



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

**ACADEMIA EUROPAEA**  
**CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB**

# **STRATEGIC PLAN** 2020-2023



**CARDIFF**  
UNIVERSITY  
**PRIFYSGOL**  
**CAERDYDD**

## Introduction

by Professor Ole Petersen  
CBE FMedSci FLSW MAE ML FRS



Professor Ole Petersen

### Academic Director, Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub

Welcome to our second Strategic Plan, covering the four years from the beginning of 2020 to the end of 2023.

In reviewing our first Strategic Plan, which ran from 2016 to 2019, we can highlight a number of achievements.

We have played a key role in the SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) consortium, a part of the European Scientific Advice Mechanism. In SAPEA, we have coordinated two comprehensive evidence reviews for the European Commission, *Food from the Oceans* and *Making Sense of Science for Policy*. Our other responsibilities in SAPEA have included outreach and public engagement; impact measurement; sustainability planning; and delivering high-quality systematic reviews, working with methodologists and topic experts here at Cardiff University.

We have continued to raise the profile of the Hub through our programme of events. We have an increasingly international outlook and engagement with strategic partners. For example, we organised our first large-scale overseas conference in 2019, in collaboration with KU Leuven Libraries.

I am also pleased that we now offer an attractive website as a showcase. Our interview series with leading Members of Academia Europaea and the Young Academy of Europe has proved particularly popular. What is more, our Hub team is highly accomplished at increasing engagement through social media.

In drafting our Strategic Plan, we have given prime consideration to the strategic priorities of our two 'parent' organisations, Academia Europaea and Cardiff University. The relationship is based on a Collaboration Agreement, which has been extended to the end of 2021, in line with the SAPEA project. With Brexit on our minds, this provides us with an important bedrock and enables us to look forward with increased confidence and optimism.

Finally, I extend my thanks to our Steering Group and its Chair, Sir John Skehel FRS FMedSci MAE.



Professor Ole H. Petersen  
CBE FMedSci FLSW MAE ML FRS

## CONTENTS

Introduction .....	2
Purpose, mission, values.....	3
Context .....	4
Strategic priorities .....	5
Governance .....	7

## OUR PURPOSE

Our Hub's purpose is to promote excellence in research and science advice, as enablers of effective policy development and progress in society.

## OUR MISSION

Our Hub acts as a catalyst for collaboration, knowledge exchange and ideas to:

- Connect research and scholarship with policymaking in Europe and the wider world
- Promote outstanding research, facilitated by an exciting programme of events and effective outreach
- Demonstrate our impact and maximise engagement with our stakeholders, including our membership base, political and research institutions, and the wider public

## VALUES

In line with Academia Europaea and Cardiff University, we strive towards shared values of:

- Freedom and independence of enquiry and thought
- Collegiality
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Environmental sustainability
- Engagement with wider society

The Cardiff Knowledge Hub will promote these values throughout our work.



Our international symposium on Plan S, Leuven, November 2019

## The context for our Strategic Plan

Our Plan reflects the strategic priorities of our 'parent' institutions, Academia Europaea and Cardiff University. These are described in *Academia Europaea's Strategic Plan 2019-2024* and Cardiff University's *The Way Forward 2018-2023*.

### Academia Europaea

Academia Europaea is a non-governmental association, acting as a pan-European academy. Founded in 1988, Academia Europaea now numbers over 4000 members in Europe and worldwide, including more than 70 Nobel laureates. Academia Europaea operates through an expanding network of regional knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Bergen, Cardiff, Tbilisi and Wrocław. Academia Europaea's membership spans the Council of Europe's 47 countries, as well as other countries worldwide.

The Hub will assist Academia Europaea's strategic ambitions to:

- Extend work in **science advice for policy**
- Advance and promote **research excellence** through horizon-scanning and trend analysis in core disciplines and fields
- Increase and diversify the **membership base**, including support to early-career researchers (through the Young Academy of Europe) and the creation of new awards/prizes that acknowledge excellence
- Develop **infrastructure and communications** through an improved website, a publications platform and a new database of expertise, together with an enhanced communications strategy
- Increase **funding opportunities** through new associations and collaboration

Academia Europaea is one of the consortium partners in the SAPEA project, which began in 2016 and has been extended to the end of 2021. The Cardiff Knowledge Hub delivers most of the work on its behalf, as a Linked Third Party. If SAPEA continues from 2022, Academia Europaea will seek to remain within the consortium, and Cardiff will request to maintain its status within the project.



### Cardiff University

Cardiff University's vision is to be a world-leading, research-excellent, educationally outstanding university, driven by creativity and curiosity, which fulfils its social, cultural and economic obligations to Cardiff, Wales, the UK and the world.

