



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

ANNUAL
REPORT
2022

PROMOTING
RESEARCH
EXCELLENCE
FOR POLICY AND
PROGRESS

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY
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WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Having emerged from the Covid crisis, 2022 has seen the tragic outbreak of war in Europe, with the outrageous Russian invasion of Ukraine in February. As a member of the AE Board, I was happy that there was unanimous agreement in the Board about stating AE's solidarity with our partners in Ukraine. The Cardiff Hub initiated a *We Stand with Ukraine*, featuring editorials and also interviews with two newly-elected Ukrainian members of AE. In a strongly worded editorial published in the May issue of *FUNCTION*, written together with Alexei Verkhatsky MAE, we were very critical of the Russian academic institutions supporting Russia's criminal war against Ukraine and advocated their isolation from our communities.

In other areas, it has been heartening to see the Cardiff Hub flourish. Once again, the AE Hub has organised a number of international webinars this year on a wide range of interesting topics. The SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) consortium, which includes Academia Europaea as a key partner, has been extended and funded until the end of 2024. The AE Hub also joined the Horizon 2020-funded CALIPER project, as part of a consortium that aims to address gender equality within research and innovation in Europe. I was delighted to host 33 of the partners at a CALIPER consortium meeting at Woburn House in London in June.

Marja Makarow's term as AE's new President began in January. In the Hub's interview with Marja, she outlined her priorities for the Academy. Sadly, Sir Arnold Burgen, the Founding President of Academia Europaea, passed away just a couple of months after celebrating his 100th birthday. In October, we also lost a good friend, Tullio Pozzan ForMemRS MAE. Tullio was not only an astoundingly brilliant and rigorous scientist, but also a truly kind and generous friend.

As ever, I'd like to thank Cardiff University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Colin Riordan CBE MAE and the Director of CU's School of Biosciences, Jim Murray MAE for their constant support. I am also grateful to Sir Mark Walport FRS MAE for chairing our Steering Group and for his continued invaluable guidance.



Ole H Petersen CBE MAE ML FRS

Director of the AE Cardiff Knowledge Hub





CONTEXT

Our achievements in 2022 are set out in the context of the four priorities in the Strategic Plan 2020-2023. Our specific priorities in 2022 have been 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.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022

■ The Cardiff Hub has been at the heart of two **externally-funded projects**, SAPEA and CALIPER. The SAPEA project was renewed in May and current funding continues to the end of 2024, with financial support to the Hub guaranteed by the UK Government. As well as leading on stakeholder communications in the CALIPER project, the Hub hosted a successful meeting of the CALIPER consortium in London, in June.



■ We have continued to build fruitful **relationships with key partners**, through joint events and projects. Our April webinar on *Science advice at times of crisis* brought together 6 international networks in science advice, from the UK and Europe, the USA, Canada and South Africa.



■ The Cardiff Hub was proud to be asked to **lead communications work** for Academia Europaea's Annual Conference, held in Barcelona in October. As part of our communications campaign, we published in-depth interviews with medal winners and key speakers at the conference, and compiled a video of conference highlights.



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 also collaborated closely with ALLEA in the production of a new SAPEA Evidence Review Report, *Strategic crisis management in the EU*, published in November. 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, published separately by SAPEA.

Engagement 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. The work was co-led by scientists at the NORCE research institute, and HYDRA Marine Sciences. In November, the European Commission adopted a Communication, setting out a policy framework for biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics, citing the work of the Scientific Advice Mechanism.



27–28 April 2022
in Brussels and online

Science advice under pressure

International cooperation in science advice

Internationally, AE Cardiff has been building 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 in April, *Science advice at times of crisis: what roles for universities and academics?* 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.



Interview series with MAEs

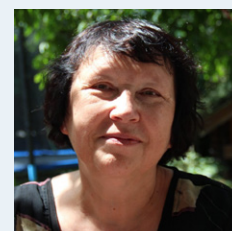
As part of our popular Interview Series, we were delighted to interview Marja Makarow, the new

President of Academia Europaea. There were also interviews with MAEs Sir David King (campaigning environmentalist, AAAS Award winner and former UK Chief Scientific Adviser), Karina Lovell (Professor of Mental Health at the University of Manchester), Valerio Lucarini (Professor of Statistical Mechanics at the University of Reading) and David Paterson (current President of the Physiological Society).

