

# **ANNUAL TRUSTEE (activity) REPORT**

without individual Knowledge Hub Reports

**FOR 2024**



**'The Academy of Europe'**  
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registered office at:  
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Room 336, 3rd floor  
Theresienstr. 41  
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GERMANY  
Amtsgericht München (Registration Number): VR 210134  
Tax number: 143/210/03525

and  
The Academia Europaea London

A UK Company limited by guarantee  
registered at Companies House. Registration number 07028223  
Registered with the Charity Commission, registration number 1133902

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Reports of the activity of the AE Knowledge Hubs for 2024 are available. They are large files and are available to download from [www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org) or, on request from the individual Hub offices, or online at the following URLs;

Barcelona Hub at: <https://aebarcelona.eu/>  
 Bergen Hub at: <https://aebergen.w.uib.no/annual-reports/>  
 Budapest Hub: [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad\\_Main/Budapest\\_Knowledge\\_Hub](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad_Main/Budapest_Knowledge_Hub)  
 Cardiff Hub at: <http://aecardiffknowledgehub.wales/about-us/documents/>  
 Tbilisi Hub at: <https://www.aetbilisihub.org>  
 Wroclaw Hub at: <https://acadeuro.wroclaw.pl/>

## SECTION 1: Governance

### THE TRUSTEES OF THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

#### Board of TRUSTEES (on 31 December 2024)

##### Elected Officers (3)

|                          |                            |                                       |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>        | Professor Marja Makarow    | Helsinki, (to end 2024)               |
| <b>Vice President:</b>   | Professor Don Dingwell     | Munich, (to end 2025, renewable)      |
| <b>Hon. Treasurer:</b>   | Professor Stephen Evans    | Cambridge (to end of 2025, renewable) |
| <b>Co-opted Members:</b> | Professor Eva Kondorosi    | Budapest, (until end 2026)            |
|                          | Professor Poul Holm        | Dublin, (to end 2025)                 |
|                          | Professor Bjorn Wittrock   | Uppsala, (until end 2024)             |
|                          | Professor Eystein Jansen   | Bergen, (until end of 2025)           |
|                          | Professor Paolo Papale     | Rome (until end of 2027)              |
|                          | Professor Milena Zic-Fuchs | Zagreb (appointed to 2025)            |

The list of Section chairs, as of 31 December 2024, is at annex 2 of this report. Professor Dingwell continued as the Director of the Munich legal entity. Class chairs are trustees. At the end of 2024 they were.

Class A1 – Humanities and Arts – Chair Professor Poul Holm (Trustee), VP ex o  
Class A2 – Social and Related Sciences – Chair Professor Bjorn Wittrock (Trustee) VP ex o  
Class B – Exact Sciences – Professor Paolo Papale (Trustee), VP ex o  
Class C – Life Sciences – Professor Eva Kondorosi (Trustee) VP ex o

Note, that in our Articles of Association and the statutes of the Munich Ev, the Council as described is an advisory body to the trustees. Since the creation of the Class system, the single Council now effectively operates through the Class configurations. The Classes and their component Sections each CONSTITUTE ONE PART OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. The Class chairs are thus the *de facto* representatives of the Sections on the Board of trustees. The trustees did consult electronically throughout the year with their sectoral 'Council members' (the Section chairs) on specific issues, in the Class configuration. Class committees (comprising the Chairs of the Section committees) have been assigned responsibility for the management of the nominations and selection process for new members and they will over-time become responsible for delivery of activity programmes, as envisaged by the Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024. In view of this re-orientation of responsibility and the fact that the Classes now fulfil the role of the former plenary Council, but in a more efficient way, the trustees will review the Regulations in to better reflect the new working structure.

During 2024 there was no activity assigned to the wholly owned subsidiary company in Bergen Norway, operating under the Bergen Knowledge Hub. The CEO appointed by the Board, was Professor Eystein Jansen (the current Bergen Hub Academic Director) and the other Director is the AE Executive Secretary – Dr David Coates. This entity was dissolved in 2024.

