the absence of this integrative view that the research seeks to develop to open up new prospects in diplomatic research.

Diversely, most studies focusing on new applications of diplomacy did not distinguish them from traditional diplomacy, a gap that merits consideration. Hence the scientific importance of the research, to study the emerging attention of States and international actors to the importance of soft power and maximize the role of science and knowledge exchange in international cooperation and peace, as well as the role of educational, cultural, sports, arts, economics and other institutions, and the intertwining of the roles of informal actors such as non-governmental organizations with official diplomacy. Monitoring innovative practices in diplomacy and diplomats' skills in community communication and engagement in the technical world thus becomes a must to further develop the theory of innovative diplomacy.

Noticeably, gender has received little attention in scholarly work on diplomacy and foreign policy. This research aims to investigate how gender features on both sides of the equation: impact of gender-biased diplomacy on women, and the potential impact of empowerment of women on innovative diplomacy, e.g. one way to enhance gender equality in the foreign service is to provide proper and equal training for both women and men. Some further argue that rather than talking about gender and diplomacy, we should address the gender of diplomacy.

This research is based on the broad concept of innovative diplomacy, as opposed to the concept of science and technology innovation (STI). There is practical importance for the research to address deficiencies in innovative diplomacy, such as the risks associated with the adoption of digitization in diplomatic work, or the development of diplomats' basic skills to cope with globalization, the science and communications revolution and the emergence of non-traditional actors in foreign policy and international relations. The research explores a global perspective on innovative diplomacy, offering a framework for examining the adoption of innovative diplomatic applications that can also be implemented regionally, such as in the Arab States region, and within niche groups like small island developing states (SIDS), in order to effectively engage in world politics and serve their interests.

Table 4. below shows seven main gaps (knowledge gap, evidence gap, theory gap, methodology gap, population gap, time gap, and sample gap), and their respective current status & expected progress/future recommendations.

