



## Minutes from Advisory Board meeting January 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

Advisory Board – Meeting 1. January 17<sup>th</sup> 2019

Venue: University of Bergen, Muséplassen 1

Time: 9:00-12:00

### Attendees

*Advisory Board (HAB) members:*

Dag Rune Olsen, Ole Arve Misund, Erland Källén, Svend Erik Larsen, Marja Makarow, Juri Allik and Martin Fernø.

*From the Hub management:*

Academic Director Eystein Jansen, Hub Manager Kristin Bakken and Project Manager Kristin Hansen.

### Background information - Brief history of the AE-KHRB

Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub Region Bergen (AE-KHRB) 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 Division of Research Administration at UiB.

The agreement states that the strategic direction of the Hub shall be delivered through the Academic Director, a Steering Group and an Advisory Group (later renamed Advisory Board) of the Hub recognising the interests of the partners. The first meeting of the Steering Group was held on January 4<sup>th</sup> 2019. The regional Steering Group will help develop engagement with the academic, public and business communities in the Bergen region.

### Full list of members of the Advisory Board

- Dag Rune Olsen, MAE<sup>1</sup>, Chair, Rector, University of Bergen (Medical physics)
- Ole Arve Misund, MAE, Director/Professor, Tromsø (Marine and fisheries biology)
- Erland Källén, MAE, Professor, Stockholm University (Meteorology/Climate research)
- Svend Erik Larsen, MAE, Professor, Aarhus University (Comparative literature)
- Marja Makarow, MAE, Director/Professor, Biocenter Finland (Molecular cell biology)
- Jüri Allik, MAE, MAE, Professor, University of Tartu, Estonia (Psychology)
- Martin Fernø, YAE<sup>2</sup>, Professor, University of Bergen (Physics)

The Advisory Board had in advance received two documents 1) Background and initial Strategy and 2) Minutes from Steering Group meeting 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2019.

### Item 1/2019 Introduction of the Board members

- The members of the Board introduced themselves and their scientific background

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<sup>1</sup> Member of Academia Europaea

<sup>2</sup> Member of the Young Academy of Europe

## Item 2/2019 Adoption of the agenda

- *Decision:* The Board adopted the agenda.

## Item 3/2019 Presentation of Hub: Background, activities and plans by Academic Director

The Academic director professor Eystein Jansen gave a presentation on the history, background, past and planned activities and engagements. This presentation, together with the documents the Advisory Board had received in advance, was the foundation for some of the questions discussed during the meeting under agenda items 4, 5 and 6.

## Item 4/19 Terms of reference: Discussion

A Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) was presented by the Scientific Director and discussed.

*Decision and Follow up:* The Advisory Board suggested several amendments to the proposed TOR, changing the order and placing more emphasis on the role of the Board as strategic adviser to the Hub Management and Steering Group. The Hub Management has appended an amended TOR (Appendix 1), which incorporates the views expressed in the discussion of agenda items 4 and 5, for approval or further amendment from the Board.

## Item 5/19 Discussion of strategy (selected views from the discussion)

The Advisory Board members were unanimous in the opinion that the Board's primary role is to assist in developing and implementing strategies for the Hub.

Science advice should be a priority of the Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub Region Bergen (AE-KHRB). The Hub should engage in- and support science advice and science diplomacy on both national, Nordic, Baltic and European levels.

The Hub should cooperate with universities and academies, including the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA), which is a member academy of the European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC) and the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences (NTVA), which is a member of Euro-CASE.

In collaboration with the DNVA, the Hub could be central in linking Nordic Academic networks to Chinese Academic environments, to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and other Chinese Academies. The most relevant topics are envisaged to be climate, sea level, and issues concerning the 3-Poles initiative (the Arctic, Antarctica and Tibetan Plateau). In this context the Hub should make contacts to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which works through government institutions as well as academia.

Science academies have an important role to play in science advice in general, and Academia Europaea has in addition been given responsibility and a formalised role through the EUs Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM)<sup>3</sup> and the SAPEA<sup>4</sup> scheme. The Hub should engage in- and support science advice through the SAPEA scheme, and by linking its activities and scope to other science advice activities of Academia Europaea Hubs and National Academies. The Hub should also be instrumental in nominating candidates into SAPEA activities as well as initiating future SAPEA topics.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/research/sam/index.cfm>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.sapea.info/>

SDG Bergen<sup>5</sup>, amongst other activities, organizes an annual *SDG international conference* on behalf of the Norwegian universities. SDG Bergen's goal is to encourage the university's researchers to engage in science diplomacy and scientific advice in relation to the UNs Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Hub should engage in events in conjunction with UiBs annual *SDG international conference*. With respect to the SDGs the Hub should establish contacts with WMO (World Meteorological Association) and WCRP (The World Climate Research Programme).

