



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA
CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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



WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT 2023

We are delighted to share with you this summary of the Cardiff Hub's highlights and achievements.

The most important news for the Hub came with the announcement of an agreement for the UK to become an Associated Country in the Horizon Europe and Copernicus programmes. Core to the Hub's mission is our involvement in the European Scientific Advice Mechanism via the SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) consortium. We have greatly appreciated the grant from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to continue our participation in this important work. Nonetheless, the UK's association means we can look forward with greater certainty to continuing our involvement over the coming years. Indeed, our contribution to SAPEA has been significant this past year. We have completed a number of systematic literature reviews, not only for SAPEA but also the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and the European Group on Ethics. We are leading the evidence review on *Solar radiation modification*, expecting to deliver the report in the autumn of 2024.

In our other European project, we have completed our work in CALIPER, a Horizon 2020-funded initiative that promotes gender equality in research and innovation, particularly STEM.

It has been good to return to physical meetings and events, whilst still continuing our programme of webinars. In the summer, a celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Academia Europaea's journal *European Review* was held at Wolfson College, Cambridge. We were delighted to have the active participation of Lord Rees of Ludlow OM FRS MAE, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz FRS FLSW MAE and many other distinguished European scientists and scholars. In November, we hosted a successful event, *Beyond borders: strengthening EU-UK research collaboration*. Among our excellent panellists were Professor Christopher Smith FRSE MAE, Executive Director of the Arts & Humanities Research Council and UKRI International Champion, and Professor Hywel Thomas CBE MAE FLSW FRS, President of the Learned Society of Wales.

My thanks go to the outgoing Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University, Colin Riordan CBE FLSW MAE, for his enthusiastic support for the Cardiff Hub since its establishment in 2016 and for his active participation in the work of the Hub's Steering Group. I am happy that our new Vice-Chancellor, Wendy Larner FRSNZ, has kindly accepted to become a member of the Group. My thanks to the other members of the Steering Group, led by our Chair Sir Mark Walport FRS FRSE MAE, and of course, to our Hub team of dedicated professionals.

Ole H Petersen CBE MAE ML FRS



Director of the AE Cardiff Knowledge Hub





CONTEXT

Our achievements in 2023 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 membership base
3. Build connections with the wider group of stakeholders
4. Ensure future sustainability

In line with these priorities, our focus in 2023 has been to:

- Deliver on our project commitments in SAPEA and CALIPER
- Offer an engaging programme of events and conferences, as a mix of online-only and physical/hybrid
- Strengthen and coordinate communications for Academia Europaea and its hubs
- Develop our strategy for 2024-onwards, including renewal of the Cooperation Agreement between Academia Europaea and Cardiff University

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2023

■ The Cardiff Hub continued to play an effective role in two externally-funded projects, SAPEA and CALIPER. In SAPEA, we have delivered systematic literature reviews to the European Scientific Advice Mechanism and the European Group on Ethics, as well as coordination of a new evidence review on *Solar radiation modification*. The Cardiff Hub has also led work on a new SAPEA Strategic Development Plan.

The CALIPER project, focusing on gender equality, came to a close at the end of the year, with Cardiff having led on external communications, overseeing the launch of an engaging series of role model videos showcasing women in STEM.



■ In July, the Cardiff Hub organised a successful landmark event for Academia Europaea. Members of Academia Europaea (MAEs) and other invited guests gathered at Wolfson College Cambridge to mark the 30th anniversary of *European Review*, the journal of Academia Europaea. The event was held in collaboration with Cambridge University Press.



■ In November, the AE Cardiff Hub, together with Connects UK, hosted a successful event aimed at strengthening EU-UK research collaboration. This networking event, held in Cardiff University's Council Chamber, brought together researchers and leading organisations to find ways to nurture the research relationship between the EU and the UK, following the UK's association to Horizon Europe and Copernicus.



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

In February, the European Commission made a formal request to SAPEA for a literature review on *Democracy in a digital age*, on behalf of the European Group on Ethics (EGE). The review was undertaken at Cardiff and the EGE's Opinion was published in June.

In July, the European Commission issued a request for policy advice on the topic of *Solar radiation modification*. This work is being led by the Cardiff Hub and the report will be published in Autumn 2024.

The Cardiff Knowledge Hub provided significant input to the evidence base for the SAPEA Evidence Review Report, *Towards sustainable food consumption*, published in June. Working with Cardiff University's European Information Hub and Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE), the Cardiff Hub carried out a series of literature reviews on different aspects of the topic, along with a mapping of the policy landscape in Europe.