As of 20th September 2023, the trustees signed articles to establish a new AE Munich legal entity (Academia Europaea e.V - eingetragener Verein). This development had been strongly endorsed by the AE Independent Advisory Group in 2022. All members of the AE had been informed of the plans at the AGM of 2022 and the strategic plan refers to the Board of trustees keeping the post-BREXIT situation under review. Since the creation of the new legal entity, the UK government had agreed to re-associate to the Horizon Europe programme, that ends in 2027. However, this does not alter the current funding arrangements for SAPEA plus and the AE. Therefore, the intention is that from 2024 and beyond, the new Munich legal entity will become the AE HQ for all dealings with the EU and facilitate access for all members of the AE. The new entity will also assume other responsibilities from London over time. The London charity will continue to run in parallel, and both will operate under a common Board of trustees for the foreseeable future. London will have a decreasing lead role and will provide administrative support to the AE office in Munich. Both entities will be displayed on the common website ([www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org)) and will operate as a single functional unit under a common Board of trustees. Each will have to report separately to their own national regulatory bodies, as described in their statutes. Members of the Academia Europaea are *de facto*, members of both legal forms of the AE. Resources will be allocated between each entity according to function and need.

The Academia Europaea e.V Munich has its registered office at:

Academia Europaea e.V.  
Room 336, 3rd floor  
Theresienstr. 41  
80333 München  
GERMANY  
+49 89 2180 4294

Amtsgericht München (Registration Number): VR 210134  
Tax number: 143/210/03525

## London General Secretariat

Executive Secretary: Dr David Coates  
Senior Administrator: Ms Teresa McGovern  
Accounts and payroll: Outsourced to Keith Vaudrey & Co.  
Membership Secretary: Function partially provided by the Wroclaw Hub office  
Membership administration, database and website management are outsourced: Technical University of Graz. Contact is Ms Dana Kaiser

The Executive Secretary is the Company Secretary (London), with responsibility for day-to-day financial operations of the AE as a whole (except for SAPEA projects) membership and activity and the London office and provides secretariat support to the Board and other sub-committees and assistance to the Munich office.

The company and charity registered office is at Room 251, Senate House, University of London, Malet Street. London, WC1E 7HU.

## Munich General Secretariat

Director: Professor Donald Dingwell  
Executive Secretary (Munich) Ms Friederike Brandthaus

The association registered office at Munich, is at Academia Europaea e.V. Room 336, 3rd floor, Theresienstr. 41, 80333 München, GERMANY. The office has responsibility for all EU research related matters, oversight of the AE Regional Knowledge Hubs, support to the Classes and Sections and overall oversight of the communications strategy, membership election and support services and all activity programmes including conferences, awards, grants and related matters.

## Regional Knowledge Hubs (on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2024)

### Barcelona Hub (<https://aebarcelona.eu/> )

Academic Director: Professor Jaume Bertranpetit  
Hub manager: Maite Sánchez Riera

### Bergen Hub (<https://aebergen.w.uib.no/>)

Academic Director: Professor Eystein Jansen (AE trustee)  
Hub manager: Ms Kristen Bakken  
Communications: Mr Nils Olav Sæverås

### Budapest Hub <https://mta.hu/aebudapest>

Academic Director: Professor Peter Hegyi  
Hub Manager: Dr Gergely Bohm  
Hub Officer: Nóra Deák  
Hub Communications Officer: Katalin Borvölgyi,

### Cardiff Hub ([www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales/](http://www.aecardiffknowledgehub.wales/) )

Academic Director: Professor Ole Petersen.  
Hub Manager: Ms Louise Edwards  
Communications officer: Alice Sadler  
Executive Officer: Ms Juliet Davies  
Research Officer: Rafael Carrascosa Marzo

**Graz Data Centre.** Responsible (under contract to AE London) for delivery, support, development and content management of the AE corporate website ([www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org) ) and the membership database. The data centre team include: (Director) Professor Frank Kappe, Project Manager H. Leitner, M.Sc., Chief Programmer Mr R. Hoffmann and Main Editorial Management Ms Dana Kaiser M.A.

