



# Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub

# Annual Report 2021

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## Introduction

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

Dear all,

The Bergen Hub is pleased to send out our annual report from 2021. Yet another year dominated by the effects of the pandemic.

We hope that during 2022 we will return to a new but probably different post-pandemic normality. The uneven global distribution of vaccines does however leave the majority of the global population unvaccinated, thus providing perfect conditions for new mutations of the virus. Lesson learned during the pandemic is the importance of basic research (which gave us vaccines), the key role of a just global distribution of vaccines and the importance of sharing scientific knowledge. These aspects are also at the heart of the mission of Academia Europaea and the Bergen Hub.

While writing this introduction, a new crisis is unfolding in Europe with the brutal and unprovoked Russian Government's invasion of Ukraine. UN predicts that this might be the most devastating disaster in Europe since the second world war. Research can only thrive when openness and democracy prevail, and the invasion is a major setback also for science and scholarly work. While it is necessary to express our solidarity with our Ukrainian members and Academics in general, who now have their work and livelihood shattered, it is important to also support and connect researchers in both Ukraine and Russia. Hopefully Academia Europaea can contribute to bridging understanding in a time where dangerous divides are threatening the peace and stability of our part of the world.

Despite covid restrictions, 2021 was a productive year for the hub. Amongst our activities we are proud of having produced a short film about Academia Europaea, the Bergen Hub and SAPEA. Academia Europaea has renewed its contract with the University of Bergen (UiB) providing a 4-year

prolongation of UiB hosting our Hub, thereby securing support for our Hub in the coming years. A strategy plan for our Hub has been approved by both our Steering Group and our Nordic/Baltic Advisory Board. We have organised and been partner to several events, mainly online, but also some physical meetings when the pandemic allowed this.

To highlight some of our activities: We organized a side event of the Arctic Frontiers conference on sustainable transport in the Arctic, we took active part in the Rosendal-week, a regional meeting place for industry, politics, and researchers on the green transition, and we have co-organised an online gathering of polar researchers in Norway and Estonia in collaboration with the Estonian

Academy of Sciences and the Norwegian Embassy in Tallin. We have also participated in dissemination activities for the SAPEA-report on Energy Transition in Europe and marine Plastic pollution. We were also responsible for technical and administrative support of the (online) annual class meetings for the AE classes A1 and A2.



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

Our network has been extended by an agreement to co-organise seminars with the local branch of the Norwegian Academy for Technological sciences, and a meeting place for interactions between the various science academies in Norway has been established. We are very keen to arrange similar meeting points with Academies in the Nordic and Baltic countries in the future. We have expanded the Hub's activities in Science Advice by becoming a partner in the new SAPEA project under Horizon Europe, seeking a more active role under the leadership of the Cardiff Hub in

organising activities and contributions to the production of evidence reports for the Science Advice Mechanism of the European Commission.

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 organises this activity on behalf of Academia Europaea. The output of this process, including a completed member survey, will hopefully better align Academia Europaea with some of our time's most urgent global challenges. As a member of the Task Force, I hope that we can engage a high number of eminent scholars from the AE membership to take part in future activities.

I am grateful for our good collaboration within the Academy, its Hubs, The Graz office, the central London Office in London and the Board. I will pay a special tribute to our past president Sierd Cloetingh for his strong support for our work and encouragement in terms of extending our role and wish our new president Marja Makarow welcome, whom we already have a very good relationship with through her former role in our Advisory Board. Not least I will thank the staff of our hub for their dedication and enthusiasm for our work and mission.

(Bergen, March 2022)

## 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.

2021 was the first year of our new Strategic Plan, which 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 on <https://aebergen.w.uib.no/>. 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 EU's 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 will co-organise 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 will 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.



AE-Bergen Hub at the Norwegian regional conference on the green transition Rosendalsveko, August 9-11. Academic Director Eystein Jansen moderated the session "Western Norway in a Global Perspective".

## 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.

## ACTIVITIES IN 2021 - HIGHLIGHTS

### January

- Production of [a video describing the mission of AE, AE-Bergen Hub and SAPEA](#) for the Arctic Frontiers conference 2021 'Building Bridges' (see below).
- Inaugural meeting of the joint AE-Bergen – Horizon lectures committee.
- Meeting between AE-Bergen Hub and the Estonian Academy of Science (EAS) to plan a conference on "The changing Arctic" (due on April 14th) initiated by The Norwegian Embassy in Tallinn to mark both 100 years of diplomatic cooperation between Norway and Estonia and the application of Estonia for an observer seat in the Arctic Council. We also discussed other possibilities for cooperation between EAS and AE-Bergen.

### February

- Participation at the online Arctic Frontiers conference 'Building Bridges' in Tromsø. AE-Bergen Hub was represented by a virtual stand showing [our new video](#) (also presented in the main programme) and AE-strategy documents.
- Participation at the online national SDG conference in Bergen.

### March

- Several meetings with the NGO Pacific Environment in Alaska for planning of an upcoming webinar on Arctic shipping (see below).



