

# ANNUAL TRUSTEE (activity) REPORT

with individual Knowledge Hub Reports

## FOR 2024



'The Academy of Europe'

Web: <http://www.ae-info.org>

The Academia Europaea e.V Munich  
registered office at:  
Academia Europaea e.V.  
Room 336, 3rd floor  
Theresienstr. 41  
80333 München  
GERMANY  
Amtsgericht München (Registration Number): VR 210134  
Tax number: 143/210/03525

and  
The Academia Europaea London

A UK Company limited by guarantee  
registered at Companies House. Registration number 07028223  
Registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1133902  
Located at room 251, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU  
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| <b>Contents:</b>                                                                                        |                                                               | <b>Page</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Section 1</b>                                                                                        | <b>Governance</b>                                             | <b>3</b>    |
| <b>Section 2:</b>                                                                                       | <b>The structure and mission of the Academia Europaea</b>     | <b>5</b>    |
| <b>Section 3:</b>                                                                                       | <b>Trustees' report for the period ended 31 December 2023</b> | <b>6</b>    |
| <b>Section 4:</b>                                                                                       | <b>Centrally co-ordinated activities</b>                      | <b>7</b>    |
| <b>Section 5:</b>                                                                                       | <b>Academia Europaea Outreach activity</b>                    | <b>9</b>    |
| <b>Section 6:</b>                                                                                       | <b>Events with AE Sponsorship &amp; Patronage</b>             | <b>11</b>   |
| <b>Section 7:</b>                                                                                       | <b>Corporate matters, Hubs and Membership</b>                 | <b>13</b>   |
| <b>Section 8:</b>                                                                                       | <b>Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities</b>                | <b>15</b>   |
| <b>Annex 1 Trustees, Council, and Section Committee composition as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024</b> |                                                               | <b>18</b>   |
| <b>Annex 2 Section committee composition at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024</b>                           |                                                               | <b>19</b>   |

Reports of the activity of the individual AE Knowledge Hubs for 2024 are available. They are large files and are available to download from [www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org) or, on request from the individual Hub offices, or online at the following URLs;

Barcelona Hub at: <https://aebarcelona.eu/>  
 Bergen Hub at: <https://aebergen.w.uib.no/annual-reports/>  
 Budapest Hub: [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad\\_Main/Budapest Knowledge Hub](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad_Main/Budapest_Knowledge_Hub)  
 Cardiff Hub at: <http://aecardiffknowledgehub.wales/about-us/documents/>  
 Tbilisi Hub at: <https://www.aetbilisihub.org>  
 Wroclaw Hub at: <https://acadeuro.wroclaw.pl/>

## SECTION 1: Governance

### THE TRUSTEES OF THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

#### Board of TRUSTEES (on 31 December 2024)

##### Elected Officers (3)

|                          |                            |                                       |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>        | Professor Marja Makarow    | Helsinki, (to end 2024)               |
| <b>Vice President:</b>   | Professor Don Dingwell     | Munich, (to end 2025, renewable)      |
| <b>Hon. Treasurer:</b>   | Professor Stephen Evans    | Cambridge (to end of 2025, renewable) |
| <b>Co-opted Members:</b> | Professor Eva Kondorosi    | Budapest, (until end 2026)            |
|                          | Professor Poul Holm        | Dublin, (to end 2025)                 |
|                          | Professor Bjorn Wittrock   | Uppsala, (until end 2024)             |
|                          | Professor Eystein Jansen   | Bergen, (until end of 2025)           |
|                          | Professor Paolo Papale     | Rome (until end of 2027)              |
|                          | Professor Milena Zic-Fuchs | Zagreb (appointed to 2025)            |

The list of Section chairs, as of 31 December 2024, is at annex 2 of this report. Professor Dingwell continued as the Director of the Munich legal entity. Class chairs are trustees. At the end of 2024 they were.

Class A1 – Humanities and Arts – Chair Professor Poul Holm (Trustee), VP ex o  
Class A2 – Social and Related Sciences – Chair Professor Bjorn Wittrock (Trustee) VP ex o  
Class B – Exact Sciences – Professor Paolo Papale (Trustee), VP ex o  
Class C – Life Sciences – Professor Eva Kondorosi (Trustee) VP ex o

Note, that in our Articles of Association and the statutes of the Munich Ev, the Council as described is an advisory body to the trustees. Since the creation of the Class system, the single Council now effectively operates through the Class configurations. The Classes and their component Sections each CONSTITUTE ONE PART OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. The Class chairs are thus the *de facto* representatives of the Sections on the Board of trustees. The trustees did consult electronically throughout the year with their sectoral 'Council members' (the Section chairs) on specific issues, in the Class configuration. Class committees (comprising the Chairs of the Section committees) have been assigned responsibility for the management of the nominations and selection process for new members and they will over-time become responsible for delivery of activity programmes, as envisaged by the Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024. In view of this re-orientation of responsibility and the fact that the Classes now fulfil the role of the former plenary Council, but in a more efficient way, the trustees will review the Regulations in to better reflect the new working structure.

During 2024 there was no activity assigned to the wholly owned subsidiary company in Bergen Norway, operating under the Bergen Knowledge Hub. The CEO appointed by the Board, was Professor Eystein Jansen (the current Bergen Hub Academic Director) and the other Director is the AE Executive Secretary – Dr David Coates. This entity was dissolved in 2024.

As of 20th September 2023, the trustees signed articles to establish a new AE Munich legal entity (Academia Europaea e.V - eingetragener Verein). This development had been strongly endorsed by the AE Independent Advisory Group in 2022. All members of the AE had been informed of the plans at the AGM of 2022 and the strategic plan refers to the Board of trustees keeping the post-BREXIT situation under review. Since the creation of the new legal entity, the UK government had agreed to re-associate to the Horizon Europe programme, that ends in 2027. However, this does not alter the current funding arrangements for SAPEA plus and the AE. Therefore, the intention is that from 2024 and beyond, the new Munich legal entity will become the AE HQ for all dealings with the EU and facilitate access for all members of the AE. The new entity will also assume other responsibilities from London over time. The London charity will continue to run in parallel, and both will operate under a common Board of trustees for the foreseeable future. London will have a decreasing lead role and will provide administrative support to the AE office in Munich. Both entities will be displayed on the common website ([www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org)) and will operate as a single functional unit under a common Board of trustees. Each will have to report separately to their own national regulatory bodies, as described in their statutes. Members of the Academia Europaea are *de facto*, members of both legal forms of the AE. Resources will be allocated between each entity according to function and need.

The Academia Europaea e.V Munich has its registered office at:

Academia Europaea e.V.  
Room 336, 3rd floor  
Theresienstr. 41  
80333 München  
GERMANY  
+49 89 2180 4294

Amtsgericht München (Registration Number): VR 210134  
Tax number: 143/210/03525

## London General Secretariat

Executive Secretary: Dr David Coates  
Senior Administrator: Ms Teresa McGovern  
Accounts and payroll: Outsourced to Keith Vaudrey & Co.  
Membership Secretary: Function partially provided by the Wroclaw Hub office  
Membership administration, database and website management are outsourced: Technical University of Graz. Contact is Ms Dana Kaiser

The Executive Secretary is the Company Secretary (London), with responsibility for day-to-day financial operations of the AE as a whole (except for SAPEA projects) membership and activity and the London office and provides secretariat support to the Board and other sub-committees and assistance to the Munich office.

The company and charity registered office is at Room 251, Senate House, University of London, Malet Street. London, WC1E 7HU.

## Munich General Secretariat

Director: Professor Donald Dingwell  
Executive Secretary (Munich) Ms Friederike Brandthaus

The association registered office at Munich, is at Academia Europaea e.V. Room 336, 3rd floor, Theresienstr. 41, 80333 München, GERMANY. The office has responsibility for all EU research related matters, oversight of the AE Regional Knowledge Hubs, support to the Classes and Sections and overall oversight of the communications strategy, membership election and support services and all activity programmes including conferences, awards, grants and related matters.

## Regional Knowledge Hubs (on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024)

### Barcelona Hub (<https://aebarcelona.eu/> )

Academic Director: Professor Jaume Bertranpetit  
Hub manager: Maite Sánchez Riera

### Bergen Hub (<https://aebergen.w.uib.no/>)

Academic Director: Professor Eystein Jansen (AE trustee)  
Hub manager: Ms Kristen Bakken  
Communications: Mr Nils Olav Sæverås

### Budapest Hub <https://mta.hu/aebudapest>

Academic Director: Professor Peter Hegyi  
Hub Manager: Dr Gergely Bohm  
Hub Officer: Nóra Deák  
Hub Communications Officer: Katalin Borvölgyi,

### Cardiff Hub ([www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales/](http://www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales/) )

Academic Director: Professor Ole Petersen.  
Hub Manager: Ms Louise Edwards  
Communications officer: Alice Sadler  
Executive Officer: Ms Juliet Davies  
Research Officer: Rafael Carrascosa Marzo

**Graz Data Centre.** Responsible (under contract to AE London) for delivery, support, development and content management of the AE corporate website ([www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org) ) and the membership database. The data centre team include: (Director) Professor Frank Kappe, Project Manager H. Leitner, M.Sc., Chief Programmer Mr R. Hoffmann and Main Editorial Management Ms Dana Kaiser M.A.

### Tbilisi Hub (<https://www.aetbilisihub.org/> )

Academic Director: Professor David Lordkipanidze  
Hub Executive Director: Ms Natia Khuluzauri  
Manager: Vakhtang Tsintsadze

### Wroclaw Knowledge Hub (<https://acadeuro.wroclaw.pl/> )

Academic Director: Professor Arkadius Wøjs  
Hub manager: Anna Jarosz  
Hub officer: Veronica Lott

**Examiner of Accounts**

Keith Vaudrey & Co Ltd.  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
51, Marloes Road  
London W8 6LA

**Principal Bankers**

NatWest Bank Plc  
250, Regent St.  
  
London W1B 3BN

**Solicitors**

Hewitson Becke+Shaw  
Shakespeare House  
42, Newmarket Road  
Cambridge. CB5 8EP

Note: The legal and administrative information in the report and financial statements forms a part of the overall trustee's report.

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**SECTION 2: The structure and mission of the Academia Europaea****The Academia Europaea London<sup>1</sup>**

On 23 September 2009: the Academia Europaea was incorporated as a Company limited by Guarantee and was registered at Companies House (number 07028223). See: <https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/07028223> .

The Company was also registered as a not-for-profit charity (registration number 1133902), see <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/4048916>

**The Academia Europaea Munich**

As of 20th September 2023, the trustees signed articles to establish a new AE Munich legal entity (Academia Europaea e.V - eingetragener Verein). Amtsgericht München (Registration Number): VR 210134. Tax number: 143/210/03525

**Governance and management**

A single Board of Trustees manages the affairs of both legal entities of the Academia Europaea. There is an 'Advisory Council' and other operational sub-committees that are described in annex 1. Elections and appointments to the Board are as described in the regulations. These can also be found on the corporate website at [www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org).

Members elect the officers of the Academia (President, Vice President(s) and Honorary Treasurer). Other trustees are co-opted directly by the Board. The Annual General Meeting of members confirms these appointments in accordance with the regulations. The Vice Presidents (ex officio) are recommended by the President and appointed by the Board of Trustees for a period as defined in the Regulations.

**Training and induction of new trustees**

New trustees are provided with a copy of the statutes and regulations, governance documents and access to sets of minutes of the past year(s). Trustees also receive copies of documents describing the role and responsibilities of Directors and Trustees and links to the appropriate UK Charity Commission and Company House websites and those relevant to the Munich legal entity.

**The mission of the Academia Europaea**

The Academia Europaea is an international, non-governmental association of individual scientists and scholars, who are experts and leaders in their own subject areas, as recognised by their peers.

**The Academia will:**

Promote European scholarship and research and increase the wider appreciation of its value and importance  
Make recommendations to national governments and international agencies concerning matters affecting science, scholarship and academic life in Europe.  
Encourage interdisciplinary and international research in all areas of learning, particularly in relation to European issues.  
Identify topics of trans-European importance to science and scholarship and propose appropriate action to ensure that these issues are adequately studied.

**The Academia will endeavour to:**

Encourage the highest possible standards in scholarship, research and education.  
Promote a better understanding among the public at large of the benefits of knowledge and learning, and of scientific and scholarly issues, which affect society, its quality of life and its standards of living.

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<sup>1</sup> From 1988 to incorporation in 2009, the Academia Europaea operated under a Deed of Trust and was registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission of England and Wales (former registration number 1001978)

## Charitable objectives:

The advancement and propagation of excellence in scholarship in the humanities, law, the economic, social and political sciences, mathematics, medicine, and all branches of natural and technological sciences anywhere in the world for the public benefit and for the advancement of the education of the public of all ages in the aforesaid subjects in Europe.

## SECTION 3: Trustees' report for the period ended 31 December 2024

The trustees would like to thank all of the organisations that have sustained the Academia through their generous general financial sponsorships in particular the authorities supporting the Academia Europaea Regional Knowledge Hubs. The trustees also thank those other foundations and organisations that have contributed to the running of specific events and activities of the Academia during the period of this report. These organisations are identified in various places within this report and in the separate accounts and have been identified within the various 'reports to members' of events held during the current period, where appropriate. The trustees have been active in their engagement in the affairs of the Academia and have attended every meeting of the trustees (physical or virtual). The trustees wish to express their gratitude to the elected officers of the Academy for their additional work on behalf of the membership. In particular, to thank Professor Don Dingwell for steering the establishing of the new Munich AE legal entity, and for his representing the AE in external project boards and meetings, including in the Horizon Europe SAPEA plus project and Alban Kellerbauer as Editor-in-chief of our international journal – The European Review. The trustees would also like to thank the trustees again thank Professor Lars Engwall for his chairmanship of the HERCuLES group and the Wenner Gren Foundations of Sweden, for supporting the annual international symposium series.

In 2024, the AE operated a growing programme of real-time international events (conferences and workshops) and a programme of online activities (webinars and streamed events). Some of these are reported below and in more detail in the individual Hub annual reports. The Horizon 2020 funded SAPEA activity continued under a new contact and is managed out of the Munich office. The European Review continued to be published and generated royalty income (see below).

The trustees are grateful to the six AE Regional Knowledge Hubs and their dedicated staff. The sponsors and hosts of these hubs have through their generosity, enabled the AE to deliver a much larger and more varied programme of activities both to the academic communities of their regions and also increasingly they are bringing science to the general public, through a range of public events, lectures and exhibitions targeted at their specific regional remits. These are reported on in the individual Hub annual reports. The Regional Hubs are independent of the AE corporate centre but work in coordination with one another in delivering our charitable objectives across Europe.

As a result of the 2024 activity, the trustees can report that the annual examined accounts for 2024 show a negative unrestricted funds reserve carried forward to 2025 of £-33,600 compared to £4,266 for the year ended 31 December 2023. This negative figure does not however reflect the actual cash situation of the AE at the end of 2024. In fact, an unrestricted funds total of £213,526 was carried over into 2025 (this figure includes the life membership totals as described in the official 2024 accounts document). The accounts showed deferred income in creditors which reflect the accumulated total for life membership donations which are then split over ten years. Each year a 10 percent of accumulated lifetime membership contributions is recognised as members' contributions in the annual accounts. The remaining accumulated lifetime membership contributions are carried forward to the next accounting year. This is reported on page 13 in the financial statements. In addition, the restricted funds were £170,664 in the year ended 2024 and £179,444 in 2023. The costs increased due to the setting up and operation of the new legal entity in Munich, the costs of which were £58,848 in the accounting year of 2024 compared to £54,042 in the year 2023. The charity has since reduced the costs of labour and office space in London to mitigate this deficit in the unrestricted funds. The favourable effect of the cost-cutting that started from April to August 2024, will be further reflected in the coming years. In addition, steps were taken to reduce IT costs at the London office. These will provide additional savings in 2025 and beyond.

The trustees wish to record their thanks to the Technical University of Graz data centre staff for their dedicated I.T. and corporate web and database support and to Professor Balazs Gulyas for his management of the 2024 AE Erasmus Medal process. The Board would also like to thank Professor Gulyas for his work in establishing the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN) organisation as a new Patron member of the AE.

The trustees are pleased to report, that in 2024, our inter – organisational links were further strengthened with a number of European federation organisations (ALLEA, FEAM, EASAC eurocase and YASAS (The Association of European Young Academies). Cardiff and Munich have been responsible for delivery of AE SAPEA plus participation throughout the year.

The President and other trustees engaged in a number of specific activities that responded to policy issues across Europe and more widely. A thematic transdisciplinary AE task force on Environmental sustainability continued to meet. In addition, the task force on Artificial Intelligence under the coordination of Professor Erol Gelenbe (Chair of the Informatics Section) organised key meetings and the international collaboration agreement known as the TEA-NET consortium, under the coordination of Professor Peter Hegyi (Chair of the Clinical and Veterinary Sciences Section) entered its delivery phase. The AE played an active part in a number of European international associations, networks and initiatives as part of our objective to support excellence in European science and scholarship. One of these was the IYBSSD (The UN International Year of Basic Science for Development) – Professor Eystein Jansen was the AE liaison. Each of the six Regional Knowledge Hubs has its own distinct mission and identity that respond to local and regional priorities. The trustees recognise the immense support provided by the sponsors for these Hubs. None of the hubs receives core financing from the centre for their day-to-day operations. This model helps to increase local responsiveness. The Cardiff Hub team managed the role of AE Corporate communications coordination, and a visual refresh project was launched across all Hubs.

The trustees are pleased to report a further widening of the membership of the Academia Europaea with the election in 2024 of 365 scholars across the four classes. The full 2024 election list is at annex 1. Member statistics can be found on the AE website at [ae-info.org](http://ae-info.org). There has been a gradual improvement in gender balance members and a reduction in regional disparity in terms of disciplines over the year. This is in line with the targets as described in the strategic plan. However, the trustees will further address these issues in 2024 with a review of membership election and assessment policy to better meet CoARA<sup>2</sup> principles for the 2025 new member cycle. The trustees also continued to support the continuing development of the Young Academy of Europe, in recognition of the AE mission to promote young researchers.

The AE has a membership of individuals that are drawn from the whole continent of Europe and Foreign members from beyond Europe. The majority of AE members are resident and working outside of the UK and the majority of these are based in EU member states. The trustees concluded, that following the completion of the BREXIT process, the risks to the continuation of the Academia as a UK registered and domiciled charity should be regularly reviewed. One significant driver was to ensure the continued AE eligibility to be a beneficiary in future EU funded research collaboration programmes. The situation was resolved in 2023/4 through the creation of a new independent legal entity (a not-for-profit association) in Munich, Germany. The two “charities” have the same common Board of trustees and operate with near identical articles of association. The two entities utilise the existing regulations and policies and all members of the AE are *de facto* members of both entities. Steps will be taken to try to harmonise meetings of trustees and for the annual business meeting to meet the requirements of both entities in common. The intention is that members will not see any difference in operations of the AE. Both entities share the same charitable objectives. Future annual reports to the UK Charities Commission will describe the full range of activity carried out (for both entities). Financial reports will however not be consolidated, and each entity will report to its respective national authorities separately as required.

The Trustees wish to place on record, that it was their belief that at the time of the compilation of this report, there were no additional or unforeseen risks that would place the continuation of the charity in jeopardy.

### **Public benefit statement**

Over the year the Academia and the Regional Knowledge Hubs, have published articles and papers in academic journals; organised a number of virtual and physical academic meetings across the continent that are open to members and non-members, young scholars and to the interested public in all areas of operation. The Academia has provided prizes and awards to support and recognise excellent researchers in pursuit of their scholarship. To enhance the accessibility of the European scholarly community to the public, the Academia has maintained and enhanced its web portal and those of the regional knowledge hubs and has contributed to the betterment of European Policy through participation in provision of expert, impartial advice to authorities and governmental organisations and has supported the Young Academy of Europe. A full description of all of the main activities is included elsewhere in this report.

The trustees have consulted the guidance made by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on the Public Benefit requirement of the charities Act 2011. The Trustees are confident that they have complied with their duty under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 in that they have had a due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

### **Future Plans**

In the coming year (2025), the trustees will continue to deliver the mission of the Academia through the running of appropriate workshops, publications and related activities. The trustees will explore new opportunities, including continuation of an AE activity for environmental sustainability, Artificial intelligence, and collaborations with other international platforms. The AE will establish a pilot ‘Academia Europaea College of Excellence’ and support the expansion of outreach through an expansion of the network of regional Hubs. We will explore alternative models of financing. The Young Academy of Europe will continue to be supported, specifically to provide a focus to engage with and support young researchers from across the UK and Europe. The AE engagement in European Science policy advice will be strengthened through taking a lead on topics within the Science Advice Policy project SAPEA PLUS and any subsequent Horizon funded policy project. The trustees will especially focus on ensuring that its UK based membership and researchers more generally can continue to be effectively linked with their European colleagues. Following the establishing of the new Munich legal entity, resources will be transferred to assist with set-up and operation, including the re-allocation of administrative tasks from London. To assist in this, the London office and staffing resource will be scaled back. At the invitation of the European Commission, the AE will provide direct input on behalf of the European Union into the G20 network of leading economies, by providing scientific advice to S-20 network of national academies. Appropriate IT developments will be financed to enable coordinated working across the two AE offices.

## **SECTION 4: Centrally co-ordinated activities during the period, 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024**

### **The 35th annual conference of members 26-28 November 2024.**

The conference of the Academia Europaea took place at Wroclaw technical University, Wroclaw, Poland. Local organiser and host - Professor Arkadiusz Wójs MAE. – Rector of the University This was a physical event with streaming of plenary sessions see this link for full details: <https://acadeuro.wroclaw.pl/events/buildingbridges24/>

### Sessions included:

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<sup>2</sup> CoARA. [Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment](#)

On November 26<sup>th</sup> a dedicated one-day meeting for all four Classes running in parallel.  
An open meeting of the Young Academy of Europe  
Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminar for young scholars and senior High school students – Professor Stephen Evans

#### November 27th - plenary session speakers included

**The 2024 Young Academy of Europe Andre Mischke prize was awarded to Dr Jacek Kolanowski – “Opportunities and Challenges for Early-and-Mid-Career Researchers in Trans-Sectoral and Community Engagement: A Chemical Biologist’s Methodological Perspective”**

**Prof. Heino Falcke, Balzan Prize Winner, MAE – “Towards the Ends of Space and Time – The First Image of a Black Hole”**

**Prof. Verena Winiwarter, MAE – “Energy transitions of the past: is there something to learn from history?”**

**Prof. Ambrogio Fasoli, MAE - “Fusion energy and the European path to power plants”**

**Prof. Monica Bello – “Art & Science” lecture: “Science and art in dialogue, creativity across disciplines”**

**Prof. Emmanuelle Charpentier – Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020, MAE – “CRISPR-Cas9: microbiology as a motor for innovations in medicine and agronomy”**

**Prof. Eske Willerslev, Balzan Price Winner – “The Genomic History of Western Eurasia, Human History, Ecosystem Change, Disease Susceptibility and Infectious Disease”**

**Prof. Yvonne Buckley, MAE – “Biodiversity in a warming world: how climate, climate action and land use shape biodiversity patterns”**

**Prof. Botond Roska, MAE - “Restoring vision”**

#### November 28th plenary speakers included

##### Panel Discussion on Urban Innovations

Prof. Katarzyna Chojnacka, MAE – Moderator

Prof. Barbara Widera

Dr. Irene Bonvissuto

Dr. Grzegorz Synowiec

Dr. Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, MAE

Dr Karim Selouane

Dr. Magdalena Głogowska

MSc. Eng. Monika Pec-Święcicka

Prof. Simon Goldhill, MAE

MA Joanna Zdanowska

##### Plenary speakers included

- **Prof. Rubina Raja, MAE** – “Making and breaking cities: the historiography of urban archaeology in the MENA region”
- **Prof. Samuel Lieu, MAE** – “Between Rome and China – Christianity and Manichaeism on the Silk Road”
- **Prof. Shalom Lappin, MAE** – “The deep learning revolution in AI”
- **Prof. Helen Kennedy, MAE** – “What does a good digital society look like?”
- **Prof. Rubina Raja, MAE** – “Making and breaking cities: the historiography of urban archaeology in the MENA region”
- **Prof. Samuel Lieu, MAE** – “Between Rome and China – Christianity and Manichaeism on the Silk Road”
- **Prof. Shalom Lappin, MAE** – “The deep learning revolution in AI”
- **Prof. Helen Kennedy, MAE** – “What does a good digital society look like?”