### Tbilisi Hub (<https://www.aetbilisihub.org/> )

Academic Director: Professor David Lordkipanidze  
Hub Executive Director: Ms Natia Khuluzauri  
Manager: Vakhtang Tsintsadze

### Wroclaw Knowledge Hub (<https://acadeuro.wroclaw.pl/> )

Academic Director: Professor Arkadius Węjs  
Hub manager: Anna Jarosz  
Hub officer: Veronica Lott

**Examiner of Accounts**

Keith Vaudrey & Co Ltd.  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
51, Marloes Road  
London W8 6LA

**Principal Bankers**

NatWest Bank Plc  
250, Regent St.  
  
London W1B 3BN

**Solicitors**

Hewitson Becke+Shaw  
Shakespeare House  
42, Newmarket Road  
Cambridge. CB5 8EP

Note: The legal and administrative information in the report and financial statements forms a part of the overall trustee's report.

**SECTION 2: The structure and mission of the Academia Europaea****The Academia Europaea London<sup>1</sup>**

On 23 September 2009: the Academia Europaea was incorporated as a Company limited by Guarantee and was registered at Companies House (number 07028223). See: <https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/07028223> .

The Company was also registered as a not-for-profit charity (registration number 1133902), see <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/4048916>

**The Academia Europaea Munich**

As of 20th September 2023, the trustees signed articles to establish a new AE Munich legal entity (Academia Europaea e.V - eingetragener Verein). Amtsgericht München (Registration Number): VR 210134. Tax number: 143/210/03525

**Governance and management**

A single Board of Trustees manages the affairs of both legal entities of the Academia Europaea. There is an 'Advisory Council' and other operational sub-committees that are described in annex 1. Elections and appointments to the Board are as described in the regulations. These can also be found on the corporate website at [www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org).

Members elect the officers of the Academia (President, Vice President(s) and Honorary Treasurer). Other trustees are co-opted directly by the Board. The Annual General Meeting of members confirms these appointments in accordance with the regulations. The Vice Presidents (ex officio) are recommended by the President and appointed by the Board of Trustees for a period as defined in the Regulations.

**Training and induction of new trustees**

New trustees are provided with a copy of the statutes and regulations, governance documents and access to sets of minutes of the past year(s). Trustees also receive copies of documents describing the role and responsibilities of Directors and Trustees and links to the appropriate UK Charity Commission and Company House websites and those relevant to the Munich legal entity.

**The mission of the Academia Europaea**

The Academia Europaea is an international, non-governmental association of individual scientists and scholars, who are experts and leaders in their own subject areas, as recognised by their peers.

**The Academia will:**

Promote European scholarship and research and increase the wider appreciation of its value and importance  
Make recommendations to national governments and international agencies concerning matters affecting science, scholarship and academic life in Europe.  
Encourage interdisciplinary and international research in all areas of learning, particularly in relation to European issues.  
Identify topics of trans-European importance to science and scholarship and propose appropriate action to ensure that these issues are adequately studied.

**The Academia will endeavour to:**

Encourage 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, which affect society, its quality of life and its standards of living.

<sup>1</sup> From 1988 to incorporation in 2009, the Academia Europaea operated under a Deed of Trust and was registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission of England and Wales (former registration number 1001978)

## Charitable objectives:

The advancement and propagation of excellence in scholarship in the humanities, law, the economic, social and political sciences, mathematics, medicine, and all branches of natural and technological sciences anywhere in the world for the public benefit and for the advancement of the education of the public of all ages in the aforesaid subjects in Europe.

## SECTION 3: Trustees' report for the period ended 31 December 2024

The trustees 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. 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. These organisations are identified in various places within this report and in the separate accounts and have been identified within the various 'reports to members' of events held during the current period, where appropriate. The trustees have been active in their engagement in the affairs of the Academia and have attended every meeting of the trustees (physical or virtual). The trustees wish to express their gratitude to the elected officers of the Academy for their additional work on behalf of the membership. In particular, to thank Professor Don Dingwell for steering the establishing of the new Munich AE legal entity, and for his representing the AE in external project boards and meetings, including in the Horizon Europe SAPEA plus project and Alban Kellerbauer as Editor-in-chief of our international journal – The European Review. The trustees would also like to thank the trustees again thank Professor Lars Engwall for his chairmanship of the HERCuLES group and the Wenner Gren Foundations of Sweden, for supporting the annual international symposium series.