In January, AE-Bergen Knowledge Hub produced a video describing the mission of AE, AE-Bergen Hub and SAPEA, which premiered at the Arctic Frontiers conference 2021 'Building Bridges'. The video now has 4 179 views on YouTube.

### April

- The webinar "Arctic Marine Operations and Shipping: Green Initiatives and Challenges" was

**ARCTIC FRONTIERS WEBINAR**

**Arctic Marine Operations and Shipping: Green Initiatives and Challenges**

Date: 7th of April 2021    Duration: CET: 18.00–20.00 and AKDT: 08.00–10.00 Alaskan time zone

CHAIR: Jim Gamble, Arctic Programme Director of Pacific Environment

**SPEAKERS:**

- JIM GAMBLE
- LAWSON BRIGHAM
- MORTEN MEJLÆNDER-LARSEN
- EYSTEIN JANSEN
- ARILD MOE
- HEGE ØKLAND
- MAKTUAYAQ (INUPIAQ) MELLISA JOHNSON
- SIAN PRIOR

**ORGANIZERS:**  
Academia Europaea Bergen, Pacific Environment, The University of Bergen and Arctic Frontiers

**LOGOS:** PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN, ARCTIC FRONTIERS

The webinar "Arctic Marine Operations and Shipping: Green Initiatives and Challenges"<sup>1</sup> was organised by AE-Bergen Hub, Pacific Environment, University of Bergen, and Arctic Frontiers on April 7th.

Arild Moe (The Fridtjof Nansen Institute), Mellisa Johnson (Bering Sea Elders Group), and Sian Prior (Clean Arctic Alliance).

organised by AE-Bergen Hub, Pacific Environment, University of Bergen, and Arctic Frontiers on April 7th. The event was recorded and [can be watched here](#). The event had two keynote speakers: Dr. Lawson Brigham (Polar Institute of the Wilson Center) on "Challenges and policies for Arctic marine operations and shipping" and Morten Mejlænder-Larsen (DNV) on "The green transition for arctic shipping". The event was chaired by Jim Gamble, Arctic Programme Director of Pacific Environment and a panel discussion was moderated by Academic Director Eystein Jansen. Panelists were Hege Økland (Maritime CleanTech),

- Academic director Eystein Jansen gave an overview of the Arctic/polar research landscape in Norway at the webinar “The Changing Arctic” on April 14th, a joint Estonian-Norwegian scientific event. Organisers were The Estonian Academy of Sciences, Tallinn University of Technology, the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research/UiB, AE-Bergen Hub and the Norwegian Embassy in Tallinn.

## May

- During a digital ceremony on May 25th, the UiB and Academia Europaea renewed its contract, stating that UiB will host and provide facilities and personnel for the running of the AE-Bergen Hub for four more years (2021-2025). David Coates, Executive Secretary of AE chaired the event. The contract was signed by AE President Sierd Cloetingh and by UiB Rector Margareth Hagen. Hagen stated that the collaboration will help the University of Bergen maintain a strong link to European policy development in the coming years. A recording of the ceremony is available both on the [AE-Bergen](#) and the UiB website.



During a digital ceremony on May 25th, the UiB and Academia Europaea renewed its contract, signed by AE President Sierd Cloetingh and by UiB Rector Margareth Hagen.

- AE-Bergen Advisory Board online meeting was held on May 27th. Vice Rector of University in Bergen, Annelin Eriksen chaired the meeting on behalf of UiB Rector Margareth Hagen (being new chair succeeding the previous UiB rector Dag Rune Olsen). In the meeting, the Advisory Board approved the

Strategic Plan 2021-2024 for the AE-Bergen Hub.

## August

- Norwegian regional conference on the green transition Rosendalsveko, August 9-11. AE-Bergen Hub supported a youth camp leading up to the conference and Academic Director Eystein Jansen moderated a session “Western Norway in a Global Perspective”. The conference coincided with the publication of the first findings of the sixth IPCC climate report, adding urgency to the event.

- A meeting of all Norwegian Science Academies took place on August 25th, initiated and chaired by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. Among possible means of cooperation's discussed, was the work of Norwegian academies to advance science advice, and to advocate for a Science Advice Mechanism in Norway. Another area might be joint opinions for national hearings. Joint communication efforts were also discussed.

**Transitioning to new energy systems:  
What impact will it have on society and on our lives?**

Benjamin Sovacool, Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Diana Urge-Vorsatz, Eystein Jansen, Nick Pidgeon

11 October, 14:00 CET

The webinar “Transitioning to new energy systems: What impact will it have on society and on our lives?”

## September

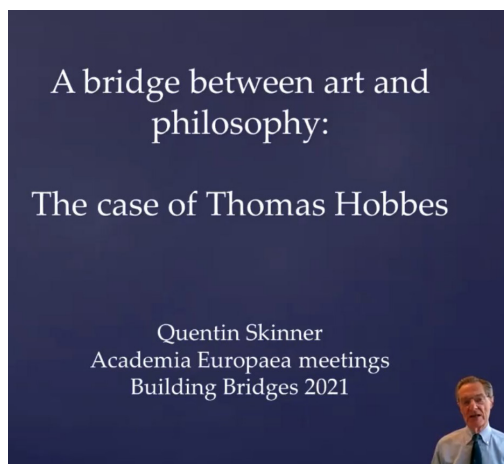
- AE-Bergen has from September 2021 been included as a formal co-organiser of a well-established meeting series together with NTVA Bergen and Tekna Bergen. On September 20th there was an open meeting about innovative solutions in the field of health and caregiving (Alrek Helseklynge).



