



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

Annual Report 2019

PROMOTING
**RESEARCH
EXCELLENCE**
FOR **POLICY**
AND **PROGRESS**



Introduction

Welcome to our Annual Report 2019.

In the report, we summarise our achievements towards meeting the priorities we set ourselves for the year. They include continuing to deliver high-quality results in the SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) consortium, as part of the European Scientific Advice Mechanism. In parallel, we have sought also to raise the profile of the Hub - running a successful events programme, enhancing our marketing activities and securing increased funding.

On the first of these objectives, we completed work on a vitally important Evidence Review Report for the European Commission, *Making Sense of Science for Policy under Conditions of Complexity and Uncertainty*, which was published by the SAPEA consortium in July. Also in SAPEA, we partnered with Cardiff University Library Services to undertake a comprehensive systematic review for the European Group of Chief Scientific Advisors on the topic of *Sustainable Food Systems*, supported by an expert advisory panel.

Our programme of events has been far more ambitious this year. We organised our first overseas conference, in close cooperation with KU Leuven, one of Europe's leading universities and a strategic partner of Cardiff University. We also secured financial support from Academia Europaea's Hubert Curien Fund, enabling us to run successful events with Members of Academia Europaea at the University of St Andrews University (Scotland) and at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Lastly, I am delighted that the SAPEA Grant Agreement has been extended to the end of 2021, with increased funding for Cardiff as a result of our additional responsibilities within it. Academia Europaea and Cardiff University have agreed to continue their Collaboration Agreement in line with this award, ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the Hub. We can now look forward to embarking on our new Strategic Plan (2020-2023) with confidence.



Professor Ole Petersen

CBE FMedSci FLSW MAE ML FRS

Academic Director, Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub



Highlights in 2019

■ Delivering the Evidence Review Report, *Making Sense of Science for Policy under Conditions of Complexity and Uncertainty*, to the European Group of Chief Scientific Advisors



■ Undertaking a comprehensive systematic review on the policy landscape for European food systems, on behalf of the European Group of Chief Scientific Advisors



■ Running our first major international conference overseas, in collaboration with strategic partners KU Leuven and the Young Academy of Europe



Achievements in 2019

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

The Cardiff Hub has overseen completion of the SAPEA evidence review on *Making Sense of Science for Policy under Conditions of Complexity and Uncertainty*, as part of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). The report was launched in July. The Evidence Review Report informed the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors' Scientific Opinion, published in September. Both reports were presented at a dedicated session at the European Commission's Research & Innovation Days in Brussels (24th-26th September). Following publication, our focus was on promoting awareness and uptake of the reports. As well as publicising them at appropriate events and conferences, the Hub has worked on a video that highlights the key messages in both reports.



Policy Conference, European Research & Innovation Days, 26th September. Left to right: Dr Piotr Kwiecinski, Louise Edwards, Professor Pearl Dykstra, Professor Ortwin Renn, Dr David Mair, and Professor Sierd Cloetingh

The Cardiff Hub has coordinated the systematic literature review work for the SAPEA project *Towards an EU Sustainable Food System*, in partnership with Cardiff University Library Services. An advisory panel included experts from Cardiff University's Sustainable Places Research Institute, the Research Centre for Urban and Regional Food, and the Welsh Centre for Public Policy. The systematic review focuses on the policy landscape and will be published as a companion report to the main Evidence Review Report (forthcoming in Spring 2020).



Members of the Advisory Panel, Professors Roberta Sonnino and Terry Marsden



SAPEA
Science Advice for Policy by European Academies

The Cardiff Hub also oversaw the systematic literature review work for another SAPEA Evidence Review Report, *Transforming the Future of Ageing*, published in June. The systematic literature search for this report was conducted by Delyth Morris of the Cardiff University Library Service and designed in collaboration with members of the Working Group.

In January, Professor Ole Petersen handed over the SAPEA Evidence Review Report on *Microplastics in Nature and Society* to the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA), on behalf of the SAPEA Board.



