



# Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub

# Annual Report 2022

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## Introduction

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

Dear all,

The Bergen Hub is pleased to present our annual report for 2022. A year where most parts of the world emerged from the grips of the pandemic and could return to a new normal. This positive development, much due to vaccine breakthroughs, international cooperation and many strong institutions, was however quickly overshadowed by the shockingly brutal Russian invasion of Ukraine. In addition to all the death, trauma and destruction, the war has unforeseen consequences on global energy supply and prices, food production and inflation.

Both the war and the sanctions also deeply affect academic life and collaboration. Longstanding cooperation, academic friendships and important scientific data series is terminated or withering. The war will surely affect both human lives, international cooperation and the academic world significantly throughout 2023 and for many years to come.

Due to the termination of covid-restrictions, our Hub was able to increase our activities in 2022 compared to the previous years, and we hope for even more person-to-person meetings and activities in 2023.

Science has for many decades played an important role in collaboration and lowering of geopolitical tensions in the Arctic, for instance during the cold war. This is however not the case now. The war has led to a suspension of work in the Arctic Council, and loss of access to scientific data and observations of key importance for monitoring the strong changes in Arctic climate. Our Hub has an ongoing project of investigating this dangerous development, and in a couple of months we plan to release a special report on the current status of Arctic science and science diplomacy. As part of this project, we recently organised a well-attended high-level side event on the topic at the Arctic Frontiers conference in February.

In 2021 Academia Europaea established a Task Force to provide plans for extending its visibility in the areas of Environment, Climate and Sustainability under the leadership of Professor Verena Winiwarter from Vienna. The Bergen Hub supported the Task Force on behalf of Academia Europaea. Academia Europaea has now established a permanent working group to follow up on the recommendations from the Task Force. As a member of this working group, I hope that we can engage a high number of eminent scholars from the AE membership to take part in future activities. Stay tuned for more activities here! The AE Barcelona Hub will likely coordinate these activities.

In 2022 our Hub signed an agreement with the Young Academy of Europe to assist in some of their administrative tasks. The Young Academy and the voice of young scholars are critical for the future of European research, and we are pleased to offer help.



**Academic Director of the AE-Bergen Knowledge Hub, Eystein Jansen.**

you in upcoming activities. We still have a way to go in ensuring that the leading scholars from our region become AE members, and I would also like to see a more gender and age-balanced membership.

I am a strong supporter of scientific excellence and the key importance of curiosity driven frontier research. The ERC is a remarkably successful premier funder of such research. Until the end of 2025 I will serve as Vice-President for the Physical Sciences and Engineering Domain of the ERC, in combination with my AE duties. Despite all the uncertainty we experience, I really do hope that the importance of basic science will rightfully be acknowledged in Europe. Our future as a prosperous region will very much depend on the creative minds of scientists who can express and pursue their best ideas in freedom. Thus, the missions of AE and ERC have a lot in common.

In summing up 2022 I would like to thank the Hub-staff, Kristin and Nils Olav for their hard work, dedication and support in 2022. I know this is much appreciated across the academy.

(Bergen, March 2023)

In September we were visited by Sierd Cloetingh, previous AE president and crucial for establishing the AE Bergen Hub. During his visit we could tap into his expertise both in Earth Science and Science Advice for Policy through both guest lectures and a workshop. Earlier in 2022 we were visited by the Abel Prize laureate Laszlo Lovacs. He is also Academic Director of the AE Budapest Hub and we had the opportunity to discuss potential Hub-to-Hub collaboration, an area that AE aims to strengthen.

In 2022 Academia Europaea got 47 new members from our Nordic-Baltic region. I wish all new members warmly welcome and hope to see many of

## 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. We will continue as an active partner of the multi-stakeholder forum Arctic Frontiers.





## 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.



At the 2022 Rosendal Week (August 7th-9th). Following the presentation from Eystein Jansen, a discussion was held between him and the Norwegian minister of climate and environment, Espen Barth Eide, moderated by Bergens Tidende's Editor-in-Chief Frøy Gudbrandsen.