Standing with Ukraine



AE Cardiff has stood wholeheartedly with Ukraine, since the February invasion. Our website features a specially-created banner, *We stand with Ukraine*, and our campaign of support has included news features and interviews with Ukrainian MAEs, Professors Yaroslav Shuba and Luba Kyyanovska. Both interviews featured in our most popular web pages for 2022.



Leadership in communications

We were asked to lead on communications work for the AE Annual Conference, held in Barcelona in late October. As part of our communications campaign, we published in-depth interviews with medal winners and plenary speakers, including Sir Shankar Balasubramanian, Helga Nowotny, Philippe Aghion (recipient of the Erasmus Medal), Sierd Cloetingh (recipient of the 2022 Gold Medal), Carl-Henrik Heldin and Nancy Cartwright (winner of the Hypatia Prize).

We produced a video of conference highlights, along with a video to promote the work of the AE's Environment Taskforce.



"Whenever people ask me what we need to support and foster innovation, I respond that we absolutely must maintain a strong base in basic research, with the necessary funding and infrastructure for it. Without that, at some point in the future, there will be no innovation, there will be no new knowledge and no new discoveries." – Sir Shankar Balasubramanian

"When you receive a big award like this, it both humbles you and encourages you to pursue more research. I think it's important to use it to push ideas and encourage young talented researchers." – Philippe Aghion MAE



"I'm interested in the kind of societal conditions needed for science to thrive, and in the contributions that the sciences make to society. We want research excellence, but society also expects some kind of benefit from it." – Helga Nowotny MAE

Our Twitter campaign for the conference created a huge increase in statistics for Academia Europaea's account, with the initial summary showing the following:

- A **186%** increase in profile visits to the Academia Europaea account compared to the previous month.
- **34** new Twitter followers during the conference
- A **493%** increase in tweet impressions compared to the previous month, meaning a huge leap in the number of times our tweets appeared on people's feeds.

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Tributes

The Hub marked AE Founding President Sir Arnold Burgen's 100th birthday in March and we paid tribute to him when he sadly passed away in May. We also paid tribute to Tullio Pozzan MAE, widely regarded as the 'King of Calcium Signalling', who passed away in October.



BRIEFING SERIES

Briefing Series

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. Another two are being prepared for publication early in 2023.

Impact

New visitors to our website have increased by **9.6%** this year.

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

Twitter continues to help us reach new audiences and raise awareness of our work. Our number of followers has again increased this year, by **20%**.

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

#ClimateAction #ClimateRepair
#ClimateCrisis pic.twitter.com/4aJSZ6vQ4X



Summary of online marketing impact, comparison between 2021 and 2022. Data from 1st January – 31st December 2022

	Indicator	2021	2022	Performance improvement compared to same period 2021
Website	Number of visits to the Hub website	13,710	14,109	↑ 2.9%
	Number of new users	9740	10,672	↑ 9.6%
Twitter	Number of Twitter followers	626	752	↑ 20%

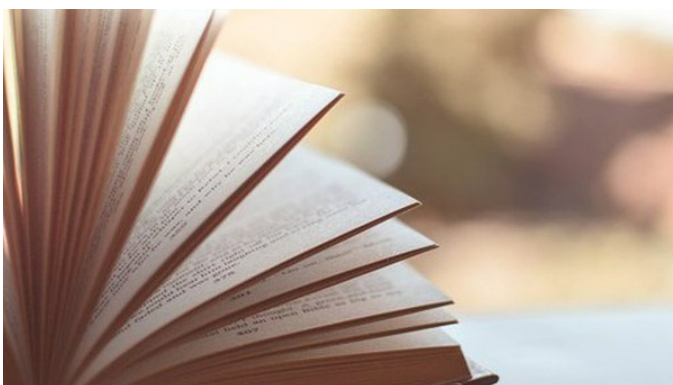
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:

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 events

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.



In March, we hosted an international webinar on *The Diamond Open Access Model: what impact on research?*. A joint event between Academia Europaea Cardiff, KU Leuven Libraries and the Young Academy of Europe, our panellists discussed the latest developments in Open Access publishing and what it means for researchers, research-intensive institutions, funding bodies, libraries and publishers.