In 2024, the AE operated a growing programme of real-time international events (conferences and workshops) and a programme of online activities (webinars and streamed events). Some of these are reported below and in more detail in the individual Hub annual reports. The Horizon 2020 funded SAPEA activity continued under a new contact and is managed out of the Munich office. The European Review continued to be published and generated royalty income (see below).

The trustees are grateful to the six AE Regional Knowledge Hubs and their dedicated staff. The sponsors and hosts of these hubs have through their generosity, enabled the AE to deliver a much larger and more varied programme of activities both to the academic communities of their regions and also increasingly they are bringing science to the general public, through a range of public events, lectures and exhibitions targeted at their specific regional remits. These are reported on in the individual Hub annual reports. The Regional Hubs are independent of the AE corporate centre but work in coordination with one another in delivering our charitable objectives across Europe.

As a result of the 2024 activity, the trustees can report that the annual examined accounts for 2024 show a negative unrestricted funds reserve carried forward to 2025 of £-33,600 compared to £4,266 for the year ended 31 December 2023. This negative figure does not however reflect the actual cash situation of the AE at the end of 2024. In fact, an unrestricted funds total of £213,526 was carried over into 2025 (this figure includes the life membership totals described in the official 2024 accounts document). The accounts showed deferred income in creditors which reflect the accumulated total for life membership donations which are then split over ten years. Each year a 10 percent of accumulated lifetime membership contributions is recognised as members' contributions in the annual accounts. The remaining accumulated lifetime membership contributions are carried forward to the next accounting year. This is reported on page 13 in the financial statements. In addition, the restricted funds were £170,664 in the year ended 2024 and £179,444 in 2023. The costs increased due to the setting up and operation of the new legal entity in Munich, the costs of which were £58,848 in the accounting year of 2024 compared to £54,042 in the year 2023. The charity has since reduced the costs of labour and office space in London to mitigate this deficit in the unrestricted funds. The favourable effect of the cost-cutting that started from April to August 2024, will be further reflected in the coming years. In addition, steps were taken to reduce IT costs at the London office. These will provide additional savings in 2025 and beyond.

The trustees wish to record their thanks to the Technical University of Graz data centre staff for their dedicated I.T. and corporate web and database support and to Professor Balazs Gulyas for his management of the 2024 AE Erasmus Medal process. The Board would also like to thank Professor Gulyas for his work in establishing the Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN) organisation as a new Patron member of the AE.

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 eurocase and YASAS (The Association of European Young Academies). Cardiff and Munich have been responsible for delivery of AE SAPEA plus participation throughout the year.

The President and other trustees engaged in a number of specific activities that responded to policy issues across Europe and more widely. A thematic transdisciplinary AE task force on Environmental sustainability continued to meet. In addition, the task force on Artificial Intelligence under the coordination of Professor Erol Gelenbe (Chair of the Informatics Section) organised key meetings and the international collaboration agreement known as the TEA-NET consortium, under the coordination of Professor Peter Hegyi (Chair of the Clinical and Veterinary Sciences Section) entered its delivery phase. The AE played an active part in a number of European international associations, networks and initiatives as part of our objective to support excellence in European science and scholarship. One of these was the IYBSSD (The UN International Year of Basic Science for Development) – Professor Eystein Jansen was the AE liaison. Each of the six Regional Knowledge Hubs has its own distinct mission and identity that respond to local and regional priorities. 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 Cardiff Hub team managed the role of AE Corporate communications coordination, and a visual refresh project was launched across all Hubs.

The trustees are pleased to report a further widening of the membership of the Academia Europaea with the election in 2024 of 365 scholars across the four classes. The full 2024 election list is at annex 1. Member statistics can be found on the AE website at [ae-info.org](http://ae-info.org). There has been a gradual improvement in gender balance members and a reduction in regional disparity in terms of disciplines over the year. This is in line with the targets as described in the strategic plan. However, the trustees will further address these issues in 2024 with a review of membership election and assessment policy to better meet CoARA<sup>2</sup> principles for the 2025 new member cycle. The trustees also continued to support the continuing development of the Young Academy of Europe, in recognition of the AE mission to promote young researchers.