## October

- On October 11th AE-Bergen Hub [co-hosted the webinar](#) “Transitioning to new energy systems: What impact will it have on society and on our lives?”, following the SAPEA evidence report “A systemic approach to the energy transition in Europe”. Academic Director Eystein Jansen was one of the speakers together with Prof. Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Prof. Diana Urge-Vorsatz and Prof. Benjamin Sovacool and Prof. Nick Pidgeon. Prof. Ole Petersen chaired and moderated the event.

- The Academia Europaea Building Bridges 2021 Conference: The AE-Bergen Hub was responsible for technical and administrative support of an online Class A2 meeting and a joint A1/A2 Class meeting, both on October 14th. We also pre-recorded two lectures of Professor Quentin Skinner (for the Joint A1/A2 Class meeting and the main conference).



- As part of our meeting series with NTVA Bergen and Tekna Bergen, The AE-Bergen Hub co-organised a meeting October 19th on high temperature fuel cells for sustainable shipping.

## November

- As part of our meeting series with NTVA Bergen and Tekna Bergen, The AE-Bergen Hub co-organised a meeting November 16th on the technological challenges of constructing of

the world's longest Pontoon Bridge crossing Bjørnafjorden south of Bergen.

- The AE Board has established an “Academia Europaea Task Force on Environment, climate and sustainability” to provide plans for extending its engagement and visibility in these under the leadership of Professor Verena Winiwarter. The Bergen Hub is responsible for administrative support of the Task Force on behalf of Academia Europaea. The inaugural (online) meeting of the Task Force was held on November 8th. The Task Force has eight members, two from of each of the classes. The Hub's Academic Director Eystein Jansen is one of the two members from Class B.

- On November 11th, Eystein Jansen participated as a panelist and mock evaluator in a joint YAE & AE Budapest Hub meeting on rising the EU13 participation in the ERC. This was an ERC Starting Grant mentoring event with 157 participants from most EU13 countries.

Members of the Academia Europaea Task Force on Environment, Climate and Sustainability



Carlo Carraro



Jane Hill



Patricia Holm



Poul Holm  
(Deputy Chair)



Eystein Jansen



Nebojsa Nakicenovic



Peter Wagner



Verena Winiwarter  
(Chair)

## December

- The second meeting of the Academia Europaea Task Force on Environment, climate and sustainability was held on December 1st. Main task was to finalize the questions of a member survey to map expertise and willingness to engage in relevant fields.

- Hub manager was responsible for online web application and database solutions and for the survey to be sent to all members. The survey was sent all members (through the AE online system) on December 6th.

[The Academia Europaea Task Force on Environment, climate and sustainability.](#)



## 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, ensuring that UiB will host and provide facilities and personnel for the running of the AE-Bergen Hub for four more years (2021-2025).

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



Academic Director

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Website: <https://aebergen.w.uib.no>

## **Advisory Board members in 2021**

- Margareth Hagen; Chair, Rector and Professor, University of Bergen, Norway (Italian Literature)
- Erland Källen; 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 2021**

- 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 Salvenes, 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, CEO Initiativ Vest

## **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.

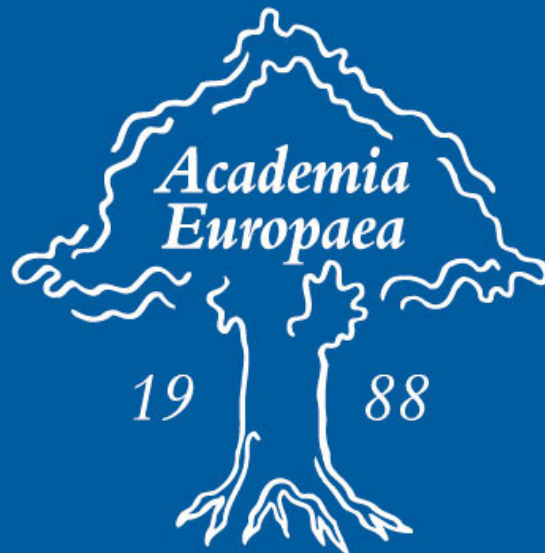
- Ensure the development of science advice for policy within the Nordic/Baltic political context.
- Ensure that the Hub is visible and has activities on a Nordic/Baltic scale, including engagement in activities outside of the Bergen region.
- Provide links with international and national academic networks.
- 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.



The webinar “The Changing Arctic” on April 14th, a joint Estonian-Norwegian scientific event. Organisers were The Estonian Academy of Sciences, Tallinn University of Technology, the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research/UiB, AE-Bergen Hub and the Norwegian Embassy in Tallinn.



THE ACADEMY OF EUROPE  
BERGEN KNOWLEDGE HUB

**Hosted by**



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