Class Chairs Panel Discussion – “Sciences and Scholarship in the Face of the Future: Advances and Crossroads”

Prof. Elżbieta Frąckowiak, MAE – Moderator

Prof. Poul Holm – Humanities

Prof. Éva Kondorosi – Life Sciences

Prof. Paolo Papale – Exact Sciences

Prof. Björn Wittrock – Social and Related Sciences

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**The Academia Europaea Erasmus Medal** No medal was awarded in 2024

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**The Adam Kondorosi Academia Europaea award for advanced research** No award in 2024

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**The Sydney Brenner Prize for Personal achievement in Life Sciences** No award was made in 2024

## 2024 Class meetings

As a part of the annual conferences programme, the four Classes each held a Class event on 26<sup>th</sup> November to welcome the new members elected in 2024.

The four Classes each followed a similar format. This included a presentation and welcome to the AE by the Class Chair followed by a selection of new member presentations representing each Section and round table discussion sessions.

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## Reports from the Class Chairs for 2024

**Class A1 – Humanities – Chair Professor Poul Holm (Dublin):**

**Class A2 – Social and Related Sciences – Chair Professor Bjorn Wittrock (Uppsala):**

**Class B – Exact Sciences – Chair Professor Paolo Papale (Rome):**

**Class C – Life Sciences - Chair Professor Eva Kondorosi (Budapest):**

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## SECTION 5: Academia Europaea outreach.

### The Academia Europaea Regional Knowledge Hubs

Each Hub operates as an independent entity with local hosts and sponsors. Each Hub organises and delivers their own programmes of activity and assists the London HQ, where needed. The Hubs each have a complimentary thematic mission that provides a wide range of activities delivering a wider public benefit that is in line with our charitable objectives. These activities are described in the individual Hub reports ([see annexes](#)).

### **AE engagement in European research policy and scientific expert advice to policymakers for general public policy (science into policy)**

- **SAPEA – Scientific Advice for general European Policy (not policy for research)**



### **SAPEA: Science Advice for Policy by European Academies**

- Spanning the disciplines of engineering, humanities, medicine, natural sciences and social sciences, **SAPEA** brings together the outstanding knowledge and expertise of Fellows from over 100 Academies, Young Academies and Learned Societies in more than 40 countries across Europe
- SAPEA is part of the [European Scientific Advice Mechanism \(SAM\)](#) which provides independent, interdisciplinary and evidence-based scientific advice on policy issues to the European Commission, working closely with the [SAM Group of Chief Scientific Advisors](#)
- The project is funded through a grant from the EU's Horizon 2020 programme. It runs to 2027



= country with at least one Academy

Academies' independence, academic expertise and convening power make them a critical source of evidence for policymakers and the wider public, providing an unbiased, balanced and transparent perspective. Academies within SAPEA are members of one or more of the European Academy Networks: [Academia Europaea](#), [ALLEA](#), [EASAC](#), [Euro-CASE](#), [FEAM](#) and the [Young Academies Association \(YASAS\)](#).

All of the Networks' Member Academies across Europe are part of SAPEA and are encouraged to participate actively. Opportunities for involvement include:

- **suggesting scientific topics**
- **communicating their latest major scientific outputs to SAPEA**
- **nominating Fellows** to the SAPEA Working Groups, or other events requiring the advice of an expert (e.g. experts' workshops or stakeholder meetings)
- **hosting Working Group meetings**  
direct costs can be covered
- **acting as "Lead Academies"** for a selected scientific topic
- **hosting outreach events**  
event support can be provided
- **Raising the visibility of Academy work at a European Level** by sharing news of activities with the SAPEA Communications Office for the project website

#### **AE engagement in SAPEA Plus and providing expertise to public institutions and administrations at European Level**

The Horizon2020 funded project contract with the European Commission will run to 2027 and will be managed out of the Munich office. The President is a member of the Board of Management of the project. Prof. Ole Petersen (Academic Director of the Cardiff Hub oversees the work of the AE SAPEA Science Policy Officer - Louise Edwards, who is based at the Cardiff Hub. Louise is responsible for the day-to-day management of any AE involvement in policy advice topic work and is a member of the project coordination team. The AE Executive Secretary Munich acts as AE contract manager in liaison with the central project coordination team. The day-to-day engagement in SAPEA is undertaken by the Science Policy team at the Cardiff Knowledge Hub and Munich. AE Cardiff has undertaken literature reviews on behalf of the consortium and on behalf of the European Commission.

Full information for the project and its outputs, can be found via the official SAPEA website (<https://sapea.info/>) and through both the ae-info website [[http://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad\\_Main/Activities/SAPEA](http://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad_Main/Activities/SAPEA)] and the Cardiff Hub website [<http://aecardiffknowledgehub.wales/>]

Our intention throughout the SAPEA project is to work with and through the regional knowledge Hubs and with the Young Academy of Europe to ensure maximum opportunity for involvement of our members. We will also establish an outreach forum of other pan-European organisations to improve linkages and engagement of non-core partner expertise and seek to engage (through our Cardiff Hub) scholars (members and non-members) as experts from the UK and Ireland.

- **European Science Advisory Council (EASAC)**

Formed by a number of European Academies and supported by the Academia Europaea provides EU institutions and other pan-national bodies with fully independent advice on the scientific aspects of public policy.

The Academia was a founding member of this Council and collaborates with our sister Academies in making available our members' expertise where needed, for the many study groups that are established. The Academia provides a financial contribution to the running of the secretariat of EASAC. The Academia covers the costs of participation of the AE Council member and AE experts participating in specific study panels [<http://www.easac.eu/>]. The AE supports a number of members, who provide their individual expertise to EASAC studies and/or are engaged in the standing committees of EASAC. Professor Don Dingwell (trustee and VP) is the AE delegate to the EASAC governing Council. The list of publications and reports can be found via the website above.



- **EASSH (The European Alliance of Social Sciences and Humanities).**



The Academia Europaea is a member of this alliance through our two Class chairs – Professor Poul Holm and Professor Bjorn Wittrock. Trustee Professor Milena Zic Fuchs is also a member of the council of the EASSH. The association seeks to promote and safeguard the position and status of the social sciences and Humanities within the European Research area. Its activities can be found at this URL: <https://eassh.eu/>

The Academia Europaea maintains 'working level relationships' with UNESCO as a listed NGO.

### **AE Publications**



**The Academia Europaea in conjunction with Cambridge University Press publishes an international peer reviewed journal.**

**The European Review 2024** (volume 32). The Editor-in-chief – Professor Alban Kellerbauer (Nuclear Physics, Joint Research Centre, Karlsruhe, Germany). The journal has seen a significant increase in uncommissioned papers submitted for review and publication, from across the world.

In 2024, the European Review (ERW) volume 32 had six issues and one open access supplement. AE members had free access to the online version of the journal and to the archive. The Editor-in-chief renewed the editorial Board to include members of the Young Academy of Europe. Negotiations were completed to a transfer agreement so that from 2025 the ERW would be completely Gold open access.

Volume 32 - Supplement S1 - November papers from a HERCuLES-Wenner Gren Foundations symposium held at the Wenner-Gren Centre in Stockholm on 10–12 May 2023 with the economic support of the Wenner-Gren Foundations.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-review/issue/2ED32D7FA998C6E2E3CA34BFA406A6F4>

Title: **Digital Challenges - 2024**

ERW at Cambridge Core: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-review>

**Biology Direct:** a publication (now affiliated with the AE) at the initiative of Professor Alex Verkhratsky (former Chair of Class C – Life Sciences). Published by Springer Nature - <https://biologydirect.biomedcentral.com/>

### **AE 'in-house' and 'grey' literature publications.**

In addition to regular corporate e-newsletters [produced on behalf of the AE HQ by the Communications group at the Cardiff Hub] and separately by all of the Regional Knowledge Hubs, the AE maintained its corporate website which is managed and hosted at the Technical University of Graz under a service contract. The Regional Knowledge Hubs maintain their own websites to reflect their own, independent programmes of activity.

### **SECTION 6: 2024 Events and Activity provided with AE sponsorship including projects funded through the Hubert Curien Fund, or externally organised but with AE patronage in 2024, or externally sponsored.**

**Academic Freedom in Twenty-First Century. An Academia Europaea HERCuLES Wennergren Foundations Symposium May 15-17, 2024 - Organizing Committee: Lars Engwall (Chair), Filip Dochy, and Peter Scott**

#### Keynote – The Foundations of Academic Freedom

"The Foundations of Academic Freedom". Henry Reichman, Professor emeritus of History at California State University, USA.

#### Session: National Threats on the Autonomy of Universities

Chair: Marja Makarow, President of Academia Europaea and Professor of Applied Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Helsinki, Finland and HERCuLES member.

"The Role of Institutional Autonomy in the Deterioration of de Facto Academic Freedom in EU Member States" - Peter Maassen, Professor in Higher Education Studies at the University of Oslo, Norway.

"For a Balanced Institutional Autonomy in Relation to Academic Freedom: A Comparative Study of Its Constraints and Prospects" - Zhidong Hao, Professor emeritus of Sociology, University of Macau.

### **Session: Is a Strong Leadership of Universities Compatible with Individual Academic Freedom?**

Chair: Christine Musselin, Professor of Sociology, Science Po, Paris, France and HERCULES member.

"The Value Discriminant". Ivo De Gennaro, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Faculty of Economics and Management, Bozen-Bolzano, Italy.

"Demagogues and Line Managers: The Implications of Hierarchical Leadership on Academic Freedom"

Andrew Ryder, Professor at ELTE Budapest, Hungary, Director of the Institute for Political and International Studies

### **Session: Decision-making on Curricula**

Chair: Kirsten Drotner, Professor of Media Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark and HERCULES member.

"Who Should Decide for the Curricula?". Margrit Seckelmann, Professor of Law, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany

"An Ontology of Quality in Higher Education Teaching". Joseph C. Hermanowicz, Professor of Sociology, University of Georgia, USA

### **Session: Education under Political Pressures**

Chair: Marie Farge, Professor of Mathematics and Physics, CNRS, Paris, France and HERCULES member.

"The Twilight of Academic Freedom?". Michael Bérubé, Professor of English Literature, Penn State University, USA.

"Crisis of Knowledge in the Seminar - Who is Afraid of Academic freedom?". Nadia Al-Bagdadi, Professor of Modern Islamic history, Central European University and former president of the Network of European Institutes for Advanced Studies, Vienna, Austria

### **Session: What Should Be the Drivers for Research Agendas?**

Chair: Jürgen Enders, Professor of Higher Education Management, University of Bath, United Kingdom and HERCULES member.

"Setting Research Agendas, a Permanent Fight for the Scientific Community". Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, Professor of Mathematics, Honorary Professor at the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques, former President of the European Research Council (ERC) and HERCULES member

"Who Should Decide a Scientist's Research Agenda?". Uwe Schimank, Professor of Sociological Theory, University of Bremen für Soziologische Theorie an der Universität Bremen, Germany

### **Session: Research under Political Pressures**

Chair. Milena Zic Fuchs, Professor of Linguistics, University of Zagreb, Croatia and HERCULES member.

"The Missing Guardrails of Academic Freedom in Sweden". Shirin Ahlbäck Öberg, Professor of Political Science, Uppsala University, Sweden.

"TBA". Elizaveta Potapova, Senior Researcher in Public Policy and Management Institute, Lithuania

### **Session: Dissemination under Bibliometric Pressures**

Chair: George Sharvashidze, Professor of Education, Tbilisi State University, Georgia and HERCULES member.

"Redefining Academic Dissemination: Navigating the Shifts in Scholarly communication". Rafael Ball, Director of ETH-Bibliothek, ETH, Zürich, Switzerland.

"The Changed Publishing Culture of Science". Peter Weingart, Professor emeritus in Sociology, former Director for the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at Universität Bielefeld, Germany

### **Session: Dissemination and International Collaboration**

Chair: Helena Buescu, Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Lisbon, Portugal and HERCULES member.

"Openness Challenged: The University at Risk?". Marijk van der Wende, Professor of Higher Education, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands and HERCULES member.

"Global Shifts in Scientific Production: The Impact of Academic Freedom on International Collaboration". Rickard Danell, Professor of Sociology, University of Umeå, Sweden.

### **Concluding Panel**

Chair: Lars Engwall, Professor of Business Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden and HERCULES Chair

#### Panellists:

Alban Kellerbauer, Professor of Nuclear Physics, Joint Research Centre, Karlsruhe, Germany and HERCuIES member.  
Gemma Modinos, Professor of Neuroscience, King's College, London, United Kingdom and HERCuIES member.  
Jo Tollebeek, Professor of Cultural History, University of Leuven, Belgium and HERCuIES member.  
Milena Zic Fuchs, Professor of Linguistics, University of Zagreb, Croatia and HERCuIES member.

- **Other Hubert Curien grant funded initiatives (member and/or Hub initiated) in 2024**

**AI Challenges for European Research and Academia:** 4th and 5th September 2024, CNRS Abraham de Moivre Mathematics Laboratory, Dept. of Mathematics, ICL South Kensington Campus, London, UK

**Sponsors:** Academia Europaea & CNRS Abraham de Moivre Mathematics Laboratory, Imperial College London Co-Sponsor: Foundation for Science and Technology, UK

Organizing Committee: Dan Crisan, Maths. Dept., ICL, Erol Gelenbe, Inst. Theoretical & Applied Informatics, Polish Acad. Sci., Federica Pratola, Maths. Dept. ICL

#### Research Topics & Presentations

##### Introduction

- Thomas Eiter MAE, Fellow Austrian Acad. Sci., "Logic versus ML: Links to the Foundations of AI"
- Zeina Zakhour, CEO Global Security Eviden/ATOS, "AI for Cybersecurity and the Security of AI"  
<zeina.zakhour@eviden.com>

##### Brain Modelling

- Samuel Laurent-Deslosieres, INRIA, "Modeling the Brain Connectome"
- Dan Farina, Dot. Bioengineering, ICL, "Mapping Brain and Spinal Sensorimotor Activity"

##### Machine Learning

- Eric Moulines, Fellow Acad. Sci. France, Ecole Polytechnique, "Advances in Transfer Learning"
- Yonina Eldar MAE, Fellow of Israel Acad. of Sci., Hebrew University of Jerusalem, "Signal Acquisition Learning"
- Tolga Birdal, Dept. Computing, ICL, Imperial College, "Topological Deep Learning: Beyond Graph Data"
- Erol Gelenbe MAE, "Wave Equation for Quantum Neural Networks"
- Ekin Dogus Cubuk, Google DeepMind, "Scaling up computational materials discovery via deep learning"

##### AI in Cybersecurity, Trust and Privacy

- Yves-Alexandre de Montjoye, Depts. of Computing and Math. ICL, "Computational Privacy and AI"
- Zheng Yan, Xidan University, "AI-empowered Trust and Trust-controlled AI"

##### Research on Language Technology

- Iryna Gurevych, TU Darmstadt, "How to InterText? Modeling Text as a Living Object in Context", iryna.gurevych@tu-darmstadt.de
- Anna Korhonen, University of Cambridge, "Towards globally equitable language technologies," anna.korhonen@gmail.com (Sep 5)

##### AI in Healthcare

- Bernard Macq, Fellow of the Royal Acad. of Belgium, Univ. of Louvain, "Coalition Learning for Healthcare"
- Payam Barnaghi, Imperial College, "AI for Personalized Healthcare Alerts"
- James Cole (UCL) "AI in the Analysis of Brain Ageing" <https://profiles.ucl.ac.uk/32379-james-cole>

##### AI in Engineering

- Louis Wehenkel MAE, Univ. of Liege (Belgium), "Physics informed machine learning for the operation of bulk electric power systems"
- Marco di Renzo MAE, CNRS and Centrale Supélec "Smart Metasurfaces for Communications"
- Alexandra Brintrup, Cambridge University, "Explainable AI for Supply Chains", ab702@eng.cam.ac.uk
- Emannuell Papastavridis, Kings College "Interchangeability between AI and Control Theory for the Control of Robots"
- Eiman Kanjo, Nottingham Trent University and Imperial College, "Tiny ML" [ekanjo@ic.ac.uk](mailto:ekanjo@ic.ac.uk)

In addition to the event listed above. The Board had approved the establishing of a new international collaboration research network (TEA NET) The AE Translational Medicine Working Group (TMWG) network. It started its work on 1 January 2023 and continued throughout 2024. Its primary objective is to process, analyse, and interpret high-quality macro and micro data collected in the field of biomedical sciences with full European coverage. TMWG and training of talented research and clinical scientists dedicated to translational medicine are strongly promoted within AE, which is coordinated by the AE Clinical and Veterinary Section under the overall direction of Professor Peter Hegyi (Academic Director of the AE Budapest Knowledge Hub).

**The European partners** of the TEA NET are the Semmelweis University and the National Biomedical Foundation.

**The Asian partners** will be the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) in Hong Kong (coordinating site), and its collaborating or affiliated institutions in Shenzhen, including the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technologies [SIAT], CUHK Shenzhen Research Institute [SZRI], and CUHK Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Research Institute (Futian) [FITRI] at this stage.

## **SECTION 7: Corporate, Hubs and membership**

### **2024 New members elected**

On 25 March 2024, the trustees approved the recommendation of the Classes and elected 365 new members. Each Class chair introduced their recommended list for election of new members. The trustees discussed each class list and Class chairs highlighted any specific issues that had arisen with any individual Section.

The Trustees then formally elected new members for each Class as follows:

Class A1 – Humanities – elected 85; not elected 17

Class A2 – Social and related sciences – elected 42; not elected 13

Class B – Exact sciences – elected 73; not elected 163

Class C – Life sciences – elected 165; not elected 37

The Class chairs responsible for oversight of the nominations process in 2024 were:

Class A1 – Humanities and Arts – Sections A1-A6 [Chair Professor Poul Holm (Trustee)]

Class A2 – Social and related sciences – Sections A7 – A10 [Chair Prof Bjorn Wittrock (Trustee)]

Class B – Exact and Natural Sciences – Sections B1 –B5 [Professor Paolo Papale (Trustee)]

Class C – Life Sciences – Sections C1 – C5 [Professor Eva Kondorosi (Trustee)]

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### **Communications**

The Hubs and HQ (via the Cardiff Hub Communications team) issued regular monthly electronic newsletters throughout the year. The Graz Data centre maintained the ae-info.org website and both Graz and Wroclaw ensured that member data was updated, including for the new members elected in 2023. All new members were notified of the AE GDPR policy and members were asked to opt-in to that policy at the time of their election. Newsletters are archived on the ae-info website at:

### **Governance meetings held in 2024**

#### **The Trustees, Council and their subcommittees**

The Board of Trustees met to transact business virtually on 4 occasions throughout the year and in a physical Board meeting on 3 occasions (with a zoom option). All meetings were quorate. Minutes were filed.

A physical/virtual hybrid AGM took place on November 26th in Wroclaw

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#### **36th Annual Business Meeting 2024 (AGM) – Wroclaw 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 held at 16:00 – 18:00 (CET)**

This was a hybrid meeting. The President Marja Makarow chaired the AGM. There were 67 physical delegates. The AGM was also online to all members.

The President, Professor Marja Makarow welcomed members to Wroclaw and thanked the local organiser (Professor Arkadiusz Wójs)

The announcement of the AGM had been published on the AE website and made known to all members by E-newsletter more than 21 days in advance. A series of online ballots had been announced and taken on specific items of business (adoption of the annual accounts, annual activity report, re-appointment of examiners and recommended membership subscriptions for 2025). The draft agenda and all papers associated to the AGM were made available on the website in advance and had been tabled for delegates in the room. No motions or resolutions from the membership had been received in advance, as set out in the notice for the AGM. The motion to approve the draft agenda was adopted by the members present.

The Honorary Treasurer (Professor Stephen Evans) summarised the financial position as set out in the accounts for 2024 and additionally gave indications of the current year. He reported that the financial position of the AE was stable but a significant amount of reserves had been expended in 2024 on the new Munich HQ office. He highlighted the reliance of the AE on member donations for all areas of activity and reminded members that annual contributions were a vital part of their acceptance as members. He pointed out that there were still a significant number who did not contribute at all. He also raised the issue of the very small base of external financial support from non-member organisations.

A note of thanks was recorded for sponsors as follows: To the Wenner Gren Foundations for their continuing support to HERCuLES group activity.

**A number of electronic member-wide ballots had taken place in advance of the AGM (25<sup>th</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> September). The results were reported to all members at the AGM and through normal newsletter channels. Large majorities had approved all motions.**

**Motion to adopt the examined accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 - adopted**  
**Motion to adopt the trustees (activity report) for the year ending 31 December 2023- adopted**  
**Motion to re-appoint the auditors (examiners) - approved**  
**Motion to set the level of membership fees for the year 2025 – approved**

The treasurer had tabled in advance, a motion for decision by the room “Members are invited to approve a one-time establishment fee for new members (2025) of 200 Euros – irrespective of age at the time of their acceptance of membership. **This motion was adopted on a show of hands without dissent.**

Elections of Officers and appointments of trustees. There was no scheduled election in 2024. However, Professor Makarow reported that she would not seek a second term as President and would step down at the end of 2024. The Vice President Professor Dingwell would then function as chair of the Board of trustees and President *pro tem* until a call for nominations and the subsequent election of a new President could be managed in 2025. Members would be fully informed.

#### Appointments and co-options to the Board of trustees

A. A document had been tabled that set out the terms of service already approved for those trustees that had been co-opted. Members present noted the terms for co-opted trustees. The AGM were informed that following a search process by members of the Class for Social and related Sciences, the Board of trustees had accepted a recommendation, that Professor Martin Kahanec (Section chair for Economics) would be co-opted as the Class chair of Class A2 to replace Professor Wittrock with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Professor Wittrock had agreed to remain as a co-opted trustee until the AGM of 2025 (renewable).

