



Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub

Annual Report 2019

Contents

Introduction	3
Part 1: Governance and strategy	4
Organisation	4
Advisory Board members	
Terms of reference (TOR) for the Advisory Board	
Steering Group members	
Terms of reference (TOR) for the Steering Group	
Management and resources	
Strategic priorities	6
Science Advice, networking and cooperation	
Themes of engagement	
Themes for further consideration	
Communication and visibility	
Strategic plan 2020	
Part 2: Activity report 2019-2020	8
Activities in 2019 – Highlights	8
Activities January-March 2020 – Highlights	9
Effects of Covid-19 measures	11



THE ACADEMY OF EUROPE
BERGEN KNOWLEDGE HUB

Introduction

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

Welcome to the Annual Report 2019 from Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub. The report has two sections. Part 1 reports on the governance and strategy of the Hub, and Part 2 reports on our activities during the last year.

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.

One of the principles underlying the foundation of the Academia Europaea was the perceived need for impartial expert advice to public and private bodies. With over 4000 eminent scientists and scholars from a variety of disciplines and cultures as members, the academy can comment on scientific or academic matters independent of any national or organizational bindings, and is well suited to offer advice to appropriate bodies in Europe.



Academia Europaea operates through its sections and disciplinary classes, but also through a network of regional knowledge hubs, so far in Barcelona, Cardiff, Wroclaw, Bergen, Tbilisi and Munich. In order to support academics, scholars and independent research in Hungary in a challenging political environment, the academy hopes to establish a hub in Budapest during 2020.

The Bergen Knowledge Hub was established in 2014. As a continuation, a collaboration agreement between AE and the University of Bergen (UiB) was signed in 2016. In 2018, the Hub was restructured with a new Academic Director and administrative staff, all anchored at UiB. The agreement states that UiB will seek additional regional partners to join in the sponsorship and operations of the hub.

Main activities of the Bergen Knowledge Hub are amongst others to act as an AE branch in the Nordic and Baltic countries. The Hub concentrates upon marine resources and opportunities, energy, climate and sustainable development, and threats associated with the fragile northern margins; building on all related natural sciences, social sciences and humanities.

(Bergen, March 31)

Part 1: Governance and strategy

ORGANISATION

The AE Bergen Knowledge Hub office is headed by an Academic Director appointed by UiB, currently AE member (MAE) Eystein Jansen (from 2018), with part time dedication to this function. 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 first operational year of the restructured hub was in 2018. During 2019, we have established an Advisory Board and a Steering Group and decided on their Terms of References.

Advisory Board members

- Dag Rune Olsen (Chair); MAE, Rector, Professor, UiB, Norway (Medical physics)
- Erland Källén; MAE, Professor, University of Stockholm, Sweden (Meteorology/Climate)
- Marja Makarow; MAE, Professor, Biocenter Finland, Finland (Molecular cell biology)
- Björn Wittrock; MAE, Professor Emeritus, Uppsala University and Vice President AE
- Jüri Allik; MAE; Univ. of Tartu, Estonia (Psychology)
- Ole Arve Misund; Director The Norwegian Polar Institute/Professor University of Tromsø (Marine and fisheries biology)
- Martin Fernø; MYAE, Professor, UiB (Physics)

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.

Steering Group members

- Kjersti Fløttum; MAE, UiB (Linguistics)
- Petter Bjørstad; MAE, UiB (Informatics)
- Dieter Roerich; MAE, UiB (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, UiB (Marine biology)
- Dag Aksnes; MAE, Professor, UiB (Marine biology)

- Sigrid Eskeland Schütz; Professor UiB (Law)
- Matthias Kaiser; Professor, UiB (Philosophy of science)
- Stein Kuhnle; MAE, Professor, UiB (Political science)
- Jessica Jewell; Assistant Professor/Assoc. prof., Chalmers/UiB (Energy and Political science)

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. Ink 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.

