



Minutes from Steering group meeting 4th of January 2019

Attendees

Steering group members:

Dag L. Aksnes, Petter Bjørstad, Kjersti Fløttum, Matthias Kaiser, Stein Kuhnle, Bjarne Robberstad, Dieter Roerich, Anne Gro Salvanes and Svein Sundby

By invitation:

Vice-Rector for Global Relations Annelin Eriksen

From Hub management:

Academic Director Eystein Jansen and Hub Manager Kristin Bakken

Prevented from attending

Steering group members:

Jessica Jewell, Sigrid Eskeland Schütz and Marit Warncke

From Hub management:

Project manager Kristin Hansen

Background

Academia Europaea Bergen Region Knowledge Hub (AE-BRKH) was established in 2014 to foster scientific knowledge and research, and in June 2016 as a continuation a collaboration agreement between AE and the University of Bergen (UiB) was signed. In 2018 the Hub was restructured with a new Academic Director (Professor Eystein Jansen) and administrative staff (Kristin Bakken and Kristin Hansen) anchored at the Department of research management at UiB.

The agreement states that the strategic direction of the Hub shall be delivered through the Academic Director and the Steering group and the Advisory group of the Hub recognising the interests of the partners.

The Steering group meeting 4th of January 2019 is the first meeting after the Hub was restructured. The first meeting of the Advisory Board will be 16-17th of January 2019.

Current members of the Steering group (likely to be supplemented)

- Dag L. Aksnes; MAE¹, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Marine biology)
- Petter Bjørstad; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Informatics)
- Kjersti Fløttum; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Linguistics)
- Jessica Jewell; Research scholar/Assoc. prof., IIASA/Univ. of Bergen (Energy and Political science)
- Matthias Kaiser; Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Philosophy of science)
- Stein Kuhnle; MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Political science)
- Bjarne Robberstad; Professor Univ. of Bergen (Health sciences)
- Dieter Roerich; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Physics)

¹ Member of Academia Europaea

- Anne Gro Salvanes, MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Marine biology)
- Sigrid Eskeland Schütz; Professor Univ. of Bergen (Law)
- Svein Sundby, MAE, Professor, Institute for Marine Research, Bergen (Oceanography)
- Marit Warncke, CEO Bergen Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The agenda for the meeting

1. Brief presentations of the attendees
2. Academic Director's overview of Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub Region Bergen (AE-KHRB) – background, status and plans
3. Terms of reference for the Steering group - discussion
4. Plans and strategy - initial discussion
5. Action plan 2019 – discussion
6. AOB²

The meeting lasted for 2.5 hours. The Steering group had in advance received a document presenting status, activities and plans (attached).

Item 3: Terms of reference

The proposed terms of reference (TOR) for the Steering group should be adjusted to include *science advice* more explicitly. The TOR would also benefit if the regional responsibility of the Steering group was more precisely defined with respect to the region either being the Bergen region or the Nordic/Baltic region.

- *Follow up: The Hub management will adjust the Terms of reference according to the above mentioned comments, present it to the Advisory Board for discussion and input, and then circulate it by email to the members of the Steering group for final adjustment.*

As science academies have an important role to play in science advice in general, and also because the EU has given the academies a formalised advisory role through the SAPEA scheme, it was pointed out that science advice should be discussed on a regular basis, and plans and ideas for science advice integrated into strategic plans and annual planning.

- *Follow up: The Hub management will discuss science advice with the Advisory Board and solicit input to be brought back to the Steering group. It should furthermore prioritise to keep both the management and the Steering group up to date on national and European science advice actions, mechanisms and policies.*

Even though Russia is not represented in the Advisory Board, it was suggested that the Hub should aim to include and involve cooperation with Russian AE-members as issues including both Northern Europe and The Arctic highly involves Russia. Cross-border scientific interaction and cooperation is important in a challenging and complex geopolitical world.

- *Follow up: The Hub management will present these views to the Advisory Board for discussion and input on how this best can be addressed. It will be placed on the agenda for the next Steering group meeting.*

It was pointed out that in order to build more knowledge about Akademia Europaea (both inside and outside academia), in terms of its visions and the opportunities this platform can provide, it is important to ensure proper visibility through good communication channels and strategies.