- Professor Poul HOLM (Dublin) – Class chair (A1) Humanities – to 31st December 2025
- Professor Bjorn WITTROCK (Uppsala) – Class chair (A2) – Social and Societal Sciences – to 31st December 2024
- Professor Paolo PAPALE (Rome) – Class chair (B) – Exact Sciences – to 31st December 2027
- Professor Eva KONDOROSI (Budapest) – Class chair (C) - Life Sciences – to 31st December 2026

B. Members present also approved a proposal to continue the co-option of the following trustees on a renewable basis. As follows:

Professor Eystein JANSEN (Academic Director of the Bergen Knowledge Hub) – to 31st December 2025  
Professor Milena ZIC-FUCHS – to 31st December 2026

#### Other reports

Professor Petersen (Academic Director of the Cardiff Hub), reported on AE involvement in the SAPEA and SAPEA Plus projects.

There followed a series of presentations by Hub managers as follows:

Barcelona (Prof. Jaume Bertranpetit Academic Director, Ms Maite Sánchez - Hub Manager).

Bergen (Prof. Eystein Jansen Academic Director, Ms Kristen Baaken - Hub Manager).

Budapest (Prof Peter Hegyi Academic Director, Katalin Fodor Hub Manager).

Cardiff (Prof. Petersen Hub Director).

Tbilisi (Prof David Prangishvili – Academic Director, Ms Sofia Kobakhidze – Hub Manager),

Wroclaw Hub (Prof. Arkadiusz Wojs Academic Director, Ms Anna Jarosz – Hub Manager),

Graz Data Centre (Dr Helmut Leitner – Centre manager, Ms Dana Kaiser manager)

Professor Alban Kellerbauer, the Editor-in-Chief of the journal – The European Review, gave a synopsis of the 2024 volume and reported on the translation into an Open Access Journal from 2025.

The President and Vice President then reported on developments at the Munich Hub. They announced the steps that had been taken towards the establishing of the new Munich office of the AE – The Academia Europaea e.V. Professor Makarow reported that as of 20th September 2023, and new AE Munich legal entity (Academia Europaea e.V.) had been formally established. All members of the AE had been informed of the plans at the AGM of 2022, and the strategic plan refers to the Board of trustees keeping the post-BREXIT situation under review. The background and motivation for this development was that the AE has its legal base in the UK and is a UK registered company and not-for-profit charity. None of the current Hubs are, of themselves, legal entities. The Board and the IAG therefore agreed that the establishing of a separate legal entity at Munich (in an EU member state) would guarantee future AE participation, not only in SAPEA, but also in other possible EU funded projects. Since the creation of the new legal entity, the office had recruited a Hub manager (Frau Friederike Brandthaus and other staff to manage the new SAPEA three project. LMU Munich had been appointed to manage the SAPEA three finances for the project consortium as a whole and Mr Rudy Hielscher had been employed to manage the project as overall co-ordinator. The Cardiff Hub would still manage aspects of SAPEA three but, the University of Cardiff had been included as a named beneficiary in the project in its own right and therefore all links to AE London had been ended as far as SAPEA was concerned. The intention is that the new Munich entity will become the operational AE HQ for all dealings with the EU and facilitate access for all members of the AE. The President then reported, that planning for SAPEA three had been completed and the project was approved. It would cover five years, the period from 2025 to 2029. The President also re-affirmed that the establishing of the new legal entity would not affect members. Both legal entities would continue for the foreseeable future and would co-administer aspects of the AE on behalf of all members. Members are de facto, members in common of both entities. There will still be a single identity for the AE, as far as external audiences are concerned.

There were no questions from the floor or interventions, and the 2024 AGM was declared closed at 18:15pm

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## **SECTION 8: Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also the directors of 'The Academia Europaea – The Academy of Europe', for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information about which charitable company's examiner of accounts is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner of accounts is aware of that information.
- The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions

### **Risk assessment**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular, those relating to the operations and finances of the charity and post BREXIT impacts and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate our exposure to these risks. However, the situation will be kept under constant review and any necessary steps taken.

### **Financial Report**

The trustees confirm that suitable accounting policies have been used and applied consistently, and that reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been made in the preparation of the financial statements for the year 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024. The Trustees also confirm that applicable accounting standards have been followed and that the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. The assets are available and adequate to fulfil obligations on a fund - by - fund basis.

Academia is required by UK law to present its accounts in Pounds Sterling. A version expressed in Euros could be prepared by converting the figures at the exchange rate for a particular date, but this would not be accurate since transactions are spread throughout the financial year, during which a range of exchange rates has existed. Any significant foreign exchange impacts are described in the notes to the accounts. The full accounts have been published separately to this activity report.

### **Reserves policy**

The examined accounts show the total of unrestricted funds for the year ended 31 December 2024 was (£33,600) [YE 31 December 2023, £4,266). The reserves were decreased by £58,848 due to the costs associated with the maintenance and operation of the Academia Europaea e.V in Munich (actual cash of Euro 87,000). However, the actual total of cash at the bank remained positive at the end of the year. Nonetheless, it is the policy of the trustees to maintain sufficient reserves for the Academia Europaea to continue its charitable activities and in view of this, the trustees aim to achieve reserves equal to approximately six months of operations. The reserves policy was not met in the last two consecutive years due to the creation and support given to the Academia Europaea c.V in Munich. Trustees are responsible to review the reserves policy every year. It is worth noting that there is a 10% deferred income from lifetime members that are recognised in the statement of financial activities annually. For the

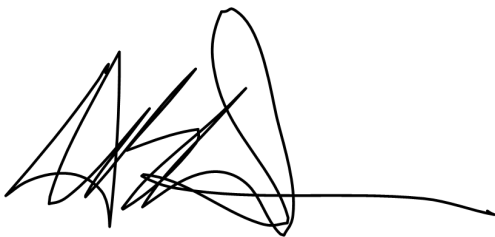
accounts year ended 31 December 2024 the deferred income in the creditors amounted to £177,513, while for the previous year 2023, it was £175,684.

### **Income and expenditure for the period ended 31 December 2024 (summary overview)**

The year was one of a caution. Following the legal costs in 2023 surrounding the creation of the Munich e.V. and budgeted establishment costs for the new Munich office in 2024, the cash reserves had taken a hit. To partially offset these additional expenditures, there was a tightening of non-designated expenditures, with a suspension of calls for the Hubert Curien Fund and a scale back of ad hoc project expenditures, a reduction in London labour and office costs and with steps to reduce longer term IT expenditures. Our total unrestricted income for the year was £285,259 Total unrestricted expenditure was £308,806.

The AE as a charity seeks to operate an effective zero balance budget. We are essentially dependent upon members' donation income. In 2024, this was at £264,999 and life membership payments totalled £21,552.89 this total was a slight reduction in the income received over 2024 and reflected a large change in the age profile of a cohort of members, who as is allowed, opted to donate at a reduced level. The Trustees stress to all members the importance of supporting the Academia by making a donation every year, preferably at the recommended level. Without more members making a payment, the AE will not be able to grow the range and type of activity and support for member initiatives that we need to deliver our obligations as a charity. Whilst a voluntary scheme remains our policy, the Trustees reviewed this policy and decided to levy a recommended general fee rate, linked to an age-related banding for annual donations, per member. Sponsorship continued to be successful for individual activity, and we thank the Wenner Gren Foundations (Sweden), The Heinz-Nixdorf Foundation (Germany), and The Balzan Foundation (Switzerland) for their support and the support of other sponsors. The Board continued to recognise the ongoing difficulty in obtaining core financial support from public and private institutions and expect that the Finance and Sponsorship sub-committee will try to address this. The members at the AGM approved a significant increase in the age-related individual member's fee requests for 2025. The first increase in over a decade. We also thank the Hungarian Research network which became a new Patron member of the AE in 2024.

The examiner's accounts for 2024 are filed separately and can be viewed through the Academia Europaea website, the UK government Companies House and the Charities Commission of England and Wales websites respectively.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Don Dingwell', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Don Dingwell, President**  
**On behalf of the Board of Trustees**

**Adopted unanimously by the Board of trustees on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2025**

## **Annex 1 Trustees, 'Council', and Section Committee composition as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 for AE London**

At the AGM in September 2015, the Regulations were amended to allow the appointment by the Board of a variable number of Vice Presidents (ex officio) to provide flexibility to the President and that serve a VP term limited to that of the President. These changes are within the overall limits set for the Trustees in the Articles of Incorporation and do not impact on the role or seniority of the elected officers. The Articles prescribe a Board made up of not less than 3 and NOT MORE than 15 members. The Articles describe a Board made up of elected officers (President, Vice Presidents and the Treasurer – all elected by the membership (at a general meeting); a number of members (appointed by the 'Advisory Council' – who are the Class chairs) and a number of co-opted (by the Board) members. The subsidiary Regulations are used to determine numbers and balance up to the limit of 15. The current formula is – Officers: [President, elected Vice presidents (up to two were approved by AGM in 2012); Treasurer]. Others co-opted.

In November 2015 the Board approved the designation of several existing Trustees as Vice Presidents ex officio, to reflect new portfolios. In 2023 these were Professor Paolo Papale (Class Chair); Professor Poul Holm (Class Chair) Professor Bjorn Wittrock (Class Chair) and Professor Eva Kondorosi (Class Chair). Governance and incorporation documents can be found on the website ([www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org)).

### **Members of the Board of Trustees (on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024)**

Elected officers:

The President – Professor Marja Makarow until end of 2024.

Treasurer - Professor Stephen Evans from January 2023 until end of 2026, then renewable.

The Vice President (officio) – Professor Don Dingwell from January 2023 to end of 2026, then renewable.

Trustees

Poul Holm (IRL) – Class chair – Class A1 (Humanities) co-opted Vice president *ex officio*; until end of 2025,

Paolo Papale – Class Chair – Class B (Natural Sciences) co-opted Vice president *ex officio*. Until end of 2027,

Eva Kondorosi (HUN)– Class Chair – Class C (Life Sciences) co-opted Vice President *ex officio* until end of 2026,

Bjorn Wittrock (SWE) - Class chair from January 2018 co-opted Vice president *ex officio* until end of 2024,

Professor Eystein Jansen (NOR) co-opted until the end of 2024. Academic Director of the Bergen Hub, renewable

Professor Milena Zic-Fuchs (Croatia) co-opted from January 2023 until the end of 2026, renewable

**Note: that the same Board of trustees reported here as operating for AE London, also functions under identical terms of office and regulations for election and appointment as the Board of trustees for the Academia Europaea Munich e.V legal entity. In all essentials the AE London and the AE Munich entities operate as a single coordinated functional unit, with commonly derived statutes, with the same mission and objectives and all members of the Academia Europaea on election and pre-the creation of AE Munich are de facto members of both legal entities without exception and discrimination. The two entities do however maintain independent financial systems and management responsibilities and the accounts are not consolidated as both entities are independent legal personalities. The Board of trustees maintains a common oversight of both organisations.**

### **Academia Europaea - Composition of the Advisory Council (on 31 December 2023)**

Following the establishment of the Class structure and the allocation of Sections into the four Classes, the role for a single Advisory Council (hereinafter The Council) meeting only annually and with a very limited function, has been replaced by a variable configuration composed of the four classes. The Section chairs (as members of the Council) are all members of one of the four Class committees. Within each Class configuration, each Section chair has a term three years, with the possibility of renewal for one further period of three years. The Class chairs are independently appointed and are members of the Board of trustees, and therefore they act as the (independent) representative of the Council (the Sections) on the Board. This structure ensures stronger flow of information and consultation between the Board of trustees and the Advisory Council (the four Class committees) than was formerly the case. This structure has also facilitated a greater devolving of responsibility to the Class level than had been possible under the old Council formation.

## **Annex 2 Academia Europaea Section Committees Chairpersons and Committee Members<sup>1</sup>**

On 31 December 2024

### **Academia Europaea Section Committees Chairpersons and Council Members<sup>1</sup>**

#### **A CLASS A1**

Class Chair, Poul Holm (Trinity, Dublin, R of Ireland) [holmp@tcd.ie](mailto:holmp@tcd.ie) (to end of 2025)

Deputy chair: Professor Göran Bolin, Sweden [Goran.bolin@sh.se](mailto:Goran.bolin@sh.se) (to end of 2026)

#### **A1 History & Archaeology**

Chairperson2: Amélia Polónia (to December 2025, renewable)<sup>4</sup>

Department of History, Political and International Studies, University of Porto

amelia.polonia@gmail.com [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Pol%C3%B3nia\\_Am%C3%A9lia](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Pol%C3%B3nia_Am%C3%A9lia)

**Committee:** Nikita Harwich (till end 2025, renewable); Korine Amacher (till end 2025); Maxine berg (till end 2025); Markus Denzel (till end 2025); Bogdan Szlachta (till end 2025); Manuel Lucena-Giraldo (till end 2025; Guido Abbattista (until end of 2025, renewable); Judith Pollman (until end of 2025, renewable).

#### **A2 Classics & Oriental Studies**

Chairperson: Gerd Haverling (to end of 2025)

gerd.haverling@lingfil.uu.se

Uppsala University, Dept. of Linguistics & Philology

**Committee:** Gianfranco Agosti (till end of 2024), Alessandro Bausi, (to end of 2024), Irmela Hijjiya-Kirschnerreit (to end 2025); Joachim Kurtz (to end of 2025, renewable), Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum (to end of 2025, renewable).

#### **A3 Linguistic Studies**

Chairperson: Pier Marco Bertinetto (till end 2025).

SNS, Pisa, Italy

Pierremarco.bertinetto@sns.it

<http://linguistica.sns.it/PaginePersonali/Bertinetto.htm>

**Committee :** Asifa Majid Vice Chair (to end of 2023), Nigel Vincent (to end of 2023), Alain Peyraube (to end 2025), Angela Ralli, to end of 2025), Katalin E. Kiss (to end of 2023, renewable), Louise McNally (to end of 2026, renewable), Martin Kümmel (to end of 2026, renewable), Mark Steedman (to end of 2026, renewable).

#### **A4 Literary & Theatrical Studies**

Chairperson: Françoise Lavocat (to end of 2025, renewable)

Department of Comparative Literature, University Paris 3-Sorbonne nouvelle

[https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Lavocat\\_Francoise](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Lavocat_Francoise) francoise.lavocat@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr

**Committee:** Vladimir Biti (to end of 2025, renewable), Vivian Liska (to end 2023), Martin Middeke (to end of 2024), Catriona Seth (to end of 2023, renewable), Massimo Fusillo (to end of 2025, renewable).

#### **A5 Musicology & Art History**

Chairperson: Ulrich Pfisterer (to December 2025, renewable)

Institut für Kunstgeschichte der LMU, Munich

ulrich.pfisterer@lrz.uni-muenchen.de [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Pfisterer\\_Ulrich](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Pfisterer_Ulrich)

**Committee:** Melanie Wald-Fuhrmann (until end of 2024), Tanja Michalsky (to end of 2025), Barbara Baert (to end of 2023 renewable), Thierry Favier (to end of 2023, renewable), Anne Piéjus (to end of 2026, renewable).

#### **A6 Philosophy, Theology & Religious Studies**

Chairperson: Mircea Dumitru (to December 2025, renewable)

University of Bucharest [mirdumitru@yahoo.com](mailto:mirdumitru@yahoo.com) [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Dumitru\\_Mircea](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Dumitru_Mircea)

**Committee:** Genoveva Marti (till end of 2025, renewable); Martin Carrier (to end of 2025), Cinzia Ferrini (to end of 2025), Margit Sutrop (to end of 2025), Timothy Williamson (to end of 2025), Alex Fidora (to end of 2025).

## CLASS A2

Class Chair Björn Wittrock, Uppsala University and Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study.  
[bjorn.wittrock@swedishcollegium.se](mailto:bjorn.wittrock@swedishcollegium.se) (to end of 2024)

Deputy chair: Professor Shalini Randeria, Central European University, Vienna and Budapest.  
[president@ceu.edu](mailto:president@ceu.edu) (to end of 2025)

### A8 Economics, Business and Management Sciences

Chairperson: Martin Kahaneč (to end of 2026) stepped down at the end of 2024 to take up the role of Class Chair  
[kahanecm@spp.ceu.edu](mailto:kahanecm@spp.ceu.edu) Central European University, Vienna, and Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI, Bratislava)

Committee: Andreu Mas-Colell (to end of 2025), Klaus Zimmermann (to end of 2026), Marie Claire Villeval (to end of 2025, renewable). Karine Nyborg (to end of 2026, renewable)

### A9 Governance, Institutions and Policies: Education, Health and Welfare

Chairperson: Professor Pauli Kettunen, University of Helsinki (to end of 2026, renewable)  
[pauli.kettunen@helsinki.fi](mailto:pauli.kettunen@helsinki.fi) Faculty of Social Sciences, Political History, University of Helsinki, Finland.

Committee: Archana Singh-Manoux (to end of 2022), Stefano Bartolini (to end of 2026, renewable), Liudvika Leisyte (to end of 2026, renewable), Liviu Matei (to end of 2026 renewable), Jonathan White (to end of 2026, renewable).

### A 10. Human Mobility, Governance, Environment and Space

Chairperson : Benno Werlen (to end of 2026, renewable)  
[benno.werlen@gmail.com](mailto:benno.werlen@gmail.com)  
Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany

Committee: Leo van Wissen (until end of 2025), Tovi Fenster (until end of 2024, renewable), Jennifer Robinson (until end 2024, renewable), Ilona Palne Kovacs (to end of 2026, renewable), Kene Henkens (to end of 2026, renewable).

### A11 Law

Chairperson: Nina Dethloff (to end 2025)  
[dethloff@uni-bonn.de](mailto:dethloff@uni-bonn.de)  
Faculty of Law, University of Bonn

Committee: Maarit Jäntäerä- Jareborg (to end of 2025), Christina Gonzalez-Beilfuss (to end of 2025), Dieter Gosewinkel (until end of 2025); Tatjana Josipović (until end of 2026). Rianne Letschert (until end of 2026). Christopher Thornhill (to end of 2026), Bea Verschraegen – Vice Chair (until end of 2025, renewable).

### A 12. Social Change and Social Thought

Chairperson: Peter Wagner (to end of 2025)  
[Peter.Wagner@ub.edu](mailto:Peter.Wagner@ub.edu)  
Catalan Institute for Research and Advanced Studies and University of Barcelona

Committee: Lars Magnusson (to end of 2025), Chris Hann (to end of 2026, renewable), Penelope Harvey (to end of 2026, renewable).

### A 13. The Human Mind and Its Complexity

Chairperson: Jüri Allik (to end of 2025)  
[juri.allik@ut.ee](mailto:juri.allik@ut.ee)  
Dept. of Experimental and Cognitive Psychology, University of Tartu, Estonia

Committee: Kimmo Alho (to end of 2025), Gian Vittorio Caprara (to end of 2023), Mara Dierssen (to end of 2026), Alexandra Bendixen (to end of 2026, renewable), Mats J. Olsson (to end of 2026, renewable), Anu Realo (to end of 2026, renewable).

## CLASS B

Class Chair: Paolo Papale (To end of 2027)  
[paolo.papale@ingv.it](mailto:paolo.papale@ingv.it)

## Instituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia, Italy

### Deputy Chair: vacant

#### B1 Mathematics

Chairperson: Philippe Michel (to end of 2025)

[philippe.michel@epfl.ch](mailto:philippe.michel@epfl.ch)

Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne

Committee: Jean-Benoît Bost (to end 2024), Martin Hairer (to end 2024), (Volker Mehrmann (to end 2024), Amie Wilkinson (to end 2025), Karen Vogtmann (to end of 2024, renewable), Benoit Perthame (to end of 2025, renewable).

#### B2 Informatics

Chairperson: Erol Gelenbe (to end of 2025, renewable)

Institute of Theoretical and Applied Informatics, Polish Academy of Sciences

[gelenbe.erol@orange.fr](mailto:gelenbe.erol@orange.fr) [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Gelenbe\\_Erol](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Gelenbe_Erol)

Committee: Schahram Dustdar (to end of 2025, renewable), Wil van der Aalst (to end of 2023, renewable), Rajiv Ranjan (until end of 2024, renewable), Pierangela Semerati (to end of 2026, renewable), Thomas Eiter (to end of 2026, renewable), Carlo Ghezzi (to end of 2026, renewable)

#### B3 Physics and Engineering Sciences

Chairperson: Pavel Exner (until end of 2024)

[exner@ujf.cas.cz](mailto:exner@ujf.cas.cz) Doppler Institute, Brehova 7, 11519, Prague, Czech Republic

Committee: Michael Peter Kennedy (until end 2023), Angela Bracco – Vice Chair (until end 2023), Ursel Fantz (until end of 2024), Itamar Procaccia (until the end of 2023, renewable), Paul Linden (until the end of 2023, renewable), Päivi Törmä (from Jan 2022 to end of 2024, renewable), Fabio Zwirner (until the end of 2024, renewable); Tomasz Dietl (until end of 2026, renewable).

#### B4 Chemical Sciences

Chairperson : Johannes Lercher (to end of 2026, renewable)

[johannes.lercher@tum.de](mailto:johannes.lercher@tum.de)

TU München

Department Chemie

Committee: Janine Cossy (to end of 2022), Bert Weckhuysen (to end 2022), Valentine Ananikov (to end of 2022, renewable), Hans-Peter Steinrueck (to end of 2025, renewable), Gianfranco Pacchioni (to end of 2025, renewable), Eleanor Campbell (to end of 2025, renewable).

#### B5 Earth and Cosmic Sciences

Chairperson: Professor Valerio Acocella (until end of 2026, renewable)

[valerio.acocella@uniroma3.it](mailto:valerio.acocella@uniroma3.it) Università Roma Tre

Committee: Gerald Gilmore (till end of 2023), Todd Ehlers (till end 2025), Liane G. Benning (to end of 2025, renewable), Laszlo Kiss (to end of 2026, renewable), Pilar Ruiz-Lapuente (to end of 2026, renewable).

### CLASS C

#### Class Chair, Eva Kondorosi (to end of 2026)

[eva.kondorosi@gmail.com](mailto:eva.kondorosi@gmail.com)

### Deputy Chair. Vacant

#### C1 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Chairperson: Ray Dixon (to end of 2024, renewable)

[ray.dixon@jic.ac.uk](mailto:ray.dixon@jic.ac.uk) John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK

Committee : Brigitte GICQUEL (to end of 2023, renewable), Annalisa PASTORE (to end of 2023, renewable), Mart SAARMA (TO END OF 2023, renewable), Maria Carmo-Fonseca (to end of 2025, renewable), Kathryn Lilley (to the end of 2026, renewable), Anja Böckmann (to end of 2026, renewable).

## C2 Cell and Developmental Biology

Chairperson: Crisanto Gutierrez (to end of 2023, renewable)

[cgutierrez@cbm.csic.es](mailto:cgutierrez@cbm.csic.es)

Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Madrid, Spain

[https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Gutierrez\\_Crisanto](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Gutierrez_Crisanto)

Committee: Christine Mummery (to end of 2024), Maria-Elena Torres-Padilla (to end of 2024, renewable), Ivan Dikic (to end of 2024, renewable), Elaine Dzierzak (to end of 2025, renewable), Lena Claesson-Welsh (to end of 2025, renewable).