## ACTIVITIES IN 2022 - HIGHLIGHTS

### January and February

- AE-Bergen was highly involved in the Academia Europaea Task Force on Environment, Climate and Sustainability. Our Academic Director Eystein Jansen was part of the Task Force and our Hub Manager Kristin Bakken provided administrative and technical support for the group. The support included implementing a survey among AE members. The aim of the survey was to identify critical questions as well as expertise on sustainability issues within the AE membership. The Task Force group started its work in the autumn of 2021 and completed its work in February 2022. [More information about the Task Force and its recommendations can be found here.](#)

### March

- AE-Bergen was co-organizer, along with Norce, NTVA, and the County Governor of Vestland County of a webinar on Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment, an outreach activity related to the SAPEA Evidence Report on the topic of biodegradable plastics. Keynote speaker at the webinar was NORCE scientist Gunhild Bødtker, a member of the SAPEA working group.



Keynote speaker at the *Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment* webinar, NORCE scientist Gunhild Bødtker, also a member of the SAPEA working group on the topic.

### April

- AE-Bergen co-organised a Darwin Day & Horizon lecture, April 25th: Professor Yadvinder Malhi examined human influence on the natural world through the concept of metabolism. How much energy flows through human societies compared to how much flows through the biosphere. Malhi explored the

metabolic profile of a modern industrialised country (the UK) in detail, looking into possible pathways of how to navigate a sustainable future on a human-dominated planet.

[A recording of the event is available on the AE-Bergen website.](#)



Darwin Day & Horizon lecture speaker: Professor Yadvinder Malhi.

- AE-Bergen continued our involvement as co-organiser of a well-established 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), with the first meeting in 2022 of this series on April 27th. The topic was battery technologies. Professor Lars Egil Helseth was the main speaker, focusing on new possibilities arising from lithium-ion batteries.

### May

- On May 9th, AE-Bergen organized a side event at the Arctic Frontiers Conference 2022 on seabed minerals: *Race to the (seabed) bottom – realities and sustainability dilemmas in the demand for minerals*. Speakers representing industry professionals, environmental groups, and the geoscience community discussed topics like: Does the Green Shift really need deep-sea minerals, and can deep-sea mineral extraction be sustainable enough to be justified? [A recording of the event is available on the AE-Bergen website.](#)



- As part of the AE-Bergen/NTVA Bergen/Tekna Bergen lecture series, a meeting was held on carbon capture and the role of petroleum in the green transition on May 24th. Lectures were given by Professor Martin Fernø (UiB) and Research Leader Sarah Eileen Gasda (NORCE), and Martin Fernø guided an CO<sub>2</sub> storage exhibition at The University Museum of Bergen.
- László Lovász, the Academic Director of our sister AE Hub in Budapest, visited Bergen in connection with his trip to Norway for receiving his (pandemic-delayed) 2021 Abel Prize, awarded jointly with Avi Wigderson. Opportunities for cooperation between our Hubs were discussed during a meeting on May 29th.

## June

- AE-Bergen initiated a project to investigate the status and prospects of Arctic science and science diplomacy in light of the Russian war against Ukraine. Political scientist Ole Øvretveit is engaged as project leader. The project is expected to result in a report and several debates and outreach events. The first outcome has been a side event at the 2023 Arctic Frontiers Conference in Tromsø (more information below).
- AE-Bergen held meetings with both our Advisory Board and Steering Group in June 2022. For the Bergen based Steering Group it was finally possible to have a physical meeting on June 16th, after only virtual meetings during the pandemic. For the Advisory Board, with members from the Nordic and Baltic region, there was a virtual meeting on June 17th.



The AE-Bergen Hub Steering Group.

## August

- Academic Director Eystein Jansen presented key findings in the latest 3 IPCC Assessment reports of its 6th Assessment round at the 2022 Rosendal Week (August 7th-9th), a regional conference in Western Norway focusing on climate change, energy transitions, green initiatives, and sustainability. Following the presentation from Eystein Jansen, a discussion was held between him and the Norwegian minister of climate and environment, Espen Barth Eide, moderated by Bergens Tidende's (the biggest newspaper in Western Norway) Editor-in-Chief Frøy Gudbrandsen. [More information can be found here.](#)



Former president of Academia Europaea, Professor Sierd Cloetingh, visited the University of Bergen in September.