Table 4. Gaps: Current Status & Expected Progress / Future Recommendations

#	TYPE	CURRENT STATUS	EXPECTED PROGRESS / FUTURE RECOMMENDATION
1	KNOWLEDGE GAP	THE SOURCES DISCUSSED MANY APPLICATIONS OF "NEW" DIPLOMACY, SUCH AS ECONOMIC AID DIPLOMACY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIPLOMACY..., BUT SOFT POWER HAS MANY OTHER TOOLS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE NOT APPEARED IN THE LITERATURE, SUCH AS INVESTING IN HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND SYMBOLS IN DIPLOMATIC WORK, OR INNOVATIVE PRACTICES THAT HAVE APPEARED IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUCH AS ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY AND MIGRANT WORKER DIPLOMACY... PERHAPS DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF SUFFICIENT STUDIES ON IT OR DUE TO LANGUAGE BARRIERS.	KNOWLEDGE GAPS ARE AREAS WHERE ACTORS LACK THE NECESSARY SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, OR INFORMATION NEEDED TO PERFORM EFFECTIVELY. THIS GAP NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED SO THAT THE FOUNDATION OF INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY CAN BE BASED ON COMPARATIVE FOUNDATIONS. PRACTICE THEORY EXPLAINS HOW A CHANGE IN ACTUAL BEHAVIOR LEADS TO A CHANGE IN IDEAS.
2	EVIDENCE GAP	MAJORITY OF LITERATURE RELIED ON TWO TYPES OF REASONING, DESKTOP AND ANALYTICAL. AN EXAMPLE OF DESK RESEARCH IS MONITORING INNOVATIVE PRACTICES OF DIPLOMACY IN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND A FEW OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM SOME COUNTRIES OR UNCONVENTIONAL DIPLOMATIC STANCES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ALLOCATING LARGE INVESTMENTS TO SCIENCE AND EDUCATION DIPLOMACY (FRANCE) OR TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION DIPLOMACY (SUCH AS CHINA). AN EXAMPLE OF ANALYTICAL REASONING IS THE THESES OF EXPERTS AND THE TESTIMONIES AND THESES OF SOME DIPLOMATS ABOUT THE REALITY AND FUTURE OF DIPLOMACY.	THERE IS A GAP IN EMPIRICAL REASONING, WHICH REQUIRES INTERVIEWS AND QUESTIONNAIRES WITH PRACTITIONERS AND STAKE HOLDERS OF INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY.
3	THEORY GAP	MOST SOURCES ADOPTED ONE OF TWO THEORIES TO EXPLAIN THE CHANGE TAKING PLACE IN DIPLOMATIC WORK: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> THE FIRST BELIEVES THAT TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY IS THE CONSTANT ELEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND IT MUST NOT ABANDON ITS INSTITUTIONAL MEANS AND OFFICIAL CHARACTER IN MANAGING FOREIGN POLICY, BY VIRTUE OF THE SOURCE OF ITS LEGITIMACY, WHICH IS SOVEREIGNTY ON THE ONE HAND, AND BINDING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ESTABLISHED NORMS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON THE OTHER HAND. 	NEITHER OF THE TWO SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT CAN STAND ALONE TO UNDERSTAND AND ANALYZE INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE INCREASING RESORT OF COUNTRIES TO USING MODERN METHODS AND TOOLS TO INFLUENCE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IS THE CONSTANT FACTOR, AND THAT THE ROLE OF INNOVATION IN DIPLOMACY WILL GROW ALONGSIDE WITH THE EXPANSION OF GLOBALIZATION IN COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> THE SECOND BELIEVES THAT DIPLOMACY IS ACTUALLY CHANGING, AND NO LONGER WORKS BY TRADITIONAL METHODS ALONE. 	
4 METHODOLOGY GAP	THE LITERATURE ADOPTED THEORETICAL STATEMENTS AND A RESEARCH AGENDA THAT FOCUSED ON THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN MANAGING INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS, DIPLOMACY APPROPRIATE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CRISES (SUCH AS COVID), GLOBAL ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY, DIGITAL DIPLOMACY, AND OTHERS.	BUT THERE IS A METHODOLOGICAL GAP THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED, WHICH IS ESTABLISHING THE CONCEPT OF INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY, AND CRYSTALLIZING ITS THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK THAT ALLOWS FOR CONDUCTING COMPARATIVE STUDIES ON THE ONE HAND, AND TESTING THE PROPOSED STATEMENTS ON THE OTHER HAND, MEANING THAT NOT EVERY UNFAMILIAR PRACTICE IN DIPLOMACY MAKES IT INNOVATIVE, BUT RATHER WE NEED A SOUND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK THAT HELPS IN ANALYZING AND EVALUATING CONTEMPORARY DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES.
5 POPULATION GAP	THERE IS A GAP IN THE CULTURAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE CASES AND EXPERIENCES ON WHICH MOST OF THE SOURCES WERE BASED, AS THEY DISCUSSED THE COUNTRIES OF SCANDINAVIA AS PIONEERS IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY AND INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION, AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AND REFERRED GREATLY TO THE EUROPEAN UNION'S INTEREST IN EDUCATION AND CULTURE DIPLOMACY, DIGITAL DIPLOMACY, AND PROMOTING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN FOREIGN POLICY.	REFERENCE TO EXPERIENCES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS LIMITED AND NEEDS TO BE HIGHLIGHTED. THE RESEARCH WILL TAKE ACCOUNT OF CASES OF NON-WESTERN COUNTRIES ADOPTING INNOVATIVE METHODS IN DIPLOMATIC WORK, SUCH AS BRAZIL, INDIA, RUSSIA, AS WELL AS ARAB AND AFRICAN EXPERIENCES.
6 TIME GAP (LONG TERM /SHORT TERM)	THERE IS A GAP IN THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE SOURCES. THE PERIOD SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE NINETIES HAS WITNESSED A REMARKABLE GROWTH IN STUDIES OF NEW DIPLOMACY, ESPECIALLY PUBLIC DIPLOMACY EXPERIMENTS, TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF COUNTRIES IN GLOBAL PUBLIC OPINION AND SPREAD DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THEN THE WORLD CHANGED AFTER THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, AND THE CHANGES IN AMERICAN POLICY AFFECTED THE CLIMATE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE TALK ABOUT A NEW, UNIPOLAR WORLD ORDER IN WHICH POWER DIPLOMACY, ESPECIALLY MILITARY POWER, SPREAD. DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES, TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO GREAT CHALLENGES AS A MAIN TOOL OF FOREIGN POLICY, BUT WITH THE OUTBREAK OF THE COVID-19 EPIDEMIC, THE WORLD FACED A COMPREHENSIVE, CROSS-BORDER AND UNPRECEDENTED CRISIS, THROUGH WHICH EVERYONE REALIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION TO CONFRONT THE PANDEMIC, AND THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL NON-STATE ACTORS EMERGED, SUCH AS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND HEALTH DEVELOPMENT CENTERS AND MAJOR ECONOMIC COMPANIES THAT SUFFERED FROM A RECESSION. SURPRISINGLY, THE MEDIA MADE CLEAR THE HIGH COST OF LACK OF COOPERATION, AND PUBLIC OPINION	IN THIS CONTEXT, RESEARCHERS HAVE INCREASED THEIR INTEREST IN REEVALUATING TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY AND PROPOSING INNOVATIVE USES OF DIPLOMACY. HOWEVER, THIS APPROACH HAS NOT BECOME A MAINSTREAM IN DIPLOMACY RESEARCH, WHICH NEEDS TO BE CONSOLIDATED, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

