



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

**ACADEMIA EUROPAEA
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB
HALF-YEAR REPORT 2017**



Introduction

By Professor Ole Petersen

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Welcome to our Half-Year Report 2017, which highlights our achievements so far this year in meeting the priorities in our Strategic Plan 2016-2019.

We have set ourselves three major objectives for this, our second year of operation. Firstly, we must deliver on our commitments in the SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) project, funded under Horizon 2020 and supporting policymaking in Europe. Secondly, our core business is to run a successful programme of events. Thirdly, it is vital to continue to raise our profile, both regionally and internationally.

Progress has been made in all of these areas, as we describe in this Report. In particular, I would draw attention to the lead coordination role played by the AE Cardiff Hub in the *Food from the Oceans* project, the first led by the SAPEA Consortium under the European Scientific Advice Mechanism.

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

Professor Ole H. Petersen

Highlights January - June 2017

Our achievements are set out in the context of the five priorities in the Strategic Plan 2016-2019.

Priority 1: Establish a major role in supporting policymaking in Europe

Objective 2016-2019

Playing a full role in developing the new European Scientific Advice Mechanism, through our involvement in the SAPEA project.

The Cardiff Hub has undertaken the coordination of the *Food from the Oceans* (FFO) project, on behalf of *Academia Europaea*. The FFO project is the result of a request from the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella, within the context of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). The question posed was:

How can more food and biomass be obtained from the oceans, in a way that does not deprive future generations of their benefits?

In establishing a management framework, Professor Petersen has represented SAPEA on the FFO Steering Group, with Louise Edwards, the Cardiff Hub Manager, chairing the SAPEA staff team.

Within a short timeframe and based on a project plan drafted by us, the Cardiff Hub oversaw the setting up of two international working groups of experts in the field, one in the natural sciences and the other in the social sciences/humanities. We also organised five meetings of the working groups, which took place in May and June. Cardiff University Library, recognised widely for its expertise in the systematic review method, conducted the literature search. Working with communications professionals at SAPEA, we ran a successful public engagement event on the theme of Food from the Oceans, in Bergen.

In another area of the SAPEA project, Professor Petersen accepted an invitation to join an expert working group to establish procedures for assuring the quality of scientific advice. The group's output, *Guidelines on Advising Policymakers and Society & Procedures for Quality Assurance of Scientific Advice*, was delivered in July.



Ole Petersen and Louise Edwards at the expert working group meeting on quality assurance, April 2017

Priority 2: Showcase outstanding regional research

Objective 2016-2019

Raising the profile of outstanding research within our region and beyond, including work led by us in the SAPEA project.

The AE Cardiff website was professionally redesigned and relaunched in October 2016. Since then, we have published a continuous flow of news items and more in-depth articles, for example, reports on our events and SAPEA-related work.

We also launched an interview series with regional AE members, providing insight into their research career and work. The first of these was with Professor Petersen.

All these new editorial approaches have been effective, featuring in the 'Top 10' of pages viewed on our Hub website between January and July.

From the starting point of the relaunch last October, there has been a significant rise of visitors to the website. Between

January and March, there was an increase in visits of 84%, compared to October-December 2016. The period April-June saw a further rise of 45%.

To facilitate our work in the SAPEA project, we undertook a major data-gathering exercise to update the expertise database of *Academia Europaea*. Around 800 AE members and YAE (Young Academy) members have responded to date, making it easier for us to identify experts in specific research fields.

Priority 3: Engage with our membership

Objective 2016-2019

Reaching out and engaging our regional and AE membership with our work

We have continued with our successful programme of lunchtimes debates on key aspects of science and research. The events are free and open to all, with a light lunch provided.

Three debates have run so far this year. They are:

- Open Science on 17th February
- Research Evaluation on 5th April
- Interdisciplinary Research on 26th May.

In addition to the physical audience in attendance, these events also gained traction on Twitter, featuring as the monthly 'Top Tweet' on our Twitter account.



Panellists at the Hub's debate on Interdisciplinary Research, May 2017

Priority 4: Engage with wider stakeholders

Objective 2016-2019

Reaching out to and engaging with a wider group of Hub stakeholders.

Our quarterly newsletter has a wide circulation beyond the AE membership, including the Welsh Government and the Learned Society of Wales. Participation in Hub events has included research colleagues at universities in the region, including Cardiff Metropolitan, University of South Wales and the GW4 universities at Bristol, Exeter and Bath.

In addition to our own programme of activities, the Cardiff Hub supported an international symposium, *Neuroplasticity and Synaptic Function in Neuropsychiatric Disorders*, held at Cardiff University on 27th-28th April.

We also promoted our work in the *Food from the Oceans* project at an event organised by Cardiff University's Sustainable Places Research Institute to mark World Oceans Day on 8th June.

Professor Petersen was a panellist at the Royal Institution's debate, *Brexit: the scientific impact*, held on 8th May. On 21st June, Hub Manager Louise Edwards spoke on the role played by Wales in the new European Scientific Advisory Mechanism, at a workshop held by the Sêr Cymru National Research Network for Low Carbon, Energy and Environment.



Professor Petersen with other panellists at the Brexit debate, May 2017

A highly innovative aspect of the SAPEA work has been the public engagement activities for *Food from the Oceans*. These events have provided the perfect opportunity for the AE Hubs at Bergen and Cardiff to collaborate. The first was held in Bergen on 18th June, marking UNESCO Sustainable Gastronomy Day and Bergen's status as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. A series of colourful stalls offering food samples attracted around 2,000 visitors and featured on the main news of TV2, Norway's principal commercial channel, attracting up to 1 million viewers. A programme of public talks and an open debate on the theme of Food from the Ocean also took place.



The Bergen public debate on Food from the Oceans, June 2017

Priority 5: Ensure future sustainability

Objective 2016-19

Achieving ongoing sustainability of the Hub

In addition to the core operating costs covered by Cardiff University, the SAPEA project is a significant source of funding for the Hub's work on scientific evidence for policymaking, providing for 1 FTE member of staff.

Governance

The Cardiff Hub Steering Group will hold its second meeting on 19th October. The following distinguished scientists and scholars serve on the Group:

Yves Barde MAE FRS
 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 (Chair)
 John Tucker FLSW MAE

Resources

Staffing



Honorary Academic Director
Professor Ole Petersen



Knowledge Hub Manager
Louise Edwards



Executive Officer *Judith Lockett*

Finance

In addition to covering salary costs of the Executive Officer, Cardiff University provided £10,000 for operating costs in the financial year 2016-17. The SAPEA project covered the salary costs of the Hub Manager to work on the project, in addition to associated travel costs.

Key performance indicators

All data covers the period January-June 2017

Number of attendees at Hub and Hub-supported academic events	287
Number of attendees at Hub-supported public engagement events	Around 2,000
Number of visits to the Hub website	1,912

Number of pages viewed on the Hub website	5,042
New visitors to the Hub website, as a % of the total	60%
Returning visitors to the Hub website, as a % of the total	40%
Total number of Twitter impressions (the times a user is served a Hub-related Tweet in a timeline or search results)	15,300
Average number of Twitter impressions per day	80
Total number of Twitter engagements (the number of times a user interacted with a Tweet, for example, Retweets, replies, follows, likes, links)	81



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Founded in 1988, *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. We now number around 4,000 members, including more than 70 Nobel laureates.

Academia Europaea operates through a network of regional knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Wroclaw and Bergen. The fourth hub, hosted at Cardiff University in Wales, launched in 2016.