The AE has a membership of individuals that are drawn from the whole continent of Europe and Foreign members from beyond Europe. The majority of AE members are resident and working outside of the UK and the majority of these are based in EU member states. The trustees concluded, that following the completion of the BREXIT process, the risks to the continuation of the Academia as a UK registered and domiciled charity should be regularly reviewed. One significant driver was to ensure the continued AE eligibility to be a beneficiary in future EU funded research collaboration programmes. The situation was resolved in 2023/4 through the creation of a new independent legal entity (a not-for-profit association) in Munich, Germany. The two “charities” have the same common Board of trustees and operate with near identical articles of association. The two entities utilise the existing regulations and policies and all members of the AE are *de facto* members of both entities. Steps will be taken to try to harmonise meetings of trustees and for the annual business meeting to meet the requirements of both entities in common. The intention is that members will not see any difference in operations of the AE. Both entities share the same charitable objectives. Future annual reports to the UK Charities Commission will describe the full range of activity carried out (for both entities). Financial reports will however not be consolidated, and each entity will report to its respective national authorities separately as required.

The Trustees wish to place on record, that it was 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 charity in jeopardy.

### Public benefit statement

Over the year the Academia and the Regional Knowledge Hubs, have published articles and papers in academic journals; organised a number of virtual and physical academic meetings across the continent that are open to members and non-members, young scholars and to the interested public in all areas of operation. The Academia has provided prizes and awards to support and recognise excellent researchers in pursuit of their scholarship. To enhance the accessibility of the European scholarly community to the public, the Academia has maintained and enhanced its web portal and those of the regional knowledge hubs and has contributed to the betterment of European Policy through participation in provision of expert, impartial advice to authorities and governmental organisations and has supported the Young Academy of Europe. A full description of all of the main activities is included elsewhere in this report.

The trustees have consulted the guidance made by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on the Public Benefit requirement of the charities Act 2011. The Trustees are confident that they have complied with their duty under section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 in that they have had a due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

### Future Plans

In the coming year (2025), the trustees will continue to deliver the mission of the Academia through the running of appropriate workshops, publications and related activities. The trustees will explore new opportunities, including continuation of an AE activity for environmental sustainability, Artificial intelligence, and collaborations with other international platforms. The AE will establish a pilot ‘Academia Europaea College of Excellence’ and support the expansion of outreach through an expansion of the network of regional Hubs. We will explore alternative models of financing. The Young Academy of Europe will continue to be supported, specifically to provide a focus to engage with and support young researchers from across the UK and Europe. The AE engagement in European Science policy advice will be strengthened through taking a lead on topics within the Science Advice Policy project SAPEA PLUS and any subsequent Horizon funded policy project. The trustees will especially focus on ensuring that its UK based membership and researchers more generally can continue to be effectively linked with their European colleagues. Following the establishing of the new Munich legal entity, resources will be transferred to assist with set-up and operation, including the re-allocation of administrative tasks from London. To assist in this, the London office and staffing resource will be scaled back. At the invitation of the European Commission, the AE will provide direct input on behalf of the European Union into the G20 network of leading economies, by providing scientific advice to S-20 network of national academies. Appropriate IT developments will be financed to enable coordinated working across the two AE offices.

## SECTION 4: Centrally co-ordinated activities during the period, 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024

### The 35th annual conference of members 26-28 November 2024.

The conference of the Academia Europaea took place at Wroclaw technical University, Wroclaw, Poland. Local organiser and host - Professor Arkadiusz Wójs MAE. – Rector of the University This was a physical event with streaming of plenary sessions see this link for full details: <https://acadeuro.wroclaw.pl/events/buildingbridges24/>

### Sessions included:

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<sup>2</sup> CoARA. [Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment](https://www.coara.eu/)

On November 26<sup>th</sup> a dedicated one-day meeting for all four Classes running in parallel.  
An open meeting of the Young Academy of Europe  
Interdisciplinary Scientific Seminar for young scholars and senior High school students – Professor Stephen Evans

#### **November 27th - plenary session speakers included**

**The 2024 Young Academy of Europe Andre Mischke prize was awarded to Dr Jacek Kolanowski – “Opportunities and Challenges for Early-and-Mid-Career Researchers in Trans-Sectoral and Community Engagement: A Chemical Biologist’s Methodological Perspective”**

**Prof. Heino Falcke, Balzan Prize Winner, MAE – “Towards the Ends of Space and Time – The First Image of a Black Hole”**