² Any other business

- *Follow up: The Hub management is taking necessary steps to ensure the needed communication capacity, and will stress this point to the Advisory Board.*

Item 4: Strategy

Suggestions of themes for further consideration:

- Is there a specific Nordic migration challenge (ref 2019-plan considering migration and challenge to the Nordic welfare states)?
- Connect with the SAPEA report/activity on *Making Sense of Science* for hub events and outreach.
- Disarmament could be a theme of relevance for the Hub due to Norway's geopolitical position and the increasing tension between the world's military superpowers. Requires good links to prominent academic institutions covering geopolitics which primarily are located outside of Bergen.
- Consider cooperation with the UNESCOs Man and the biosphere (MAB) initiative/plans in Lindås and the UNESCO professor at UiB.
- Transformation to zero emission transport could be an important theme for the hub, given the regional strengths in both academia and industry.
- Agreement that almost all SDGs are relevant for the Hub, as they to a large extent are interrelated.
- Utilise UiB's building up the connection to INGSA³, preferably through the International Science Council⁴, where UiB has a unique position as a member. The Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities (SVT) of UiB is already a member of the INGSA network.

Item 5: Plans for 2019

Due to time limitations the plans were not discussed further.

Item 6: AOB

No items brought up.

Attachment: Draft distributed to the Steering group before the meeting

³ International Network for Government Science Advice: <https://www.ingsa.org/>

⁴ <https://council.science/>



Draft Background and initial Strategy Document

Background and scope

- Academia Europaea (AE) is a European, non-governmental, not-for-profit registered company under English company law and a registered Charity, acting as an Academy, whose members are scientists and scholars who collectively aim to promote learning, education and research in all fields, especially physical sciences and technology, biological sciences and medicine, mathematics, the letters and humanities, social and cognitive sciences, economics and the law.
- Academia Europaea Bergen Region Knowledge Hub (AE-BRKH) was established in 2014 to foster scientific knowledge and research, and in June 2016 as a continuation a collaboration agreement between AE and the University of Bergen (UiB) was signed. In 2018 the hub was restructured with a new academic director and administrative staff anchored at the Department of research management at UiB.
- The agreement states that UiB will seek additional partners to join in the sponsorship and operations of the AE-BRKH, whilst recognising that the strategic direction of the Hub shall be delivered through the Academic Director and the Steering group and the Advisory group of the Hub recognising the interests of the partners.
- The main activities of the AE-BRKH, will be amongst others; to act as the AE branch in the Nordic, Northeastern, Baltic and Arctic regions, fostering scientific knowledge and research and especially, but not exclusively, develop and run activities focusing upon the Northern Seas, Northern Europe and the Arctic Region.
- Specifically, the Hub is to concentrate upon marine resources and opportunities, energy, climate and sustainable development, and also threats associated with the fragile northern margins; utilizing all related sciences and the social sciences and humanities.
- UiB sponsors the running of the AE-BRKH, including qualified personnel, appropriate spaces and services and all necessary funds and services for its correct operation and full functioning, and is committed to facilitate the daily operation, including the costs of writing an annual activity report and future plans included.
- The hub office is headed by an Academic Director appointed by UiB, who is a member of the AE, with part time dedication to be decided between the parties.
- A hub steering group is appointed by UiB with the approval of the Board of trustees of the Academia Europaea.
- An Advisory Board consisting of AE and YAE members from the Nordic and Baltic regions is appointed by UiB with approval of the Board of Trustees of Academia Europaea.

Management and resources

- Academic Director Professor Eystein Jansen (from January 2018), part time dedication
- Hub Manager Kristin Bakken (from September 2018), part time dedication
- Project Manager Kristin Hansen (from January 2018), part time dedication
- Communication officer position, presently vacant, 20% part time dedication

- Office and meeting facilities, Allegaten 55, 5020 Bergen
- Mail address: Department of Research Administration, University of Bergen, Postboks 7800N, 5020 Bergen

Advisory Board

- Dag Rune Olsen; MAE, Chair, Rector, Professor, Univ. of Bergen, Norway (Medical physics)
- Erland Källén; MAE, Professor, University of Stockholm, Sweden (Meteorology/Climate research)
- Marja Makarow; MAE, Professor, Biocenter Finland, Finland (Molecular cell biology)
- Svend Erik Larsen; MAE, Professor, Aarhus University, Denmark)
- Jüri Allik; MAE, Univ. of Tartu, Estonia (Psychology)
- Ole Arve Misund; Director/Professor Tromsø (Marine and fisheries biology)
- Martin Fernø; MYAE, Professor, University of Bergen (Physics)

Steering Group (not completed yet)