## September

- Former president of Academia Europaea, Professor Sierd Cloetingh, visited the University of Bergen September 4th-6th. In addition to a lecture and workshop with researchers from his own field of Earth Science, Sierd Cloetingh gave a lecture on European cooperation in science, innovation, and policy advice co-organized by AE-Bergen and the Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities. [More information can be found here.](#)
- AE-Bergen formalized an agreement to supply the Young Academy of Europe (YAE) with administrative and communications support, signing an MoU (Eystein Jansen for AE-Bergen,



AE-Bergen's Academic Director Eystein Jansen (centre) being congratulated with his Vice Presidency of the European Research Council (ERC), by UiB colleagues Øyvind Frette (left) and Atle Rotevatn (right).

Barcelona October 26th-27th. A Hub presentation was given at the connected Annual Business Meeting (AGM) of Members by Kristin Bakken.

- AE-Bergen's Academic Director Eystein Jansen was elected Vice President of the European Research Council (ERC) for the Physical Sciences and Engineering domains on October 27th, serving until the end of 2025 alongside Co-Vice Presidents Jesper Svejstrup and Eveline Crone. More information can be found [here](#).

## November

- At the annual Bergen meeting of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters on November 3rd, Academic Director Eystein Jansen moderated a panel debate following the keynote of Professor Christoph Heinze (UiB) on *The triple blow and how one can try to address it: ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation*. Professor Tor Eldevik and Professor Anna Nele Meckler gave comments to the keynote and participated in the panel. Recording of the meeting including the keynote (only the keynote is in English) [can be found here](#).

- As part of our lecture series co-hosted with NTVVA Bergen and Tekna Bergen, a meeting on the development and use of new sustainable bioresources in fish farming, with a particular look at Norwegian fish feed, was held on November 22nd. Lectures were given by Dr. Ernst Hevrøy (Senior Product Development Manager, Mowi Feed) and Dr. Tor Andreas Samuelsen (Senior Scientist, Nofima AS).

## December

- Our proposed side event for the Arctic Frontiers Conference 2023 Moving North, *The Future of Arctic Science and Science Diplomacy* was officially accepted and included in the conference program.

Gemma Modinos for YAE], during a zoom meeting on September 13th. Our hub will contribute to web updates and newsletters, as well as sending fee reminders to YAE members.

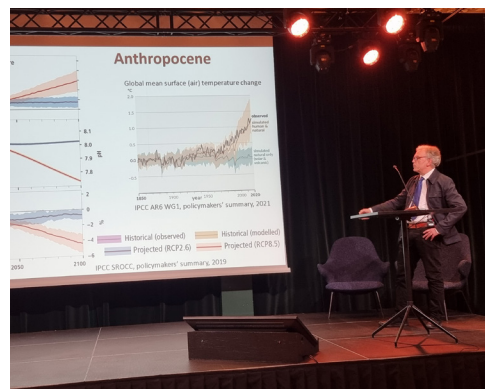
## October

- As part of our lecture series co-hosted with NTVVA Bergen and Tekna Bergen, a lecture was held October 4th on diagnostics and treatment of serious diseases affecting the central nervous system. The lecture was given by Professor Charalampos Tzoulis of the Neuro-SysMed Center.

- Hub Manager Kristin Bakken and Communications Adviser Nils Olav Sæverås participated at the 33rd Annual Conference of Academia Europaea in



Hub Manager Kristin Bakken (right) held a presentation of the AE-Bergen Hub during the 33rd Annual Conference of Academia Europaea in Barcelona. To the left AE President Marja Makarow and Executive Secretary David Coates.



At the annual Bergen meeting of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters on November 3rd, the keynote speech from Professor Christoph Heinze (UiB).