**Prof. Verena Winiwarter, MAE – “Energy transitions of the past: is there something to learn from history?”**

**Prof. Ambrogio Fasoli, MAE - “Fusion energy and the European path to power plants”**

**Prof. Monica Bello – “Art & Science” lecture: “Science and art in dialogue, creativity across disciplines”**

**Prof. Emmanuelle Charpentier – Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020, MAE – “CRISPR-Cas9: microbiology as a motor for innovations in medicine and agronomy”**

**Prof. Eske Willerslev, Balzan Price Winner – “The Genomic History of Western Eurasia, Human History, Ecosystem Change, Disease Susceptibility and Infectious Disease”**

**Prof. Yvonne Buckley, MAE – “Biodiversity in a warming world: how climate, climate action and land use shape biodiversity patterns”**

**Prof. Botond Roska, MAE - “Restoring vision”**

#### **November 28th plenary speakers included**

##### **Panel Discussion on Urban Innovations**

Prof. Katarzyna Chojnacka, MAE – Moderator

Prof. Barbara Widera

Dr. Irene Bonvissuto

Dr. Grzegorz Synowiec

Dr. Kathrin Golda-Pongratz, MAE

Dr Karim Selouane

Dr. Magdalena Głogowska

MSc. Eng. Monika Pec-Święcicka

Prof. Simon Goldhill, MAE

MA Joanna Zdanowska

##### **Plenary speakers included**

- **Prof. Rubina Raja, MAE – “Making and breaking cities: the historiography of urban archaeology in the MENA region”**
- **Prof. Samuel Lieu, MAE – “Between Rome and China – Christianity and Manichaeism on the Silk Road”**
- **Prof. Shalom Lappin, MAE – “The deep learning revolution in AI”**
- **Prof. Helen Kennedy, MAE – “What does a good digital society look like?”**
- **Prof. Rubina Raja, MAE – “Making and breaking cities: the historiography of urban archaeology in the MENA region”**
- **Prof. Samuel Lieu, MAE – “Between Rome and China – Christianity and Manichaeism on the Silk Road”**
- **Prof. Shalom Lappin, MAE – “The deep learning revolution in AI”**
- **Prof. Helen Kennedy, MAE – “What does a good digital society look like?”**

Class Chairs Panel Discussion – “Sciences and Scholarship in the Face of the Future: Advances and Crossroads”

Prof. Elżbieta Frąckowiak, MAE – Moderator

Prof. Poul Holm – Humanities

Prof. Éva Kondorosi – Life Sciences

Prof. Paolo Papale – Exact Sciences

Prof. Björn Wittrock – Social and Related Sciences

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**The Academia Europaea Erasmus Medal** No medal was awarded in 2024

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**The Adam Kondorosi Academia Europaea award for advanced research** No award in 2024

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**The Sydney Brenner Prize for Personal achievement in Life Sciences** No award was made in 2024

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## 2024 Class meetings

As a part of the annual conferences programme, the four Classes each held a Class event on 26<sup>th</sup> November to welcome the new members elected in 2024.

The four Classes each followed a similar format. This included a presentation and welcome to the AE by the Class Chair followed by a selection of new member presentations representing each Section and round table discussion sessions.

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## Reports from the Class Chairs for 2024

**Class A1 – Humanities – Chair Professor Poul Holm (Dublin):**

**Class A2 – Social and Related Sciences – Chair Professor Bjorn Wittrock (Uppsala):**

**Class B – Exact Sciences – Chair Professor Paolo Papale (Rome):**

**Class C – Life Sciences - Chair Professor Eva Kondorosi (Budapest):**

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## SECTION 5: Academia Europaea outreach.

### The Academia Europaea Regional Knowledge Hubs

Each Hub operates as an independent entity with local hosts and sponsors. Each Hub organises and delivers their own programmes of activity and assists the London HQ, where needed. The Hubs each have a complimentary thematic mission that provides a wide range of activities delivering a wider public benefit that is in line with our charitable objectives. These activities are described in the individual Hub reports (**see annexes**).