The Hub should actively engage with AE-members of the whole region of the Hub, and include events and activities outside Bergen and Norway. The Hub should, in addition to involvement of Nordic- and Baltic AE-members, seek to cooperate with Russian members, as issues including both Northern Europe and The Arctic involves Russia. The Advisory Board is content with the representation of Nordic and Baltic countries on the Advisory Board, but emphasize that it is important that contact with Russian members be maintained through activities and individual contacts.

- *Decision and Follow up:* The Advisory Board suggested that the revised TOR, the Strategy Plan for the Hub (still in progress) and plans for future activities and engagements should include and reflect the views presented throughout the strategy discussion.

### Item 6/19 Ideas for topics to be considered for events and activities in 2019-2020

On this item the discussions included both topics and practicalities concerning different actions and contacts that could be beneficial for the Hubs visibility, engagement of members and on the recruitment of future members.

#### **Engaging and recruiting AE and YAE members**

*Follow up:* The Hub Management will send a list of AE-members by country to each member of the Advisory Board in order for the Advisory Board to have an overview, and to ensure a drive towards nominating new members from the Nordic countries, the Baltic States and to the Young Academy of Europe.

#### **Important contacts and networks**

*Follow up:* The Hub should establish contact with the following organizations/centers/councils:

- Nordforsk: which also has contacts with the Baltic States.
- The Norwegian Research Council: International Director, Kristin Danielsen.
- The Nordic University Association (NUS).
- The Arctic Council: E.g. via the Norwegian Ambassador to the Council.
- AMAP: Artic Monitoring and Assessment Programme – an Arctic Council Working Group (which provides scientific advice on actions to be taken in order to support Artic governments in their efforts to take remedial and preventive actions relating to contaminants and adverse effects of climate change).
- Nordic Centre China at Fudan University in Shanghai: UiB is running the center on behalf of the Nordic countries (this is an important channel to Chinese Academies).
- The Nordic Council of Ministers.
- The Swedish Engineering Academy and the Nordic Science Academies.

#### **Issues of major relevance that should be reflected in upcoming plans and Strategies**

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.uib.no/en/sdgbergen>

- Social equality/inequality on different levels, which threatens the stability of the EU and the cohesion among the member states
- The 3-Poles initiative (the Arctic, Antarctica and Tibetan Plateau)
- Energy and environmental issues
- Marine/Maritime affairs

#### **Activities planned (or executed) in 2019/2020**

- An event on Energy/Climate policy dilemmas in conjunction with the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) conference in Bergen in February 2019<sup>6</sup>.
- Joint event February, 2019, together with The Horizons Lecture Series (by the Faculty of Mathematics and natural sciences), inviting Prof. Stephanie E. Combs from Heidelberg to hold a lecture on - *The Benefits of Particle Therapy in Cancer Treatment*<sup>7</sup>.
- Workshop in April 2019 in the Bergen Region (UH-nett Vest) developing business opportunities from academic research.
- An outreach event in Oslo on the release of the SAPEA report Making Sense of Science in dialogue with the AE Cardiff Hub and in collaboration with the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA) - in May or June 2019.
- Establishing a series of events on Migration challenges and the Nordic welfare (from 2020).
- Establishing connection with Chinese Academies, and aiming to host or co-host a yearly event relating to the 3-Poles initiative (the Arctic, Antarctica and Tibetan Plateau), possibly affiliated with the Arctic Frontiers Conference in Tromsø from 2020.
- Developing a concept (and a new name) for annual high-profile events where academic knowledge meets key societal needs and debates (previously named "Consensus meetings", but suggested given another name by the Advisory Board during the meeting).
- Consider attending *The EuroScience Open Forum 2020* in Italy in July 4-10th 2020, depending on the topic for this meeting (yet to be announced).
- Establishing Nordic activities and networks.
- A second meeting is planned for the Steering Group and the Advisory Board during 2019.

#### **Item 7/19: Next meeting (s)**

*Follow up:* Agreement on one meeting of the Advisory Board per year, but with the next meeting preferably late in 2019, in order to be able to influence budgeting and planning for 2020. Indicative date was set to the period December 16-20<sup>th</sup> 2019.

#### **Item 8/19: AOB**

None.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.uib.no/en/matnat/123389/does-climate-mitigation-trump-other-concerns>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.uib.no/en/matnat/124390/prof-stephanie-e-combs-benefits-particle-therapy-cancer-treatment>

## Appendix:

### 1) Amended Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub Region Bergen (AE-KHRB) - 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.