Management and resources

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STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

An important role of Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub is to act as the AE branch of the Nordic and Baltic countries. The hubs' activities shall foster scientific knowledge and research and especially, but not exclusively, focus upon the Northern Seas, Northern Europe and the Arctic Region.

Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub aims to:

- **Provide knowledge and ideas that connect research and scholarship with policy-making.**
- **Establish activities in support of science advice.**
- **Engage with the public and society to promote the best research from the region, and for the region.**

Science Advice, networking and cooperation

The 'Science Advice for Policy by European Academies' (SAPEA) consortium brings together outstanding expertise in engineering, humanities, medicine, natural and social sciences from over 100 academies and learned societies across Europe. SAPEA is part of the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism. Science advice is a priority of The Hub, both through SAPEA and other science advice mechanisms and bodies.



The Hub aims to cooperate with research environments, academies, municipal and regional governments and the regional private sector. This includes national academies in the Nordic-Baltic countries and their European umbrella organisations such as the European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC) and Euro-CASE. The Hub aims to actively engage with AE-members of the whole region, and include events and activities outside Bergen and Norway. The Hub will prioritise actions for recruitment of new AE members, and strive for better balance with regard to gender, geography, fields of expertise and age.

Themes of engagement

- Science advice, outreach and conversations on controversial and complex issues
- UNs Agenda 2030 and the sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- Social inequality on different levels, which threatens the stability of Europe and EU
- Arctic and marine issues
- Energy, climate and environmental issues

Themes for further consideration

- Challenges in a Nordic context
- The 3-poles initiative (the Arctic, Antarctica and Tibetan Plateau)
- Disarmament

- Cooperation with the UNESCOs Man and the biosphere (MAB) initiative in Nordhordland
- Transformation to zero emission transport
- Scientific aspects of the New Green Deal policy of the EU

Communication and visibility

Main communication focus is on:

- Increasing the visibility of the Hub and Academia Europaea in general
- Interaction with members
- Promoting events
- Spreading knowledge in society on science and on scientific and scholarly expertise
- Website & Social Media

Strategic plan 2020

A complete Strategic plan will be further elaborated and adopted in 2020.



The home city of the Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub

Part 2: Activity Report 2019-2020

ACTIVITIES IN 2019 - HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to the highlighted activities and events, the Hub has supported some workshops and conferences financially based on proposals from AE members involved in organising such events.

January

- Inaugural meetings of Advisory Board and Steering Group in Bergen
- Successful nomination of Jessica Jewell for a SAPEA working group on Energy

February

- Does climate mitigation trump other concerns? Debate meeting in conjunction with the annual national SDG conference in Bergen. Organised jointly by AE Bergen and UiB
[Video recording on our website](#)
- Lecture: The Benefits of Particle Therapy in Cancer Treatment, by world leading expert Professor Stephanie E. Combs. Highlighting the benefits of investment in Carbon therapy in Norway/Bergen. Organised jointly by AE Bergen and UiB
[Video recording on our website](#)



In February, we were visited by Prof. Stephanie Combs

March

- The Hub joined Arctic Frontiers as associated partner. Through outreach activities and with committed partners, 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 Hub Manager represents The Hub in the partner meetings.

June

- Participation at the EurOcean conference in Paris to investigate this as a forum for Hub activities. EurOCEAN is a major forum for the European Commission's partnership with the marine scientific community
- Lecture: Event Horizon Telescope and the portrait of a black hole. By Tuomas Savolainen. Organised jointly by Department of physics and technology (UiB) and AE Bergen.
- Second meeting of the Steering Group

September

- Young Researcher's Night in Bergen: As part of the Norwegian "Research Days" the Norwegian Academy for young researchers (AYF) together with UiBdoc and AE Bergen hosted a networking event in Bergen for young researchers with focus on outreach and career development (YAE/Advisory Board member Martin Fernø).

