



# THE ACADEMY OF EUROPE

*Scientists and scholars  
who collectively aim  
to promote learning,  
education and research.*

Academia Europaea was founded in 1988 as an international, non-governmental association of individual scientists and scholars from all disciplines, who are experts and leaders in their own subject areas as recognised by their peers.

**The Academia Europaea will:**

- Seek to promote a wider appreciation of the value of European scholarship and of research.
- Seek to encourage interdisciplinary and international scholarship in all areas of learning of relevance to Europe.
- Identify topics of trans-European importance to science and scholarship, and propose appropriate action to ensure that any such topics are adequately addressed.
- Shall, where appropriate to its expertise, provide independent and impartial advice to European institutions, governments and international agencies concerning matters affecting science, scholarship and academic life in Europe.

**The Academia will endeavour to:**

- Encourage achievement of the highest possible standards in scholarship, research and education.
- Promote a better understanding among the public at large of the benefits of knowledge and learning, and of scientific and scholarly issues that affect society, its quality of life and its standards of living.

**We achieve these aims** through a programme of activities which include the organisation and promotion of plenary meetings, study groups, expert workshops; through the election of eminent scientists and scholars to membership of the Academia; and through scientific and other publications, including the Academia's quarterly journal, the *European Review*.

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## Membership

The Academia has three membership categories: Ordinary, Foreign and Honorary.

The Academia's current membership is about 2300. There are over 67 foreign members, normally prominent European scholars who are resident outside of Europe. Membership is always open to the best scientists and scholars. The Academia particularly welcomes nominations for women members and for candidates who are under 55 years of age, from all disciplines.

**The method of election of new members** is based on a nomination by existing members. Any member of the Academia may nominate a new member from any discipline or any country. Nominations are then considered in the following stages:

- First, by the appropriate Section committee. All members of the Academia are included in one of seventeen multidisciplinary Sections. Each Section has a chairperson and committee.
- Second, nominations are peer reviewed by the Section committees who pass on their recommendations for consideration by the Council's Nominations Subcommittee.
- Finally the Council elects new members, based on the recommendations of the Nominations Subcommittee. Newly elected members are then invited to accept the honour of membership of the Academia.

# Activities

## **Annual Scientific Meetings**

The principal meeting is the Annual conference. In recent years these have been thematic, multidisciplinary meetings of three days held at a European location. Many of the papers presented at the Annual Meetings are subsequently published in the European Review.

## **The Erasmus Lecture and Medal**

The Erasmus Lecture and award of a medal were introduced into the programme of the Annual Meeting in 1992 to provide an opportunity for Academia members and others to hear a renowned scholar. The Erasmus lecturers have included: Janos Kornai, Ernst Mestmäcker, Lawrence Freedman, Alain Touraine, Hubert Markl, Paul Crutzen, Peter Burke, Raoul van Caenegem, Kristof Glamann, Edoardo Boncinelli, Giorgio Bernardi, Harold Kroto, Carl Djerassi, Stig Strömholm, Pierre Léna, Bert Sakmann, Francisco Márquez Villaneuva and Semir Zeki.

## **The Burgen Scholars**

In order to recognise the contribution to learning of younger scientists and scholars, the Academia appoints 'Burgen Scholars' at its Annual Meeting. The Scholars, named after the Academia's Founding President, are outstanding younger academics from the host country; they are invited to participate fully in the Annual Meeting and present summaries of their work.

## **The Gold Medal**

The Academia's Gold Medal is awarded to institutions or individuals who through their inspiration, political efforts, managerial skill, or financial means have supported European science and scholarship. The Medal has been awarded to the Royal Society of London, Heinz Riesenhuber, George Soros, Paul Sacher, Jacques Delors, Klaus Tschira, The Max Planck Society, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, The Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and the Wenner Gren Foundations.

## **Symposia and working groups**

The Academia Europaea also organises special working groups and workshops to address particular topics of scientific or academic interest. Ideas can originate from within and through the Sections. For example recent workshops on the Earth Sciences “Topo-Europe: Topological Geosciences” and in the Medical sciences on “Brain Plasticity” and on “Reactive Oxygen Species in Health and Disease”. Also on ‘Linguistics’, on ‘Islamic Art’ and on ‘Medieval Music’, from the Humanities sections. The other major themes of particular importance have been initiatives that respond to Higher Education issues and Culture, through our Higher Education, Research and Culture in European Society group known as the ‘HERCULES’ group. Symposia and volumes are on topics such as: the Impact of Information Technology on society, “Higher education in the 21st century”, “Teaching science to children”, “Interdisciplinarity and the organisation of knowledge in Europe”, “The impact of electronic publishing on the academic community” and “Electronic communication and research in Europe”, “Collaboration and ownership in the digital economy” and “Virtuality in Europe”, The “University in the Market”, “The Formative Years of Scholars” and “Excellence in Institutions of Higher Education in Europe”. European Policy relevant initiatives are organised such as a series exploring the “Role of the Humanities in the European Research Area” and “The future of Mathematics Education in Europe”. For all of these, external sponsorship is sought to conduct these workshops and related publication activities. All details and information is available on the Academia website at [www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org)

## **Prizes schemes**

Since 1993 the Academia has organised a scheme for giving prize awards to young scientists from the republics of the former Soviet Union. Significant financial support for this scheme has been given by a number of European and international foundations, societies, Russian companies and individuals. New sponsors are always welcome. The scheme has helped to promote further support of young scientists within these countries.