The Cardiff Hub supported SAPEA's outreach for its report on *Strategic crisis management in the EU*. In January, we hosted a webinar *Putting people first: how do we care for each other, build resilience and solidarity in a world in crisis?* Chaired by Professor Ole Petersen, a panel of experts discussed key dimensions of crisis management, particularly the roles that values and ethics play. This was a joint event between the European Group on Ethics, SAPEA and Academia Europaea. A second webinar, *Be prepared: Can we forecast the next crisis and be ready to manage it?*, was held in April. A panel of experts discussed the main factors involved in anticipating and preparing for future crises.

The Cardiff Hub has led work on a new *Strategic Development Plan* for SAPEA, which is due to be published in 2024. The Plan is based on an internal review of the current Plan, alongside a stakeholder consultation that has involved a mix of survey work and interviews, with a total of 91 stakeholders from 5 different stakeholder groups.

Hub Director Professor Petersen continued as an active member of the SAPEA Working Group, advising on the revision of the SAPEA *Quality assurance guidelines and procedures on science advice for policy and society*, a new edition of which was published in September.



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.



Alban Kellerbauer MAE

Interview series with MAEs

As part of our popular Interview Series, we interviewed *European Review* Editor-in-Chief Alban Kellerbauer MAE, shining a spotlight on the journal's 30th anniversary celebrations.



Istvan Hargittai MAE

We also interviewed Istvan Hargittai MAE, who discussed his motivation for writing his latest book *Brilliance in exile*, which explores the lives of Hungarian émigré scientists who have made significant contributions to science after leaving their country of birth.

Standing with Ukraine

AE Cardiff continues to stand wholeheartedly with Ukraine, since the February 2022 invasion. In January, we published *A letter from Ukraine: an insight into life during war*. In this personal 'New Year letter', Dr Oleksiy Gryshchenko MAE writes about his daily life in Kyiv.



Leadership in communications

Following a request from Academia Europaea, the Cardiff Hub led on communications to the AE membership. We assumed responsibility for AE's quarterly newsletter, which we redesigned, along with a monthly bulletin. The Hub was again asked to lead on communications work for the AE Annual Conference, held in Munich in early October. We published in-depth interviews with medal winners including:

- Jean Pierre Changeux, winner of Academia Europaea's Erasmus medal
- Michael Udvardi, recipient of the Adam Kondorosi Academia Europaea Award for Advanced Research 2023
- Eugene Yeo, inaugural recipient of the Academia Europaea Sydney Brenner Medal.

We also interviewed speakers at the Conference including:

- Donald Dingwell, Vice-President of Academia Europaea and Conference host
- Johanna Ivaska, Professor of Molecular Cell Biology at the University of Turku in Finland
- Katalin Solymosi, newly-elected Chair of the Young Academy of Europe.

To further support the conference, we ran a successful social media campaign from Academia Europaea's main Twitter/X account, boosting impressions and increasing engagement significantly.

Briefing Series

Under our Briefing Series, we published five papers on:

- Strategic crisis management
- Building resilience and solidarity
- Inclusive research and innovation ecosystems in Europe
- Climate change
- Succeeding in a STEM career

Each paper in the series summarises key points of discussion at our webinars, with the aim of providing a useful resource on the topic.



Impact

The number of visits to our website has increased by **26%** this year.

Twitter/X continues to help us reach new audiences and raise awareness of our work. Our number of followers has again increased this year, by **10%**.



Summary of online marketing impact, comparison between 2022 and 2023. Data from 1st January – 31st December 2023

	Indicator	2022	2023	Performance improvement compared to same period 2022
Website	Number of visits to the Hub website	14,109	17,843	↑ 26.5%
Twitter	Number of Twitter followers	752	833	↑ 10.7%

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

Our webinars continued to attract an international audience. This year, we have returned to holding major physical events.

In March, we held a two-day international symposium, *Physiology & pathophysiology 2023 symposium*, which brought together around 100 scientists from across the world. The symposium was jointly organised by the American Physiological Society (APS), the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina (Leopoldina) and the Cardiff Hub. Later in the year, the American Physiological Society journal, *FUNCTION*, released a special *Physiology & pathophysiology 2023 symposium* virtual issue, highlighting articles arising from the symposium.



Again in March, we contributed to a very special international symposium, *Celebrating life in calcium signalling, physiology and pathology* to mark the 80th birthday of AE Cardiff Hub Director, Professor Ole Petersen.



In July, Members of Academia Europaea and other invited guests gathered at Wolfson College Cambridge to mark the 30th anniversary of *European Review*, the journal of Academia Europaea. The event also celebrated 35 years since Academia Europaea was founded, with its initial meeting held in Cambridge in 1988.



