



# Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub

# Strategic plan 2021–2024

# Academia Europaea – The Academy of Europe

Academia Europaea is a non-governmental association, acting as a pan-European academy. Founded in 1988, Academia Europaea now numbers over 4000 members in Europe and worldwide, including more than 70 Nobel laureates. Academia Europaea operates through an expanding network of regional knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Bergen, Budapest, Cardiff, Tbilisi and Wrocław. Academia Europaea's membership spans the Council of Europe's 47 countries, as well as other countries worldwide.

## Academia Europaea's Mission

The Academy will:

- Promote a wider appreciation of the value of European scholarship and research.
- 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 Academy 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 affecting society, its quality of life and its standards of living.

## Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub

Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge hub (AE-Bergen) is Academia Europaea's branch in the Nordic, Baltic and Arctic regions. In drafting our Strategic Plan, we have given prime consideration to the strategic priorities of our two 'parent' organisations, Academia Europaea (AE) and University of Bergen (UiB). Their relationship is based on a Collaboration Agreement from June 2016, renewed on May 25th, 2021, stating that UiB will provide the Hub with operational funding, personell, services and housing.

See box 1 [next page] for more information on AE's strategy.

UiB's strategy 2019-2022, Knowledge That Shapes Society, can be found on <https://www.uib.no/en/strategy>.

### 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, SAPEA topics (see box 2 [next page]) 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), emphasising 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<sup>1</sup> from the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities, in order to solve major human challenges.



### Strategic area 1 - Science-policy interface

#### Objectives

Within our main strategic priorities, 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. We aim to be a strong advocate for independent national science advice mechanisms, comparable to the EUs' Science Advice Mechanism (SAM) (see box 3). Our advocacy for establishing national independent scientific advice mechanism, will first and foremost focus on the need for processes providing independent and transdisciplinary scientific/knowledge-based reviews, and to clearly separate such reviews from political recommendations. We will draw attention to scientific evidence-review reports, e.g. from SAPEA, European Academy Networks, the UN, regional and European academies and the European Marine Board.

## Academia Europaea (AE) strategic plan

The AE organisation is independent. It carries no inbuilt national biases or loyalties, and has no formal or legal dependency on the institutions of the European Union. The AE exists to recognise individual excellence and to support the independence of the membership. Working collectively as a community of European scholars is of paramount importance.

The AE was established as The Academy of Europe, to emulate National Academies and to cover all disciplines (Sciences, Humanities and Letters). Individual scholars are elected following a rigorous nomination and peer review accreditation process of a candidate's excellence in their field.

Priorities for the coming period: Academia Europaea have identified five strategic priorities that the trustees feel are achievable within the contextual boundaries described. The priorities are:

1. To recognise and support the development of individual scholarship and scholars,
2. To deliver collective and independent excellence in expertise and activity,
3. To create beneficial collaborations and partnerships,
4. To improve visibility, impact and trust, and
5. To broaden the support base.



**ACADEMIA EUROPAEA**

<sup>1</sup> When using the terms 'scholarly', 'scientific' or 'science' in this document, they should be interpreted in a broad sense, like the German "wissenschaft" or Norwegian "Vitenskap" including both science and systematic academic studies of any area, for example, humanities like art or philosophy, not necessarily implying empirical research.

## Activities

We will stimulate and support science-policy interactions through various avenues for engagements, including organising 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 from our region to SAPEA activities. In addition we will engage with national mechanisms for science advice to policymakers in our region. We will continue as an active partner of the multi-stakeholder forum Arctic Frontiers (see box 4), using this forum as a major channel of our Arctic science-policy engagement.



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

Evidence Review Report No. 7

## Strategic area 2 – Promote and showcase excellent research and scholarship

### Objectives

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.

### Activities

From 2021 we will co-organise 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 will also co-organise events with the Bergen programme-committee of the Norwegian Academy

## SAPEA

Following the appointment of Jean-Claude Juncker as President of the European Commission, the nature of scientific advice to the Commission was fundamentally reimagined. Under the leadership of Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas, the Scientific Advice Mechanism was created.

