

PROMOTING  
RESEARCH  
EXCELLENCE  
FOR POLICY  
AND PROGRESS



# ACADEMIA EUROPAEA CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

## HALF-YEAR REPORT 2022

CARDIFF  
UNIVERSITY  
PRIFYSGOL  
CAERDYDD

## Introduction

Our achievements in the first half of 2022 are set out in the context of the four priorities in the Strategic Plan 2020-2023:

1. Continue to play a major role in providing science advice for policymaking
2. Promote excellence through showcasing outstanding research and engaging with our members
3. Build connections with the wider group of stakeholders
4. Ensure future sustainability

Our specific priorities in 2022 are to:

1. Deliver on our project commitments in SAPEA and CALIPER, together with any new projects that come to fruition.
2. Continue to deliver an engaging programme of events and further develop our online presence, including the website, multimedia and social media channels.



### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:

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

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.

## SAPEA project

An integral part of the European Scientific Advice Mechanism since 2016, SAPEA delivers evidence reviews that inform the work of the European Group of Chief Scientific Advisors. Our work in the SAPEA project continues, thanks to an extension of Horizon 2020 funding until the end of April and, from May, the support of the UK government's funding guarantee for Horizon Europe projects.



In March, SAPEA published a new Evidence Review Report on *Improving Cancer Screening in the European Union*. AE Cardiff oversaw the production and publication of three rapid reviews of the literature, representing an important contribution to the overall evidence base. The Review Team was led by Dr Alison Weightman (Director of the Specialist Unit for Review Evidence at Cardiff University), together with Dr Nick Courtier (Cardiff University), Dr Hui-Ling Ou (University of Cambridge) and Louise Edwards (AE Cardiff Hub Manager).

AE Cardiff has also collaborated closely with ALLEA in the production of a new SAPEA Evidence Review Report, *Strategic crisis management in the EU*, due in September. We organised a successful workshop with the wider expert community and coordinated the peer review process, as well as undertaking extensive editorial work. We worked with Frederico Rocha, Manager of Cardiff's European Documentation Centre, to provide a wide range of literature reviews. Frederico also created a detailed overview of EU mechanisms for strategic crisis management, to be published separately by SAPEA.

Outreach activities continued for the SAPEA Evidence Review Report, *Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment*, published in 2020 and co-ordinated by the Cardiff Hub. In January, we cooperated with SAPEA and AE Bergen to launch *built2biodegrade.eu*, a website showcasing a unique public experiment on plastic biodegradability, hosted by the Bergen Aquarium in Norway. The work is co-led by scientists at the NORCE research institute, and HYDRA Marine Sciences.



*Plastic samples suspended in Norwegian fjord water*

## **Wider collaboration in science advice and policy engagement**

Internationally, AE Cardiff has established connections with other networks of science advice and policy engagement. Hub Manager, Louise Edwards, joined the international sub-committee of the Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN).

A positive outcome from this was an international webinar on 25<sup>th</sup> April, *Science advice at times of crisis: what roles for universities and academies?* Hosted by the AE Cardiff and chaired by Hub Director, Professor Ole Petersen, it was promoted as a side event to a major conference, *Science advice under pressure*, organised by the European Scientific Advice Mechanism. Our partners were UPEN, Academia Europaea, Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS), Research Impact Canada, the South African Higher Education Community Engagement Forum (SAHECEF), and SAPEA. 130 joined the webinar from 28 countries and the recording continues to be viewed on YouTube.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:**

**Promote excellence through showcasing outstanding research and engaging with our members**

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.

We continue to enrich the content on our website and to grow our social media engagement, as well as maintaining traditional communications like our quarterly newsletter, which is sent to the entire Academia Europaea membership and our key stakeholders.

## Website content

Our webinars and our *Interview Spotlight* series remain the most popular content on our website. We were delighted to interview Marja Makarow, the new President of Academia Europaea. There were also interviews with MAEs Sir David King (campaigning environmentalist, AAAS Award winner and former UK Chief Scientific Adviser) and Karina Lovell (Professor of Mental Health at the University of Manchester).



The Hub marked AE Founding President Sir Arnold Burgen's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in March and paid tribute to him when he sadly passed away in May.

