



Minutes from Advisory Board (AB) meeting 28 February 2020

Venue

Zoom (virtual meeting)

February 28, 2020, 9.00-11.00 (postponed from meeting in scheduled in Bergen December 17, 2019)

Attendees

Advisory Board (AB) members: Dag Rune Olsen, Ole Arve Misund, Erland Källén, Björn Wittrock, Marja Makarow and Martin Fernø.

From the Hub management: Academic Director Eystein Jansen, Hub Manager Kristin Bakken and Project Manager Kristin Hansen.

Not able to attend

Advisory Board (AB) members: Juri Allik

Welcome and Introduction of Advisory Board members

Special welcome to Björn Wittrock, Professor Emeritus, Uppsala University and Vice President of Academia Europaea, as new member of the Advisory Board, replacing Svend-Erik Larsen who retired in 2019.

Agenda

Item number	Item title	Conclusions
1/2020	Adoption of agenda and AOB	The suggested agenda was adopted – no other business.
2/2020	Approval of minutes from Advisory Board (AB) meeting January 17, 2019	The minutes were approved
3/2020	Hub activities 2019 and plans for 2020 - Introduction by Eystein Jansen	Discussion (see below)
4/2020	Strategy Document Draft	Discussion (see below)
5/2020	Rosendal Seminars: Topics and format	Discussion (see below)
6/2020	Should the Hub establish prizes?	Discussion (see below)
7/2020	Member statistics and discussion on recruitment of new members	Discussion (see below)
8/2020	Date for the next AB meeting	In December 2020 or January 2021. A virtual meeting is the preferred format.
9/2020	Any other Business (AOB)	None

Item 3/2020 - Hub activities 2019 and plans for 2020

The committee members took note of the presentation given by Academic Director Eystein Jansen and had no objections to the activities in 2019 or plans for 2020. The discussion that followed focused mainly on how to engage the entire Nordic-Baltic region.

Follow up: *The Advisory Board agreed that the Bergen Hub should contact science academies both within Norway and in the other countries of the Nordic-Baltic region, with invitations to identify common interests and formal cooperation agreements. A document presenting the Hub and its scope should be developed for this process.*

Some other information/views raised during the discussion:

- A new Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub will open in Munich in June 2020
- Academia Europaea aims at opening a Knowledge Hub in Hungary under the auspices of The Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- The 8th China-Nordic Arctic Cooperation Symposium will take place in Umeå, Sweden, 27-29 May 2020 under the theme "Research Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing for a Sustainable Arctic".
- The engagement of the Hub in Arctic Frontiers is appreciated

Item 4/2020 - Strategy Document Draft

The Advisory Board was invited to give input on the Strategy Document Draft. The committee members had no concrete suggestions for changes to the document, but the Hub Director took note of views and questions raised during the discussion and will circulate a new version to the Board, suggesting some adjustments.

The discussion focused mainly, as a continuation of the discussion on Item 3, on how to engage the entire Nordic-Baltic region and on what topics that could be relevant for cooperation in the region.

Highlights from the discussion:

- Academia Europaea has its strength within Science advice, its European perspective and its strong connection to leading European institutions e.g. like ERC and should be relevant to national academies.
- Major framing perspectives for the Hub should be: Arctic issues, SAPEA topics and the advocacy for National Science Advice mechanisms throughout the region.
- The Hub should consider its engagement in promoting innovation, e.g. through EIT instruments.
- The Hub should consider, in dialogue with the AE leadership, if cooperation with the Scottish Royal Academy might be of interest.
- Emphasize the relevance of humanities and social sciences when approaching other Academies promoting the scope of the Bergen Hub.
- The Hub should produce a document that can be used for opening dialogues with other academies in the region.

Item 5/2020 - Rosendal Seminars: Topics and format

The Advisory Board was invited to give input on topics on societal and global challenges that could be suggested for future evidence based SAPEA-reports, and any other topics that could be discussed during the Rosendal Seminar in 6-7 May 2020 and/or in future seminars. The Advisory Board was also invited to give input on the format of these seminars.

Follow up: *To maximize the output from the gathering of the Steering Group and the Advisory Board in Rosendal in May 2020, the attendees should be invited to do some preparations. The Director will distribute instructions for preparations to the attendees in advance of the seminar.*

Highlights from the discussion on themes that might be relevant for the upcoming or later seminars:

- Scientific discussion on how climate change is perceived in the countries of the region – what is done to reduce CO₂ emissions – relevant as Rosendal is close to a glacier that is diminishing.
- Themes should be strongly connected to the strategy – don't look for themes just for the sake of it – the Hub itself should prioritize, not the Advisory Board.

- Major human challenges cannot be broached, much less solved, solely from a perspective of the natural sciences but rather require collaborative efforts with scholars from the social sciences and humanities. Several themes could and should involve the humanities and social sciences, e.g:
 - Power and Democracy
 - Responses to urgent need for transitions – a theme linking climate to society and to the fragmentation of European welfare states
 - Just Transition – a theme where ethical and philosophical questions are highly relevant regarding people’s willingness to accept the need for change
 - Circular economy and behavioral aspects
- Themes should be strongly connected to the strategy – don’t look for themes just for the sake of it – the Hub itself should prioritize, not the Advisory Board.
- The Knowledge Hubs have strongly contributed to Academia Europaea’s impact, but don’t forget that the strength of Academia Europaea is the strength of its members and its classes – this must be utilized in this matrix organisation.
- Don’t forget the importance of scholars in fields like economy and law in solving challenges.

Item 6/2020 - Should the Hub establish prizes?

The issue was discussed with the Steering Group (in June 2019) who decided to ask the Advisory Board for advice on the matter. The Advisory Board discussed the matter and concluded as follows.

Follow up: *The Advisory Board agreed that a prize/award could be positive for the Hub. The Academic Director of AE Bergen will continue to investigate opportunities for establishing a prize/award for the Hub in dialogue with relevant sponsors.*

Highlights from the discussion:

- Several of the other Academia Europaea Knowledge Hubs have prizes/awards
- If AE Bergen is to establish a prize/award, sponsor(s) will be needed in order to get the needed impact/visibility
- A sponsor must be aligned with the strategy of Academia Europaea and AE Bergen
- The objectives of a prize/award need to be expressed before it is established
- One objective should be to encourage young researchers
- The Rosendal seminars might be an arena for handing out the prize/award.

Item 7/2020 - Member statistics and discussion on recruitment of new members

The Steering Group discussed the issue of recruitment in June 2019, and decided that:

The Hub management will continue the work on quality assessment of AE member lists and contact information for all of the four regions, and develop statistics on the members’ fields of expertise, age and gender. The Hub management will in dialogue with Martin Fernø, the only Young Academia Europaea (YAE) member in Norway, support actions for recruitment of more YAE members in the Nordic, Baltic and Russian region. In dialogue with members of the Steering Group, The Advisory board and other contacts the Hub management will seek to identify relevant candidates and use the AE-network to encourage new nominations.

The Advisory Board was invited to discuss the matter of member recruitment and give advice on actions that could be taken, and on potential candidates for.

Follow up: *The Academic Director of AE Bergen will approach leaders of the sections of Academia Europaea to emphasize the importance of recruiting members from the Hubs region.*