- Kjersti Fløttum; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Linguistics)
- Petter Bjørstad; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Informatics)
- Dieter Roerich; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Physics)
- Marit Warncke, CEO Bergen Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Svein Sundby, MAE, Professor, Institute for Marine Research, Bergen (Oceanography)
- Anne Gro Salvanes, MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Marine biology)
- Dag Aksnes; MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Marine biology)
- Bjarne Robberstad; Professor Univ. of Bergen (Health sciences)
- Sigrid Eskeland Schütz; Professor Univ. of Bergen (Law)
- Matthias Kaiser; Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Philosophy of science)
- Stein Kuhnle; MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Political science)
- Jessica Jewell; Research scholar/Assoc. prof., IIASA/Univ. of Bergen (Energy and Political science)

Science Advice

The Hub will engage in- and support science advice in the Nordic Countries and on the European level, through SAPEA and through linking with activities of National Academies.

It will be important to develop networks on the Nordic scale, including the Nordic Council of Ministers.

The Hub aims to be central in linking Nordic Academic networks to Chinese, in particular with respect to the 3-Poles initiative.

The Hub aims to be a continuous partner with SDG Bergen and the annual SDG conference.

Regional networking

The Hub aims to be a partner with the regional research environments, municipal and regional governments and the regional private sector. Special emphasis will be placed on Energy and Marine/Maritime affairs.

Consensus meeting series

The Hub will develop the Consensus meeting series into annual high-profile events where academic knowledge meets key societal needs and debates.

Activities in 2018

2018 was a start-up year during which the Hub was restructured. Consequently, important aspects were to initiate planning and strategy discussions and to get the steering and advisory bodies in place. In March 2018 the Hub was visited by AE president Sierd Cloetingh, Executive Secretary David Coates and advisory board member Svend Erik Larsen during which the status and tentative plans for the Hub were presented and discussed. The meeting agreed on developing the Hub according to the tentative plans, and to establish two bodies to support the Hub, an international Advisory Board and a regional steering group.

In June the Hub organized a well attended public event in the Bergen Literature House where the role of Science Advice for Universities was discussed.

The Hub has discussed a potential role in academy collaboration with China in particular around the Chinese 3-Poles initiative (The 3 Poles being the Arctic, Antarctica and the Tibetan Plateau). The Academic Director took part in a broad Norwegian academic delegation around a visit to China by the Norwegian minister for Research and Higher education to map out potential future links. In late June the Academic Director, together with representatives of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters met the leadership of CAST, The Chinese Association for Science and Technology in Oslo. Further developments are being considered.

The Hub co-organized an Ocean Roundtable in Brussels October 16 together with the marine/maritime industry clusters in Europe. The meeting comprised heads of units in DG RTD and DG Mare, as well as key representation from the EU Parliament. Also present were representatives from the Academic Community in several countries. The meeting was also attended by JPI Oceans and the European Marine Board and Norwegian institutions (Embassy, Research Council and Innovation Norway). The focus of the roundtable was on the Ocean elements of Horizon Europe and integration of academic and industry networks in preparation for this with respect to an Ocean Mission in Horizon Europe and a potential Ocean KIC.

AE-BRKH initiated and led a joint meeting of the AE Hubs (Barcelona, Cardiff, Wroclav) in conjunction with the AE Annual meeting in Barcelona in November. The purpose was to get the Hub administrations acquainted with each other and learn from the experiences of the various hubs.

A Hub event on Energy/Climate policy dilemmas is under planning for the annual UN Sustainable Development Goal conference in Bergen in February 2019.

Plans for further Hub events in 2019 are being developed, with focus on an international meeting on Asia and the Arctic 2019 and on migration in the autumn of 2019. As part of a series of events around migration issues in the coming years.

Tentative plan for activities in 2019

- First meeting of the Steering Group, January 4
- First meeting of the Advisory Board January 17
- February 6, SDG Energy and Climate event, UiB Aula

- May 2019, Arctic conference in Rosendal
- Development of potential China links
- Autumn 2019 Migration challenges and the Nordic welfare state.
- Support the conferences: TYPES 2019:
25th International Conference on Types for Proofs and Programs.
Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters,
Oslo, Norway, 11-14 June 2019. Website: cas.oslo.no/types2019/
- HoTT-UF:
Workshop on Homotopy Type Theory and Univalent Foundations.
Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters,
Oslo, Norway, 12-14 June 2019. Website: cas.oslo.no/hott-uf/
- Linking with Chinese Academies on the 3 Poles initiative
- Establishing Nordic activities and networks

Communication Strategy

Under development

We will have a 20% resource available through collaboration with the Communications group of the Bjerknes Centre

- Website
- Member information
- Informing the public
- Media channels
- Cooperation