	<p>PRESSURED GOVERNMENTS TO USE SOFT POWER SUCH AS PHARMACEUTICAL AID AND SHARING RESEARCH RESULTS TO CONFRONT THE EPIDEMIC.</p>	
7 SAMPLE GAP	<p>THERE IS A GAP IN THE LITERATURE, RELATED TO THE IMPACT OF THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT ON THE ADOPTION OF INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY, MEANING THAT WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE "SUCCESSFUL CASES" OF INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY EMERGED (CONTEXTUAL EXPLANATION), AS IT IS THE CONSTANT ELEMENT. RESEARCHING THE COUNTRIES THAT WERE DISTINGUISHED BY THEIR CAPABILITIES IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE DIPLOMACY, INNOVATION AND INVENTIONS REVEALS THE CHANGE IN STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY, SUCH AS THE PROTOCOL, METHODS OF COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNICATION, OPENNESS TO PUBLIC OPINION, COEXISTENCE WITH A BROADER CLIMATE OF TRANSPARENCY, DIVERSITY OF DIPLOMATIC CADRES, ENHANCING THE PRESENCE OF WOMEN, AND GENDER CONSIDERATION IN GENERAL AND DEALING WITH UNOFFICIAL ACTORS AT HOME AND ABROAD.</p>	<p>WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT IN WHICH INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY ARISES, WE MAY MAKE INACCURATE AND UNTESTABLE GENERALIZATIONS, AND WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SUGGEST WAYS FOR COUNTRIES WITH LIMITED RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES TO MOVE TOWARD INNOVATIVE DIPLOMACY EFFICIENTLY AND SUSTAINABLY.</p>

6. ANSWERING THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

We now return to address our **research questions**:

- **Research Question 1 (RQ1):** How is innovative diplomacy defined, and what are its dimensions, according to existing research?

The dimensions are depicted in Fig.1 as well as sections 2.2 and 2.3 of this report.

- **Research Question 2 (RQ2):** What strategies and best practices can modernize traditional diplomacy and enhance innovative diplomacy?

This has been addressed in Fig.2, but has room for further investigation.

Section 2.4. of this research which encompasses country/case studies of innovative diplomacy gives examples of strategies and best practices in innovative diplomacy. The examination of existing literature reveals a notable absence of a comprehensive perspective on innovative diplomacy. This perspective should be viewed as an inclusive and open approach, not confined to specific distances or regions. Innovative diplomacy, defined by its "creative" nature, is characterized by continual renewal, distinguishing it from the stability inherent in traditional diplomacy. While traditional diplomacy relies on unchanging elements, even when its performance is modernized, to express the enduring authority of the State, innovative diplomacy stands out for its openness to diverse modernized applications and theories. This literature gap underscores the need for an integrative view, which this research aims to cultivate, paving the way for new avenues in diplomatic research.

Additionally, most studies focusing on new applications of diplomacy did not distinguish them from traditional diplomacy, a gap that merits consideration. Hence the scientific importance of the research, to study the emerging attention of States and international actors to the importance of soft power and maximize the role of science and knowledge exchange in international cooperation and peace, as well as the role of educational, cultural, sports, arts, economics and other institutions, and the intertwining of the roles of informal actors such as non-governmental organizations with official diplomacy. Monitoring contemporary practices in diplomacy and diplomats' skills in community communication and engagement in the technical world thus becomes a must to further develop the theory of innovative diplomacy.

- **Research Question 3 (RQ3):** What qualifications are required for diplomatic cadres to cultivate their innovative capabilities?

This was discussed in Section 2.3 of this research, and provides insights for further discussion and research regarding the topic.

7. CONCLUSION

This comprehensive research offers valuable insights into the current state of the literature on innovative diplomacy. Conducted through a systematic literature review (PRISMA) covering the period from 2010 to 2023, the analysis synthesizes resources from various databases and sources. The expanded timeframe accounts for historical changes in diplomacy, crucial for understanding contemporary reality. The research establishes an integrative process framework, identifies key elements in innovative diplomacy literature, and analyzes them comparatively. Emphasis is placed on building a theoretical

foundation for innovative diplomacy, exploring the impacts and challenges of globalization, Science & Technology Innovation (STI), and Artificial Intelligence (AI) on modern diplomatic elements. Additionally, the research addresses diplomatic culture, emotional sensitivity, country case studies, and diverse applications of innovative diplomacy, including digital, cyber, economic, Covid-19, sports, and military diplomacy. An examination of empowered innovative diplomacy, with a focus on gender inclusivity, and discussions on HR & Training for innovative diplomacy, further enrich the research.

The systematic framework is then applied to identify gaps in innovative diplomacy research, highlighting the scarcity of theoretical and empirical knowledge. One of the main limitations that needs to be taken into consideration is the absence of an in-depth research of innovative diplomacy and its renewed applications in the literature, which has limited our ability to understand it, and this warrants research and interpretation. Thus, we conclude by proposing future research trajectories to facilitate a deeper understanding of innovativeness-oriented state diplomacy and its practical applications, with a focus on particular regions of interest such as the Arab States.

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