October

- Measures to establish a new legal entity in Bergen (by AE Bergen and AE London). Meeting with AE executive secretary David Coates, Academic Director Eystein Jansen and leader of the Advisory Board Dag Rune Olsen in Bergen.
- Participation at Annual AE conference, Building Bridges, in Barcelona (Academic Director)
- Arctic Circle Assembly 2019 in Iceland. Eystein Jansen with colleagues in Bergen and Denmark participated in a session sponsored by the Hub: The Arctic has entered a new phase of abrupt climate change, on changes in the Arctic and Greenland ice sheet.



In November, we organised a public seminar in Oslo on the SAPEA report “Making sense of sci-

November

- Research based policies? A public seminar in Oslo on the SAPEA report Making sense of science under conditions of complexity and uncertainty, jointly organised by AE Bergen and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters
[Video recording on our website and summarized in a report](#)
- Participation in AE annual meeting and Plan S workshop in Leuven (Hub Manager)

December

- Activities in Cardiff in cooperation with the Cardiff Hub and the Norwegian Church Abroad (Steering Group member professor Matthias Kaiser and Communications Adviser)

ACTIVITIES JANUARY-MARCH 2020 - HIGHLIGHTS

January

- Nomination of candidates to SAPEA report on microplastics and degradation of these.
- Participation at the conference Arctic Frontiers - Power of Knowledge in Tromsø (Academic Director and Hub Manager).
- Science advice for policy: Who asks, who gives, and who listens? Side event at the Arctic Frontiers conference. Jointly organised by UiB, AE Bergen, Bjerknes Center for Climate Research, The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, UiT The Arctic University of Norway. Academic Director was moderator
[Video recording on our website](#)
- Participation at Arctic Ocean Decade Workshop: Policy-Business-Science-Dialogue (Academic

Director). Organised by The Research Council of Norway, Arctic Frontiers and IOC of UNESCO, side event at the Arctic Frontiers Conference.



We supported a cultural outreach event for students and attendees at the SDG Bergen Conference, the metal science opera Fish to Mars

February

- Participation at the National (HE-sector) SDG conference in Bergen (Academic Director and Hub Manager)
- Participation at Science advice and Science diplomacy workshop. Side event at the SDG Bergen Conference. Presenting SAPEA/SAM and the MASOS report (Academic Director and SAPEA working group member professor Jeroen Pieter Van der Sluijs).
- A metal science opera Fish to Mars. Cultural outreach event for students and participants at the SDG Bergen Conference. Initiated and supported by AE Bergen.
- Meeting in Bergen with the General Secretary of the Norwegian Technological Academy (NTVA). The aim is to establish a formal collaboration agreement.
- Participation in Conference in Latvia: Innovation – Power of the 21st century (Hub Manager). Organised by the Latvian Academy of Sciences, University of Latvia and Smart Up BSR (Baltic Sea Region).
- Signing of a Conference Riga Declaration emphasizing the need and will for cooperation and strengthening science and innovation in the Baltic Sea Region (Hub Manager attended the declaration sessions, and signed the declaration on behalf of Academic Director).
- Second meeting of the Advisory Board (video meeting)

March

- Participation at a preparation meeting for the BBNJ UN negotiations on a treaty for the open oceans (Academic Director and Hub Manager). Organised by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UiB
- Lunch meeting with the State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to investigate national interest/possibility to support cooperation between existing and planned AE hubs in Europe

- The Hub delivered a written statement in the official hearing of a new strategy for The Norwegian Research Council arguing for a) the need for an independent national science advice mechanism in Norway and b) better funding and more independent mechanisms for evaluation of applications in open (blue sky) research programs.
- Meeting with Aleksandra Haugstad of the Norwegian Research Council to investigate possibilities for applying for Norwegian EEA Grants to support cooperation between existing and planned AE hubs in Europe. The Norwegian EEA Grants are a source of support to civil society in the beneficiary countries, to conduct research, enabling NGOs to strengthen democratic governance, defend human rights, and engage citizens in decision-making.