Handover of the Microplastics report to the GCSA, Brussels, January. From left to right: Professors Sabine Pahl and Bart Koelmans (SAPEA Working Group); Professor Ole Petersen; Professors Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Elvira Fortunato and Nicole Grobert (GCSA)

The Cardiff Hub has continued to engage in outreach and public engagement to promote our topic-related work in SAPEA. In this, we have been reaching out to the academic community, policymakers and the wider public. Of particular note, we were asked to provide an impact report on an earlier project, *Food from the Oceans*; the paper was compiled by Dr Esther Dorado-Ladera and was well received by the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors.

UKRI Global Challenges Research event, Cardiff, March



Dr Esther Dorado-Ladera attending Welsh Policy & Politics in Unprecedented Times, Swansea, May



Cardiff Science Festival, Cardiff, February



Shaping Horizons 2019 Summit, Cambridge, September



PRIORITY 2:

Showcase outstanding regional research

Objective: Raising the profile of outstanding research within our region and beyond

Throughout the year, we continued to develop our website, both in terms of functionality and content. As a result, our usage data shows continuous improvement compared to the same period last year. Our interview series with Members of Academia Europaea (MAEs) continues to be particularly popular. Throughout the year, we have published several new interviews with MAEs showcasing their research, highlighting their key achievements and exploring their views on key topics in research.



Professor Theo D'haen MAE

Emeritus Professor of English and Comparative Literature at KU Leuven



Professor Peter Hegyi MAE

Director of the Centre for Translational Medicine at the University of Pécs



Professor David Prangishvili MAE

Director of the AE Tbilisi Hub and Professor at the Pasteur Institute in Paris



Lord Martin Rees MAE

Astronomer Royal



Professor Johan Rooryck MAE

Open Access Champion for cOAlition S and Professor of French Linguistics at Leiden University



Professor Rosalind Smyth MAE

Director and Professor at UCL Great Ormond St Institute of Child Health



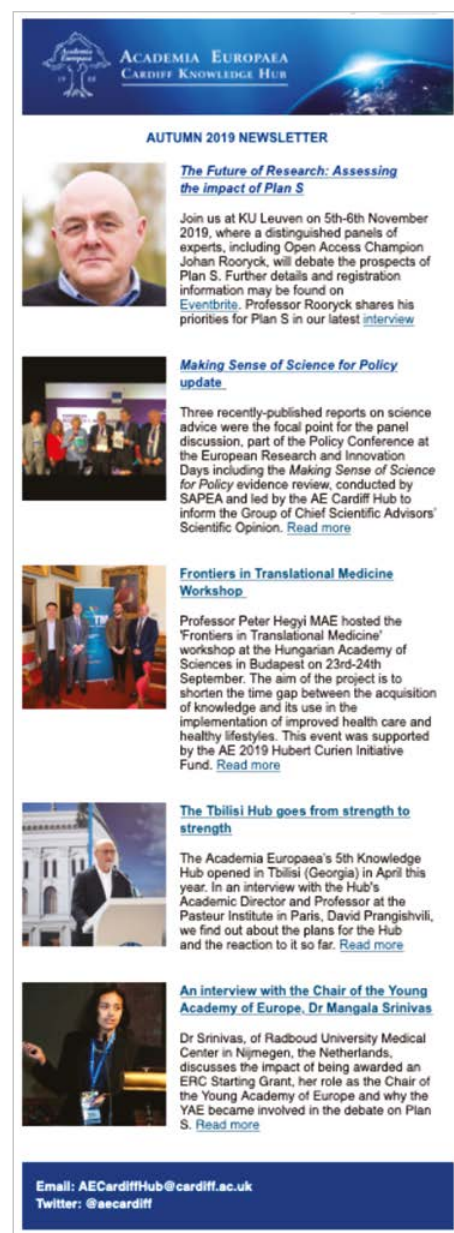
Dr Mangala Srinivas FYAE

Chair of the Young Academy of Europe and Assistant Professor at Radboud University Medical Center in Nijmegen

We continue to devote time to social media, which successfully raises awareness of the Hub and increases engagement with our website. Twitter and Facebook activity has been particularly effective and both are consistently in the top four sources of directing traffic to our website.



