



**Use the Future to build the Present**

## **Head of Initiatives Development (80% - 100%)**

### **About**

GESDA is an international public-private foundation launched by the Swiss government in 2019 which brings together leaders in science and diplomacy to revitalize multilateralism and help them find solutions to the major challenges of our planet. As its name suggests, the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator is based in the city that houses the European headquarters of the UN. It seeks to anticipate the most promising technological breakthroughs and works to ensure they provide a promising future for all. Use the future to build the present!

For more information, see [www.gesda.global](http://www.gesda.global)

### **Tasks and Responsibilities**

The Head of Initiatives Development, reporting to the Executive Director Impact Translation, will be instrumental to scaling the do-tank activities of GESDA. He/She will be leading with supervision of the Executive Director the inception, design, prototyping and implementation of some selected science diplomacy initiatives focused on the frontier science domains listed in the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar. The role requires strategic skills but also a hands-on “do-er” personality, who doesn’t shy away from getting work done by themselves.

Contribute to definition of the strategy for initiatives development

- Define priorities for initiatives among and within the frontier science issues addressed by GESDA
- Conduct in-depth market study and landscape analysis, specify end-user/ client need and articulate initial scope of solutions aligned with GESDA unique value proposition as honest broker in science diplomacy
- Map stakeholders motivations, constraints and needs to devise strategy to engage selected key stakeholders and ensure their effective support to the solution design, prototyping and implementation

Execute strategy for the design and/or prototyping and/or implementation of selected initiatives with supervision of the Executive Director Impact Translation

- Define roadmap to implementation, anticipate roadblocks, and alternative routes to success
- Design and lead experts workshops and high-level multi stakeholder engagement events - with or without external logistical support
- Devise narratives adapted to a wide array of stakeholders and lead the execution of dedicated engagement campaigns
- Contract and manage consultants when needed and within the allocated resources.
- Manage dedicated budgets
- Prepare reporting documents for GESDA's Board, founders and funders

Write thought leadership pieces and briefing documents on matters intersecting science, business and policy/diplomacy

Deputize the Executive Director Impact Translation in her external relations, including at high level speaking events, including delegation visits

## **Qualifications**

### Education

- Masters in business administration, strategic marketing and management or equivalent

### Experience

#### Required

- 10 years' experience leading strategic programmes in a multi stakeholder context
- 8+ years' experience with a consulting company or in the innovation unit of a large corporate
- 5+ year experience in B2B product development/ marketing functions
- 5+ experience in the technology sector or in one of the following frontier science domain: life sciences, neurotechnology, performance engineering, biology
- Understanding of international and national technology and development policy

#### Desirable:

- Experience in a start-up or in lead functions of an innovation ecosystem
- Experience in acquiring external funding (e.g. grants, partnerships or philanthropy)
- Exposure to design and systems thinking
- Exposure to diplomatic settings and stakeholders

## **Skills**

- Demonstrated capacity to start from a blank state, to adapt to fast changing environments and navigate conflicting demands from internal and external clients
- Demonstrated analytical and strategic skills
- Proven ability to devise route to market strategies and lead their implementation in practice
- Political sensitivity, ability to adapt narrative and discourse to convince a wide array of stakeholders including at C-level
- Proven ability to constitute, inspire and drive purpose driven coalitions
- Proactive, solution and client oriented
- Integrity and discretion
- Diplomatic skills

## **GESDA Competencies**

- Entrepreneurial mindset
- Team and solution oriented with ability to work together as a team with a variety of stakeholders and meet deadlines
- Confident and winning attitude with the ability to engage senior leaders from science and technology, diplomatic or academic communities
- Hands-on doer with a capacity for quick delivery and getting the job done
- Resistance to stress and pressure
- Excellent language skills in English and French are a must, German is a plus.

## **Remarks**

As a multilateral start up, we are offering as of March 2025 (or according to agreement) the opportunity to join an ambitious and dynamic team in an international environment working on cutting edge issues of human development. Place of work is flexible with readiness for 2 days onsite presence in GESDA's headquarter in Geneva.

If you are interested, please send us your complete application documents\*\* by 15 January 2025 by e-mail in a single PDF file. Your contact person at GESDA is Agota SEGUIN, Director of Operations, [recruitment@gesda.global](mailto:recruitment@gesda.global).

### **Key data**

Position: Head of Initiatives Development

Scope of position: 80% – 100%

Start of position: date of start or according to agreement

Place of work: Flexible with 2 day onsite presence in Geneva.

Contact person: Agota Seguin, [recruitment@gesda.global](mailto:recruitment@gesda.global)

\*\* -- Only full application sent before 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 by email with CV, letter, diplomas, and certificates/references in one PDF document will be considered.  
Thank you. --