# Publications

The Academia issues a quarterly journal, the *European Review*, published by Cambridge University Press, which is distributed to all members and is also available from CUP on private and institutional subscription. The *European Review* includes high quality papers, of an interdisciplinary character. Many editions also include a specific 'Focus' features consisting of several related articles on a topic of European concern. Abstracts can be viewed online at: [http://journals.cambridge.org/journal\\_europeanreview](http://journals.cambridge.org/journal_europeanreview)

The Academia increasingly uses the web as a main channel for communication. Hard copy material is produced, including bulletins mailed out with the *European Review*, made available online and to members in hard copy on request. An annual Directory is also published, along with the annual report and accounts. Sponsorship and advertising is possible in all of these channels of communication.

A number of workshops and study groups have been published as Academia papers and in several cases as books, including the following:

- The Responsibility of the Scientist to Science and Society, papers and discussion from an Academia Europaea symposium, London, June 1989. Published in *Science and Public Policy* vol 17, no. 2, April 1990.
- Research on the Human Genome in Europe, Report of the Academia Europaea commissioned by Bundesministerium für Forschung und Technologie on behalf of the European Science Ministers Conference, March 1991.
- Space Research in Europe, Report of a symposium organised jointly by the Academia Europaea and the Académie des Sciences, ISBN 1-874117-01-2, September 1991.
- Linguistic Unity and Linguistic Diversity in Europe, Report on an Academia Europaea symposium, ISBN 1-874117-02-0, 1991.
- Academies, Research Councils and Universities: Their role in modern Europe by Chris Caswill, report of a workshop organised by Academia Europaea, ISBN 1-874117-04-7, 1992.
- Schooling in Modern European Society, Edited by T. Husén,

A. Tuijnman & W.D. Halls. A report of the Academia Europaea, Pergamon Press, ISBN 0-08-041393-5, 1992.

- Psychosocial Disorders in Young People: Time Trends and their Causes, Edited by M. Rutter and D. Smith. Published by J. Wiley, ISBN 0-471-95054-8, 1995.
- Goals and Purposes of Higher Education in the 21st Century, Edited by Arnold Burgen. Published by Jessica Kingsley, ISBN 1-85302-547-X, 1995 (for Spanish edition, see “Metas y Proyectos ...”, 1999).
- Inside Academia, New Challenges for the Academic Profession, Edited by Peter A.M. Maassen and Frans van Vught, Center for Higher Education Policy Studies, Enschede. Published by De Tijdstroom, Utrecht, ISBN 90-352-1800-0, 1996.
- The Idea of Progress, Edited by Jürgen Mittelstrass, Peter McLaughlin and Arnold Burgen. Published by Walter de Gruyter, ISBN 3-11-015393-9, 1997.
- Growing up with Science, Edited by Kjell Härnqvist and Arnold Burgen. Published by Jessica Kingsley, ISBN 1-85302-449-X, 1997.
- Academia Europaea Opinion: Opinion on the Commission’s proposal for a European directive on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions. February 1997.
- The Impact of Electronic Publishing on the Academic Community, Edited by Ian Butterworth, Published by Portland Press, ISBN 1-85578-122-0, 1998. – HERCULES group
- Academia Europaea Briefing Paper – Proposed European Directive on the Harmonisation of Certain Aspects of copyright COM (97) 628 final – November 1998
- Interdisciplinarity and the Organisation of Knowledge in Europe, Edited by Richard Cunningham. Published by the European Commission, ISBN 92-828-6175-9, 1999.
- Electronic Communication and Research in Europe, Edited by Jack Meadows and Heinz-Dieter Böcker. Published by the European Commission, ISBN 92-828-6874-5, 1999.
- Metas y Proyectos de la Educación Superior, Spanish edition

of “Goals and Purposes of Higher Education in the 21st Century”. Published by Fundación Universidad-Empresa, ISBN 84-7842-178-5, 1999.

- The Social Impacts of Virtual Information, recommendations from the Paderborn conference, The Tree Issue 15, 2000.
- The need for High Bandwidth Computer Based Networking in Europe. A joint statement with the European Science Foundation, Number 7, February 2000.
- Science and Higher Education in Croatia. A report on a visit by the Academia Europaea, June 2000.
- The Virtual University, Edited by Henk van der Molen, Published by Portland Press, ISBN 1-85578-145-X, 2001. – HERCULES group
- “Collaboration and Ownership in the Digital Economy – CODE”, Edited by Michael Century, Published by MIT Press (in press - 2003).
- CODE – synopsis of the conference and forward look. Edited by J. Howkins. Published by the Arts Council of England and The Academia Europaea. ISBN 0-7287-0896-5. 2002
- “Clues to Excellence in Higher Education”. Rapporteurs report. (Lanzendorf, U. & Verburgh, A.) 2002 [w]
- Excellence in Higher Education. Edited by Erik de Corte. Published by The Portland Press, London. ISBN 1-85578-152. 2003-10-01 – HERCULES group
- “The Formative Years of Scholars”. Edited by Ulrich Teichler. Published by The Portland Press. London, 2006 ISBN-13 978 1 85578 164 1 – HERCULES group
- “Quality Assessment of Higher Education in Europe”. Edited by Alessandro Cavalli. Published by The Portland Press. London, 2007 ISBN 978 1 855781719 – HERCULES group
- “The University in the Market”. Edited by Lars Engvall and Denis Weaire. Published by the Portland Press, London, 2008 ISBN 978 85578 168 9 – HERCULES group