## C3 Physiology and Neuroscience

Chairperson: Balazs Gulyas (to end of 2024, renewable)

Karolinska, Stockholm and

Centre for Neuroimaging Research at NTU. Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. Hong Kong

[balazs.gulyas@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:balazs.gulyas@ntu.edu.sg)

Committee: Dmitri Rusakov (to end 2025), Alexey Semyanov (until the end of 2026), Michaela Matteoli (until end of 2026), Karin Sipido (until end of 2024, renewable), Zaal Kokaia (until end of 2024, renewable). Mara Dierssen (to end of 2025, renewable), Thomas Perlmann (to end of 2025, renewable).

## C4 Ecology and Evolution

Chairperson: András Báldi (to end of 2025, renewable)

Centre for Ecological Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

[baldi.andras@ecolres.hu](mailto:baldi.andras@ecolres.hu) [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/B%C3%A1ldi\\_Andr%C3%A1s](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/B%C3%A1ldi_Andr%C3%A1s)

Committee: Christophe Thebaud (to end of 2025), Per Ahlberg (to end of 2025); Dianne Edwards (to end 2025), Louise Fresco (to end 2025); Mike Hassell (until end 2025). Richard Bardgett (to end 2025), José María Fernández-Palacios (to end of 2026, renewable)

## C5 Clinical and Veterinary Science

Chairperson: Peter Hegyi (To end 2024, renewable)

[hegyi2009@gmail.com](mailto:hegyi2009@gmail.com)

Semmelweis University, Budapest

Committee: Antonia Trichopoulou (to end of 2024, renewable), Helena Leino-Kilpi (to end of 2024, renewable), Jose J Céron (to end of 2024, renewable), Lajos Kemény (to end of 2024, renewable), Rebecca Fitzgerald (to end of 2024, renewable), John Neoptolemos (to end of 2024, renewable), Jacek Jassem (to end of 2024, renewable), András Varró (to end of 2024, renewable).

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**1 Committees** are elected by the members of the section accordance with the Regulations for Section Committees. At least 50% of the committee has to be elected by a ballot of the membership of the Section. All members of the Section are eligible to stand for election as Committee candidates. The exact procedure for rotation and elections is decided by the Committees themselves. The Chair must ensure the committees reflect a balance of representation of the fields within the Section and should ensure a regular rotation of members of the committee.

**2 Chairs** serve a three term, renewable once only for a further three years.

**3 Committee members** serve a three-year term that can be renewed once only for a further three-year period.

**4** (date first term ends / date second and final term ends subject to agreement of the committee and Council)

The following pages are the individual AE Knowledge Hub annual reports for 2024

# ACADEMIA EUROPAEA TBILISI HUB



Tbilisi Hub, hosted by Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, is the first representation of Academia Europaea operating outside the EU.

The mission of the AE Tbilisi Hub is to uphold Academia Europaea's values and promote pan-European interests in the region. It supports the creation, dissemination, and popularization of new scientific knowledge while introducing European research standards and mechanisms. Furthermore, the Hub strengthens the connection between science and policy development, contributing to the broader impact of scientific research and the STI sector on society.

Having a representation of Academia Europaea in Georgia plays a key role in fostering bilateral ties between the Georgian and European academic and scientific communities. Additionally, it helps young Georgian scientists gain access to the European scientific and research landscape.

# CONTENT

- 3 Academia Europaea
- 4 Tbilisi Hub
- 6 Meeting with the scientific society
- 7 Public Lectures
- 9 Series of lectures on Neurosciences
- 11 Series of Sessions
- 15 International Seminars
- 18 International Conferences
- 22 Publication
- 23 Science Popularization
- 24 Collaboration



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
SCIENCE AND YOUTH OF GEORGIA**

# ACADEMIA EUROPAEA



The [Academia Europaea](#) was established in 1988 and is the Pan-European Academy of Humanities, Letters and Sciences. Membership is by invitation only.

The object of Academia Europaea is the advancement and propagation of excellence in scholarship in the humanities, law, the economic, social, and political sciences, mathematics, medicine, and all branches of natural and technological sciences

anywhere in the world for the public benefit and for the advancement of the education of the public of all ages in the aforesaid subjects in Europe. Currently Academia unites more than 5500 members including 88 Nobel laureates. Members are drawn from across the whole European continent and also include European scholars who are resident in other regions of the world together with foreign members resident outside Europe.

## CENTERS AND OFFICES

The headquarters of Academia Europaea is located in Munich, Germany, with its Support Office in London, UK. Additionally, AE has an Information Center in Graz, Austria.

Academia Europaea operates six regional Hubs across Europe: Barcelona (Spain), Bergen (Norway), Budapest



(Hungary), Cardiff (UK), Tbilisi (Georgia), and Wrocław (Poland). These Hubs are responsible for promoting various scientific fields within their respective countries, fostering young people's interest in science, making modern scientific achievements accessible to the general public, and etc. all while upholding the values of Academia Europaea.

# TBILISI HUB



The decision to open a Hub in Tbilisi, Georgia, was unanimously approved by the Board of Academia Europaea (AE) at its annual meeting in Barcelona in 2018.

On April 24, 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and Academia Europaea. With this, Tbilisi became the fifth city to host an AE Hub, following Cardiff (UK), Barcelona (Spain), Wrocław (Poland), and Bergen (Norway). In 2020, sixth Hub was established in Budapest, Hungary.

AE Tbilisi Hub is the only one operating outside the EU and serves as Academia Europaea's representative both in Georgia and across the region.

Since its establishment, the Hub has implemented numerous important projects aimed at strengthening academic cooperation between Georgia and Europe and integrating Georgian scientists into the European research community.

# HUB'S STRUCTURE

AE Tbilisi Hub is led by its Academic Director, who is elected by the Hub's Scientific Advisory Board and appointed by the Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, in coordination with the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board itself is chaired by an elected member.

The implementation of projects and related managerial tasks are overseen by the Executive Director and the Hub's Manager.

Since 2024, the Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub has been AE member Prof. David Lordkipanidze, while AE member Prof. Zaal Kokaia serves as Chair of the Advisory Board. The position of Executive Director is held by Natia Khuluzauri, and Vakhtang Tsintsadze is the Hub's Manager.



**Prof. David Lordkipanidze**  
Academic Director



**Prof. Zaal Kokaia**  
Chair of the Board



**Natia Khuluzauri**  
Executive Director



**Vakhtang Tsintsadze**  
Manager

# SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Hub's Scientific Advisory Board consists of 14 Georgian and foreign scientists who are members of Academia Europaea.



## Members of the Scientific Advisory Board:

From the first row onwards (abecedarian): Prof. Bezhan Chankvetadze; Prof. Lado Chanturia; Prof. Mikheil Chkhenkeli; Prof. Sierd Cloetingh; Prof. George Gegelashvili; Prof. Merab Kokaia; Prof. Zaal Kokaia (Chair of the Board); Prof. Eva Kondorosi; Prof. David Lordkipanidze (Academic Director); Prof. David Prangishvili; Prof. George Sharvashidze; Prof. Zaza Skhirtladze; Prof. Ketevan Tchanturia; Prof. Alexander Tsiskaridze

# MEETING WITH THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

On March 27, 2024 Academia Europaea Tbilisi Hub hosted an event titled Georgian Science Paving Way to Europe at the Ivane Javakhisvhili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

Occasion aimed to inform the audience about the projects implemented by the Hub since its foundation in 2019 and to present plans and new perspectives.

Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia, Nodar Papukasjvili, and Rector of Ivane Javakhisvhili Tbilisi State University, Academician Jaba Samushia made opening remarks underlining that the realization of the scientific potential of Georgia is extremely important to collaborate with the international scientific institutions and expressed readiness to continue support to the Academia Europaea Tbilisi Hub.

Former Academic Director, Prof. David Prangishvili, new Academic Director, Prof. David Lordkipandize and the Chair of the Advisory Board, Prof. Zaal Kokaia discussed the role of AE Tbilisi Hub in internationalization and integration of Georgian scientists with international science institutions and the implementation of the international scientific standards in Georgia.



# PUBLIC LECTURES

AE Tbilisi Hub provides an opportunity to showcase developments in modern science to professionals, young scientists, and the general public while strengthening connections between Georgian and international researchers. Public lectures are delivered by both Georgian experts and leading scientists from around the world, some of whom are members of Academia Europaea.

In 2024, the Hub organized public lectures, covering a diverse range of scientific fields and topics.

## Medicine and Evolution

A public lecture-seminar titled Medicine and Evolution was organized by the Tbilisi State University (TSU) and Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub on February 14, 2024. The occasion united two topics: Humans out of Africa: Who? When? Why? and Teeth – Key to Evolutionary Success of Mankind.

The first topic was presented by the Academic Director of the Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub, Academician David Lordkipanidze. He gave the public a broad overview of the path of human evolution and talked about the waves of its dispersal out of Africa. During his speech, he explained why the Dmanisi archaeological site and its' discoveries are of crucial importance to studying the evolutionary history of mankind.

During the second part of the lecture-session, Prof. Ann Margvelashvili, who is a TSU Invited Doctor, Senior Researcher of the Georgian National Museum, and the Head of the Ph.D. program of the Somatology at the University of Georgia, offered us a deeper dive into the path of human evolution by presenting one of the recent interdisciplinary studies conducted on the Dmanisi archaeological material, specifically – the dentognathic system of hominids.

Professors and students of the Tbilisi State University and Tbilisi State Medical University as well as the representatives of the Georgian National Museum and the general public attended the occasion.



## **Museum Island and Humboldt Forum: The current challenge of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation between science and the public**

On April 3, 2024, Academia Europaea Tbilisi Hub and the Goethe-Institute Georgien organized a public lecture by Prof. Hermann Partzinger, the president of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation.

Prof. Hermann Partzinger, renowned scientist who fruitfully works in the direction of archaeology and cultural heritage management, was appointed as the President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation in 2008. Under his leadership various reforms were implemented in the Institution, including the full rebranding, aiming transformation of the Prussian Cultural Heritage foundation to the modern standards.

In 2014 during the interview given to the corporate magazine of the Georgian National Museum Prof. Partzinger noted: "Public engagement has many different facets. First of all, museums have to aim their programs at people within different parts of society, for example different ages, different interests and education, as well as cultural or religious backgrounds – museums must engage them all." Ten years later from this interview Georgian public had a chance to discuss the current challenges that are present between the modern society and science in the cultural institutions with him at the Goethe-Institute Georgien.

In 2018, Prof. Hermann Partzinger was appointed as the Executive President of Europa Nostra, he is the Honorary Doctor of numerous universities as well as the Honorary Member of the Science Academies all over the world. In 2023 he was elected as the foreign Member of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences in recognition of the special merits in development of the Georgian-German relationships and scientific advancement.

Welcome ceremony of Prof. Partzinger at the Georgina National Academy of Sciences was held a day prior of Hub's event.



## The origins of cities in Eurasia: New archaeological perspectives

On September 5, 2024, Academia Europaea Tbilisi Hub in collaboration with the Georgian National Museum organized public lecture of the Abercromby Professor of Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, Prof. Manuel Fernández-Götz, an Academia Europaea member, whose research focuses on late prehistoric and Roman societies in Europe, with a particular interest in questions of social identities, early urbanisation, and conflict archaeology.

He covered achievements that archaeology has made during the last few decades and enormous advances in the study of the deep history of earliest cities, leading to fascinating new discoveries and challenging previous assumptions. His presentation combined examples of new theoretical and methodological approaches with specific case studies that range from the 4th millennium BC Trypillia megasites in Ukraine to the 1st century BC Celtic oppida in Central-Western Europe.

The lecture was followed with an interesting discussion among the speaker and Georgian scientists.

This occasion not only deepened appreciation for the complexities of early urbanization but also reinforced the importance of international partnerships in advancing archaeological research preparing the ground for future partnership.



# Series of lectures on Neurosciences

In October 2024, Academia Europaea Tbilisi Knowledge Hub had the honor of hosting Prof. Vladimir Parpura, a distinguished member of Academia Europaea, Distinguished Professor, and Director of the International Translational Neuroscience Research Institute at Zhejiang Chinese Medical University.

Additionally, Prof. Zaal Kokaia, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of AE Tbilisi Hub, Academia Europaea member, and Professor at Lund University, also visited Georgia.

Their visit provided the Hub with an excellent opportunity to organize a series of lectures on the latest advancements in neuroscientific research. These lectures were held in collaboration with Ilia State University and the Ivane Beritashvili Centre of Experimental Biomedicine.

On October 8, Prof. Parpura presented a lecture: **Astrocytes release glutamate by regulated exocytosis in health and disease.** Prof. Parpura presented the evidence that astrocytes, a subtype of glial cells in the brain, can exocytotically release the neurotransmitter glutamate and analyzed how this release is regulated. He also discussed spatiotemporal characteristics of vesicular fusion that underlie astrocyte glutamate release. In addition, he presented data on a translational project in which this release pathway can be targeted for treating astrocytoma IV (also referred to as glioblastoma multiforme IV), the deadliest brain cancer.



On 11 October at the Ivane Beritashvili Centre of Experimental Biomedicine, Prof. Parpura and Prof. Kokaia delivered lectures on **Carbon nanotubes in translational astrogeology** and **How to make new oligodendrocytes and why?"**

in their respective order. **Prof. Parpura's** lecture focused on carbon nanotubes (CNTs), which have shown promise in neurobiology and biomedicine. Their structural stability and ease of chemical modification make them compatible with biological applications. Prof. Parpura discussed the effects that chemically functionalized CNTs, applied as a colloidal solute or used as strata, have on the morphological and functional (glutamate uptake and vesicular recycling) properties of astrocytes, with an insight into the potential use of CNTs in neural prostheses, as well as in the pre-clinical treatment of astrocytoma/glioblastoma and traumatic brain injury model.

**Prof. Kokaia** talked about oligodendrocytes, which are specialized glial cells in the central nervous system (CNS) producing myelin, the insulating sheath that enhances the speed and efficiency of electrical signal transmission between neurons. As we learned during the lecture, their importance is underscored in conditions such as stroke and multiple sclerosis (MS), where myelin damage leads to impaired neuronal function and neurological deficits.



The lectures by Professors Parpura and Kokaia offered an invaluable glimpse into the cutting-edge developments in neuroscience, reaffirming the vital role of interdisciplinary research and international cooperation in addressing the most pressing challenges in brain science today. As we continue to explore the complexities of the brain, events like these will inspire the next generation of scientists and pave the way for innovations that could change the course of human health.



# Series of Sessions

## **Innovations in Science and Georgia's Competitive Fields and Directions**

On 30th July and 3rd August, a series of sessions were held for the students of the KIU-GITA Innovation and Startup Acceleration Summer School.

Sessions were organized by the Academia Europaea Tbilisi Hub, Ivane Javakhisvili Tbilisi State University, the Georgian National Museum, and Kutaisi International University (KIU) with the support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Georgia.

During the sessions, moderated by Prof. David Lordkipanidze, students had an opportunity to hear from the leading scientists of various fields about the connection between modern technologies and science, culture, climate change, and other challenges of today.

The meetings aimed to present modern scientific standards on the examples of specific, international, and multidisciplinary research projects and demonstrate the importance and role of modern technologies in those particular projects.

On 30th July lecture of the Director of the Rathgen Research Laboratory with the National Museums Berlin, Prof. Stefan Simon was concerned to Climate Change and Cultural Heritage.



He talked about the challenges that museums face when creating appropriate conditions for museum objects in relation to climate change and discussed how Germany is trying to respond to those challenges by using modern technologies.

Senior Researcher of the Georgian National Museum, Prof. Ann Margvelashvili talked about the use of modern digital technologies in bordering sciences such as paleontology, archaeology, and clinical medicine on the example of the

archaeological site of Dmanisi and hominins unearthed there dating back 1.8 million years, that often are represented at the covers of the leading scientific and science-popular publications.



Researcher of the Georgian National Museum, Dr. Giorgi Bedianashvili talked about the entanglement of past and new technologies and explained how archae-

ologists use modern technologies to study one of the most important periods of human history, the Bronze Age on the example of the Bronze Age Rabati Settlement in Southwest of Georgia.

On 3 August at the auditorium of the Kutaisi International University students had a chance to attend a seminar by the Professor of Lund University, Neuroscientist, Zaal Kokaia, who talked about modern technologies in neuroscience. It was interesting for the students to learn that genetic engineering, cell reprogramming, and microfluidic chips are used in neuroscience for modeling diseases. Prof. Zaal Kokaia's lecture was naturally continued by the seminar of the Professor of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State



University, Neurologist, Alexander Tsiskaridze, who talked about the use of modern technologies in clinical neurology, such as dissolving the clots and extraction of it from the blood vessel, or detection of the disease at its early stage, giving the chance of a full recovery to a patient.

Honorary Professor of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, Virologist David Prangishvili discussed the potential of viruses to be the source of technological advancement. Prof. Prangishvili underlined the future of phages that have a longlisting tradition in Georgia and were named among the most promising future technologies at the World Economic Forum in 2023.

Professor of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, lawyer Lado Chanturia as the Judge of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg discussed information technologies, artificial intellect, and human rights in the case law of the Court of Strasbourg on the examples of interesting cases.



At the modern auditorium of the Vani Archaeological Museum, near Kutaisi students attended three more lectures: Professor of the University of Florence, Vertebrate Palaeontologist Lorenzo Rook

discussed modern technologies and paleontology with the students, though, if a few days before main characters of Prof. Ann Margvelashvili's lecture were hominins from Dmanisi, Prof. Lorenzo Rook presented 1.8 million years old canine family members and showed the images of five ideally preserved skulls that were studied with the modern technologies: "though, unfortunately, they have not yet ended up at the cover of the Science Magazine, unlike to hominins," – joked he in the end.

Transforming Heritage into Competitiveness of Georgia – was the title of the joint seminar given by Prof. David Lordkipanidze and the President of the America-Georgia Business Council and Adjunct Professor at American University in Washington D.C., Mamuka Tsereteli. Speakers believe that Georgia is a perfect place to study an unexplored space of a strategic connection between heritage, transdisciplinary scientific research of natural and cultural development, technological development and innovation, and societies' efforts to achieve sustainable improvements in human well-being. "We argue that modern-day Georgia offers a unique opportunity to transform research and knowledge about the natural and human heritage, into competitiveness of Georgia." – noted Prof. Lordkipanidze.

The golden logo of the European Museum Forum shimmering at the doors of the Vani Archaeological Museum serves as obvious proof of those words – Vani Archeological



Museum was awarded the prestigious Silletto Prize for Community Participation and Engagement during the 2023 European Museum of the Year Award.

In the end of three-day intensive sessions Prof. Lordkipanidze provided a special guided tour around the Vani Archaeological Museum for the participants, giving the Students a chance to make parallels between the ways of communication of the cultural heritage and use of modern techno-

logies, while interacting with the scientists in the informal environment to develop new ideas in regards of using technology in science.



# International Seminars

AE Tbilisi Hub fosters knowledge and experience sharing among professionals by organizing international seminars. These meetings play a crucial role in building international professional networks and facilitating future collaborations.

## **Georgia needs eating disorder clinical services**

A two-day workshop titled: “Georgia needs eating disorder clinical services” was held by the multidisciplinary team from the leading eating disorder National Service representatives at Maudsley, UK at the Tbilisi State University on May 7 and 8, of the current year.

The workshop was initiated by a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Academia Europaea Tbilisi Hub, Prof. Ketevan Tchanturia Professor of Psychology at Kings College London and lead consultant psychologist at Maudsley Hospital. Prof Tchanturia is also visiting academic in the Illia State University. The workshop was hosted by Prof. Tamar Gagoshidze faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences of the Tbilisi State University.

During the two-day program the workshop participants heard updated research about eating disorders (ED) and discussed the subject covering the topics of how ED can be identified, what are the psychological and physical risks of ED, effective services for the treatment of ED, ways of early intervention, how to deal with comorbidities and why it is important to take them into account to treat ED.

Speakers discussed complex clinical cases, practical strategies, research innovations as well as cultural context how to adapt and calibrate best clinical practice in Georgian context.

Georgian multidisciplinary professionals who work with patients with eating disorders and are interested in further development of ED services and introduction of modern international standards of the above-mentioned services in Georgia.



## Everything in a Museum Communicates

On December 3, AE Tbilisi Hub, ICOM International Committee for Marketing and Public Relations (MPR), ICOM Georgia, and the Georgian National Museum organized the international workshop Everything in a Museum Communicates.

Led by ICOM-MPR Board Member and Executive Director of AE Tbilisi Hub, Natia Khuluzauri, and ICOM-MPR Board Member, Branding, Design, and Communication Consultant, Luis Marcelo Mendes, the intensive program helped participants understand the role of communication in museums, science, and culture. Through interactive discussions and hands-on activities, attendees explored how effective communication strategies enhance audience engagement and institutional impact.

Twenty professionals from various countries took part, developing skills in cultural and scientific communication. The workshop also examined modern trends in science communication, emphasizing strategies for knowledge dissemination and public engagement. Participants analyzed case studies and best practices from leading institutions worldwide.

Funded by ICOM SAREC, the initiative aimed to support museum professionals involved in communication, including museum communicators, science communicators, directors, curators, and educators.

At the end of the workshop, participants received certificates recognizing their involvement.



## Biocultural History and the Future of the Black Sea

On December 9, AE Tbilisi Hub, in collaboration with the Leibniz Institute for Biodiversity Change, Ilia State University, and the Rewind.earth Initiative, organized the international seminar: Biocultural History and the Future of the Black Sea.

This interdisciplinary seminar brought together scientists studying the biological and cultural evolution of the region, as well as its ecological challenges. Participants explored pressing environmental issues in the face of climate change and discussed innovative, interdisciplinary solutions that integrate modern technologies into scientific research.

The event echoed key discussions from the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), with a specific focus on the Black Sea region.

Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub, Prof. David Lortkipanidze, presented an overview of the region's biocultural heritage and outlined his vision for addressing its challenges.

His approach emphasizes both scientific research and public engagement, with AE Tbilisi Hub playing a central role in fostering awareness and action.



# International Conferences

One of the key priorities of the AE Tbilisi Hub is organizing and participating in international conferences, both in Georgia and abroad. These conferences play a crucial role in representing Georgia on the global scientific stage and serve as a foundation for new international collaborations.

## The Power of the Ponto-Caspian Bio-Cultural Heritage

On November 21-22, the Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub Prof. David Lordkipanidze took part in the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The exhibition titled: “The Power of the Ponto-Caspian Bio-Cultural Heritage” highlighting interconnected factors such as heritage, scientific research, technological development, and efforts of societies to ensure the achievement of environmentally sustainable improvements in human well-being was created within the partnership of AE Tbilisi Hub, the Georgian National Museum, UN Climate Change Conference, 2024 (COP29) Organizing Committee, the JPI on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (EU Commission), RCH Partnership (EU Partnership) and Rewind Initiative.

