



**Academia Europaea  
Bergen Knowledge Hub  
Annual  
Report  
2025**



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## Introduction

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

Dear all,

The Academia Europaea Bergen Hub is pleased to present our 2025 annual report. As in previous years, our work has unfolded against the backdrop of the ongoing war in Ukraine—now in its fifth year—which continues to reshape research and academic life across Europe. Conflicts in the Middle East, marked by horrific violence against civilians, further complicate this landscape. At the same time, the return of the Trump administration has created challenging conditions for scientific inquiry, rational decision-making, and evidence-based governance. It is crucial that Europe stands firm in defending these principles. Now more than ever, we must join forces, with science playing a central role in strengthening Europe’s democratic resilience.

Europe’s research environment is under pressure. While Europe still excels across many fields, it is lagging behind the USA and China in research-driven innovation. Yet there is real potential ahead. During my term as Vice-President of the ERC (2023–2025) for Physical Sciences and Engineering, I have seen important policy work emerging in preparation for the 10th EU Framework Programme. FP10 must deliver a decisive shift in funding for fundamental and transformative research, enabling the large pool of excellent talent—both within Europe and abroad—to contribute to a region committed to excellence, freedom, and democracy. This may be a pivotal moment for Europe to regain global leadership.

In 2025, our Hub continued its engagement on Arctic transformations and science diplomacy amid rising geopolitical tensions. We led a cross-Atlantic project on these issues and hosted several well-attended Arctic events. I believe these efforts can help lay the groundwork for renewed cooperation. We also continued co-hosting lecture series with local partners and supporting the Young Academy of Europe in their activities.

We encourage our members to suggest ideas and initiatives for future Hub engagements. More details about last year's events can be found on the following pages.



Academic Director of Academia Europaea Bergen, Eystein Jansen and University of Bergen rector Margareth Hagen, at a festive evening celebrating Eystein Jansen's remarkable career on the occasion of his transition to emeritus status. Foto: Bjerknessenteret/Gudrun Urd Sylte

As my term as Hub Director has concluded, I am deeply grateful for this opportunity. Turbulent times have reinforced my belief in the vital role of research, scientific inquiry,

and science diplomacy, and in Europe's responsibility to serve as a beacon of democracy, openness, and inclusion. Safeguarding the values at the core of European research will be essential. As a community of leading scholars, Academia Europaea has both the capacity and the obligation to contribute—and to act. I will continue to engage in these activities.

I am delighted that Professor Lise Øvreås has succeeded me as Hub Director from January 2026. She brings exceptional qualifications: an AE member, an accomplished microbiologist with significant Arctic expertise, and a highly experienced leader as former President of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and current President of EASAC. I wish her and our members all the best in the coming year.

Eystein,

Bergen, February 24th, 2026

## 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.
- Our Strategic Plan runs from 2021 to 2025. A more thorough outline of the strategic areas of the AE-Bergen Hub, can be found in the [Strategic Plan](#). 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 EUs' 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.

## 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 have co-organised 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 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.

## 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.

A map of Academia Europaea locations in Europe.



# Highlights from 2025 activities

## January

The Hub project *Rethinking Arctic collaboration*, which was initiated in December 2023, resulted in several panel events also in 2025. The first one was the January 31st Arctic Frontiers event [The Future of Arctic Collaboration at a Crossroad](#). The panel looked ahead to the Fifth International Polar Year (IPY5) in 2032–33, exploring the need to re-think and frame the future of polar science cooperation and diplomacy – to address global challenges with the most effective, impactful, and equitable ethical research collaborations for our planet.



The panel at Arctic Frontiers was moderated by Ole Øvretveit, Project Manager at Academia Europaea Bergen. Panellists were Melody Brown Burkins, Director Institute of Arctic Studies at Dartmouth, Anders Oskal, Secretary General of the Association of World Reindeer Herders, Volker Rachold, Head of the German Arctic Office, Jenny Baseman, consultant and Miguel Roncero, International Relations Officer at the European Commission.