**AE engagement in European research policy and scientific expert advice to policymakers for general public policy (science into policy)**

- **SAPEA – Scientific Advice for general European Policy (not policy for research)**



### **SAPEA: Science Advice for Policy by European Academies**

- Spanning the disciplines of engineering, humanities, medicine, natural sciences and social sciences, **SAPEA** brings together the outstanding knowledge and expertise of Fellows from over 100 Academies, Young Academies and Learned Societies in more than 40 countries across Europe
- SAPEA is part of the [European Scientific Advice Mechanism \(SAM\)](#) which provides independent, interdisciplinary and evidence-based scientific advice on policy issues to the European Commission, working closely with the [SAM Group of Chief Scientific Advisors](#)
- The project is funded through a grant from the EU's Horizon 2020 programme. It runs to 2027



= country with at least one Academy

Academies' independence, academic expertise and convening power make them a critical source of evidence for policymakers and the wider public, providing an unbiased, balanced and transparent perspective. Academies within SAPEA are members of one or more of the European Academy Networks: [Academia Europaea](#), [ALLEA](#), [EASAC](#), [Euro-CASE](#), [FEAM](#) and the [Young Academies Association \(YASAS\)](#).

All of the Networks' Member Academies across Europe are part of SAPEA and are encouraged to participate actively. Opportunities for involvement include:

- **suggesting scientific topics**
- **communicating their latest major scientific outputs to SAPEA**
- **nominating Fellows** to the SAPEA Working Groups, or other events requiring the advice of an expert (e.g. experts' workshops or stakeholder meetings)
- **hosting Working Group meetings**  
direct costs can be covered
- **acting as "Lead Academies"** for a selected scientific topic
- **hosting outreach events**  
event support can be provided
- **Raising the visibility of Academy work at a European Level** by sharing news of activities with the SAPEA Communications Office for the project website

#### **AE engagement in SAPEA Plus and providing expertise to public institutions and administrations at European Level**

The Horizon2020 funded project contract with the European Commission will run to 2027 and will be managed out of the Munich office. The President is a member of the Board of Management of the project. Prof. Ole Petersen (Academic Director of the Cardiff Hub) oversees the work of the AE SAPEA Science Policy Officer - Louise Edwards, who is based at the Cardiff Hub. Louise is responsible for the day-to-day management of any AE involvement in policy advice topic work and is a member of the project coordination team. The AE Executive Secretary Munich acts as AE contract manager in liaison with the central project coordination team. The day-to-day engagement in SAPEA is undertaken by the Science Policy team at the Cardiff Knowledge Hub and Munich. AE Cardiff has undertaken literature reviews on behalf of the consortium and on behalf of the European Commission.

Full information for the project and its outputs, can be found via the official SAPEA website (<https://sapea.info/>) and through both the ae-info website [[http://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad\\_Main/Activities/SAPEA](http://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad_Main/Activities/SAPEA)] and the Cardiff Hub website [<http://aecardiffknowledgehub.wales/>]

Our intention throughout the SAPEA project is to work with and through the regional knowledge Hubs and with the Young Academy of Europe to ensure maximum opportunity for involvement of our members. We will also establish an outreach forum of other pan-European organisations to improve linkages and engagement of non-core partner expertise and seek to engage (through our Cardiff Hub) scholars (members and non-members) as experts from the UK and Ireland.

- **European Science Advisory Council (EASAC)**

Formed by a number of European Academies and supported by the Academia Europaea provides EU institutions and other pan-national bodies with fully independent advice on the scientific aspects of public policy.

The Academia was a founding member of this Council and collaborates with our sister Academies in making available our members' expertise where needed, for the many study groups that are established. The Academia provides a financial contribution to the running of the secretariat of EASAC. The Academia covers the costs of participation of the AE Council member and AE experts participating in specific study panels [<http://www.easac.eu/>]. The AE supports a number of members, who provide their individual expertise to EASAC studies and/or are engaged in the standing committees of EASAC. Professor Don Dingwell (trustee and VP) is the AE delegate to the EASAC governing Council. The list of publications and reports can be found via the website above.



**European Academies  
Science Advisory Council**

- **EASSH** (The European Alliance of Social Sciences and Humanities).