The same space featured the Keynote presentation by Prof. David Lorkdipanidze and the discussion panel: “Bio-Cultural Heritage for the Future: Mobilizing the Past for the Climate Resilience”.

Prof. David Lordkipanidze's participation in COP29 highlighted the importance of bringing together cultural heritage, science, and innovation to address the growing challenges of climate change.



## Building Bridges 2025

From November 25-29, 2024, the 35th Annual Conference of Academia Europaea, Building Bridges 2024, took place at the University of Science and Technology in Wrocław, Poland. Natia Khuluzauri, Executive Director of AE Tbilisi Hub, participated in the event.

On November 26, during the General Assembly of Academia Europaea Natia Khuluzauri presented a report on AE Tbilisi Hub's 2024 activities and outlined future plans of the Hub.

Earlier, during the day, she took part in a working meeting for AE Hubs, where participants discussed the Academy's strategic direction, opportunities for deeper collaboration, and the development of a shared roadmap for achieving common goals.

Throughout the conference, the Executive Director of AE Tbilisi Hub engaged with Academy members, exploring potential collaborations and joint projects to further strengthen the Hub's international partnerships.



## Museum Communications at a Crossroads

From December 4-7, AE Tbilisi Hub, ICOM International Committee for Marketing and Public Relations (MPR), ICOM Georgia, the Georgian National Museum, Tbilisi Museums Union, and the Georgian Museum of Fine Arts jointly organized the international conference: Museum Communications at a Crossroads: Empowering Our Communities in Times of Change and Crisis in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The conference opened with a keynote speech by Prof. David Lortkipanidze, Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub, who discussed Georgia's biocultural heritage and ongoing scientific research in the field. He also explored how these studies can contribute to the promotion of the country and its cultural legacy.

Natia Khuluzauri, Executive Director of AE Tbilisi Hub, moderated both, the keynote session and the scientific panel discussion, where experts examined modern approaches to science communication and the implementation of effective communication strategies through real-world examples.

The conference brought together around 100 delegates, with 40 speakers from different countries presenting their insights.

Annual conferences organized by ICOM's International Committees serve as vital platforms for fostering collaboration between professionals in culture and science while showcasing the latest trends and methodologies.

Hosting the 2024 ICOM MPR Annual Conference in Tbilisi, which gathered leading experts in scientific and cultural communication, was a prestigious milestone for Georgia, reinforcing its role in the global museum and academic community.



## Translational and Clinical Medicine - Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence in Medical Education and Research

AE Tbilisi Hub served as an information partner for the 2nd International Scientific Conference: Translational and Clinical Medicine – Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence in Medical Education and Research, held at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University from May 23-25, 2024.

The conference brought together members of the International Advisory Board of the TSU Faculty of Medicine from 12 countries worldwide. Its primary goal was to share international expertise with the Georgian medical community, including TSU faculty, researchers, and students, on the advancements achieved through artificial intelligence and digital technologies in medical science and healthcare.

Discussions focused on the integration of digital tools in medical education, research, and clinical practice, highlighting the potential of AI-driven innovations to enhance healthcare delivery and scientific progress.



# Publication

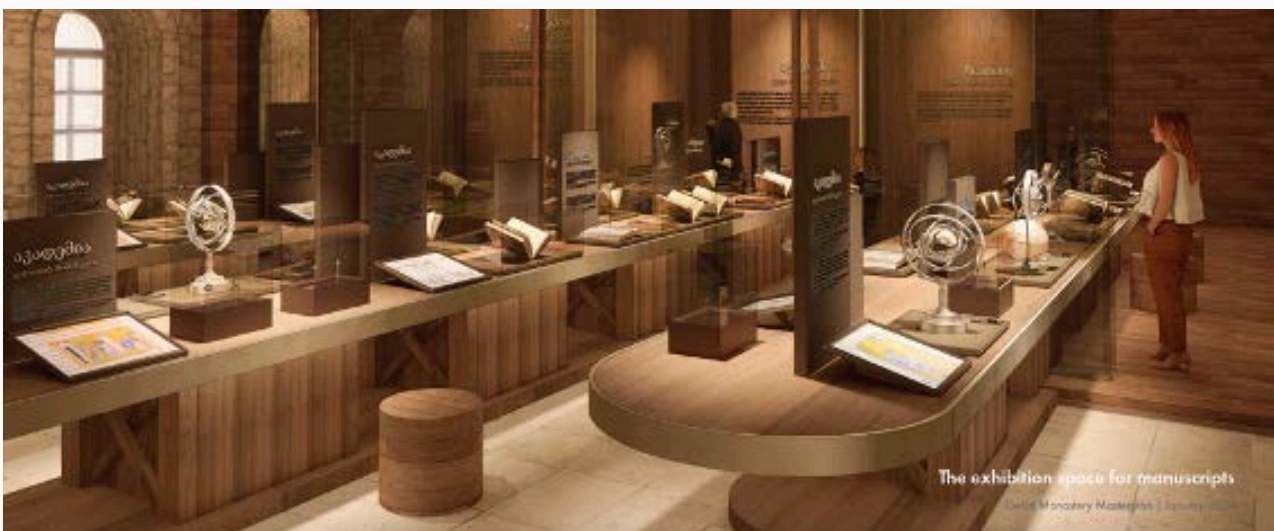
In 2020, the project: Gelati Academy – The Medieval Center for Science and Education Amidst Eastern and Western Christianity was launched through the initiative of AE Tbilisi Hub and the Christian Oriental Research Center at the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

The main goal of the project is to introduce the Gelati Academy to the global community as one of the oldest and most significant scientific and educational centers in the Christian world.

As part of the project, AE Tbilisi Hub organized a hybrid conference for young scientists titled Gelati Academy – Its Era and Heritage on April 28, 2023, at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

In 2024, the work on the publication: Gelati – The Heritage of David the Builder was completed. It has been edited by Academia Europaea member and TSU Prof. Zaza Skhirtladze.

The publication is set to be presented to the public in the first quarter of 2025.



# Science Popularization

One of the key priorities of AE Tbilisi Hub is the popularization of science and sharing the latest scientific advancements with the general public.

To achieve this, the Hub collaborates with leading media outlets in Georgia that uphold high journalistic standards and whose objectives align with the Hub's mission.

These media partners include National Geographic Magazine – Georgia, the Georgian Public Broadcaster, and EuroNews Georgia. The Hub regularly provides these outlets with updates on the latest scientific news and upcoming events.

Prof. David Lortkipanidze, Academic Director of AE Tbilisi Hub, leads the popular science project: History Told by Objects, which is featured as an author's column in National Geographic Magazine – Georgia, while in collaboration with the Georgian Public Broadcaster, it is also adapted for television and radio formats.

Additionally, AE Tbilisi Hub works with National Geographic Magazine – Georgia to organize various events aiming for science popularisation.



# Collaboration

In **2024** Academia Europaea Tbilisi Hub Partnered with following institutions:

- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University
  - Ilia State University
  - Kutaisi International University (KIU)
  - Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University
  - Ivane Beritashvili Centre of Experimental Biomedicine
  - Innovation and Startup Acceleration Summer School
  - The Georgian National Museum
  - Tbilisi Museums Union
  - The Society Iveriisa
  - Goethe-Institute Georgien
  - ICOM (International Council of Museums)
  - ICOM MPR (International Committee for Marketing and Public Relations)
  - COP 29
  - Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (EU Commission)
  - Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH) Partnership (EU Partnership)
  - Rewind Initiative
-



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# Academia Europaea Barcelona Knowledge Hub

## Activities 2024

### OVERVIEW

Since 2023, the AE-BKH has been hosted by the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI), based in Barcelona and directed by Dr. Jordi Mas until 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, provides the AE-BKH with the necessary institutional framework to carry out its activities.

The staff is made up of an academic director, Professor Jaume Bertranpetit and a Hub Manager, Maite Sánchez. AE-BKH has as partners the Barcelona City Council and the Government of Catalonia (Ministry of Research and Universities).

There is a Steering Committee with the following members: Andreu Mas-Colell, Ramon Gomis, Genoveva Martí, Alex Fidora and Marcel Swart. They met on July 10 to take stock of the first six months of 2024.

Also, in 2023, a new Advisory Board was formed: Eva Kondorosi, Björn Wittrock, Don Dingwell and three members of the Steering Committee: Andreu Mas-Colell, Ramon Gomis and Genoveva Martí. This Council met on January 18 and on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2024.

### SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUES

The AE-BKH has successfully carried out its activities, combining the use of virtual tools with face-to-face in a 'hybrid' format. The events have been of interest to the members of AE, to the scientific community and to the general public:

- Scientific dialogues developed at two levels:
  - 1- A series of high-level scientific discussions **in English** that explore the limits of knowledge and cross disciplinary boundaries entitled ***Frontiers of Science and Technology in Society*** (abbreviated as *Frontiers*).
  - 2- **Agora**, a series of dialogues to promote social commitment and the inclusion of citizen participation in scientific discussion, especially within the Barcelona area. These sessions are conducted in **Catalan and/or Spanish** and deal with scientific topics closer to the interests of citizens, at a level of discussion appropriate for the public.



# SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUES

AGORA February 21, 2024: The challenges of human reproduction



## Summary:

Human reproduction poses a series of challenges with many personal and social implications. From a biological point of view, there are cases of infertility that can make conception difficult, whether due to genetic, health or environmental factors. In addition, there is the complexity of pregnancy itself, which involves physical, emotional and social changes in a woman's life. Other challenges include advances in reproductive technology, which raise ethical and moral questions around genetic manipulation and embryo selection. Human reproduction faces a wide variety of challenges that span both biological and social, ethical and technological aspects.



Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/caEAdA5kMkE>  
**FRONTIERS March 20, 2024: Research in Arts: From STEM to STEAM**



**Summary:**

Both artistic and scientific activity try to explain the world, seek new knowledge, give vent to curiosity and creative thinking, use experimentation and express and communicate ideas through a visualization process. These are some of the concepts they have in common: creativity, exploration and discovery, expression and communication, experimentation. But there are important differences between scientific and artistic activity, like the targets they focus to, the objectivity vs. subjectivity view, the methodology or the way results are evaluated. What needs to be emphasized is the value of artistic practice as a form of knowledge that should be incorporated into science and technology practices, from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to STEAM (with Art).

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/slcvRY3PsQI>



## AGORA April 17, 2024: Affective, sexual and gender diversity: nature and culture



### Summary:

Affective, sexual and gender diversity refers to the wide variety of affective-sexual realities, gender identities and emotional expressions that exist. This term encompasses the idea that experiences of love, attraction, and gender identity are diverse, and not limited to a single way of feeling or living. It recognizes the existence and legitimacy of identities and orientations different from those traditionally considered normative in a society, promoting acceptance, respect and equal rights for all people, regardless of their affective-sexual orientation or gender identity. To what extent does it respond to biological and genetic bases or is its basis totally psychological and social?

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/HWELPBjvX3E>



## FRONTIERS 15 May 2024: Climate change, migration and emergent diseases



### Summary:

Climate change poses a multifaceted challenge, intertwining with migration patterns and the emergence of diseases. Altered environmental conditions due to climate shifts impact disease dynamics, expanding the range of vectors and fostering the spread of infections. Concurrently, climate-induced events like extreme weather drive human displacement and migration, amplifying the risk of disease transmission in crowded settlements. These intertwined factors create a complex nexus where environmental changes, human mobility, and disease emergence are interconnected. Addressing this requires comprehensive strategies that combine environmental conservation, public health initiatives, and global cooperation to manage migration and mitigate the health risks exacerbated by climate change.

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/EgGufrd8sIY>



## AGORA June 5, 2024: Cooking & Science



### Summary:

Cooking and science converge in a fascinating field where flavours, textures and chemical processes are combined. The kitchen is an experimental laboratory where reactions and transformations occur in food. Science provides knowledge about the physics, chemistry and biology involved in food preparation. Modern chefs are inspired by science to better understand culinary processes and innovate, using techniques to create dishes that combine art and science. This fusion of cooking and science not only boosts culinary creativity, but also provides opportunities to better understand food, nutrition, and health in a more accurate and informed way.

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/-e9Fp7qHxaY>



## FRONTIERS June 25, 2024: The basics of biology: the cell or the genome?



### Summary:

Genome-centered biology emphasizes the role of genetic information encoded within DNA as the primary determinant of an organism's traits and functions. Meanwhile, cell-centered biology underscores the importance of the cell as the basic unit of life, focusing on its complex structures, functions, and interactions within the environment. Yet, contemporary understanding acknowledges the inseparable relationship between genes and cells, recognizing that genetic instructions from the genome are executed within the dynamic environment of the cell. Is the integration of both perspectives possible? Could we consider the interplay between genetic information and cellular dynamics in shaping life's intricacies? Is there a solid departure point or is it just a lack of knowledge?

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/ODfARERz9sY>



## FRONTIERS September 25, 2024: Ecological collapse: the crisis due to the human footprint on environment



### Summary:

In recent decades, the rate at which human activities impact the environment has increased dramatically. As a result, climate change threatens many plant and animal species with displacement or extinction, alters and destroys ecosystems, triggers more extreme weather events, reduces agricultural productivity, and makes large areas of the globe uninhabitable. Unless humans drastically change their behaviour soon, environmental degradation will reach a point of no return, with catastrophic consequences. While individual nations may overhaul environmental practices, raise taxes on emissions, and develop eco-friendly technologies within their borders, their efforts will not be enough without the participation of the international community. Furthermore, since climate change mitigation takes time to yield results, it is difficult for some countries to willingly sacrifice short-term economic growth and prioritize long-term green policies.

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/httab7C8mY0>



## AGORA October 9, 2024: Overmedication



### Summary:

Overmedication in medicine is a worrying phenomenon that challenges the balance between effective treatment and the risk of side effects. In a world where overprescribing is common, the true value of medicine is overshadowed. Instead of resorting to quick fixes and miracle pills, we should focus on addressing the underlying causes of diseases and promoting healthy living conditions. This approach not only reduces drug dependency but also reaffirms healthcare professionals' commitment to the holistic well-being of their patients. Ultimately, the true value in medicine lies in the empowerment of the individual to take control of their health and in the ability of doctors to guide them towards a healthier and more balanced life.

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/clpbCS6Q0pk>



## FRONTIERS November 13, 2024: Technological disruption: social challenges of the Artificial Intelligence revolution



### Summary:

The simultaneous rise of both information technology and biotechnology threatens to transform the economy, particularly the labour market, as well as social and political powers, and even the biological makeup of humans. The future development of artificial intelligence (AI) will pose challenges that are currently difficult to imagine. As with climate change, policies restricting certain technological advancements in one country, such as the United States, do not prevent another, such as China, from pursuing them; soon thereafter, the international community begins developing the same technologies to avoid being left behind in a competitive world. Additionally, the wide range of opinions on the ethical implications of technological advancements in AI and bioengineering could lead to the adoption of different guidelines by different countries. To prevent a potentially dangerous snowball effect, nations need to agree internationally on ethical guidelines for technological advancements and innovations.

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/1jTxj2pLZ7Q>



## AGORA December 4, 2024: Experimentation on animals



### Summary:

Animal experimentation is a controversial topic that raises several pros and cons. On the one hand, most scientists argue that it is essential for scientific and medical progress. Using animals in experiments allows researchers to study complex biological processes, test new therapies, and evaluate the safety of pharmaceutical products before testing them in humans. This can lead to the development of more effective and safer medical treatments, saving lives and improving public health. On the other hand, detractors of animal experimentation highlight the ethical and animal welfare aspects involved. So, while animal experimentation can provide significant scientific benefits, it also raises ethical and welfare concerns that need to be taken into account.

Link to watch the session: <https://youtu.be/clpbCS6Q0pk>

### Work sessions with the other hubs:

1. 13<sup>th</sup> March: Proposal to organise an activity between all the hubs.
2. 11<sup>th</sup> June: The logo of the entire Academia Europaea is changed.
3. 26<sup>th</sup> November: Hubs session on Building Bridges meeting.



## Disputatio de Barcelona 2024: "Disinformation" (November 2024)

AE-BKH organized the Disputatio de Barcelona 2024 under the slogan *Disinformation: The Invisible Global Threat*.

Lucas Graves, from the University of Michigan and Ramón Salaverría, from the University of Navarra, were the invited speakers while Ruth Rodríguez from the Department of Communication at Pompeu Fabra University was the moderator.

The event took place on November 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall of Chronicles of the Barcelona City Council.



Link to watch the session: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxgoEHRL9-Q>

Interview of Lucas Graves in La Contra La Vanguardia (02012025)



**Lucas Graves**, investiga el 'fact-checking' y los 'fakes' en medios digitales en la Universidad de Wisconsin. "En EE.UU. unas pocas mentiras ganan los votos que deciden" ¿Edad? Ya sé en qué invertir los años que me quedan. Nací en Nueva York y crecí en Washington. Me doctoré en Columbia estudiando la digitalización de la prensa. Hoy la mentira sale barata y rentable en política... ser periodista también es desmentir. Participo en la Disputatio 2024 con la FCRI y la AE-BKH. (Foto: Mané Espinosa).



## BARCELONA HYPATIA EUROPEAN SCIENCE PRIZE

The Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize in its fourth edition recognised **Nuria Oliver** her research of excellence in the development of new methods and AI systems to promote a positive social impact, a trajectory of exceptional international influence that has resulted in more than 40 registered patents.

The award was presented on **4 March, 2024** at an event in the Saló de Cent of the Barcelona City Hall in which Nuria Oliver gave the lecture “Towards a Socially Sustainable Artificial Intelligence” in the company of Barcelona city officials, representatives from Barcelona’s scientific community and Members of Academia Europaea (AE). To watch the event: [LINK](#).



In August 2024, the **fifth edition** call was opened. 30,000 euros are awarded to a person who has developed a career of excellence, mainly in a European country, in the field of life sciences and health. The call had 10 candidates, and the jury meeting was held on October 17, 2024.

The winner of the prize is the geneticist and founder of the paleogenetics field of study **Svante Pääbo**.

Link to read the announcement: [https://www.barcelona.cat/infobarcelona/en/biologist-and-geneticist-svante-paabo-to-receive-the-5th-hypatia-prize\\_1459974.html](https://www.barcelona.cat/infobarcelona/en/biologist-and-geneticist-svante-paabo-to-receive-the-5th-hypatia-prize_1459974.html)





# Art and Science Day 2024

On September 18, 2024, the Art and Science 2024 conference was held. Anna Dumitriu, Alex May, Marta de Menezes and Javier Forment were invited among other artists and scientists. All four accepted the invitation. The event took place in the morning at the RACAB and in the afternoon at the Barcelona Gallery. Other guest speakers were: Lua Coderch, Paula Bruna, Joan Llord and Josep Perelló.



To watch the session: <https://youtu.be/cmMDNW435TM>

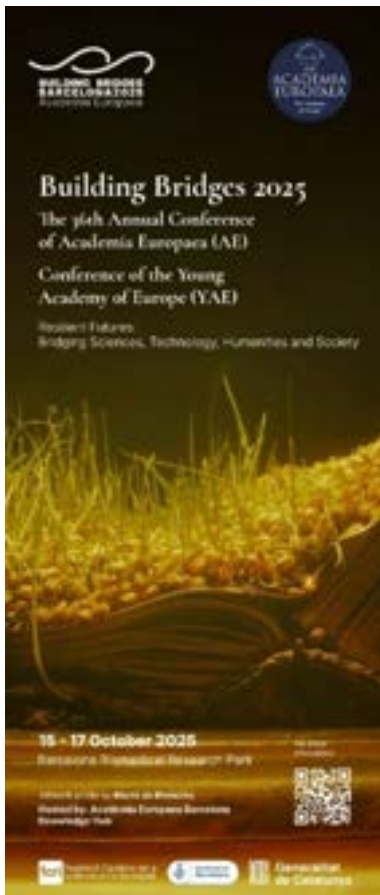


## Building Bridges 2024 & 2025

The 35th Annual Conference of the Academia Europaea (AE) and the 14th of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), took place in **Wroclaw on 27, 28 and 29 November 2024**. Both members of the Barcelona Hub attended the meeting in person.



The 36th Annual Conference of the Academia Europaea and the 15th of the Young Academy of Europe will take place in **Barcelona** and will be organised by our HUB on **October 14, 15, 16 and 17, 2025** at Barcelona Biomedical Research Park.

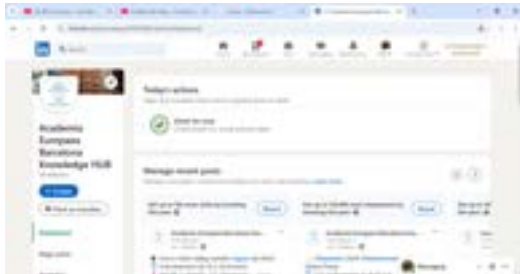




## Web communication and social networks

AE-BKH continues to be active on social networks (Instagram, LinkedIn and twitter) and is adding content to its website:

<https://aebarcelona.eu/en/>



## PARTNERS

Since the launch of the (AE-BKH) in 2013, the Government of Catalonia and the Barcelona City Council have acted as main sponsors and promoters of the AE-BKH, with the aim of consolidating Barcelona as a scientific and innovation hub in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. Its continued support, together with the collaboration of the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI), provides AE-BKH with the necessary stability to undertake new activities and plan for future growth and expansion.

### Partners:



### With the support of:





# Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub

# Annual Report 2024

# Contents

|                                                              |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Introduction</b>                                          | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Our mission</b>                                           | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Our main strategic priorities</b>                         | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Strategic areas for the AE-Bergen Hub</b>                 | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Highlights from 2024 activities</b>                       | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>History and organisation</b>                              | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Academic Director and Hub Administration of AE-Bergen</b> | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Advisory Board members in 2024</b>                        | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Steering Group members in 2024</b>                        | <b>12</b> |
| <b>AE-Bergen office and contact</b>                          | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Terms of reference (TOR) for the Advisory Board</b>       | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Terms of reference (TOR) for the Steering Group</b>       | <b>13</b> |

## Introduction

**By Eystein Jansen, Professor at the Department of Earth Science, University of Bergen, Academic Director of Academia Europaea Bergen Hub.**

Dear all,

The Academia Europaea Bergen Hub (AE Bergen) is pleased to present our annual report for 2024. As for the previous years, 2024 has been profoundly affected by the ongoing war in Ukraine, reshaping the landscape for research and academic life across Europe. The aggression and its broader geopolitical implications have diminished security and limited opportunities for peaceful scientific collaboration and the open exchange of ideas and results.

We now find ourselves in a situation where research funding competes increasingly with military expenditures, raising concerns about the norms of openness in science. The potential for research outcomes to be misused for hostile purposes against our European democracies (the Dual Use dilemma) is a pressing issue.

The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, marked by horrific atrocities against civilians, further complicate this landscape. Additionally, the return of the Trump administration in the USA creates uncertainties for rational, science-based governance in the world's largest economy, which could have global repercussions for academia.