In September, AE Cardiff Hub organised a workshop on behalf of Academia Europaea's Task Force for Environment, Sustainability, and Climate (TFESC) at Wolfson College, University of Cambridge. The purpose of the workshop was to determine Academia Europaea's capacity to take an active role in addressing pressing climate and environmental challenges.



In November, Academia Europaea Cardiff, together with Connects UK, hosted a successful event aimed at strengthening EU-UK research collaboration. This networking event, held in Cardiff University's Council Chamber, brought together researchers and leading organisations to find ways to nurture the research relationship between the EU and the UK.



At the very end of the year, Hub Director Ole Petersen officially represented AE at a special event at the 2023 Semmelweis Symposium in Budapest, where a co-operation agreement between AE, Semmelweis University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong was signed. The symposium and the following event in Szeged were also a joint celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Nobel Prize Award to Thomas Südhof and Randy Schekmann, as well as Ole Petersen's 80th birthday.

CALIPER project: Gender equality in research and innovation

As part of the CALIPER project, we conducted a series of interviews with inspirational women who work in STEM research and innovation, exploring what motivated them to choose their career, their experiences and the barriers they faced. To further support the CALIPER project, we created an interview series with Members of Academia Europaea discussing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), their experiences and the importance of the CALIPER project in addressing the gender balance in STEM fields. They included Dame Athene Donald MAE, Magdolna Hargittai MAE, Susan Wray MAE, Jeremy Sanders MAE and Ann-Christine Davis MAE.

In October, we hosted a webinar where a panel of inspirational women shared their experiences and advice on addressing the opportunities and challenges of a STEM career. Chaired by Dr Gemma Modinos, past Chair of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), the webinar was co-organised by the AE Cardiff Hub and CALIPER. Speaking alongside our keynote, Professor Simonetta Manfredi (Oxford Brookes University, UK), were two role models, Professor Karine Van Doninck (Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium) and Dr Virginia Petre (University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania).

In November, the Cardiff Hub contributed to the final CALIPER conference, which took place in Belgium. A video created by Cardiff, *Be inspired! Women from academia tell their stories*, was presented by Moniek Tromp, Chair of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), and featured interview clips with accomplished women in STEM, shedding light on their experiences and insights.



Dame Athene Donald MAE



Magdolna Hargittai MAE



Jeremy Sanders MAE



Susan Wray MAE



Ann-Christine Davis MAE



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:

Ensure future sustainability

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



Funding for the SAPEA project

The current SAPEA project runs from 1st May 2022 to 31st December 2024, with the possibility of extension into 2025. The funding for the Cardiff Hub's work for SAPEA in this period is provided by a grant from the UK Government's UKRI through Innovate UK and has allowed us to continue to deliver Academia Europaea's contributions to SAPEA, leading evidence reviews on behalf of the consortium, as well as leading the work package on strategic development. Academia Europaea and Cardiff University formally agreed to extend their Collaboration Agreement, which is now valid until 30th June 2025.



CALIPER

The Cardiff Hub has been part of 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 has collaborated closely with the Young Academy of Europe (YAE) in leading on international communications and encouraging wider engagement with the project. The project came to a close in December 2023.

Staffing



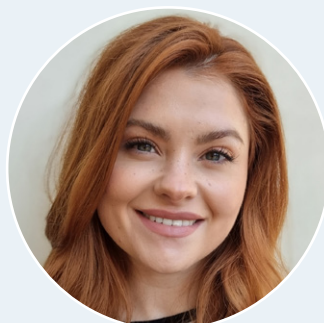
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Knowledge Hub Manager
Louise Edwards



Executive Officer
Juliet Davies



Communications Officer
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Executive Officer – Science for Policy
Dr Rafael Carrascosa Marzo

Finance

Under the Cooperation Agreement between Academia Europaea and Cardiff University, the University meets defined salary and non-staff costs. Additional income has been 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 2023, in particular:

Academia Europaea, in particular Members who have supported and engaged with the Hub, our colleagues across Europe and the AE Task Force for Environment, Sustainability and Climate (TFESC)

Academia Europaea Cardiff Hub Steering Group

APS (American Physiological Society) and *FUNCTION*

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

CALIPER

Connects UK

European Group on Ethics (EGE)

European Group of Chief Scientific Advisors

European Review

German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

Learned Society of Wales (LSW)

Newington Design

Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA)

Welsh Centre for Public Policy (WCPP)

Welsh Higher Education Brussels (WHEB)

Wolfson College, University of Cambridge

Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN)

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

Young Academy of Europe (YAE)



About Academia Europaea

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

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