# Independent advice

One of the principles underlying the foundation of the Academia was the perceived need for impartial expert independent advice to public and private bodies. The Academia considers that with a membership of 2300 eminent scientists and scholars from many disciplines and cultures, able to comment independently of any national or organisational viewpoint, it is well placed to offer advice on scientific or academic matters to appropriate bodies in Europe.

The following are examples of policy advice provided by the Academia Europaea:

- The Academia was invited by the Conference of European Science Ministers to advise on research into the human genome, at a time when many of the implications of this type of research, and the scale of the task, were poorly understood. The Academia created an international expert group whose report was presented to European ministers and helped to clarify some of these issues at a high level.
- The Academia was invited by the State Committee of the Ukraine for Science and Technology to conduct an evaluation of the quality of science in the Ukraine, and to advise on the reorganisation of the country's science and research.
- Advice has been given to the European Parliament and Commission on proposed directives on the patenting of biological inventions and on the harmonisation of copyright.
- At the invitation of the Parliament of Croatia, the Academia has provided an assessment on Science and Higher Education in Croatia. In a wider regional context the Academia in collaboration with UNESCO, has been a lead player in activities aimed at the rebuilding of scientific co-operation in the countries of South East Europe.
- The Academia have issued a number statements to the institutions and governments of the European Union which identify priorities for action. These include:
  - 2002: "Virtuality and the European Citizen"
  - 2002: "The need for a European Research Council"
  - 2002: "International Academies as Interlocutors between International Scholarship and Supranational Policy". In The

IPTS Report, vol 70. 2002. (Coates, D. & Strömholm, S.)

- 2003: “Towards a European Research Council: A Further Contribution to the Debate”
- 2003: The Rôle of Universities in the Europe of Knowledge
- 2004: The Rôle of the Humanities in European Research Policy – a statement
- 2007: The future of Mathematics Education in Europe.
- The Academia Europaea was a founder member of the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) a grouping of major European National Academies of Science that in provide independent analyses of the impacts and implications of science on issues of significant European Public policy. EASAC responds to emerging and potential policy areas, such as on Energy, Environment, Health and the impact of emerging areas of science, for example the Nanosciences, by drawing on Academies own members to publish comprehensive analyses of the latest science that might be useful as a guide to policy making. Full information and publications can be found on the EASAC website at [www.easac.eu](http://www.easac.eu)

Further information on all of these activities can be found on [www.acadeuro.org](http://www.acadeuro.org)

# Relationships with other bodies

The Academia Europaea maintains close relationships with other bodies concerned with European science and scholarship, including the European Commission and its scientific advisory body (EURAB), the European Science Foundation, UNESCO, the network of European Academies (ALLEA), the International Council for Science (ICSU) and Euroscience. Contacts and exchanges of information and literature are also maintained with national academies and other international academies such as the Third World Academy.

## Finance

As an independent body, the Academia Europaea receives financial support from a wide range of sources, including from a number of government ministries and the research funding councils of several European countries, private foundations, charities, banks and industries. Members are also asked to pay a subscription, although to recognise that both national traditions and the great differentials across European country economies may present difficulties, generous exemptions are provided for in individual cases. All of our conferences and activities are externally supported by funds which are negotiated by the Academia and often passed directly from sponsors to the local organisers. This ensures an active and relevant involvement at the local and regional levels.

# Organisation

The Academia Europaea is led by a President, and up to three Vice-Presidents, an honorary Treasurer and an elected Council composed of the Section committee chairs and a number of independently elected members. The President, the Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer form a Board of management. Council Subcommittees handle specific areas of the Academia's business. As a charitable trust, registered under UK trust law, the governance and overall legal responsibility for the affairs of the Academia lay with a Board of Trustees. These are all individuals of international standing, drawn from the worlds of Academia, the professions and public service.

To improve co-ordination, each member of the Academia is placed into a discipline based Section: These include: History and Archaeology, Classics & Oriental Studies, Linguistic Studies, Literary & Theatrical Studies, Musicology (History of Art and Architecture, Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies, Behavioural Science, Social Science, Mathematics, Informatics, Physics and Engineering Science, Chemical Sciences, Earth & Cosmic Sciences, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Physiology & Medicine, Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. Sections are responsible for nomination of new members and for activities.

The Academia's office and the secretariat are located in London, at:

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