The current climate for research is undeniably precarious. Europe is lagging in research-based innovation compared to the USA and China, and the long-term outlook appears challenging. However, there are positive developments also. In my role as Vice-President of the ERC, overseeing

Physical Sciences and Engineering, I have seen influential reports emerge as we approach the 10th EU Framework Programme for research. The Draghi report on [the future of European competitiveness](#), the Letta report on [the European internal market](#), and the [Heitor report on the design of the 10th Framework Program](#) all commend the ERC's achievements in advancing world-class frontier science. These reports advocate for the extension of the ERC and the restructuring of the European research and innovation landscape, following the ERC's model of excellence, investigator driven frontier research and independent governance. The implementation of these recommendations appear to be a part of the new EU Commission policies, and this could foster the emergence of more leading research groups in Europe, strengthening our research and innovation base against global competition, aligning closely with the strategic goals of Academia Europaea.



**Academic Director of Academia Europaea Bergen, Eystein Jansen.**

In 2024, as in the previous year, our Hub's activities focused on science and science diplomacy in the Arctic. We hosted a well-attended side event at Arctic Frontiers 2024 conference, titled [A New Arctic Energy Mix](#), featuring leading experts on energy and the green transition. Through our ongoing [Rethinking Arctic Collaboration project](#) we have organised events at key European Arctic conferences, including the Arctic Circle in Berlin in May and at the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik in October, the latter featuring both a closed roundtable with key stakeholders and an open event. We also attended a workshop at Dartmouth College's Institute of [Arctic Studies](#), kicked off with a [public event](#). Planned outcomes of the Rethinking Arctic Collaboration project are policy recommendations on Arctic science cooperation and science diplomacy in turbulent and challenging times, pointing towards the upcoming 5th International Polar Year in 2032.

We encourage our members to bring forward suggestions and initiatives for Hub activities, which this year led to our partnership with Professor Jens Braarvig (MAE) in co-organising the [Second Biennial Conference of the World Philology Union](#) at Uppsala University from December 4th to 6th, 2024. The central theme was historical languages and how philology engages with the narrative heritage of different cultures. We look forward to welcoming further membership initiatives.

More details on last years' events and engagements on the following pages.

Eystein,

Bergen, January 27th, 2025

## Our Mission

Our Hub aims to be a catalyst for collaboration, knowledge exchange and ideas to:

- Engage research and scholarship with policymaking in Europe and in the Nordic and Baltic Regions, on behalf of Academia Europaea and in close collaboration with national academies of the region.
- Promote excellent research from and about the Nordic and Baltic Region, its surrounding seas, and the Arctic with emphasis on marine and maritime research, sustainability, and the Nordic social model, through scholarly workshops and public events.
- Demonstrate the importance of scientific scholarship and maximise engagement with our members, policymakers, private and public entities and the wider public.
- Stimulate scientists to accomplish stringent and unequivocal communication and interaction with decision makers, media, and the public.

## Our main strategic priorities

- Our major framing perspectives are marine and Arctic issues, our cooperation with SAPEA (Scientific Advice for Policy by European Academies), and advocacy for establishing independent national science advice mechanisms throughout our region. Our hub will promote sustainability issues including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing sustainable use of the ocean and marine resources, climate change, energy transformation and policies for the development of governance and welfare, as well as promoting the arctic as a military low-tension area.
- We emphasize the importance of collaborative efforts from scholars from the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities, to solve major human challenges.
- Our Strategic Plan runs from 2021 to 2024. A more thorough outline of the strategic areas of the AE-Bergen Hub, can be found in the [Strategic Plan](#). A concentrated version is found below:

## Strategic areas for the AE-Bergen Hub

### Area 1 - Science-policy interface

- We aim to contribute to evidence reports for science-policy interactions, including to propose future SAPEA topics, and to promote science advice and science diplomacy in general. The Hub will advocate independent national science advice mechanisms, comparable to the EUs' Science Advice Mechanism (SAM). Our advocacy for establishing national independent scientific advice mechanism, will primarily focus on the need for processes providing independent and transdisciplinary scientific/knowledge-based reviews, and to clearly separate such reviews from political recommendations.
- As outlined in our Strategy Plan, we will organize debates and dialogues on scientific topics relevant to policymaking. We will engage with SAPEA and EU's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM), including nomination of candidates to SAPEA activities. In addition, we will engage with national mechanisms for science advice to policymakers in our region.

## Area 2 – Promote and showcase excellent research and scholarship

- We will promote and showcase research and scientific excellence within our region and beyond, through various events and communication channels, engaging with our membership base and members of the Young Academy of Europe in our region. We will pose critical research-based questions, contribute to scientific debates, and illuminate scientific breakthroughs and outcomes from meetings and conferences.
- From 2021 we have co-organised science lectures with UiB's Horizon lecture series on a regular basis, highlighting excellent research on cross-disciplinary issues for a broad science-interested public. We also co-organise events with the Bergen programme-committee of the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences (NTVA).

## Area 3 – Visibility and regional engagement

- We will increase our visibility in the region and strengthen our engagement with relevant actors and communities (private, public and NGOs). To fulfill our mission, we aim to further develop the Hub's portfolio of activities and sponsorships at the intersection of science and the wider society.
- By sharing publications and reports, news items and interviews, we aim to make our website an engaging showcase of our activities and engagements. We will establish and update a calendar of activities and events, aiming to attract a broad audience from the academic, public, and private sectors. In addition to in-person events, we will communicate broadly through webinars, our website, newsletters, and social media channels. We will participate in relevant local forums and arenas that match our priorities, both to increase our visibility and to actively seek collaboration with others.

## Area 4 - Cooperation with national academies in our region and the other AE Hubs in Europe

- We aim to establish good connections to the national academies of our region. In this endeavour we will emphasize AE's strengths in science advice for policy, its pan-European perspectives, and strong connections to leading European research institutions e.g., the European Research Council, in addition to the thematic areas of our Hub. We aim to strengthen the interaction between academic communities across Europe, starting with collaboration with other AE Hubs. We will engage in inter-Hub meetings to discuss possibilities for e.g., joint events, activities, mutual learning and sharing of resources.

A map of Academia Europaea locations in Europe.



# Highlights from 2024 activities

## January

Academia Europaea Bergen was represented by Academic Director Eystein Jansen at the Arctic Frontiers Conference 2024 'Actions & Reactions', in Tromsø, 29 th January – February 1st. Our Hub co-organised a panel discussion titled [A new Arctic energy mix – at what costs? The Finnmark example](#). The range of insights from keynotes, speakers, and panelists, as well as the audience response, proved that we had found a hot topic for the event. Our experts explored how the energy sources in use in Norway will have to be supplemented by new energy sources in the future. While the emphasis of our experts varied, they all agreed on one thing; that in the future a mix of energy sources will be necessary, while also addressing the 1.5 or 2-degree targets set by the Paris Agreement. [A recording of the event is available.](#)



Lars-Henrik Paarup Michelsen, director of the Norwegian Climate Foundation, during his introduction at our Arctic Frontiers 2024 event.

## February

AE-Bergen co-organised a Darwin Day & Horizon lecture, February 12th. The lecture [The evolution of learning and the origins of consciousness](#), was held by Professor Eva Jablonka, an evolutionary theorist and a geneticist. She explored the question of the origins of animal mentality, a subject which Darwin himself avoided. An evolutionary approach for studying this has been developed by Jablonka together with Simona Ginsburg. Their proposal is that the emergence of primary consciousness was driven by the evolution of a domain-general, representational form of associative learning, which they called unlimited associative learning (UAL). By characterizing UAL and following its evolution, Jablonka argues one can figure out how primary mental powers (minimal consciousness) had emerged, what the neural dynamics of minimal consciousness are like, how consciousness is distributed in the living world, and in which ecological context it first emerged.



Darwin Day & Horizon lecture, February 12th: Professor Eva Jablonka explored the origins of animal mentality.

AE-Bergen continued our involvement as co-organiser of a well-established local [meeting series](#) together with the Bergen offices of the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences (NTVA Bergen) and The Norwegian Society of Graduate Technical

and Scientific Professionals (Tekna Bergen). In 2024, the series started on February 13th, with a panel discussion on the subject [Is the green shift too costly?](#). Keynotes were held by journalist Øystein Heggdal, and by UiB Professor Christian G. Gebhardt, head of the Bergen Ocean Wind Energy Centre.

## March

We co-organized a NTVA-Tekna-AE event March 12th on the topic [Do we need Alternative Monetary Systems?](#). Monetary systems are critical infrastructure in society. What does it cost to operate them? And does it make sense, in terms of future societal security, to stick with one or more alternative monetary systems? Introductions to the debate were held by researcher Svein Ølnes and by Professor Arne Krokan.

## April

We co-organized a NTVA-Tekna-AE event April 9th on the topic [Nature crisis versus climate crisis? Finding the balance in sustainability efforts.](#) Understanding the big picture of sustainability is a challenging task. While solutions to many problems seem obvious when examined in isolation, upon closer examination we realize that there are tensions between different sustainability goals. Introductions by Professor Katja Enberg and Professor Øyvind Fiksen.



Introduction by Professor Katja Enberg at the event [Nature crisis versus climate crisis? Finding the balance in sustainability efforts.](#)

## May

Our Hub is actively engaged in issues concerning science and science diplomacy in the Arctic, and we are in lead of the project [Rethinking Arctic collaboration.](#) The project is funded partly by a grant of 400 000 NOK from UArctic for 2023-2025, and has partners from USA, Canada, Germany and Norway. There have been several events organised by the project consortium during 2024, one of them being a panel debate at the [Arctic Circle Berlin Forum](#) May 8th. In her introduction, Melody Brown Burkins, Director of the Institute of Arctic Studies at the John Sloan Dickey Center, Dartmouth, said: «Even in our group, we are not all defining science diplomacy and cooperation challenges in the same way, but we all want to see a future with shared Arctic science diplomacy goals. We want to see if we can learn what paths to future Arctic science cooperation will work. And we want to see Arctic science done with just, ethical, and inclusive Arctic



The Academia Europaea Bergen-led project [Rethinking Arctic collaboration](#) organised panel discussions at several conferences in 2024. Here a panel debate at the Arctic Circle Berlin Forum, May 8th.

governance. She highlighted that an ethical and equitable future for Arctic science diplomacy would have to include Arctic Indigenous Peoples in both knowledge creation and diplomatic decision-making.

## June

Our Academic Director Eystein Jansen is also the Vice-President for Physical Sciences and Engineering at the ERC. He played a key role in bringing the ERC Board to Bergen for an ERC board meeting and seminar in Bergen on 26th-27th June. [A recording of the seminar is available.](#)



Rector Margareth Hagen, University of Bergen, Maria Leptin, President, European Research Council, and Oddmund Hoel, Minister of Research and Higher Education in Norway at the ERC seminar in Bergen. Photo: Paul S. Amundsen/UiB

## August

Since the first Rosendal Week in 2020, Academia Europaea Bergen has been represented at this regional conference on climate change and energy transitions in Western Norway. Our representative at the 2024 Rosendal Week (August 5th – 6th) was Hub Manager Kristin Bakken.



Professor Jens Braarvig (MAE), president of the World Philology Union.

Following an initiative by Professor Jens Braarvig (MAE), president of the World Philology Union, a meeting was held August 20th to explore possibilities for cooperation between the World Philology Union and Academia Europaea Bergen. The meeting resulted in an agreement that AE-Bergen would be a co-organizer of the December conference at Uppsala University, "[Philology and the narrative heritage](#)", with AE-Bergen contributing to outreach efforts.

## September

Academia Europaea Bergen co-organized, together with the Horizon Lecture Committee, a lecture on the topic [Fusion power – the ultimate source for clean energy](#), on September 16th. Controlled energy production based on fusion has many advantages but has so far not been realized despite intense research for more than 60 years. However, significant progress now happens based on two technologies: magnetic confinement and strong laser pulses. Professor Odd Erik Garcia described in his lecture the international development within magnetic confinement fusion, a topic he has been leading research projects within during the past decades, now as Head of Aurora Centre for Non-linear Dynamics and Complex Systems Modelling (DYNAMO) at UiT the Arctic University of Norway.

## October

Following petroleum products, fish and seafood are Norway's most important export, increasingly dominated by farmed salmon. The aquaculture industry faces significant challenges related to fish welfare and excessive mortality in production. We co-organized a NTVA-Tekna-AE event on the topic of [Fish welfare in Norwegian aquaculture, and how research can improve it](#), on October 8th. Introductions by Geir Magne Knutsen, Sofie Remø and Sigurd Olav Handeland.

Our 'Rethinking Arctic Collaboration project' presented status and findings at a panel discussion at the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavík, October 2024.

[The discussion is available as a recording.](#)

The event was moderated by Ole Øvretveit, parttime researcher employed by our Hub and funded by the project. In the panel were Melody Brown Burkins of the Institute of Arctic Studies, Dartmouth College, Lise Øvreås, president of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Volker Rachold of the German



Our 'Rethinking Arctic Collaboration project' presented status and findings at a panel discussion at the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavík, October 2024.

Arctic Office, Alfred Wegener-Institute (AWI), Gunn-Britt Retter, Arctic & Environmental Unit, Saami Council and Henry Burgess, Head of the NERC Arctic Office, British Antarctic Survey; President, International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). In her introduction, Melody Brown Burkins described how the Arctic Science Diplomacy Project is a group with very diverse perspective, with several group members part of the Arctic Circle Assembly panel.

As part of the Arctic Circle Assembly our 'Rethinking Arctic Collaboration project' also organised a closed session for Arctic Senior Officials (Diplomats) applying Chatham house rules, where amongst other issues the challenges for the Arctic Council after the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine was discussed.

## November

The 'Rethinking Arctic Collaboration' project gathered for both an open session panel debate and a closed workshop at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire November 16th -20th. The panel debate titled [Climate Diplomacy on Thin Ice: Navigating Arctic Cooperation & Polar Governance](#) took place on November 18th. The workshop focused on potential scenarios that may help guide Arctic diplomacy and cooperation as we look toward 2032 and the 5th International Polar Year (IPY-5). [A recording of the event](#) is available on youtube.

Artificial intelligence is both a scientific discipline, an engineering discipline, a business model, and a tool. So, what does it mean to do “sustainable” AI? AI is a globally distributed business that relies on Asian hardware, European consumer money, North American technological innovation, cheap labor from the global south, and globally distributed researchers and software developers. So how sustainable is the AI business globally from this perspective? This topic was explored at a well-attended [NTVA-Tekna-AE event](#) November 19th, with keynotes from Professor Jill Walker Rettberg and Professor Marija Slavkovic, followed by a lively discussion.



Keynotes from Professor Marija Slavkovic and Professor Jill Walker Rettberg.



A presentation of the years' activities at AE-Bergen Hub was given by Academic Director Eystein Jansen.

Academic Director Eystein Jansen, Hub manager Kristin Bakken and communication adviser Nils Olav Sæverås all attended the [35th Annual Conference of Academia Europaea](#) (26th -28th November in Wroclaw, Poland). Events included a meeting of the Academia Europaea Hubs, as well as the Academia Europaea Annual General Meeting, where a presentation of the years' activities at AE-Bergen Hub was given by Academic Director Eystein Jansen.

## December

Communication adviser Nils Olav Sæverås represented AE-Bergen at the Second Biennial Conference of the World Philology Union – [Philology and the narrative heritage](#) – at Uppsala University, December 4th to 6th, an event co-organized by our Hub. The 3-day conference program focused on how philologists engage with the narrative heritage of different cultures, showcasing the vital role of the discipline in curating, analyzing, interpreting, and teaching stories preserved from all regions of the world, from the Old Norse stories to the Vedas.

Ingela Nilsson, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Languages, welcomes participants at Uppsala University.



## History and organisation

Academia Europaea (AE), or The Academy of Europe, is a Pan-European non-for-profit company association of individual scientists and scholars established in 1988. The members are experts and leaders in their own subject areas as recognized by their peers. The Young Academy of Europe (YAE) is independent but affiliated to Academia Europaea.

Academia Europaea operates through its sections and disciplinary classes, but also through a network of regional knowledge hubs, so far in Barcelona, Cardiff, Wroclaw, Bergen, Tbilisi and Budapest. The Budapest Hub is hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, established in December 2020 to support academics, scholars, and independent research in Hungary, facing a challenging political environment.

The AE-Bergen Hub was established in 2014 and hosted by The University of Bergen (UiB) from 2016. UiB sponsors the running of the Hub, including qualified personnel, appropriate spaces and services for its correct operation and full functioning. AE-Bergen is headed by an Academic Director appointed by UiB, currently AE member (MAE) professor Eystein Jansen (from 2018). The cooperation agreement between AE and UiB states that the Academic Director, an Advisory Board, and a Steering Group shall ensure strategic direction and activities in line with AE's purpose and the intentions of the agreement. The contract between AE and UiB was renewed on May 25th 2021, ensuring that UiB will host and provide facilities and personnel for the running of the AE-Bergen Hub until June 2025. A process regarding the hub's continuation is ongoing.

## Academic Director and Hub Administration of AE-Bergen



Academic Director

**Professor Eystein Jansen**

Eystein.Jansen@uib.no (part time dedication)



Hub Manager

**Kristin Bakken**

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Communication Adviser

**Nils Olav Sæverås**

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## Advisory Board members in 2024

- Margareth Hagen; Chair, Rector and Professor, University of Bergen, Norway (Italian Literature)
- Erland Källén; MAE, Professor, University of Stockholm, Sweden (Meteorology/Climate)
- Kirsten Drotner; MAE, Professor, University of Southern Denmark, (Media)
- Carl G. Gahmberg; MAE, Professor Emeritus, University of Helsinki, Finland (Molecular and Integrative Biosciences)
- Björn Wittrock; MAE, Professor Emeritus, Uppsala University and Vice President AE
- Jüri Allik; MAE; Univ. of Tartu, Estonia (Psychology)
- Ole Arve Misund; MAE, Director/Professor Tromsø (Marine and fisheries biology)
- Martin Fernø; MYAE, Professor, University of Bergen (Physics)

## Steering Group members in 2024

- Kjersti Fløttum; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Linguistics)
- Petter Bjørstad; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Informatics)
- Dieter Roerich; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Physics)
- Svein Sundby, MAE, Professor, Institute for Marine Research, Bergen (Oceanography)
- Anne Gro Salvanes, MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Marine biology)
- Dag L. Aksnes; MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Marine biology)
- Sigrid Eskeland Schütz; Professor Univ. of Bergen (Law)
- Matthias Kaiser; MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Philosophy of science)
- Stein Kuhnle; MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Political science)
- Hans Z. Munthe-Kaas; MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Mathematics)
- Ole Øvretveit, Project manager, (Pilot Digital Coast)
- Lise Øvreås; MAE, Professor, Univ. Bergen (Geomicrobiology)
- Marc Bezem; MAE, Professor, Univ. Bergen (Informatics)

## AE-Bergen office and contact

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## Terms of reference (TOR) for the Advisory Board

- Formulate an overall strategy for the Hub
- Provide input to the strategic and annual plans of the Hub in terms of meetings, discussions, and events.
- Ensure the development of science advice for policy within the Nordic/Baltic political context.
- Ensure that the Hub is visible and has activities on a Nordic/Baltic scale, including engagement in activities outside of the Bergen region.
- Provide links with international and national academic networks.
- Provide links to AE members and academic environments in the Nordic/Baltic Region and activate these in Hub activities.

## Terms of reference (TOR) for the Steering Group

- Develop strategic and annual plans together with the Academic Director and the Hub management team.
- Develop collaborations and broad linkages with the society of Bergen and Western Norway, such as: The regional academic institutions and research environments, regional and municipal authorities and their organisations, regional industry, business environments and industry clusters and the public.
- Link high level academic scholarship with key societal issues, e.g. through the SDGs.
- Stimulate knowledge-based policy development, and actively pursue science for policy options on the national and European levels through existing science for policy mechanisms and other activities, as well as taking part in nominating suitable candidates for such tasks.
- Establish scoping processes to identify policy challenges at the regional, national and/or the European levels that can be enlightened by scientific evidence and advice.
- Propose engagements and opportunities for the Hub in terms of conferences and public events.
- Provide links with international and national academic networks.

## Rethinking Arctic Collaboration 2024

Future Arctic science collaboration and science diplomacy will be different from those of the pre-2022 period and the Cold War period.

Arctic science collaboration remains in flux. As the project [Rethinking Arctic Collaboration](#) has learned through various meetings, conferences, and discussions throughout 2024, Arctic science diplomacy and science collaboration are adapting to different and more turbulent times. Arctic science remains essential for understanding significant climate system changes, ocean development, and environmental and biological changes and securing evidence-based knowledge for local, national, and global decision-making. Still, the securitization of the Arctic, necessary as it may be, overshadows the softer sides of international Arctic collaboration, not least science collaboration. Disruptive times allow working on new, bold ideas for the future Arctic science collaboration structure. In the second half of the project period, the group focused less on the immediate future of Arctic Science Diplomacy, instead looking ahead to possible scenarios in the build-up to the 5th International Polar Year 2032-2033.

In addition to our four panel discussions at major events in 2024 (detailed elsewhere in the Annual Report), the main outcome of the Rethinking Arctic Collaboration project will be a paper outlining visions for a new Arctic science collaboration structure.



THE ACADEMY OF EUROPE  
BERGEN KNOWLEDGE HUB

**Hosted by**



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

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# ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

## WROCLAW HUB



## Annual Report 2024



# INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to present the Annual Report of the Academia Europaea Wrocław Hub, offering a comprehensive overview of our center's activities and achievements over the past year. This report highlights the dedication and collaboration of our members, partners, and staff in advancing the mission of Academia Europaea.

Within these pages you'll find key milestones from our initiatives, projects and events, all aimed at fostering excellence in scholarship, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and advancing knowledge across Europe and beyond.

One of the standout achievements of the year was the successful organization of the Building Bridges Conference 2024. This landmark event brought together distinguished scientists, researchers, and thought leaders from diverse fields, providing a dynamic platform for dialogue, partnership-building, and collaborative problem-solving. It underscored our role as a hub for addressing global challenges collectively.

Another major accomplishment was our progress in shaping the future of urban living through ongoing collaboration with the municipal government on the Smart City project. This initiative explores the integration of cutting-edge technology and innovative solutions to improve urban life while focusing on sustainability, efficiency, and inclusivity. By addressing regulatory barriers and embracing forward-thinking approaches, the project continues to pave the way for transformative urban development.

Additionally, our partnership with the Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminar (Interdyscyplinarne Seminarium Naukowe, ISN) has been particularly impactful. This collaboration has significantly enhanced opportunities for knowledge sharing and interdisciplinary engagement, reinforcing our commitment to fostering meaningful scientific dialogue.