AE Cardiff has stood wholeheartedly with Ukraine, since the February invasion. Our website features a specially-created banner, and our campaign of support has included news features and an important interview with Professor Yaroslav Shuba, a newly-elected MAE from Ukraine, who gives us insight into his working life in Kyiv.

Under our Briefing Series, we have published two new papers, on the Diamond Open Access model and the role of networks in the science advice ecosystem. Each paper summarises key points of discussion at our webinars, with the aim of providing a useful resource on the topic.



## Social media

Twitter continues to help us reach new audiences and raise awareness of our work. Whilst our number of followers has increased, the most dramatic difference has been the number of people clicking on the AE Cardiff Twitter profile to find out more about us. Our Twitter profile, @aecardiff, now receives an average of over 3000 visits per month, a significant rise over the last 2 years.

**Top media Tweet** earned 4,873 impressions

In our latest interview, AAAS Award winner and former UK Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir David King @Sir\_David\_King, shares his ambitious plans to tackle the global challenge of #climatechange.

[bit.ly/36izj5l](https://bit.ly/36izj5l)

#ClimateAction #ClimateRepair  
#ClimateCrisis [pic.twitter.com/4aJSZ6vQ4X](https://pic.twitter.com/4aJSZ6vQ4X)



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*Our interview with Sir David King attracted attention on Twitter*

**Top Tweet** earned 6,466 impressions

Join us for a webinar on "The #DiamondOpenAccess Model: what impact on research?"

28 March  
14.00 CET  
[bit.ly/3Crypj2](https://bit.ly/3Crypj2)

A joint event between Academia Europaea Cardiff, KU Leuven Libraries and the Young Academy of Europe.

#openscience #DiamondOA   
[pic.twitter.com/LZ4maiTSTi](https://pic.twitter.com/LZ4maiTSTi)

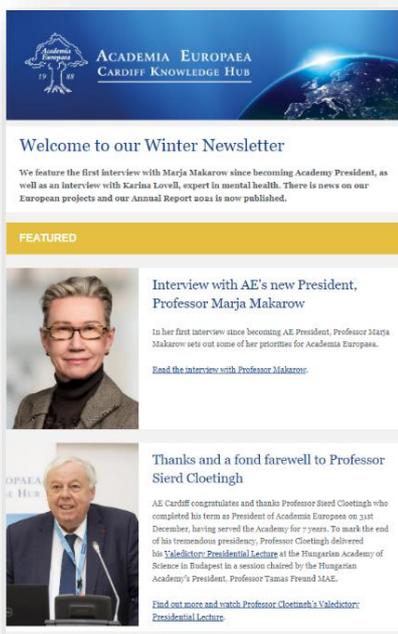


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*Our event on Diamond Open Access attracted almost 200 attendees following a successful promotional campaign on Twitter*

## Newsletter

Our quarterly newsletter remains an important part of our communications. The newsletter, which is sent to the entire AE membership, is highly effective at driving traffic to our website and results in almost 2,000 click-throughs per newsletter.



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA  
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter

We feature the first interview with Marja Makarow since becoming Academy President, as well as an interview with Karina Lovell, expert in mental health. There is news on our European projects and our Annual Report 2022 is now published.

**FEATURED**

 Interview with AE's new President, Professor Marja Makarow

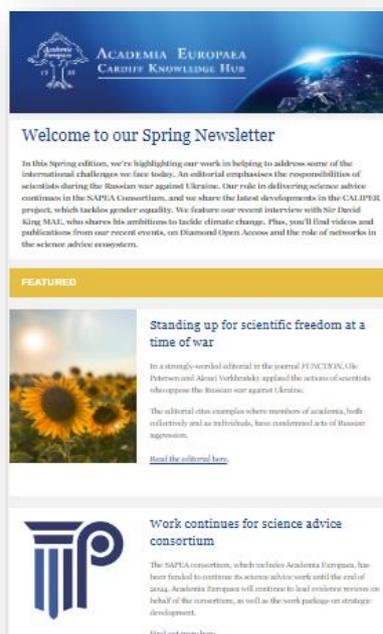
In her first interview since becoming AE President, Professor Marja Makarow sets out some of her priorities for Academia Europaea.