## February

We co-organised a Darwin Day & Horizon lecture, February 12th, held by Carina Persson, Professor of astrophysics and Head of Chalmers Exoplanet Group (Gothenburg). Her lecture [The search for habitable planets in other solar systems](#), described how almost 6000 exoplanets now have been found, since the first planet in another solar system was discovered in 1995.



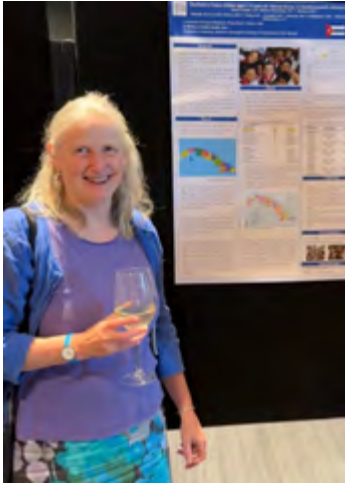
Professor Vidar Remi Jensen on The Future of AI-assisted development of pharmaceutical drugs. Photo: Eivind Senneset/UiB

Our Hub is still co-organiser of a well-established meeting series\* together with the Bergen offices of the Norwegian Academy of Technological Sciences (NTVA Bergen) and The Norwegian Society of Graduate Technical and Scientific Professionals (Tekna Bergen). This year, the series started on February 4th, with a lecture (in Norwegian) on [The Future of AI-assisted development of pharmaceutical drugs](#), by Professor Vidar Remi Jensen. \*) *The NTVA-Tekna-AE lecture series.*

## March

As part of the NTVA-Tekna-AE lecture series, and also as part of the Ocean Science Week 2025 in Bergen we co-organised the event: [How can we predict and develop systems in complex environments?](#) Insights and experiences from geological CO<sub>2</sub> storage (in Norwegian) on March 12th. Professor Jan Martin Nordbotten presented his research on the uncertainties of data-driven projections, while Professor Philip Ringrose presented analyses from CO<sub>2</sub> storage in the Utsira Formation, a project using data-driven projections.

## April



Parasitologist Lucy Robertson.

At the Science Diplomacy Summit, hosted at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC, on April 14th–15th, Ole Øvretveit (part time engaged as a researcher on Arctic Diplomacy by our Hub) contributed to the session Polar Diplomacy: Arctic & Antarctic with a talk titled [Towards a New Era of Arctic Exceptionalism](#).

Nominated by our Hub in 2024, parasitologist Lucy Robertson participated in the working group for the SAPEA report [One Health governance in the EU](#). The Bergen Hub did a [comprehensive interview with Robertsen on the publication of the report](#), published on our website April 29th. “It is clear to me that use of a One Health approach is essential for not only tackling disease in people (both infectious and non-infectious), but to ensure that we have a planet that is liveable for future generations. The inescapable fact that changes we make to our environment affects animal and human health, means that the approach of only addressing problems when they arise, and not realising that even mitigation of an apparently urgent problem may result in negative consequences, is being increasingly recognised as non-sustainable”, Lucy Robertson says in the interview.

## May

Upcoming Hub Director Lise Øvreås and our communication advisor Nils Olav Sæverås participated in the Science Advice Mechanism conference [Shaping Europe’s science-for-policy landscape](#) in Vienna 26th – 27th of May. Some 300 science-for-policy practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and representatives from academies and organisations engaged in science-policy interactions. The event was organised under the banner of the [Scientific Advice Mechanism](#) (SAM), which provides advice to the European Commission and other EU institutions. The agenda included three central themes: Science Advice in Politics and Society, Designing Better Institutions and Building Skills and Practices. Lise Øvreås was a panellist in the Partnering for progress: Strengthening science and policy through multilateral collaboration for tomorrow session.

Upcoming Hub Director Lise Øvreås at the conference “Shaping Europe’s science-for-policy landscape” in Vienna.





Bergen Hub Director Eystein Jansen and Academia Europaea's President Don Dingwell in Bergen.

## June

Our Hub had the pleasure of a lunch meeting with Academia Europaea's President Don Dingwell June 5th, during his stay in Bergen in connection with the 2025 Holberg Prize ceremony. Hub Director Eystein Jansen, incoming director Lise Øvreås and the Hub staff attended.

