



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

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HALF-YEAR REPORT 2016

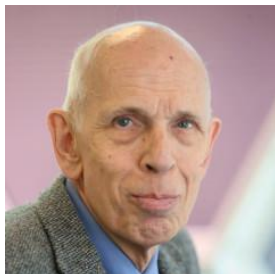
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Introduction

By Professor Ole Petersen

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Academia Europaea is a non-governmental association, acting as a pan-European Academy. Our members are leading scientists and scholars who collectively promote research, learning and education. Founded in 1988, *Academia Europaea* now numbers over 3000 members, including more than 50 Nobel Laureates.

Academia Europaea operates through a network of regional knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Wroclaw and Bergen. They have been joined by a fourth hub, hosted at Cardiff University in Wales.

This has been a decisive half-year for the new Cardiff Knowledge Hub. Firstly, we have been engaged in extensive preparations for the *Academia Europaea* Annual Meeting and Conference 2016. Secondly, we have played an active role in shaping our support to the new European Scientific Advice Mechanism, through a key project proposal under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ole H. Petersen'.

Professor Ole H. Petersen

Highlights January-June 2016

Preparations for participation in the Scientific Advice Mechanism

A new Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) was established by the European Commission in 2015, to provide high-quality, timely and independent scientific advice for policymaking. The Commission also issued a funding call within the Horizon 2020 work programme 2016-17, addressed to five named European academies, including *Academia Europaea*. This H2020 Coordinating and Support Action should result in a project of up to 4 years' duration and is budgeted at up to 6 million EUR in total. The project consortium will collaborate on joint papers and events, pool knowledge resources and create a shared platform to address key policy challenges and also engage with a broad group of stakeholders.

The consortium's project proposal, SAPEA (Scientific Advice for Policy by European Academies), was submitted to the Commission in May and is expected to start in the autumn, subject to a satisfactory review.

The Cardiff Knowledge Hub will deliver a significant part of the work assigned to *Academia Europaea* in the project, using its status as a Linked Third Party.

***Academia Europeana* Annual Meeting and Conference 2016**

The *Academia Europaea* Annual Meeting and Conference 2016 took place between 26th and 30th June in Cardiff. The event also marked the official opening of the Cardiff Knowledge Hub by the President of *Academia Europaea*, Professor Sierd Cloetingh, and the Vice-Chancellor of

Cardiff University, Professor Colin Riordan.

Highlights of the Conference included:



The Erasmus Lecture, given by the UK's Astronomer Royal, Lord Rees of Ludlow (left)

- A debate on Scientific Advice Mechanisms, with a panel that included Sir Mark Walport (UK Chief Scientific Adviser & Chair of the Prime Minister's Council for Science & Technology) and Johannes Klumpers (Head of the Scientific Advice Mechanism Unit in the European Commission)
- Mini-symposia on brain projects at the frontiers of neuroscience, the reproducibility of published research, migration and identity.

Other Meetings and Events

In January, Ole Petersen participated in the Expert Workshop on Science Advising in Europe, organised by the Initiative for Science in Europe (ESE), in Heidelberg, Germany. The workshop focused on the structural features of scientific advice in Europe. These included the need for transparency, the current ecosystem of advisory bodies, and the requirement for robust policies to meet global challenges.

In February, Professor Petersen took an active part in negotiations between consortium members in the SAPEA project, at a meeting held in Amsterdam. A follow-up meeting of the SAPEA consortium took place in Brussels in March, with the Cardiff Hub represented by its new Manager,

Louise Edwards, alongside the *Academia Europaea* President, Professor Cloetingh.

Representatives from all four *Academia Europaea* Hubs, together with the Young Academy of Europe, gathered in London in March to exchange progress reports and to coordinate planning in areas such as website development, marketing and communications.



Meeting of *Academia Europaea* Hub representatives, University of London

With preparatory work for the Annual Conference and the SAPEA project proposal well under way by April, the Cardiff Hub team were able to present a positive progress report to the *Academia Europaea* Board, which met in Budapest.

In May, Ole Petersen took the opportunity to strengthen links with EASAC (European Academies Scientific Advice Council), one of the partners in the SAPEA project, by attending its Council Meeting in Norway.

The *Academia Europaea* Annual Meeting and Conference was hosted by Cardiff from 26th to 30th June, attracting up to 150 delegates and with well over 20 countries represented from Europe and the rest of the world.

During the week of the Conference, the Young Academy of Europe made a promotional presentation to attract early- and mid-career researchers, in

an event co-organised with the Cardiff Hub and the European Office at Cardiff University.

Marketing and Communications

As part of the redesign of the Cardiff University website, the Cardiff Hub gained a new set of pages to promote the strategic collaboration between *Academia Europaea* and Cardiff University.

Cardiff's Pro Vice-Chancellor (International and Europe), Professor Nora de Leeuw, published an extended news piece on the development of the Cardiff Hub.

The *Academia Europaea* Annual Conference was promoted extensively through channels at Cardiff University, including its Summer of Innovation programme, designed to showcase initiatives of excellence.

The Cardiff Hub was able to raise its profile significantly through its promotion of the Annual Conference, both locally and internationally. Within Europe, we achieved coverage in sources such as the European University Association, Research Europe and the Welsh Higher Education Brussels. Closer to home, we were featured by the Royal Irish Academy, the Learned Society of Wales, Universities Wales and the Welsh Government, which included us in its Festival of Innovation programme.

Governance

The Cardiff Hub Steering Group held its inaugural meeting on 26th June. The following distinguished scientists and scholars serve on the Group:

Yves Barde MAE
Nora de Leeuw FLSW
Dianne Edwards CBE FLSW FRS MAE
Theo D'Haen MAE
Donald Dingwell MAE
Stephen Holgate CBE FMedSci MAE
Colin Riordan FLSW
Irene Schulz-Hofer ML MAE
Sir John Skehel FRS FMedSci MAE
John Tucker FLSW MAE

Resources

Staffing

Louise Edwards joined the team as Knowledge Hub Manager on 1st February. Louise brought extensive experience of managing European networks and projects, having spent the last nine years working in The Netherlands.



Honorary Academic Director
Professor Ole Petersen



Knowledge Hub Manager
Louise Edwards



Executive Officer *Judith Lockett*

Finance

In addition to covering the salaries of the Knowledge Hub Manager and Executive Officer, Cardiff University provided £10,000 for operating costs in the academic year 2015-16.

The Conference budget was set at £30,000 and was designed to cover costs.

We acknowledge and express our gratitude to the Welsh Government and the Learned Society of Wales for their generous support towards the Annual Conference.



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