

President's summary report of the Academia Europaea activities and highlights in 2024

Dear members,

On behalf of the Board of trustees, I would like to thank all of the organisations that have sustained the Academia through their generous general financial sponsorships. In particular the authorities supporting the Academia Europaea Regional Knowledge Hubs and the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN) - a new Patron member of the Academia Europaea from 2024. The trustees also thank those other foundations and organisations that have contributed to the running of specific events and activities of the Academia during the period of this report. The support of these organisations is identified in various places within this report and in the separate annual accounts and have been identified within the various individual Hub reports annexed to the main report that you can find on our website. The full trustees report (2024) is available as a pdf on the ae-info website.

2024 was the final year of Professor Makarow's term as President. Following a call for nominations, careful scrutiny of candidates and an E-ballot of members, Professor Dingwell was elected as the new President. The Board of trustees wish to thank Professor Makarow for her term as President. The AE achieved much in her three years of leadership, including the establishing of the new Munich legal entity, transition in SAPEA and our appointment to the G-20 scientific strand on behalf of the European Commission. All significant and substantive changes for the AE.

As the new President, I confirm that in 2024, the trustees had been active in their engagement in the affairs of the Academia and a majority have attended every meeting of the trustees. The trustees wish to express their gratitude to the elected officers of the Academy and other members of the Board of trustees, for their additional work on behalf of the membership. In particular, we would like to thank our treasurer who together with me as the new President and our past President, played pivotal roles in our new policy related work representing the European Commission as a member of the G-20 science academy network. I would also like to specifically thank the outgoing chair of our HERCuLES group – Lars Engwall, who has maintained the excellence of the symposia that the group organises. Our trustee Professor Milena Zic Fuchs (Linguistics) has taken up the challenge. I would also like to record again our thanks to the Wenner Gren Foundations, who provide both a venue and support for these events. Professor Britte-Marie Sjöberg MAE who had served the Wenner Gren as their Science Director and CEO for a number of years has now retired and we are grateful for her unfailing support.

In 2024, the AE was able to continue its return to a more substantial programme of real-time international events (conferences and workshops) and maintained a programme of online activities (webinars and streamed events). Some of these are reported in the main report and in more detail in the individual Hub annual reports where the majority of our activities have been focussed. The new Horizon 2020 funded SAPEA activity started, with AE in the lead position of acting as co-ordinator and for the whole project. Our policy work is managed out of the Munich office, which is gradually taking over more of the mainstream AE operational work from our London office. The European Review continued to be published and generated royalty income. The Review went to full Gold open access.

The trustees wish to record their thanks to the Technical University of Graz data centre staff for their continuing and dedicated I.T. and corporate web support and to Professor Balazs Gulyas for his management of the AE Erasmus Medal process and the Sydney Brenner Prize. I am pleased to announce that following a call for nominations, the selection panel for Class B selected Professor Laszlo Loasz as the 2025 Erasmus Medal recipient. A call for nominations will be published in due course for the 2026 Erasmus medal – this time it will be for scholars in Class A2 – Social and related sciences. Finally, we would like to thank the Cardiff Hub team who have managed our member communications and newsletters with professionalism over the past year.

The trustees are pleased to report, that in 2024, our inter – organisational links were further strengthened with a number of European federation organisations (ALLEA, FEAM, EASAC and euroCASE). We continued with our engagement as a member of the EASAC consortium. The AE also signed a new cooperation agreement with the UAI (Union Academique Internationale), and we wish to thank Professor Bjorn Wittrock and Professor Samuel lieu MAE who have managed this process and will be the AE – UAI liaison team.

As the new President, I and other trustees have engaged in a number of specific activities that responded to policy issues across Europe. The AE Expert group on A.I. under the chairmanship of Prof. Erol Gelenbe MAE has continued to develop a series of activities. In addition, each of the seven Regional Knowledge Hubs has its own distinct mission and identity that respond to local and regional priorities. We are pleased to announce that following an extensive process, we have recently launched a new Regional Knowledge Hub in Bucharest. The trustees recognise the immense support provided by the sponsors for these Hubs. None of the hubs receives core financing from the centre for their day-to-day operations. This model helps to increase local responsiveness.

The trustees are pleased to report a further widening of the membership of the Academia Europaea with the election in 2024 of 344 scholars across the four classes. Unfortunately, there has only been a very slow improvement in gender balance and there remains a deficit with respect to the membership from the less research-intensive countries of Europe.

The AE has a membership of individuals that are drawn from the whole continent of Europe and Foreign members from beyond Europe. Up to date membership statistics can be found in graphical representations on our website (www.ae-info.org).

The Trustees wish to place on record, that it is their belief, that at the time of the compilation of this report, there were no additional or unforeseen risks that would place the continuation of the AE in jeopardy.

On behalf of the Board of trustees, I am pleased to report that the Academia is on a solid growth trajectory and, **I recommend members TO ADOPT THE 2024 Trustees report.**

The report will eventually be submitted to the UK regulatory authorities and will be made available to members online.

Don Dingwell
President

Munich
September 2025