## July

The Hub-nominated working group member for the SAPEA report One Health governance in the EU, Lucy Robertson, participated July 17th in the webinar "[One Health, One Planet: Highlighting the environment in One Health policy and practice](#)". The webinar was organised by the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM), the Academia Europaea Hubs in Cardiff and Bergen, the Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM) and Environment Platform Wales.

## September

Our Hub was involved in the event Navigating the North: [Climate and Geopolitical Shifts in the North Atlantic and the Arctic](#), September 11th. Project manager and steering group member Ole Øvretveit was moderator, and Professor Lise Øvreås participated in one of the panels. The event explored the complex interplay between ocean warming, ice loss, ecosystem shifts, and the increasing strategic importance of these waters. Scientists, policymakers, and diplomats discussed the latest research on climate impacts, the challenges of sustainable resource management, and the evolving governance frameworks needed to balance environmental protection, economic interests, and security concerns. Key international agreements, such as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, the Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement, and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), were examined in light of their role in shaping the future of these waters.



Navigating the North: Project manager Ole Øvretveit, Nils Gunnar Kvamstø, CEO of the Institute of Marine Research, Isabelle Desvignes, Director of the French Institute in Norway and Thomas Friebel, Energy consultant at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

As part of the NTVA-Tekna-AE lecture series we co-organized a lecture by Professor Morten Fjeld on [The future of human-computer interaction](#) (in Norwegian) September 16th. The use of wearable devices is now ubiquitous in our society, and our daily lives are shaped by ever-changing interacti-

ve devices and applications, from touch-based smartwatches and tablets to large digital displays. Professor Fjeld presented innovative thinking, design, and engineering in the field of mobile Human-Computer Interaction (HCI).

## October

As part of the NTVA-Tekna-AE lecture series we co-organized an event on "Bioprospecting – the search for nature's own solutions" (in Norwegian). Bioprospecting is the search for valuable genetic, biochemical, and biological resources in nature for commercial use in industries like pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and agriculture. It involves exploring biodiversity—plants, animals, and microorganisms to develop new products and uses. Professor Ida Helene Steen presented the technology and methods used to study the microbes found in the hydrothermal vents of the North Sea and discussed how our insight into their function and biochemistry can form the basis for socially beneficial innovations inspired by nature's own solutions. Professor Arne Krokan discussed a more general perspective - the relationship between technology and nature, how everything is interconnected and whether the solution to the natural crisis lies somewhere else than in technology.



Professor Ida Helene Steen.

At the [Arctic Circle Assembly 2025](#) in Reykjavik (October 8th – 10th), the University of Bergen and international partners hosted the panel discussion Towards a New Era of Arctic Exceptionalism,

discussing how collaboration, knowledge exchange and inclusion can shape the future of Arctic cooperation, titled. Our Hub was represented in the panel by upcoming Hub Director Lise Øvreås and moderated by project manager Ole Øvretveit. The session addressed whether what was previously referred to as Arctic exceptionalism is still relevant in a time of increasing geopolitical fragmentation, and how new partnerships can be built on trust and shared responsibility. Researchers, policymakers and indigenous experts shared insights on science diplomacy, equitable partnerships and the importance of indigenous perspectives in Arctic governance and knowledge development.



Melody Burkins (Dartmouth College/UArctic), Heather Exner-Pirot (Macdonald-Laurier Institute), Anders Oskal, Executive Director of the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, Volker Rachold (German Arctic Office), incoming Bergen Hub Director Lise Øvreås and moderator Ole Øvretveit at the Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavík, October 2025. .

Contributors included Volker Rachold (German Arctic Office), Heather Exner-Pirot (Macdonald-Laurier Institute), Lise Øvreås (University of Bergen/EASAC), Jenny Baeseman (Baeseman Consulting & Services), Melody Burkins (Dartmouth College/UArctic) — as well as Anders Oskal, Executive Director of the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry. The panellists have all been involved in our Hub's, UArctic funded project Rethinking Arctic Cooperation (2023-2025).

