



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA
BERGEN KNOWLEDGE HUB

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

PROMOTING **RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**
FOR **POLICY AND PROGRESS**

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INTRODUCTION

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



Welcome to our Annual Report 2018, highlighting our achievements in meeting the priorities set for the first operating year of the restructured Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub.

Academia Europaea, which was founded in 1988, is an international, non-governmental association of individual scientists and scholars from all disciplines, who are experts and leaders in their own subject areas as recognized by their peers. Academia Europaea is a non-for-profit company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. Since 2012, The Young Academy of Europe (YAE) has been affiliated to the Academia Europaea.

One of the principles underlying the foundation of the Academia was the perceived need for impartial expert independent advice to public and private bodies. The Academia considers that with a membership of 3500 eminent scientists and scholars from many disciplines and cultures, it is able to comment independently of any national or organizational viewpoint and is well placed to offer advice on scientific or academic matters to appropriate bodies in Europe.

Academia Europaea operates through a network of five regional knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Cardiff, Wroclaw, Bergen, and the latest, Tbilisi. Our own Hub, hosted by the University of Bergen, first joined the network in 2014.

The history of Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub 2014 – 2018

Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub was established in 2014 to foster scientific knowledge and research. In June 2016, as a continuation, a collaboration agreement was signed between Academia Europaea and the University of Bergen. In 2018 the Hub was restructured with a new academic director and administrative staff anchored at the Division of Research Administration at the University of Bergen.

In March 2018 the Hub was visited by Academia Europaea 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.

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The current agreement between Academia Europaea and the University of Bergen states that the Academic Director, the Advisory Board and the Steering Group shall ensure a strategic direction, and activities in line with Academia Europaea's purpose and intentions that are stated in the framework agreement between Academia Europaea and the University of Bergen.

As 2018 was the first operative year of the restructured Hub, the Hub management set itself four main objectives to accomplish during its first year of operation. Firstly, to initiate planning and strategy discussions. Secondly, to appoint a regional Steering Group and Advisory Board consisting of Academia Europaea and YAE members from the Nordic and Baltic regions. Thirdly, to plan new Hub events for 2018. Lastly, to develop a new website for the Hub.

Sound progress was made in all of these areas, as we will describe further in the report.

In 2018 we set the Hub on foot for active years to come and several activities and events will follow suit in 2019.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Our achievements are set out in the context of four priorities during the first operating year of the restructured Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub.

1. Strategy

The main activities of the Bergen Knowledge Hub will be amongst others; to act as Academia Europaea's 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.

Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub aims to:

- Become a platform to develop science advice on marine, maritime, polar affairs, and energy and environmental issues, with emphasis on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Provide knowledge and ideas that connect research and scholarship with policymaking.
- Establish activities in support of science advice, whereby independent academic insights are used to help develop policies both in Europe and in Norway.
- Engage with the public and society to promote the best research from the region, and for the region.

Science Advice

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

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- The Hub aims to engage in networks on the Nordic-Baltic scale, including the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- The Hub aims to be central in linking Nordic Academic networks to Chinese networks and bodies, in particular with respect to the 3-Poles (Arctic-Antarctic-Tibetan Plateau) initiative.
- The Hub aims to be a continuing partner with SDG Bergen and the annual SDG conference.

Meeting series

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

Regional networking

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

2. Governance

On January 4th, 2019 a regional Steering Group was constituted, and an Advisory Board consisting of Academia Europaea and YAE members from the Nordic and Baltic regions was constituted on January 17th, 2019. The Steering Group will meet twice per year, and the Advisory Board will meet annually.

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 (Comparative literature)
- Jüri Allik; MAE, Univ. of Tartu, Estonia (Psychology)
- Ole Arve Misund; MAE, Professor, Director, Norwegian Polar Institute, Tromsø (Marine and fisheries biology)
- Martin Fernø; MYAE, Professor, University of Bergen (Physics)

Steering Group

- 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)

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3. Bergen Knowledge Hub activities in 2018

The Hub held its first public debate in June 2018 with Professor and author Dag O Hessen from the University of Oslo, and Rector Dag Rune Olsen as speakers, where the role of Universities in providing Science Advice was discussed. The event, “Decision making in a post-factual time”, held at the Bergen Literature House, was well attended, primarily by participants from academic institutions in the region.



In October 2018 the Hub co-organized an “Ocean Roundtable Discussion” together with the marine and maritime industry clusters in the Bergen region and industry clusters in Europe. The meeting comprised heads of units in DG RTD and DG Mare, as well as key representatives from the EU Parliament. Representatives from the Academic Community in several countries, JPI Oceans, the European Marine Board and Norwegian institutions (Embassy, Research Council and Innovation Norway), were also present. The focus of the roundtable discussion was on the Ocean elements of Horizon Europe and the integration of academic research and industry networks in preparation of Horizon Europe, with emphasis on an Ocean Mission and a potential Ocean KIC.



In November 2018, the Hub cohosted a seminar with the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences held at UiB with the title: “New Technology changes media; Fake news. Front page controlled by algorithms. Robot journalists. Artificial intelligence and voice control”. Gard Steiro, director and editor of Norway’s most read newspaper “Verdens Gang (VG)”, was invited to speak about how media will meet the future.

Bergen Knowledge Hub also initiated and led a joint meeting of the AE Hubs (Barcelona, Cardiff, Wroclav) and the Graz information center, in conjunction with the AE Annual meeting in Barcelona in November 2018. The purpose was to get the Hub administrations acquainted with each other and to learn from the experiences of the various hubs.

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4. Website

A new website for the Hub was launched in March 2018 at: <https://aebergen.w.uib.no/>

More information about the Bergen Knowledge Hub

Hub Resources

The University of Bergen sponsors the running of the Bergen Knowledge Hub, including personnel, appropriate spaces and service, and necessary funds and services for its operation and functioning, and is committed to facilitate the daily operation.

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