[Read the interview with Professor Makarow](#)

 Thanks and a fond farewell to Professor Sierd Cloetingh

AE Cardiff congratulates and thanks Professor Sierd Cloetingh who completed his term as President of Academia Europaea on 21st December, having served the Academy for 7 years. To mark the end of his tremendous presidency, Professor Cloetingh delivered his [Valdickov Presidential Lecture](#) at the Hungarian Academy of Science in Budapest in a session chaired by the Hungarian Academy's President, Professor Tamas Freund MAE.

[Find out more and watch Professor Cloetingh's Valdickov Presidential Lecture](#)



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA  
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter

In this Spring edition, we're highlighting our work in helping to address some of the international challenges we face today. An editorial emphasises the responsibilities of scientists during the Russian war against Ukraine. Our role in delivering science advice continues in the SAPIA Consortium, and we share the latest developments in the CALIPER project, which tackles gender equality. We feature our recent interview with Sir David King MAE, who shares his ambitions to tackle climate change. Plus, you'll find videos and publications from our recent events, on Diamond Open Access and the role of networks in the science advice ecosystem.

**FEATURED**

 Standing up for scientific freedom at a time of war

In a strongly-worded editorial in the journal *PLUCESON*, the *Pravremenniki* and *Verkhnyak* applaud the actions of scientists who oppose the Russian war against Ukraine.

The editorial also emphasises where members of academia, both collectively and as individuals, have condemned acts of Russian aggression.

[Read the editorial here](#)

 Work continues for science advice consortium

The SAPIA consortium, which includes Academia Europaea, has been formed to continue its science advice work until the end of 2024. Academia Europaea will continue to lead evidence reviews on behalf of the consortium, as well as the work package on strategic development.

[Find out more here](#)

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:

### Build connections with the wider group of stakeholders

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.

### Engagement through webinars

We have continued to run successful webinars online, and a major benefit has been the ability to reach an international audience. So far this year, our webinars have attracted nearly 500 views across almost 40 countries around the world.

On 28<sup>th</sup> March, we hosted an international webinar on *The Diamond Open Access Model: what impact on research?*. Our panellists discussed the latest developments in Open Access publishing and what it means for researchers, research-intensive institutions, funding bodies, libraries and publishers. This was a joint event between Academia Europaea Cardiff, KU Leuven Libraries and the Young Academy of Europe.

### CALIPER project: gender equality



As part of the CALIPER project, we are conducting a series of interviews with inspirational women who work in STEM research and innovation. We explore what motivated them to choose their career, their experiences and the barriers that they faced. In May, CALIPER published our first interview, with Professor Asimina Kiourti, Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University.



CALIPER consortium meeting, London, June 2022

AE Cardiff was delighted to host the CALIPER consortium meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June, at Woburn House in London. 33 consortium partners, from across Europe, were in attendance, either in person or online. Professor Ole Petersen, as Director of AE Cardiff, opened the meeting and later hosted a dinner for the participants. Alice Sadler, AE Cardiff Hub Communications Officer and Louise Edwards, AE Cardiff Hub Manager, updated project partners on the Hub's progress.



EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF2022) accepted AE Cardiff's proposal for a webinar on the challenges faced by women leaders in academia. The webinar, co-organised with CALIPER, the Young Academy of Europe and Academia Europaea, will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:

### Ensure future sustainability

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

#### An ongoing role in SAPEA



The SAPEA project has been renewed for a further period, covering May 2022 to December 2024. Academia Europaea and the Cardiff Hub have received a funding guarantee, administered through UK Research & Innovation (UKRI). Together, we will continue to lead evidence reviews on behalf of the consortium, as well as the work package on strategic development.

#### CALIPER



In October 2021, the Cardiff Hub officially joined a consortium working on the Horizon 2020-funded project, CALIPER. This project supports nine research organisations, predominantly in Southern and Eastern Europe, to establish Gender Equality Plans. The Cardiff Hub is collaborating closely with the Young Academy of Europe (YAE) in leading on international communications and encouraging wider engagement with the project. To support our work in CALIPER, we were pleased to welcome our new Communications Officer, Alice Sadler, to the team.