To support this mechanism, the Commission issued a Horizon 2020 call in October 2015 with the purpose of coordinating scientific advice for policy making provided by the European networks of academies. In response, Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE and FEAM formed a consortium and initiated the SAPEA project.

The five Academy Networks collectively represent over 100 academies, young academies and learned societies across Europe. SAPEA works to strengthen these academies and provides a means for close collaboration in a unique and interdisciplinary way.

The SAPEA project aims to improve the quality of EU policy making by providing timely scientific evidence to the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism. This is achieved by creating effective links between individual Academies and their wider European networks, thus strengthening their operational links with a view to further facilitating their joint cooperation with EU institutions.

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

of Technological Sciences (NTVA). Through these and other events we will both initiate events and encourage our members and others to engage in scholarly exchanges, research dissemination and scientific debates.

### **Strategic area 3 –Visibility and regional engagement**

#### Objectives

We will increase our visibility in the region and strengthen our engagement with relevant actors and communities (private, public and NGOs). In order 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. Events, activities and our strategic engagements will be promoted via various media and outreach channels.

#### Activities

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.

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

#### Objectives

We aim to establish good connections to the national academies of our region. In this endeavour we will emphasise AE's strengths in science advice for policy, its pan-European perspectives and strong connections to leading European research institutions e.g., the ERC, in addition to the thematic areas of our Hub. AE's regional Hubs have been growing in numbers, adding to the activities within the academy. We aim to strengthen the interaction between academic communities across Europe, starting with increased collaboration with other AE Hubs.

#### Activities

We will engage in dialogue with both the Norwegian and the non-Norwegian academies in our region on potential areas for cooperation. As a first step to initiate stronger cooperation between the AE Hubs, we will participate in inter-Hub meetings to discuss possibilities for e.g., joint events, activities, mutual learning and sharing of resources.

### **SAM (The EC Scientific Advice Mechanism)**

There are 7 Chief Scientific Advisors, appointed in their personal capacity and who act independently and in the public interest. The advisors' declared interests can be consulted on the register of Commission expert groups. An independent identification committee assists the Commission in selecting the advisors.

The advisors work closely with the SAPEA consortium, which gathers expertise in engineering, humanities, medicine, natural and social sciences from over 100 academies and societies across Europe. Together with a secretariat in the Commission's research and innovation department, the advisors and SAPEA are collectively known as the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM).



## Governance

AE-Bergen is the AE branch of the Nordic, Baltic and Arctic regions, and shall especially, but not exclusively, develop and run activities focusing upon the Northern Seas, Northern Europe and the Arctic Region. In 2020 AE has established an EU project management office in Bergen, Norway, as a tool to serve the whole membership in future cases.

The Hub was established in 2014, and has been hosted by UiB from 2016. In 2018 the Hub was restructured, and Professor Eystein Jansen was appointed as Academic Director. UiB sponsors the running of the Hub, including qualified personnel, appropriate spaces and services for its correct operation and full functioning, and is committed to facilitate its daily operation.

A renewed contract for the next 4 years will be signed in 2021. The agreement between UiB and AE states that the strategic direction of the Hub will be delivered through the Academic Director, a Steering Group and an Advisory Board. The Academic Director (a member of the AE) is appointed by UiB, with part time dedication to be decided between the parties. An Advisory Board consisting of AE and YAE members from the Nordic and Baltic regions is appointed by UiB with approval of the President of Academia Europaea. A local Steering Group is appointed by the Academic Director in consultation with UiB.

## Arctic Frontiers

Arctic Frontiers started out in 2006 assembling the first global scientific conference on economic, societal and environmentally sustainable growth in the north. The conference in February 2021, was the 15th, and the theme of the year was “Building Bridges”. The conference has a pan arctic perspective and builds new partnerships across nations, generations and ethnic groups. Arctic Frontiers provides a forum for dialogue and communication between science, government and industry in the Arctic.