We also revamped our newsletters, which are sent to our membership electronically. The new design provides headlines and web links, leading users to our website for further information.



In January, we released a commemorative poster highlighting moments in AE's 30-year history.



Summary of online marketing impact, comparison between 2019 and 2018.

Indicator		2018	2019	Performance improvement compared to 2018
Website	Number of visits to the Hub website	5,303	7,546	↑ 42.2%
	Number of pages viewed on the Hub website	19,018	20,290	↑ 6.6%
	Number of new users	3,235	5,199	↑ 60.7%
Twitter	Average number of times users were served a Hub Tweet in timeline or search results (per day)	308	751	↑ 143.83%
	Number of active user engagements (e.g. re-tweets, likes) with the Hub Twitter account	1,545	2,254	↑ 45.8%
	Number of Twitter followers	238	363	↑ 52.5%
Facebook	Number of targeted Facebook users reached	1,682	19,089	↑ 1,034.8%
	Number of targeted engagements on Facebook	312	891	↑ 185.5%

PRIORITY 3:

Engage with our membership

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

Continuing the Academia Europaea's 30th anniversary celebrations, the Cardiff Hub held its own festivities in January. Members of the Academia Europaea, along with colleagues who have generously supported the Cardiff Hub's work, gathered at Cardiff University's Glamorgan Building to mark the Academia's anniversary. Following a drinks reception and networking session, there was a lively debate on Plan S, the initiative for Open Access academic publishing.



Front cover of the AE's 30th anniversary brochure



Guests mingle at the 30th anniversary event held at Cardiff University, January

The Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub was delighted to support the international conference, *Sovereignty in a Global Perspective*. The event, led by Professor Christopher Smith MAE, took place at the University of St Andrews on 29th-30th April 2019. This conference was part of the 2019 programme of British Academy Conferences.



Professor Christopher Smith, *Sovereignty in a Global Perspective* conference, St Andrews, April



The Cardiff Hub was also proud to support a workshop on *Frontiers in Translational Medicine* at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest, Hungary on 23rd-24th September. Professor Peter Hegyi MAE hosted the event. The overall aim of the project is to shorten the time gap between the acquisition of knowledge and its use in the implementation of improved health care and healthy lifestyles.

Translational Medicine Conference at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, September. From left to right: Dr Shuang Peng (Jinan University), Professor Ole Petersen, Dr Joao Monterio (Editor-in-Chief of Nature Medicine) and Professor Peter Hegyi MAE

In April, the official opening of Academia Europaea's fifth Knowledge Hub took place at Tbilisi State University in the presence of the Georgian Prime Minister, Mamuka Bakhtadze. An AE Thematic Workshop took place on 25th April at which Professor Ole Petersen presented achievements and plans for the Cardiff Hub.



Prime Minister of Georgia, Mamuka Bakhtadze, at the launch of the AE Tbilisi Hub, April

PRIORITY 4:

Engage with wider stakeholders

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

In November, the Cardiff Hub held its first ever major event overseas, *The Future of Research: Assessing the Impact of Plan S*, at KU Leuven. A distinguished panel of experts debated the prospects for researchers, universities, learned societies and academies, with an audience of 130. The conference included a welcome reception at the historic University Library. The event was a collaboration between the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub, the Young Academy of Europe, KU Leuven Libraries and Cardiff University. A post-event report will be released early in 2020.



Panellists and organisers of *The Future of Research: Assessing the Impact of Plan S*



The AE Cardiff Hub was invited to the Bremen-Cardiff Alliance launch event, which took place in Cardiff University's Main Building Council Chamber in March. The new partnership was marked with a ceremony attended by delegates from both Universities and other cultural partners from Germany and Wales.

Left to right: Professor Colin Riordan, Rainer Sulzer, Baroness Jenny Randerson and Professor Bernd-Scholz-Reiter

Professor Ole Petersen visited Jinan University in Guangzhou, China in March. Professor Petersen made a special presentation to the School of Medicine's Executive Committee about Academia Europaea, the Cardiff University Hub and its work for the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism. Jinan University agreed to participate in Academia Europaea's project on translational medicine, coordinated by the Cardiff Hub.