In November, we brought together experts from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds to address the question, *Changing minds or changing systems to avert dangerous climate change?* Chaired by Professor Ole Petersen, Cardiff Hub Director, the webinar was co-organised between the Cardiff Hub and Academia Europaea's Environmental Taskforce.



Ole Petersen (left) unveils the blue plaque dedicated to T. Graham Brown with Daniel Burdass, Chief Executive of the Physiological Society and David Paterson, President of the of the Physiological Society. Photo taken by Michael Hall.

In September, we supported the Physiological Society's *Celebrating Physiology Roadshow* which was held at Cardiff University. Hub Director Ole Petersen unveiled a plaque to neurophysiologist T. Graham Brown (1882-1965) and gave the keynote lecture.

CALIPER project: gender equality in research and innovation

As part of the CALIPER project, we are publishing a series of video interviews with inspirational women who work in STEM research and innovation. In May, CALIPER published our first video interview, with Professor Asimina Kiourti, Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University.

To further support the CALIPER project, we released an interview with board members of the Young Academy of Europe, Katalin Solymosi and Linn Leppert, discussing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), their experiences as women in science and the importance of the CALIPER project in addressing the gender balance in STEM fields.

AE Cardiff was delighted to host the CALIPER consortium meeting in June, at Woburn House in London. Over 30 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.

AE Cardiff, together with CALIPER and the Young Academy of Europe, had an abstract accepted for ESO2022 (EuroScience Open Forum). The session addressed challenges faced by women leaders in academia, using the Netflix comedy-drama, *The Chair* as a backdrop to the discussion.

In December, we hosted a webinar, *Inclusive research and innovation ecosystems: what works, and how do we convince our stakeholders?*, as part of our engagement work with CALIPER stakeholders. Chaired by Moniek Tromp, incoming Chair of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), the webinar was co-organised between the AE Cardiff Hub, CALIPER and the Young Academy of Europe.



"Systemic changes are necessary, and those can only happen through national and international organisations such as the Young Academies."
– Linn Leppert



"Diversity represents a huge potential for scientific research, for decision making, and benefits the entire academic community."
– Katalin Solymosi



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:

Ensure future sustainability

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



Renewal of the SAPEA project

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



CALIPER

In late-2021, the Cardiff Hub 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.

Staffing



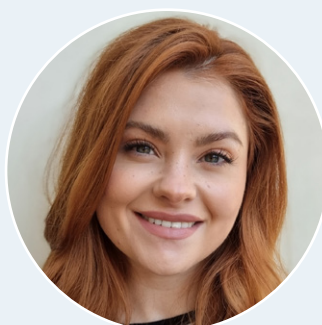
Academic Director
Professor Ole Petersen
CBE FLSW FMedSci FRS MAE



Knowledge Hub Manager
Louise Edwards



Executive Officer
Juliet Davies



Communications Officer
Alice Sadler
(from April 2022)



Executive Officer – Science for Policy
Rafael Carrascosa Marzo
(from December 2022)

Finance

Under the Cooperation Agreement between Academia Europaea and Cardiff University, the University meets defined salary and non-staff costs. Additional income is derived from the Cardiff Hub's two externally-funded projects, SAPEA and CALIPER.

Acknowledgements

The Cardiff Hub would like to thank colleagues of all organisations that have given us their support in 2022, in particular:

Academia Europaea, in particular members who have supported and engaged with the Hub, our colleagues across Europe and the AE Environment Taskforce

Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS)

APS (American Physiological Society) and *FUNCTION*

CALIPER consortium

Cardiff University, in particular the European Documentation Centre and Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE)

ESOF2022

European Group on Ethics (EGE)

German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Group of Chief Scientific Advisors

KU Leuven Libraries

National Technical University of Athens

Newington Design

The Physiological Society

Research Impact Canada (RIC)

Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA)

South African Higher Education Community Engagement Forum (SAHECEF)

UKRI

Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN)

University of St Andrews

Welsh Higher Education Brussels (WHEB)

Woburn House

Young Academy of Europe



About Academia Europaea

Founded in 1988. Now has more than 5000 leading scientists and scholars as members, including over 80 Nobel laureates. Operates through a network of knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Bergen, Budapest, Cardiff, Munich, Tbilisi and Wroclaw.

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