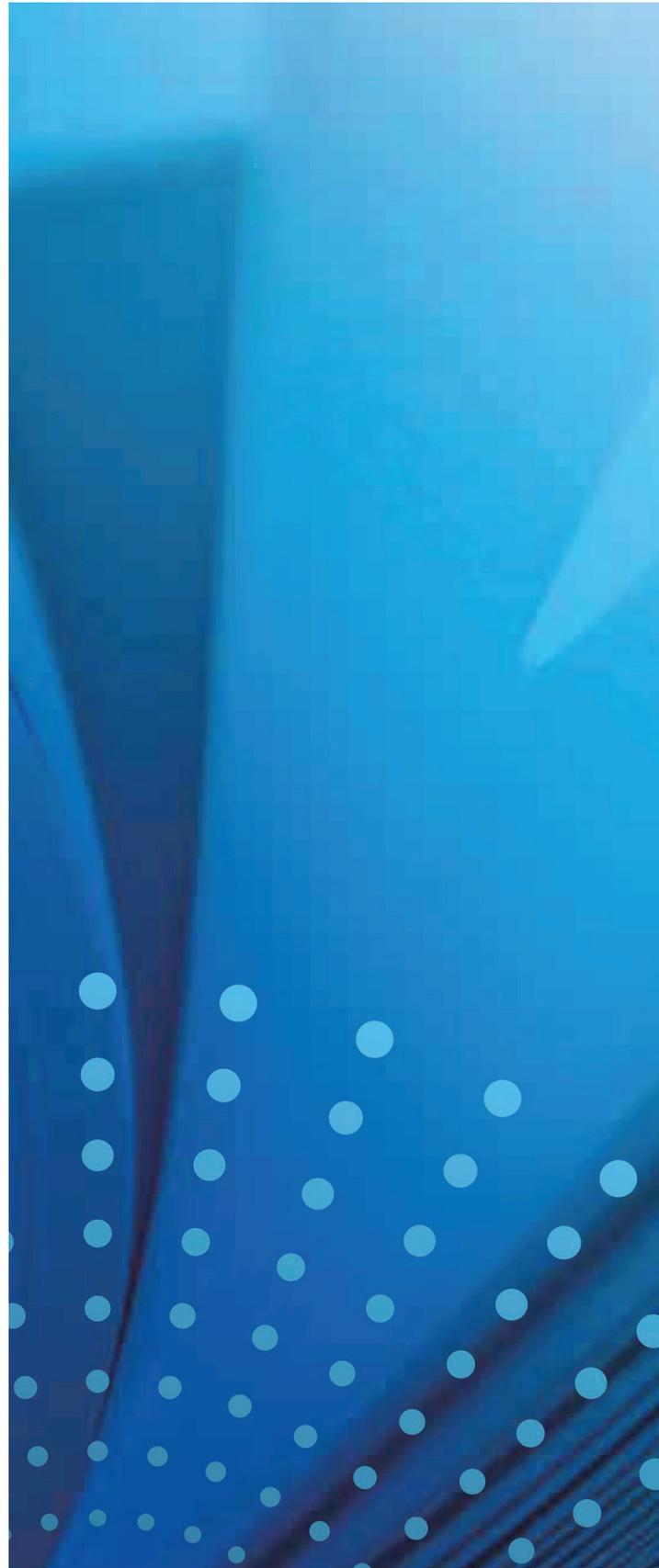
EFFECTS OF COVID-19 MEASURES

Due to the pandemic, the hub's office is currently closed and there are major national restrictions on travels and gatherings.

This has led to the postponing of some planned activities for the spring of 2020, such as:

- Third meeting of the Steering Group (scheduled March 26)
- Rosendal seminar for the Steering Group and Advisory Board on strategy and topics on societal/global challenges that need evidence-based reviews (scheduled May 6-7).

The Academic Director and the administrative staff work from home offices. Our aim is to keep up with other plans, but some delays might be unavoidable due to the circumstances.





Hosted by



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

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