Through outreach activities and with competent and committed partners on arctic issues, Arctic Frontiers sets the agenda, linking policy, business and science for responsible and sustainable development of the Arctic. The main premise behind Arctic Frontiers is to couple academia with decision makers from government and business. The Arctic Frontiers partnership network consists of some of the world’s leading actors in the Arctic.

In between the annual conferences, the Arctic Frontiers secretariat works together with the partners with all the five pillars that Arctic Frontiers is founded upon: Policy, Business, Science, Arena and Young. Through seminars, open debates, workshops, projects and network meetings both in Norway and abroad, Arctic Frontiers sets the agenda and advocates a responsible knowledge-based growth and development in the Arctic.



## Academic Director and Hub Administration (part time dedication)

- Academic Director Professor Eystein Jansen, MAE<sup>2</sup>, [Eystein.Jansen@uib.no](mailto:Eystein.Jansen@uib.no)
- Hub Manager Kristin Bakken, [Kristin.Bakken@uib.no](mailto:Kristin.Bakken@uib.no)
- Project Manager Trine Steensæth Pedersen, [Trine.Steenseth@uib.no](mailto:Trine.Steenseth@uib.no)
- Communication Adviser, Nils Olav Sæverås, [Nils.severas@uib.no](mailto:Nils.severas@uib.no)

## Office and Contact

- Visitor Address: Muséplassen 1, Bergen
- Postal address: The Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub, UiB, Postboks 7800, 5020 Bergen, Norway
- E-mail: [AEbergen@uib.no](mailto:AEbergen@uib.no)
- Website: <https://aebergen.w.uib.no>

## Advisory Board members

- 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; University of Tartu, Estonia (Psychology)
- Ole Arve Misund; MAE, Director/Professor Tromsø (Marine and fisheries biology)
- Martin Fernø; MYAE<sup>3</sup>, Professor, University of Bergen (Physics)

## Steering Group members

- Kjersti Fløttum; MAE, University of Bergen (Linguistics)
- Petter Bjørstad; MAE, University of Bergen (Informatics)
- Dieter Roerich; MAE, University of 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, University of Bergen (Marine biology)
- Dag L. Aksnes; MAE, Professor, University of Bergen (Marine biology)
- Sigrid Eskeland Schütz; Professor University of Bergen (Law)
- Matthias Kaiser; Professor, University of Bergen (Philosophy of science)
- Stein Kuhnle; MAE, Professor, University of Bergen (Political science)
- Jessica Jewell; Research scholar/Assoc. prof., Chalmers Univ/UiB (Energy and Political science)
- Ole Øvretveit, CEO Initiativ Vest

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2 MAE: Member of Academia Europaea

3 MYAE: Member of Young Academy of Europe

## Appendix

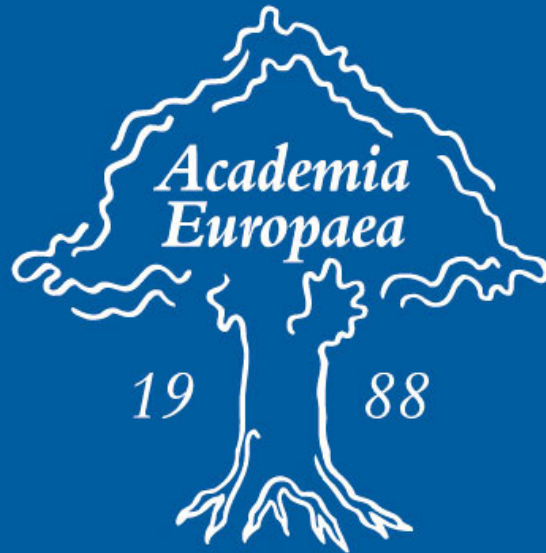
### Terms of reference (TOR) for the Advisory Board

- 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 general 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.





THE ACADEMY OF EUROPE  
BERGEN KNOWLEDGE HUB

**Hosted by**



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

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