The Hub will assist Cardiff University's ambitions to:

- Address **global challenges**, with a focus on **interdisciplinarity**
- Broaden the range of **research funding** opportunities
- Embrace **policy-related**, as well as cultural, economic and technological **innovation**
- Respond flexibly to the demands of **Brexit** and build strong relations with existing and new **strategic partners**

### RISKS

The Cardiff Hub and its parent institutions hope for a constructive Brexit outcome for science. At the same time, we are ready to deal with all eventualities that arise from Brexit, based on sound planning with the UK Government and UKRI (UK Research and Innovation).

# Our Strategic Priorities

**1** Continue to play a major role in providing science advice for policymaking

**2** Promote excellence through showcasing outstanding research and engaging with our membership base

**3** Build connections with the wider group of stakeholders

**4** Ensure future sustainability

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:

Continue to play a major role in providing science advice for policymaking



Science Advice for Policy by European Academies

### Objective

We will continue to play a full role in delivering high-quality evidence reviews for policymaking in the SAPEA project and explore other opportunities for providing science advice.

### Actions

We will deliver on our commitments in the SAPEA project on-time and to-budget. We will also seek actively to continue our participation in any subsequent SAPEA.

We will continue to deliver high-quality systematic reviews, as part of SAPEA evidence gathering, working with Cardiff University Library Services and expert advisory panels.

We will explore and respond to other opportunities that arise for providing science advice, beyond SAPEA.

### Performance indicators

All deliverables in the SAPEA project that are under the Cardiff Hub's responsibility, delivered on-time and within the agreed budget.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:

Promote excellence through showcasing outstanding research and engaging with our members

### Objective

We will showcase outstanding research, particularly by Academia Europaea members, as well as work led by us in projects, for example, SAPEA. We will engage in public debate on topical issues in research, for example, open access, interdisciplinary approaches, research impact, international collaboration, translational research etc.

### Actions

We will continue to enhance the Hub website as an attractive showcase, with Hub publications and reports, interviews with research leaders, news items and information on events. We will also engage a worldwide audience through the effective use of social media.

We will organise and publicise an annual programme of activities and events, including workshops, symposia and conferences, linked to our work and strategy. It will include a new thematic programme, based on an annual meeting that includes horizon-scanning/trend analysis and an award/prize scheme supported by Academia Europaea.

We will explore with Academia Europaea how we might assist in increasing the size and diversity of the membership base.

We will continue to cooperate with early- and mid-career researchers through the Young Academy of Europe.

### Performance indicators

- Demonstrable increased use of the Hub website, including a sustained increase in the number of visits, time spent on the website, etc.
- Demonstrable increased year-on-year engagement through social media
- Stronger engagement with the Academia Europaea membership base, through the thematic programme and award/prize scheme initiated by Academia Europaea
- Increasing range and depth of Hub events, published reports and news items



## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:

### Build connections with the wider group of stakeholders

#### Objective

We will reach out to and engage with a wider group of Hub stakeholders, including higher education and research institutions, political bodies, academies and the general public.

#### Actions

We will use the most appropriate channels and methods of engagement, including events and SAPEA-related activities, social media and the Hub website.

#### Performance indicators

Demonstrable improvement in year-on-year engagement with and impact on wider stakeholder groups, including enhanced use of the Hub website, participation through social media, events, etc.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:

### Ensure future sustainability

#### Objective

We aim to achieve ongoing sustainability of the Cardiff Knowledge Hub.

#### Actions

We will seek opportunities for participation in externally-funded projects in addition to SAPEA, and pursuing sponsorship and other forms of support for events and activities.

#### Performance indicators

Amount of externally-sourced income raised annually.



The Cardiff Hub organised an international symposium at KU Leuven in November 2019

## Governance

The Cardiff Knowledge Hub has been fully operational since February 2016, based on a Collaboration Agreement between Academia Europaea and Cardiff University. Cardiff Knowledge Hub activities are overseen by an international Steering Group, appointed by the Academia Europaea Board. Membership comprises:

**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

## Management

The Cardiff Knowledge Hub's Academic Director is Professor Ole Petersen, a Vice-President of Academia Europaea. He works closely with the rest of the Hub team.

## Staffing

Academic Director, Professor Ole Petersen  
Cardiff Knowledge Hub Manager, Louise Edwards  
Executive Officers, Juliet Davies (part-time),  
vacancy (part-time)

## Hub Office

The Cardiff Knowledge Hub has a dedicated space within CUBRIC, Cardiff University's Brain Research Imaging Centre.

Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub Wales  
Cardiff University  
CUBRIC  
Maindy Road  
Cathays  
Cardiff  
CF24 4HQ  
United Kingdom  
[www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales](http://www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales)  
[AECardiffHub@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:AECardiffHub@cardiff.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)29 2068 8249



The Cardiff Hub's international steering group, Cardiff, January 2019



Photo: Cardiff University

CUBRIC, home to the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA  
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub  
Cardiff University, CUBRIC, Maindy Road  
Cathays, Cardiff CF24 4HQ  
[www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales](http://www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales)  
Tel: +44 (0)29 2068 8249  
AECardiffHub@cardiff.ac.uk

Hosted by



FIND US ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA