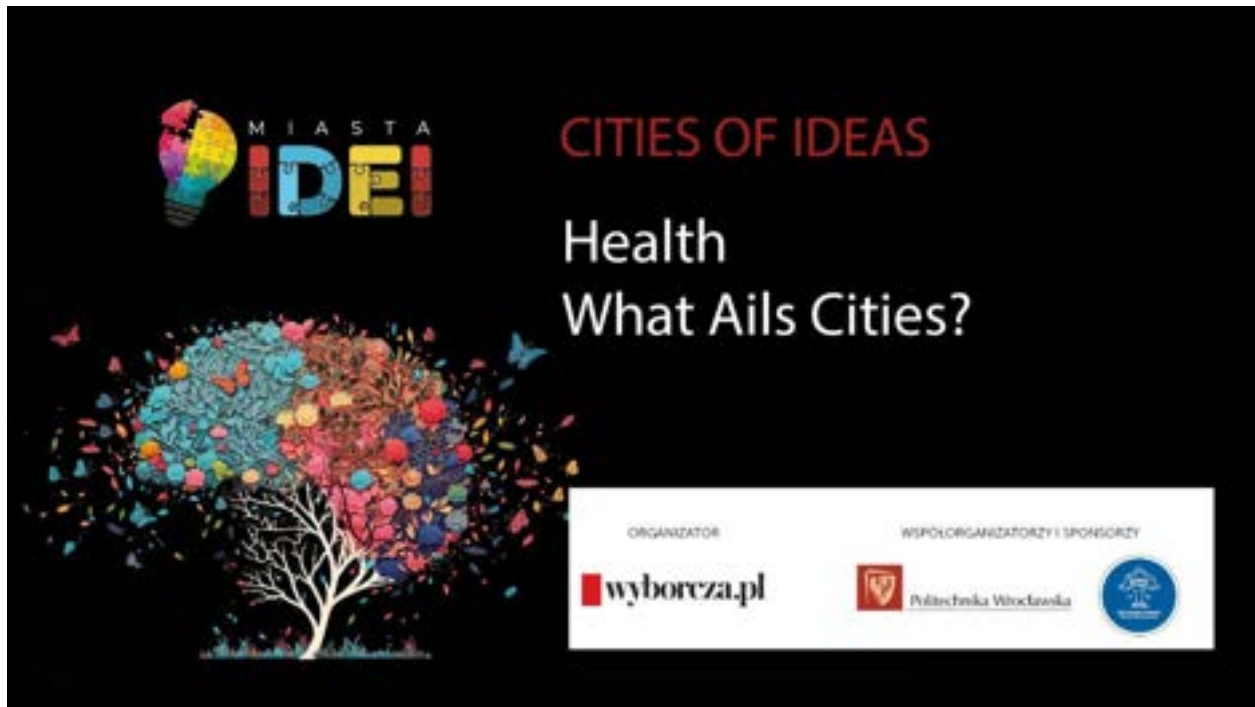
As part of Academia Europaea, the Wrocław Hub continues to leverage its vast network of leading experts from a range of disciplines. By hosting renowned scientists at Wrocław University of Science and Technology, we have created a vibrant environment for groundbreaking research and innovation, while encouraging dialogue that transcends traditional academic boundaries.

Reflecting on our achievements, we are inspired by the opportunities and challenges ahead. We remain committed to being a beacon of academic excellence and a driving force for positive change. This report not only celebrates the progress made but also sets the stage for an even brighter future in scholarship and innovation. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our success over the past year.



# Debate "Cities of Ideas" Health - What Ails Cities?

April 18, 2024



On April 18th, Wrocław University of Science and Technology held the third installment of the “Cities of Ideas” debate series. Participants discussed pressing urban issues such as light pollution, noise, smog, lack of access to green areas, urban heat islands, and positive and negative examples of spatial planning.

The debate hosted esteemed **Academia Europaea member, Professor Joanna Rymaszewska**, head of the Department of Clinical Neuroscience at the Faculty of Medicine of Wrocław University of Science and Technology. Professor Joanna Rymaszewska is a specialist psychiatrist, passionate about brain health and researches methods of neurostimulation in psychiatric disorders and holistic approach to the body. Every year, she organizes the Psychiatry – Interdisciplinary Dialogues conference in Wrocław. The remaining guests were

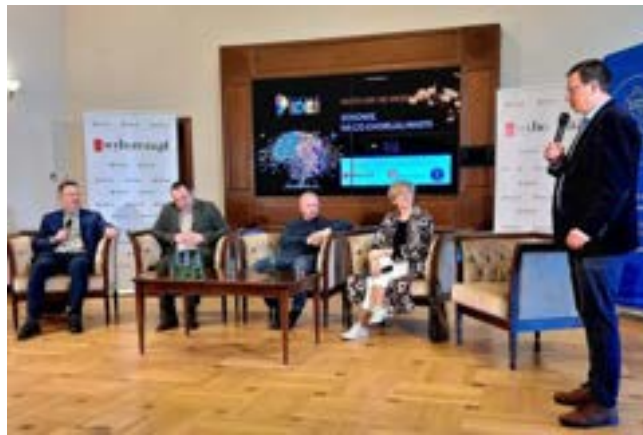
**Dr. Eng. Arch. Maciej Szarejko**, urban planner from the Faculty of Architecture at Wrocław University of Science and Technology, **Prof. Paweł Sienkiewicz** from the Poznań University of Life Sciences and **Krzysztof Smolnicki** – President of the EcoDevelopment Foundation, leader of the Lower Silesian Smog Alarm.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the issue of health back into public discourse as one of the key topics. Meanwhile, in cities, people suffer from diseases closely related to how our

metropolises are structured. Some of them are associated with pollution, which causes, among other things, lung diseases. Others are civilization-related diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, linked, for example, to lack of physical activity and stress. All of these subjects were discussed during the debate, during which the hosts, in addition to highlighting the issues, were endeavoring to identify available solutions.

The event is a part of the “Cities of Ideas” debate series and is organised as collaboration between the prominent Polish newspaper “Gazeta Wyborcza” and Wrocław University of Science and Technology.

Admission was free, but registration was required via the event’s website.



## **Ocean Waves The Perfect Example of a Complex System**

---

Hybrid Seminar featured by a Prof. Frédéric Dias, MAE

**June 25, 2024**

As part of a series of events on the topic of Smart Cities Academia Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub together with Science meets Social Science seminar invited scientists, scholars, and enthusiasts to an insightful seminar held by Professor Frédéric Dias focused on the mechanisms and dynamics of the natural forces that shape our planet.



The seminar examined the complexities of ocean waves, addressed the challenges they pose and highlighted innovative efforts to harness their energy, while underlying also the importance of local community involvement in ocean waves related projects. It was an interdisciplinary event, both in the selection of topics and the use of expert knowledge from diverse areas of science of building a wave observation station. Our special guest Professor Frederic Dias, is an Academia Europaea Member, affiliated with ENS Paris-Saclay and University College Dublin. He is a leader in hydrodynamics, focusing on extreme waves and wave measurement. The professor oversees the ENSPS/UCD wave group and has received four ERC grants.

### Short Abstract:

Scales in ocean waves range from the molecule size (of the order of the nanometre) to the size of the earth (several thousands of kilometres). In this talk, we will explore the complexity of this wide range of waves. We will describe the scientific challenges associated with the study of ocean waves and how a multidisciplinary approach is often the only way to move forward. Ocean waves can be both beneficial to society and damaging to infrastructures when they become highly energetic. We will focus on two particular topics: (i) Extracting the energy of ocean waves: why has it mostly failed so far? and (ii) Building our own wave observation station in a remote area on the west coast of Ireland: how involving the local community has played a vital role in shaping the success of the station.

Academia Europaea together with Radio Luz has also conducted an interview with Professor Frederic Dias, which was the first in a series of interviews/podcasts that Wrocław Hub is planning to carry out to create a platform for dialogue between the academic community and the general public.

**Organizers:** The seminar was organized jointly by Academia Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub and Science meets Social Science seminar.

**Venue:** Wrocław University of Science and Technology, 27 Wybrzeże Stanisława Wyspiańskiego Street, Building A-1, Room No. 241 Wrocław

# Science-Region Discussions SystemEU Climate Neutral, Smart Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change

AE Wroclaw Hub hosts the inaugural Smart City Debate Series

June 26, 2024

## Leading the Change: Wroclaw in EU's 100 Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030

On June 26th, the Academia Europaea Wroclaw Hub organized a roundtable debate Science-RegionDebate. The event brought together leading experts, planners, environmental scientists, community leaders and directors to discuss a strategic approach to urban development.

**Venue:** Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Building A1, Senat Old Hall, Wroclaw



The aim of the meeting was to discuss how scientists could support Wroclaw in its transformation into a smart and climate-neutral city. This initiative aligns with the EU Climate Neutral and Smart Cities mission, which aims to achieve climate neutrality in 100 cities by 2030 through the creation and implementation of Climate City Contracts with the participation of citizens and local stakeholders, as well as in adaptive strategies and building resilience in the context of the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change.

## The discussions centered on the identification of the following themes:

- Identifying Strategic areas for green transformation requiring joint efforts by Science and the Region
- Identifying problems and gaps in regulations, hindering actions in the Area of Green Transformation
- The importance of collaboration between researchers, policymakers and the private sector

## Priority areas:

### Energy and Buildings:

- Thermal modernization of buildings
- Renewable Energy Sources (RES)
- Coal combustion in a combined heat and power plant

### Water and Infrastructure:

- Water (rainwater, surface water), water resources
- Water retention, rain gardens
- Hydrodynamic models (rainwater)
- Blue-green infrastructure

### Greenery and Environment:

- Monitoring urban greenery
- Greenery's response to climate change
- Quality of life (greenery)
- Estimating ecosystem services

### Education and Community:

- Social education
- Ethical code for graduates (responsible engineer, sustainable development)
- Local education
- Socially excluded individuals

### Funding and Projects:

- Funding adaptation actions
- LIFE projects, funds from the Marshal's Office, demonstrators, fast track
- Cascading grants, investments, green public procurement
- Theses commissioned by the city
- Oceans and Waters Mission
- Horizon-seed money

## Participants in the discussion panel included:

Wojciech Adamski – President of TBS Wrocław

Prof. Barbara Widera – Wrocław University of Science and Technology, member of the Mission Board of the EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change

Monika Pec-Święcicka – Deputy Director, Municipal Landscape Architect, Board of Urban Greenery, Wrocław City Hall

Ilona Ligocka – Department of Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change, Department of Climate Change Adaptation and Urban Policy

Magdalena Głogowska – National Contact Point for EU Missions, Global Challenges Section

Magdalena Okulowska – President of the Wrocław Agglomeration Development Agency

Tomasz Janoś – Director, Wrocław Academic Center

Prof. Rafał Weron – member of Academia Europaea, Wrocław University of Science and Technology

Dr. Anna Brdulak – Wrocław University of Science and Technology

Prof. Łukasz Sadowski – Wrocław University of Science and Technology

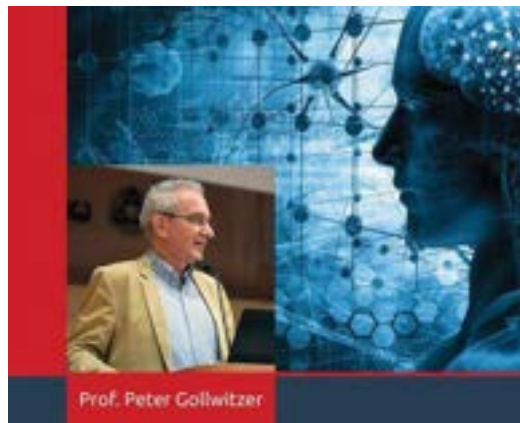


## Goals, mindsets and plans - Providing a context for social cognition

On-site seminar was featured by, Prof. Peter Gollwitzer, MAE

June 26, 2024

Venue: Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Building H-14, Wroclaw



Wroclaw Hub has started a partnership with the Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminar (ISN) from WroclawTech, which has significantly enhanced the dissemination of expertise to a broader audience. The aim of this collaboration has been to extend the reach and impact of the seminars to diverse groups including students, doctoral candidates, researchers and individuals keen on expanding their knowledge.



On the 26th of June Prof. Peter Gollwitzer from New York University, Academia Europaea renowned member was a guest of the seminar organised by ISN at Wroclaw University of Science and Technology. The speaker, Professor Peter M. Gollwitzer, famous for his work at prestigious academic institutions in the US and Germany, including the Max Planck Institute for Psychological Research, shared his insights on effective self-regulation of thought, affect, and action.

Professor Gollwitzer's research spans various methodologies, from laboratory studies using cognitive tasks and neuro-physiological measures (EEG, fMRI, MEG) to field experiments and intervention studies with clinical samples, such as children with ADHD, stroke patients, and individuals suffering from addictions or anxiety disorders. Throughout his career, he has developed several influential models of self-



regulation, including the Theory of Symbolic Self-Completion, the Rubicon Model of Action Phases, the Auto-motive Model of Goal Striving, the Mindset Theory of Action Phases, and the Theory of Planning with implementation intentions (if-then plans).

The lecture focused on these models and their applications in understanding social cognition, providing attendees with a comprehensive context for how goals, mindsets, and plans influence behavior and thought processes.



## Science-Region Discussions Competitions for Sustainable Development 2025

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Driving a Better Future: Collaborative Initiatives for Wrocław

October 14 and November 05, 2024

**Venue:** Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Building H-14, Wrocław

AE Wrocław Hub continued its commitment to fostering smart city development by hosting other insightful events, dedicating the meeting to innovative projects under the Horizon Europe Program.



On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November an important meeting focused on the future of Wrocław was held in the Dean's Hall of WrocławTech in the Building H-14. Scientists and city representatives met to discuss joint projects aimed at contributing to the sustainable development of the city.

The event, titled “**Science-City: Competitions for Sustainable Development 2025**”, provided an opportunity to present innovative concepts across key areas:

### New European Bauhaus

- Utilizing modern construction solutions to increase access to affordable housing.
- Exploring bio-fabricated materials for sustainable and aesthetically pleasing buildings.

### Driving Urban Transition

- Integrating green energy solutions and circular economy practices into urban infrastructure.

### Innovative Cities

- Developing projects to enhance residents' quality of life and promote environmental sustainability.

Detailed project proposals developed from prior work were presented during this meeting. Experts from various fields had the chance to discuss and formulate a shared vision for the development of Wrocław. The aim of the event was to establish a consortium responsible for preparing and submitting a joint project proposal under the **Horizon Europe** program. That action could allow Wrocław to secure funding for ambitious initiatives that would enhance the quality of life for residents and strengthen the city's position as a leader in sustainable development.

## Innovation Through Diversity: Prof. Norihisa Miki

Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminars Series

November 5, 2024

How to innovate in micro- and nanotechnology? What solutions are used in the design of an artificial kidney? As part of the Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminar Series Prof. Norihisa Miki from Keio University discussed those topics during his lecture at Wrocław University of Science and Technology.



**Prof. Norihisa Miki** is an expert in MEMS technology. His scientific interests focus on the design of biomedical devices based on microelectromechanical systems. He also works in the fields of medical engineering, neuroscience, and media arts. He leads a laboratory in the Faculty of Science and Technology



at Keio University, where innovative devices are being developed that integrate the human body with machines, taking into account not only all human senses but also virtual reality and cognitive sciences.

Prof. Norihisa Miki's team works closely with the medical community to design devices, including transplantable artificial organs and advanced diagnostic systems. He is also involved in education on entrepreneurship, sharing his own experience in founding a healthcare startup. Additionally, he is the president of the university's ice skating club (Keio Ice Skating Club).

Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminars is a series aimed at a wide audience—students, doctoral candidates, researchers, and anyone interested in expanding their knowledge. Wrocław University of Science and Technology regularly hosts experts from various fields who are eager to share the results of their research.

Admission was free, but prior registration was required.

**Venue:** Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Congress Centre ( Building D-20), 8 Janiszewskiego St., Wrocław

## The Role of Transfers in Creating Literary Fields and Trends in Humanities in Central and Eastern Europe from 19th c. to the Present

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Collaborative event with University of Wrocław

November 18-19, 2024

Uniwersytet  
Wrocławski



The conference focused on exploring the literatures and cultures of Central and Eastern Europe through a postcolonial perspective, particularly examining the region's complex relationship with European modernity and the coloniality of power embedded within it. Hosted by the Postdependence Studies Centre, the 2024 annual conference emphasized the essential differences in historical and cultural experiences of Central and Eastern Europe compared to colonial regions of European empires, while considering shared frameworks of coloniality.

The main theme of the conference was cultural transfers and their significant role in shaping literary fields, critical schools, and academic discourses from the 19th to the 21st centuries. Key topics included the



influence of political and social contexts on the strategies and politics of these transfers, the role of translation in the development of literary languages and forms, and the dynamics of hegemony and resistance reflected in such exchanges. By examining the politics of translation, the conference attempted to analyze patterns of cultural influence and domination, the role of institutions in shaping literary and intellectual transfers, and the interplay between globalized and localized cultural dynamics.

The conference also investigated the inequality in cultural transfers affecting Central and Eastern Europe, exploring how hegemonies and cultural politics manifest in literary and academic exchanges. Discussions addressed topics such as world literature models, the decolonizing potential of cultural transfers, translation as a practice of inclusivity and intercultural dialogue, and the challenges posed by untranslatability of specific cultural and linguistic contexts.

**Venue:** Institute of Polish Philology UWr, plac Nankiera 15b, 50-996 Wrocław

## Wrocław

# Towards development of mediatization research VIII – Mediatization(s) Conversations of Theories, Concepts and Traditions

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The on-line workshop led by Professor Carlos A. Scolari of Pompeu Fabra University, MAE

### November 22, 2024

The 2024 workshop, titled "**Mediatization(s). Conversations of Theories, Concepts, and Traditions**," focused on interdisciplinary approaches to mediatization studies, emphasizing emerging themes such as cognitive science integration, eco-evolutionary perspectives, and global frameworks. Participants explored the transfer of theories and concepts into mediatization studies, addressing challenges like theoretical flexibility, methodological innovation, and the field's boundaries and limitations.

This year's workshop prioritized collaborative discussions, providing participants with the opportunity to refine their research materials under the expert guidance of Professor Scolari. Materials, including drafts, proposals, and works in progress, were shared in advance to ensure thorough preparation by all participants. The format emphasized group discussions and expert feedback over formal presentations, fostering an interactive and supportive environment for critical exploration of mediatization-related topics.

#### Key themes of the workshop included:

- The transfer and integration of schools, traditions, and concepts into mediatization studies.
- Methodological and conceptual innovations within the field.
- Addressing theoretical flexibility vs. inflexibility and clashes of ideas.
- Non-obviousness and uncovering overlooked areas in mediatization studies.
- Defining and challenging the boundaries of the field.

The workshop began with an introductory lecture by Professor Scolari and continued with group discussions that focused on deepening understanding and advancing individual research projects. It provided a platform for mediatization scholars to engage in focused, collaborative dialogue while



benefiting from expert guidance and peer feedback.

### Partners:

Institute of Social Communication and Media Studies  
 Department of Mediatization of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin  
 Wrocław Academic Centre  
 Academia Europaea Wrocław Knowledge Hub



## **Building Bridges 2024**

### The 35th Annual Conference of Academia Europaea (AE) and the meeting of Young Academy of Europe (YAE) in Wrocław, Poland

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November 26-28, 2024

**Venue:** Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Wrocław, Poland



In 2024 Academia Europaea Wrocław Hub hosted Academia Europaea's annual conference, Building Bridges. Members of Academia Europaea had the pleasure to rejoin and welcome new Members of Academia Europaea.

Participants had also the opportunity to enjoy an exciting and rich programme, featuring distinguished Members of Academia Europaea from Europe and beyond, sharing insights, innovations, and perspectives across various disciplines. From groundbreaking research to interdisciplinary dialogues, the programme was designed to inspire and challenge, providing an engaging



platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The plenary lectures were given by the most famous academic authorities, like: Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier, Professor Mónica Bello, Professor Yvonne Buckley, Professor Heino Falcke, Professor Willerslev Eske, Professor Stephen Evans, Professor Ambrogio Fasoli, Professor Elżbieta Frąckowiak, Professor Helen Kennedy, Professor Michele Lamont, Professor Shalom Lappin, Professor Samuel Lieu, Professor Rubina Raja, Professor Edyta Roszko, Professor Piotr Sztompka, Professor Willerslev Eske.



### Event Key Insights:

Here are some of the standout moments and event key insights from the event:

#### Day 1: Exploring the Concept of Heritage Monday, November 25

The conference began with a half-day roundtable discussion on the evolving concept of heritage. This session, co-hosted with the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences and the International Union of Academies, set the tone for the event, emphasizing the importance of cultural and intellectual heritage in shaping global solutions.

#### Day 2: Sustainability and Collaborative Leadership Tuesday, November 26

The second day saw a full schedule of insightful lectures, panels, and networking opportunities. Sustainability centered around the theme: “What do we have to do next? And what clever things will we have to do after that?” In his lecture Professor Steve Evans of Wolfson College, Cambridge engaged local high school students with thought-provoking ideas about sustainability, inspiring the next generation to tackle global challenges.

The day also featured a warm welcome by Marja Makarow, President of Academia Europaea, and Arkadiusz Wójs, Director of the Wrocław Hub. Their remarks celebrated the collaboration and

camaraderie that define the Building Bridges series.

### Day 3: Scientific Excellence and Groundbreaking Ideas Wednesday, November 27

The conference shifted focus to groundbreaking scientific advancements. Highlights included:

Heino Falcke, the renowned astroparticle physicist, shared his experience of capturing the first-ever image of a black hole, offering a glimpse into the possibilities of scientific discovery.

Verena Winiwarter explored the historical shifts in energy use and the lessons they offer for modern energy policy and the transition to sustainable systems.

Nobel laureate Emmanuelle Charpentier captivated attendees with her insights on transformative innovations and the role of science in addressing societal challenges.

Ambrogio Fasoli shared his extensive expertise and vision on fusion energy as a transformative solution for future base-load electricity production.

The plenary session featured also a lecture on “Art & Science” by Monica Bello, who fosters collaboration between artists and scientists, exploring how these interactions inspire innovation and creative perspectives in both disciplines.

The day also celebrated the achievements of Jacek Kolanowski, winner of the 2024 YAE André Mischke Prize for Science and Policy, for his work on trans-sectoral engagement in research.

Additionally, Yvonne Buckley, an ecologist and zoology professor, examined how climate action and land use impact biodiversity, offering critical perspectives for policymakers and researchers alike, Eske Willerslev explored the processes shaping human genetic diversity, distribution, and disease load, drawing from his extensive research in ecology, evolution, and ancient DNA. Besides, Botond Roska in his lecture “Restoring Vision,” highlighting his groundbreaking research on neuronal networks in the retina, thalamus, and cortex.

### Day 4: Future-Focused Panels and Inclusive Dialogues Thursday, November 28

The final day was packed with forward-looking discussions, focusing on creating smart, inclusive, climate-neutral urban spaces and building a fair, inclusive digital society.

Katarzyna Chojnacka shared strategies for fostering resilient urban development.

Helen Kennedy tackled the pressing question of what makes a good digital society, emphasizing inclusivity and fairness. Samuel Lieu lectured on “Between Rome and China – Christianity and Manichaeism on the Silk Road, while Shalom Lappin explored the application of probabilistic methods and machine learning to syntax, semantics, and language acquisition.

Other plenary sessions featured: Rubina Raja on the historiography of urban archaeology in the MENA



region; Piotr Sztompka on the return to classical sociology and moral visions of society; Edyta Roszko on freshwater access and Austronesian ethnography; Jürgen Kocka on industrial culture and bourgeois society and Michèle Lamont on group boundaries, inequality, and fostering resilience

The closing class chair session, “Sciences and Scholarship in the Face of the Future,” brought together experts to discuss how cross-disciplinary collaboration can drive sustainable, equitable progress.

## YAE Participation

The Young Academy of Europe (YAE) had also a very important role in Building Bridges, particularly in advocating for early- and mid-career researchers. Katalin Solymosi, Chair of the YAE session, introduced an exciting mix of science policy discussions and interdisciplinary presentations.

Some sessions discussed the issues of organisations supporting early-career researchers, such as Academia Iuvenum and the Polish Young Academy. These groups play a vital role in mentoring young scientists and advocating for greater participation in science policy.

As Solymosi explained it, “By connecting younger researchers with broader academic and societal contexts, we can empower the next generation to lead the way in scientific discovery and innovation.”

This year’s Building Bridges conference offered not just a showcase of cutting-edge research but also a forum for collaboration and exchange. From space and time to genomics, energy, and biodiversity, the event had a wide-ranging programme with opportunities to engage, connect, and contribute to global solutions.



The sessions were video-recorded and streamed. The video is available here:

[Conference Building Bridges – Video Recording](#)

Detailed Programme:

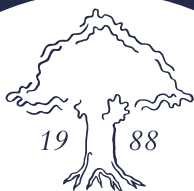
[Building Bridges 2024 Programme](#)



# Academia Europaea Wroclaw Hub

15 Na Grobli Street Building L-1 room 343  
Wroclaw , PL





ACADEMIA  
EUROPAEA

CARDIFF

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2024

CARDIFF  
UNIVERSITY  
PRIFYSGOL  
CAERDYDD

PROMOTING  
RESEARCH  
EXCELLENCE  
FOR POLICY  
AND PROGRESS

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2024.

This has been a significant year for our work in the European Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). We have played a full part in all of the evidence reviews and policy recommendations published by the SAM in 2024. Our most important contribution has been our coordination of the evidence review on *Solar Radiation Modification*. We were also pleased to be involved in work by the European Group on Ethics, including its important Statement on *Defending democracy in Europe*, for which Cardiff conducted literature reviews.

Our participation in the second SAPEA project, running from 2022 to 2024, was made possible by our successful application for a grant under the UK funding guarantee for Horizon Europe. Now, with the UK's association to Horizon Europe, we are able to enter the third SAPEA project as full beneficiaries. I am delighted that the consortium's proposal passed evaluation over the summer, with the result that SAPEA3 runs from the start of 2025.

As always, we have run an interesting programme of events this year, with a mix of online, hybrid and in-person events attracting large international audiences. Some are related to our work on science for policy, others address issues around policy for science. It has been very satisfying to collaborate with bodies such as the Learned Society of Wales, Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN) and the Young Academy of Europe.

The quality of our communications work is recognised across Academia Europaea, and we have continued to manage communications with the AE membership, as well as promotion of the AE Annual Conference 2024. In our popular Interview Series, we have showcased the work of MAEs across a range of academic disciplines and fields. As part of our *We stand with Ukraine* campaign, we caught up with the life and experiences of Oleg Krishtal, a leading scientist living and working in Ukraine.

At the end of another busy but satisfying year for the Cardiff Hub, I extend my thanks to our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Wendy Larner FRSNZ FLSW, and to our Steering Group and its Chair, Sir Mark Walport FRS FMedSci FRSE MAE, for their support.



**Professor Ole H. Petersen** CBE FRS FMedSci ML MAE FLSW  
**Director of the AE Cardiff Hub**



# CONTEXT

Our achievements in 2024 are set out in the context of the four priorities in the Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

1. Continue to play a major role in providing science advice for policymaking
2. Promote excellence through showcasing outstanding research and engaging with our membership base
3. Build connections with the wider group of stakeholders
4. Ensure future sustainability

The areas of focus we defined in our Hub Plan for 2024 were to:

- Deliver on commitments in the current SAPEA project (2022-24) and try to secure participation in the renewal of SAPEA (2025-2029). We aimed to support innovation in SAPEA, by investigating the potential, as well as the risks of AI in conducting systematic reviews for policy.
- Offer an engaging programme of events and conferences, as a mix of online-only and physical/hybrid. We set out to foster relationships with partners, such as CONNECTS-UK, the Learned Society of Wales and the Young Academy of Europe. A further objective was to strengthen and coordinate communications of Academia Europaea and its network of hubs.
- Develop our AE Cardiff Hub strategy for 2025-onwards

We delivered on all these, as we describe below.

# HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024

■ In the Strategic Advice Mechanism, we led the coordination of an evidence review on *Solar Radiation Modification*, as well as providing significant input to reviews on *AI in Science* and *One Health*. Cardiff also conducted literature reviews to inform the European Group on Ethics' Statement on *Strengthening democracy*. We are part of a consortium that has made a successful grant application for SAPEA3, running from 2025 to 2029.

**Scientific  
Advice  
Mechanism**  
to the European Commission

■ Our 2024 programme of events attracted well over 1,000 people, either in-person or online. Our management of communications on behalf of Academia Europaea has resulted in much stronger engagement with the AE membership. We have strengthened our outreach to staff and students at Cardiff University, through featured articles and open events.



■ **Attendee feedback:**

“Thank you, this was very informative and helpful.”

“Please organise more of these events on this vital subject.”

“This is easily THE most interesting seminar I have ever listened to. Thank you so much Cardiff Uni for facilitating.”

# STRATEGIC PRIORITY

# 1:

Continue to play a major role in providing science advice for policymaking

We will continue to play a full role in delivering high-quality evidence reviews for policymaking in the SAPEA project and explore other opportunities for providing science advice.

A major piece of work from the Scientific Advice Mechanism has been an evidence review and policy recommendations on opportunities and risks of Solar Radiation Modification (SRM). AE Cardiff led the coordination of the evidence review and partnered with Cardiff University Library Services on two literature reviews, one for the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and another for the European Group on Ethics. Published in December, the outputs attracted major media attention, including articles in *The Guardian* and *Politico Europe*.

In April, the Scientific Advice Mechanism published its evidence review and policy recommendations on *Successful and timely uptake of AI in science in the EU*. AE Cardiff and Cardiff University Library Services delivered rapid reviews in all four key areas of work (Vision, Process, People and Policy). As part of outreach, AE Cardiff hosted an international webinar in May, *AI and academic publishing: What does the future hold for authors, readers and publishers?* Chaired by Ole Petersen, speakers included members of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors, the SAPEA expert working group and major academic publishers. The webinar was attended by 170 people from more than 30 countries.

AE Cardiff and Cardiff University Library Services have been developing their understanding of how AI might be used as a tool to support their systematic review work in SAPEA. This has been done via a literature review, identifying tools and testing them. This work will take off under SAPEA3 (2025-2029), with a dedicated work package for AI.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2024

In November, the Scientific Advice Mechanism published its evidence review and policy recommendations on *One Health*, with a focus on cross-sectoral governance. The work was informed by several literature reviews performed by AE Cardiff and Cardiff University Library Services.

In June, the European Group on Ethics (EGE) published its latest Statement, *Defending democracy in Europe*, in response to a request by EC Vice-President Dubravka Šuica. The Statement was informed by a literature review conducted by AE Cardiff and Cardiff University's Library Services. In September, AE Cardiff hosted and chaired a webinar addressing key issues around the state of democracy, especially in the face of rising populism. The event attracted over 50 people from 20 countries.

In November, AE Cardiff hosted two events to raise awareness of the Scientific Advice Mechanism within the UK. The first was a partnership with the Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN), to boost UK engagement with the SAM. The other was run with the Environment Platform Wales, a collaboration between the Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and research institutions across Wales. The events attracted over 100 people.

In April, SAPEA published a new *Strategic Development Plan*, with the work coordinated by AE Cardiff. We oversaw a review of existing strategy and operations, including an internal review and consultation with a wide range of external stakeholders. The Working Group responsible for the work was chaired by AE President, Marja Makarow. In June, the Cardiff Hub Manager Louise Edwards presented the Plan to the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and staff at the European Commission, where it was well received.

In July, AE Cardiff hosted an interactive workshop for academies, as part of a SAPEA series. *Reaching out to society: how academies can maximise the impact of their public engagement* was attended by around 100 representatives from academies. The workshop outlined the purpose of public engagement, highlighted some of the latest trends and methods, and facilitated knowledge-sharing. The main outcomes were written up as part of a deliverable to the European Commission.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY

# 2:

Promote excellence through showcasing outstanding research and engaging with our members

We will showcase outstanding research, particularly by Academia Europaea Members, as well as work led by us in projects, for example, SAPEA. We will engage in public debate on topical issues in research, for example, open access, interdisciplinary approaches, research impact, international collaboration, translational research etc.

Visits to the AE Cardiff website have increased by 40% this year. Our newly revamped website was launched at the end of the year. Our number of followers on X (formerly Twitter) held steady. In November, we opened a Bluesky account, as an alternative to X and have attracted over 100 followers so far.

This year, we have boosted our Interview Series on the website, with more MAEs than ever before. Interviewees have come from a range of academic disciplines and fields:

**Humanities:** Cláudia Álvares MAE, Associate Professor of Communication; Rosi Braidotti MAE, Distinguished Professor of Humanities; Kjersti Fløttum MAE, Professor Emerita of French Linguistics; Samuel Lieu MAE, distinguished scholar in the field of ancient history; Li Wei MAE, Professor of Applied Linguistics

**Social sciences:** Pearl Dykstra MAE, Professor Emerita of Empirical Sociology and past Member of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors; Jiří Přibáň MAE, Professor of Law at Cardiff University; Kate Tchanturia MAE, Professor of Psychology

**Exact sciences:** Saiful Islam MAE, Professor of Materials Modelling; Nuria Oliver MAE, 2024 winner of the Hypatia European Science Prize

**Life sciences:** Oleg Krishtal MAE, Neurophysiologist; Nicolas Mathevon MAE, Distinguished Professor of Neurosciences and Animal Behaviour; Kai Simons MAE, Professor of Biochemistry and Cell Biology.



AE Cardiff has again led on communications to the AE membership, on a funded basis. As part of the work, we coordinated a branding refresh for Academia Europaea. We also led on communications work for the AE Annual Conference, held in Wroclaw in November.

We published interviews with incoming AE Hub Directors, David Lordkipanidze MAE (AE Tbilisi) and Péter Hegyi MAE (AE Budapest). We also ran an interview with Scott Bremmer FYAE, incoming President of the Young Academy of Europe.

In promoting the AE Annual Conference 2024, we published interviews with the following keynote speakers:

Yvonne Buckley MAE, ecologist and Professor of Zoology; Katarzyna Chojnacka MAE, Professor of Technical Sciences; Helen Kennedy MAE, Professor of Digital Society; Heino Falcko MAE, astroparticle physicist and radio astronomer; Verena Winiwarter MAE, environmental historian

STRATEGIC  
PRIORITY

3:

Build connections with the wider group of stakeholders

We will reach out to and engage with a wider group of Hub stakeholders, including higher education and research institutions, political bodies, academies and the general public.



In May, we hosted a webinar, *Boosting research impact: Policy engagement for early-career researchers*, in partnership with the Learned Society of Wales Early Career Researchers Network. The webinar attracted around 170 participants.

In August, Professor Ole Petersen delivered a keynote address at the 22nd European Bioenergetics Conference. The event took place at the University of Innsbruck, attracting more than 500 participants.

In November we supported an open forum at Cardiff University, organised with CONNECTS-UK, a partnership to foster scientific collaboration between Europe and the UK. The hybrid meeting, *AI: what does it mean for research, for society and for you?* drew an audience of 50 and speakers included the Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales, Professor Jas Pal Badyal FRS.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITY

# 4:

## Ensure future sustainability

We aim to achieve ongoing sustainability of the AE Cardiff Hub.



The second SAPEA project has run from May 2022 to December 2024. The Cardiff Hub has been able to participate via a UK Government funding guarantee, administered through Innovate UK. Under a closed call issued this year, AE Cardiff has secured an increased budget as part of a consortium that will take SAPEA forward from 2025 to 2029. The other source of external funding for the Hub has come from its communications work for Academia Europaea, which provides a contribution towards salary costs.

In the final quarter of the year, we have drafted a new Strategic Plan for the Hub, laying out our proposed path from 2025 to 2029, in tandem with the grant award for SAPEA.

# STAFFING



Academic Director  
**Professor Ole Petersen**  
CBE FLSW FMedSci FRS MAE



Hub Manager  
**Louise Edwards**



Executive Officer  
**Juliet Davies**



Communications Officer  
**Alice Sadler**



Project Assistant  
**Shenaé Jonas**  
(October-December 2024)

## Acknowledgements

AE Cardiff would like to thank colleagues of all organisations that have given us their support in 2024, in particular:

- Academia Europaea, in particular Members who have supported and engaged with the Hub, and our colleagues across Europe
- Cardiff University, in particular the University Library Service, including the European Information Hub and Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE)
- CONNECTS-UK
- European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE)
- German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
- Insights Wales
- Learned Society of Wales and its Early Career Researchers Network
- Newington Design
- Science Advice Mechanism (SAM), including the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and the Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) and Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS)
- UKRI
- Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN)
- Universities Wales
- Wales Centre for Public Policy
- Welsh Government
- Young Academy of Europe



## About Academia Europaea

Founded in 1988. Now has more than 5,500 leading scientists and scholars as Members, including over 80 Nobel laureates. Operates through a network of knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Bergen, Budapest, Cardiff, Tbilisi and Wroclaw. Our headquarters are in Munich, with a support office in London.

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1

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

OF

## THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA BUDAPEST KNOWLEDGE HUB





# INTRODUCTION

2

**2024 was the 4<sup>th</sup> year since the launch of the operations of the Budapest Hub on 1 January 2021.**

The year 2024 was a transitional year for the Budapest Hub: a new Academic Director was selected by a selection committee based on a call for application in July, and approved by the Academia Europaea Board of Trustees in November. **Professor Péter Hegyi** has been an active member of the AE since 2018, and currently serves as the chairperson of the Clinical and Veterinary Science section within Class C – Life Sciences. He prepared a plan for the future of the Budapest Hub, based on which we are in the process of restructuring the Hub. The missions outlined by the new Academic Director are as follows:

- To provide guidance on how to implement scientific results for society benefits (From Science to Society);
- To guide talented individuals through the transformative journey from academic curiosity to successful professional careers (From Curiosity to Career);
- To foster collaboration and expand European excellence by supporting the Danube region and smaller Central and Eastern European countries (From Borders to Bridges).

The new Academic Director was featured in the [Interview Spotlight Series of the AE Cardiff Hub](#), as well as on the [website of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences \(MTA\)](#).

The **hybrid meeting of the AE Board of Trustees** was hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on 3 June 2024 in Budapest.

At the **“Building Bridges” annual meeting** of Academia Europaea, this year hosted by the Wroclaw Hub at the end of November, the Budapest Hub was represented by Academic Director **Péter Hegyi** and Vice Academic Director **Katalin Solymosi**. Professor Hegyi presented the three new missions – **From Science to Society, From Curiosity to Career, and From Borders to Bridges** – of the AE Budapest Hub for the future, together with the implementation plan, which includes approximately 20-25 projects for the next three years. At the end of each project the goal is to publish the results in position papers, or present the findings in high-impact scientific journals.

Currently there are **161 Hungarian members**, including **13 new members** from Hungary registered in 2024.



The Budapest Hub organised or co-organised the following events in 2024, listed in chronological order:

1. A webinar was organised by the „Danube Region” thematic session, one of the four original thematic sessions of the Budapest Hub, on 8 February with the title ***Interreg Danube Region Programme - Examples and Best Practices from Projects Monitoring Microplastics in the Danube River Basin***

3

**Interreg Danube Region Programme:  
Examples and Best Practices from Projects Monitoring  
Microplastics in the Danube River Basin**

**Webinar of the Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub**

Interreg Programme  
**Danube Region**  Co-funded by  
the European Union

**8 February 2024 (online, Zoom)**  
**10:30 – 12:15 CET**

**Agenda:**

1. Gusztáv Csomor: **Brief outline of the Interreg Danube Region Programme**
2. Fruzsina Kardoss: **How to write a good Interreg project?**
3. Attila Dávid Molnár: **Major outcomes of the Tid(y)Up Interreg project**
4. Tímea Kiss et al.: **Microplastic monitoring of the Tisza: experiences of a five-year-long measurement from source to confluence**
5. Q & A Session moderated by Katalin Solymosi

Zoom-link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86160314770?pwd=V1V3am10N01TM3FQYlplk0DhXZkpOdz09>



The event initiated and organised by **Katalin Solymosi** sought on the one hand to facilitate knowledge transfer about river microplastic pollution in the region, while on the other hand to inspire researchers from the region to apply for Interreg projects. The speakers of the workshop kindly offered to make their presentations available to the public [on the AE Budapest Hub website](#).

The online workshop was recorded, the full video recording is available [on the YouTube channel of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences](#). The recording has been watched 198 times in 10 months.

2. **Young Academy of Europe and AE Budapest Hub joint ERC Starting Grant Mentoring Event – 3 June 2024, online**

The fourth edition in the ERC Starting Grant mentoring event series of Young Academy of Europe took place on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Young researchers wishing to apply to the ERC Starting Grant could listen to testimonials and expert advice at the online event co-organized by YAE and AE Budapest Hub.



## ERC Starting Grant Mentoring Event of the Young Academy of Europe and the Academia Europaea Budapest Hub



4

3 June 2024 (online, Zoom)  
14:00 - 16:00 CET

### 14:00-15:00 - Plenary part

- **Maria Leptin** (President, ERC): **The why and what of the ERC's recent changes to the evaluation of research proposals**
- **Angela Liberatore** (ERCEA): **Implementing the novelties in ERC evaluations**

### 15:00-16:00 - Three parallel sessions featuring ERC StG holders by domain (LS, SH, PE)

- Domain LS - **Gautam Dey, Zohreh Hosseinzadeh**, Moderator: **Philippa Warren**
- Domain PE - **Nicoló Maccaferri, Péter Nagy, Manuel Souto Salom**, Moderator: **Linn Leppert**
- Domain SH - **Jihan Zakarriya, Ágoston Berecz**, Moderator: **Mona Simion**

Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/385eaktw>

Started by the Young Academy of Europe back in September 2020, the mentoring event series aimed at young researchers having the ambition to apply to an ERC Grant call (typically a Starting Grant) has been a great success in the virtual arena of mentoring and grant application training events. Organized in collaboration with the Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub, the fourth event took place - again online - on 3 June 2024, from 14:00 to 16:20 hrs (CET). The focus this time was on the recent changes to the evaluation of ERC research proposals and how the novelties in ERC evaluations are being implemented.

The online event included two parts. First, a **plenary information session** with welcoming words from **Prof. László Lovász** (ERC Scientific Council member), **Péter Hegyi** (Academic Director, Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub) and **Katalin Solymosi** (Chair, Young Academy of Europe), followed by a presentation by **Maria Leptin** (President of ERC) about the [why and what of the ERC's recent changes to the evaluation of research proposals](#), and a talk by **Angela Liberatore** (Head of the Scientific Management Department at ERC Executive Agency) about the [implementation of the recently introduced changes in the grant evaluation procedures](#). The presentations were followed by a Q&A, moderated by **Scott Bremer** (Vice-Chair, Young Academy of Europe).

The second part of the event included **three parallel sessions by scientific domain, each featuring current YAE members who have recently secured an ERC StG and who shared their pieces of advice about grant proposal writing and oral interview preparation with the audience of the domain-specific break-out rooms**: Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE), Life Sciences (LS), and Social Sciences & Humanities (SH).



The virtual event was attended by more than 100 participants who were very active asking questions during the sessions. The online event was recorded. The videos of the event are published on the [YouTube Channel](#) of the YAE (the video of the plenary part is available [here](#), while those of the domain-specific breakout sessions are available on these links: [Life Sciences](#), [Physical Sciences and Engineering](#) and [Social Sciences and Humanities](#)).

*Online visibility: 853 views on YouTube in 5 months*

5

3. SAPEA webinar: **Science and Society: Public Outreach in a Broader Sense**, presented by **Katalin Solymosi** on 12 July 2024.

The workshop entitled ***Reaching out to Society: how academies can maximise the impact of their public engagement*** was organised by the Academia Europaea Cardiff Hub as part of the [Scientific Advice Mechanism](#) to the European Commission.

Katalin Solymosi discussed combining arts and science, where art is used as a tool to reach out to people who would not necessarily otherwise be interested in attending a scientific presentation or lecture. Katalin presented several projects and initiatives aimed at both teachers and school pupils. [Her slides](#) are available at the event on the AE Cardiff Hub's website.

4. **23rd Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Talented Students** on 7-8 December 2024 in Szeged.

This event for secondary school pupils, university students, and early career-stage scientists was organised by the Academia Europaea Budapest Hub, in collaboration with the National Academy of Scientist Education (NASE) under the **FROM CURIOSITY TO CAREER PROGRAM**. One of its primary missions is to inspire, motivate, and support the career development of young researchers by providing them with opportunities to interact with world-class scientists and learn from their experiences.

The Budapest Hub was represented by Péter Hegyi, Academic Director, Katalin Solymosi, Vice Academic Director, and Nóra Deák, Hub Manager at the event, where the guest scientists included Nobel laureate in Chemistry (2008) and Professor at Columbia University (USA) [Martin Chalfie](#), Academia Europaea Cardiff Hub Director [Ole Petersen](#), a distinguished British/Danish physiologist and Professor at Cardiff University (UK), and [Shahrokh Shariat](#), an Austrian-Iranian scientist and Director of the University Clinic of Urology in Vienna (Austria).

Summary of the meeting, including interviews with the lecturers, the Program Director Péter Hegyi, and a couple of participants is available on the [YouTube channel of the National Academy of Scientist Education \(NASE\)](#).



## Web communication and social media:

6

The AE Budapest Hub joined two social media platforms in April, 2023, with the creation of both a Facebook and a Twitter/X account. The AE Budapest Hub's Facebook Page is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091939061650&sk=about>.

We use the username/handle @aebudapest for our X (formerly known as Twitter) [Academia Europaea Budapest](#) profile. News, updates about the activities of MAEs, and events organised by our Hub are shared regularly. The profiles of all the other AE Hubs are also followed, thereby promoting their activities, too. The Budapest Hub staff are especially grateful to the staff of the Cardiff Hub for their continuous support.

## Finances:

Under the Collaboration Agreement between Academia Europaea and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA) signed in December 2020 for a period of 4 years, MTA provides the administrative services required for the operation of the Hub, as well as the agreed annual funding to support the Hub activities.



## AE Budapest Hub staff:

*Péter Hegyi*, Academic Director

*László Lovász*, Past Academic Director (2021-2024)

*Katalin Solymosi*, Vice Academic Director

*Nóra Deák*, Hub Manager

*Katalin Fodor*, Head of International Relations Department of the Secretariat of MTA

*Viktória Barna*, Project Coordinator

7

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#### ***About Academia Europaea***

**Founded in 1988. Now has more than 5000 leading scientists and scholars as members, including over 70 Nobel laureates. Operates through a network of knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Bergen, Budapest, Cardiff, Munich, Tbilisi and Wrocław.**