Professor Ole Petersen giving one of his three lectures at Jinan University's Main Campus.

Since Spring 2019, the AE Cardiff Hub and the Young Academy of Europe have been working together more closely and enhancing operational effectiveness. Major progress has been made in terms of website development and improved communications. AE Cardiff Hub and the YAE held their first joint event, on Plan S, at KU Leuven in November.

In May, Academia Europaea supported one of the strongest scientific societies in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Physiological Society, which held its 20th Congress in Kiev at the Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology, from 27th to 30th May 2019, supported by Academia Europaea and UNESCO. The Congress attracted about 200 physiologists from all over Ukraine. Ole Petersen gave an illustrated talk in the opening session about Platon Kostyuk and his relationship over many years with the famous scientist. He also gave one of the plenary lectures.



From left to right: Dr Elena Lukyanetz (main organiser of the Congress), Professor Ole Petersen, Professor Oleg Krishtal and Nina Burdakova (who administered the UK Physiological Society's support scheme for Centres of Excellence in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union from 1993-1998)



Louise Edwards (fourth from right, front row) at the COST Kick-Off Meeting, October

In October, the Cardiff Hub was invited to the kick-off meeting of a newly-established COST initiative on science communication, which took place in Brussels. It aims to achieve high-quality, evidence-based and cross-sectoral science communication across Europe. The network, in which both the Cardiff Hub and Young Academy of Europe are involved, includes researchers, journalists and policymakers.

PRIORITY 5:

Ensure future sustainability

Objective: Achieving ongoing sustainability of the Hub, beyond its initial funding period of four years.



CUBRIC

In 2019 the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub relocated from the Hadyn Ellis Building to CUBRIC, Cardiff University's Brain Imaging Centre. Opened in June 2016 by Her Majesty The Queen, CUBRIC is one of Europe's top facilities for brain imaging and is promoting the University's ambition to be a world leader in research and innovation.

The Hub has secured additional funding for Cardiff University to take on additional responsibilities in the SAPEA project, which has been extended to the end of 2021. The Cooperation Agreement between Academia Europaea and Cardiff University will also continue in line with the extension.

Over the year, the Hub has secured a number of small grants and sponsorship. These include the support of the Curien Fund for the events at St Andrews and the Hungarian Academy, as well as sponsorship for the event at KU Leuven.



AE Cardiff Steering Group meeting, Cardiff University, January

Governance

Cardiff Hub Steering Group meetings are held annually. The last meeting took place on 5th November 2019 at KU Leuven. The following distinguished scientists and scholars serve on the Group and we thank them for their support:

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
Genoveva Martí MAE
Colin Riordan FLSW
Sir John Skehel FRS FMedSci MAE (Chair)
John Tucker FLSW MAE

Resources

Staffing



Academic Director
Professor Ole Petersen



Knowledge Hub Manager
Louise Edwards



Executive Officer
Juliet Davies



Executive Officer (Projects)
Dr Esther Dorado-Ladera

Finance

In addition to covering agreed salary costs, Cardiff University provided £10,000 for operating costs in the financial year 2019-20. The SAPEA project covers the salary costs of personnel engaged on the project, both in the Hub and Cardiff University Library Services, in addition to associated travel costs.



Acknowledgements

The Cardiff Hub would like to thank colleagues of all organisations that have given us their support in 2019, including those that have provided financial assistance, in particular:

Academia Europaea
ALLEA, All European Academies
Association of Learned & Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)
Cambridge University Press
Cardiff University
F1000Research
KU Leuven (and KU Leuven Libraries)
Marie Curie Alumni Association
Newington Design
Cardiff's Norwegian Church and Hordaland County Council
Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA)
Welsh Higher Education Brussels
Young Academy of Europe

About Academia Europaea

Founded in 1988. Now has more than 4000 leading scientists and scholars as members, including over 70 Nobel laureates. Operates through a network of knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Bergen, Cardiff, Tbilisi and Wrocław.

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