## November

As part of the NTVA-Tekna-AE lecture series we co-organized a lecture [From Test Ban Monitoring to Net-Zero: NORSAR's Evolution in Seismic Array Innovation](#) November 11th by Senior Researcher Bettina Goertz-Allmann from NORSAR. NORSAR is a research foundation specializing in seismology and seismic monitoring. Founded during the Cold War, NORSAR evolved from a research-driven institution into an integral component of global nuclear-test-ban verification, serving as Norway's National Data Centre for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and operating certified International Monitoring System (IMS) stations in support of treaty compliance. In recent years, NORSAR has expanded its expertise into the field of microseismic monitoring for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), applying decades of experience in seismic array design, subsurface imaging, and signal processing to address challenges associated with large-scale CO2 injection.



Senior Researcher at Norsar, Bettina Goertz-Allmann.

## December

Professor Lise Øvreås was confirmed both by the University of Bergen as our host institution and by the Academia Europaea Board of Trustees as our Hub's new Director from January 2026. Lise Øvreås



Eystein Jansen and Lise Øvreås in December, as the Hub's Christmas lunch also was a preparatory meeting for Lise Øvreås to take over as Hub Director from January 2026.

was president of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters from 2021 to 2024. She is also President of EASAC (the European Academies Science Advisory Council) from 2026. Her positions in EASAC and in our Hub will run parallel to her continued scientific research as an accomplished microbiologist.

## 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, Bucarest, Wroclaw, Bergen, Tbilisi and Budapest.

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, from 2018 to 2025 AE member (MAE) professor Eystein Jansen. Professor Lise Øvreås is the new Academic Director, effective from January 2026. The contract between AE and UiB was renewed on March 13th 2025, ensuring that UiB will host and provide facilities and personnel for the running of the AE-Bergen Hub until March 2029.

## Academic Director and Hub Administration of AE-Bergen 2025



Academic Director

**Professor Eystein Jansen**

Eystein.Jansen@uib.no (part time dedication)



Hub Manager

**Kristin Bakken**

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Communication Adviser

**Nils Olav Sæverås**

Nils.severas@uib.no (part time dedication)

## Advisory Board members in 2025

- Margareth Hagen; Chair, Rector and Professor, University of Bergen, Norway (Italian Literature)
- Erland Källén; 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 2025

- Kjersti Fløttum; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Linguistics)
- Petter Bjørstad; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Informatics)
- Dieter Roerich; MAE, Univ. Bergen (Physics)
- Svein Sundby, MAE, Professor, Institute for Marine Research, Bergen (Oceanography)
- Anne Gro Salvanes, 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; MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Philosophy of science)
- Stein Kuhnle; MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Political science)
- Hans Z. Munthe-Kaas; MAE, Professor, Univ. of Bergen (Mathematics)
- Ole Øvretveit, Project manager, AE-Bergen Hub
- Lise Øvreås; MAE, Professor, Univ. Bergen (Geomicrobiology)
- Marc Bezem; MAE, Professor, Univ. Bergen (Informatics)

## AE-Bergen office and contact

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## 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.
- Propose engagements and opportunities for the Hub in terms of conferences and public events.
- Provide links with international and national academic networks.

## Arctic collaboration is not disappearing but transforming

### Rethinking Arctic Collaboration (2023–2025): Concluding Reflections

The Rethinking Arctic Collaboration project, coordinated by the Academia Europaea Bergen Hub at the University of Bergen and supported by UArctic funding (2023–2025), concluded in 2025 after two years of intensive dialogue, analysis, and international engagement. In its final year, the project shifted from mapping immediate geopolitical disruptions to articulating forward-looking scenarios for Arctic science diplomacy toward 2032, in anticipation of the Fifth International Polar Year. The initiative brought together partners from Europe, North America, and Indigenous institutions, creating a transatlantic arena for structured reflection on how Arctic cooperation can remain resilient under conditions of fragmentation and strategic uncertainty.

A central achievement in the concluding phase was the consolidation of a multidisciplinary consortium that bridged natural sciences, social sciences, policy expertise, and Indigenous knowledge systems.

Read the complete version of the concluding remarks [here](#).



THE ACADEMY OF EUROPE  
BERGEN KNOWLEDGE HUB

**Hosted by**



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

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