## Selected highlights from early 2023

- A meeting between the staff of AE-Bergen and Young Academy of Europe (YAE) Board members was held on January 16th. This was the first meeting between AE-Bergen and YAE after the new YAE Board members were elected in October 2022. The meeting included discussion of specifics of the AE-Bergen support to the YAE.
- On February 3rd, AE-Bergen co-organised a well-attended side event at the Arctic Frontiers Conference 2023 Moving North, in Tromsø. The event *The Future of Arctic Science and Science Diplomacy*, included a panel of major stakeholders of research, research policy and politics concerning the Arctic. The event was part of AE-Bergen's investigation on the status and prospects of Arctic science and science diplomacy in light of the Russian war against Ukraine. The event illuminated grave examples of how long-standing Arctic cooperation, academic friendships and scientific observational data have been terminated or are rapidly withering due to both the war, the sanctions against Russian institutions and the freeze of science diplomacy efforts. The other organisers were University of Bergen, The Norwegian Polar Institute, The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA) and the University of Tromsø. The event



On February 3rd 2023, AE-Bergen co-organised a well-attended side event at the Arctic Frontiers Conference Moving North, in Tromsø. Ole Øvretveit, Manager of Arctic Science Diplomacy project, chaired the event.

was chaired by Ole Øvretveit, Manager of Arctic Science diplomacy project, AE-Bergen. The speakers/panelists were Dag Rune Olsen (Rector, University of Tromsø), Lise Øvreås (President of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters), Ole Arve Misund (Executive Director, Norwegian Polar Institute), Nicole Biebow (Chair of The European Polar Board//Alfred Wegener Institute), Ole Øvretveit (project leader of AE-Bergens Arctic project), Eystein Jansen (Vice President, European Research Council), Mike Sfraga (Chair of the US Arctic Research Commission), Clara Ganslandt (Special Envoy for Arctic Matters to the EU), Petteri Vuorimäki (Finland's Ambassador for Arctic Affairs) and Lars Kullerud (President, UArctic). More information [can be found here](#) (including a recording of the event). Following the event, an opinion piece by Eystein Jansen, Ole Øvretveit and Lise Øvreås have been published [Nordlys](#) (Norther's Norway's biggest newspaper) and in [Khrono](#) (the website of Norwegian higher education).

- AE-Bergen co-organised a Darwin Day & Horizon lecture, February 13th: Professor in medicine Jarle Breivik explored the evolutionary logic of cancer under the title *Making Sense of Cancer: In* this lecture, Breivik drew lines from the evolution of the species, through embryologic development, to aging and malignant transformation. What will it take to get rid of cancer? Should society rather learn to live with it? [More information can be found here](#).
- As part of our lecture series co-hosted with NTVÅ Bergen and Tekna Bergen, a meeting on nuclear power and sustainability was held on February 14th. Lectures were given by Professor Jan Petter Hansen (UiB/NHH) and Niels Berger (CFO) from ThorCon (thorconpower.com).

## 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, Wrocław, Bergen, Tbilisi, Munich, 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 2025.

### Academic Director and Hub Administration of AE-Bergen



Academic Director

**Professor Eystein Jansen**

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



Hub Manager

**Kristin Bakken**

Kristin.Bakken@uib.no (part time dedication)



Communication Adviser

**Nils Olav Sæverås**

Nils.severas@uib.no (part time dedication)

## AE-Bergen office and contact

Visitor Address: Realfagbygget (Science building) The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Allégaten 41, ground floor, 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 in 2022

- 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 2022

- 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 L. Aksnes; MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Marine biology)
- 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., Chalmers Univ/UiB (Energy and Political science)
- Ole Øvretveit, Project manager, Pilot Digital Coast,



## 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.



AE-Bergen was highly involved in the Academia Europaea Task Force on Environment, Climate and Sustainability. Our Academic Director Eystein Jansen was part of the Task Force and our Hub Manager Kristin Bakken provided administrative and technical support for the group. The Task Force group started its work in the autumn of 2021 and completed its work in February 2022. The recommendation of The Task Force to establish a Permanent Working Group (PWGESG), was taken up during the Annual Conference in Barcelona, in a presentation by MAEs Peter Wagner, Jane Hill, Patricia Holm and Paul Holm.



THE ACADEMY OF EUROPE  
BERGEN KNOWLEDGE HUB

**Hosted by**



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

Visiting address: Realfagbygget (Science building) The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Allégaten 41, ground floor, Bergen.

Postal address: 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>