The Academia Europaea is a member of this alliance through our two Class chairs – Professor Poul Holm and Professor Bjorn Wittrock. Trustee Professor Milena Zic Fuchs is also a member of the council of the EASSH. The association seeks to promote and safeguard the position and status of the social sciences and Humanities within the European Research area. Its activities can be found at this URL: <https://eassh.eu/>

The Academia Europaea maintains 'working level relationships' with UNESCO as a listed NGO.

## **AE Publications**



**The Academia Europaea in conjunction with Cambridge University Press publishes an international peer reviewed journal.**

**The European Review 2024** (volume 32). The Editor-in-chief – Professor Alban Kellerbauer (Nuclear Physics, Joint Research Centre, Karlsruhe, Germany). The journal has seen a significant increase in uncommissioned papers submitted for review and publication, from across the world.

In 2024, the European Review (ERW) volume 32 had six issues and one open access supplement. AE members had free access to the online version of the journal and to the archive. The Editor-in-chief renewed the editorial Board to include members of the Young Academy of Europe. Negotiations were completed to a transfer agreement so that from 2025 the ERW would be completely Gold open access.

Volume 32 - Supplement S1 - November papers from a HERCuLES-Wenner Gren Foundations symposium held at the Wenner-Gren Centre in Stockholm on 10–12 May 2023 with the economic support of the Wenner-Gren Foundations.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-review/issue/2ED32D7FA998C6E2E3CA34BFA406A6F4>

Title: **Digital Challenges - 2024**

ERW at Cambridge Core: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-review>

**Biology Direct:** a publication (now affiliated with the AE) at the initiative of Professor Alex Verkhatsky (former Chair of Class C – Life Sciences). Published by Springer Nature - <https://biologydirect.biomedcentral.com/>

## **AE 'in-house' and 'grey' literature publications.**

In addition to regular corporate e-newsletters [produced on behalf of the AE HQ by the Communications group at the Cardiff Hub] and separately by all of the Regional Knowledge Hubs, the AE maintained its corporate website which is managed and hosted at the Technical University of Graz under a service contract. The Regional Knowledge Hubs maintain their own websites to reflect their own, independent programmes of activity.

**SECTION 6: 2024 Events and Activity provided with AE sponsorship including projects funded through the Hubert Curien Fund, or externally organised but with AE patronage in 2024, or externally sponsored.**

**Academic Freedom in Twenty-First Century. An Academia Europaea HERCuLES Wennergren Foundations Symposium May 15-17, 2024 - Organizing Committee: Lars Engwall (Chair), Filip Dochy, and Peter Scott**

## **Keynote – The Foundations of Academic Freedom**

"The Foundations of Academic Freedom". Henry Reichman, Professor emeritus of History at California State University, USA.

## **Session: National Threats on the Autonomy of Universities**

Chair: Marja Makarow, President of Academia Europaea and Professor of Applied Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Helsinki, Finland and HERCuLES member.

"The Role of Institutional Autonomy in the Deterioration of de Facto Academic Freedom in EU Member States" - Peter Maassen, Professor in Higher Education Studies at the University of Oslo, Norway.

"For a Balanced Institutional Autonomy in Relation to Academic Freedom: A Comparative Study of Its Constraints and Prospects" - Zhidong Hao, Professor emeritus of Sociology, University of Macau.

### **Session: Is a Strong Leadership of Universities Compatible with Individual Academic Freedom?**

Chair: Christine Musselin, Professor of Sociology, Science Po, Paris, France and HERCULES member.

"The Value Discriminant". Ivo De Gennaro, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Faculty of Economics and Management, Bozen-Bolzano, Italy.

"Demagogues and Line Managers: The Implications of Hierarchical Leadership on Academic Freedom"

Andrew Ryder, Professor at ELTE Budapest, Hungary, Director of the Institute for Political and International Studies

### **Session: Decision-making on Curricula**

Chair: Kirsten Drotner, Professor of Media Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark and HERCULES member.

"Who Should Decide for the Curricula?". Margrit Seckelmann, Professor of Law, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany

"An Ontology of Quality in Higher Education Teaching". Joseph C. Hermanowicz, Professor of Sociology, University of Georgia, USA

### **Session: Education under Political Pressures**

Chair: Marie Farge, Professor of Mathematics and Physics, CNRS, Paris, France and HERCULES member.

"The Twilight of Academic Freedom?". Michael Bérubé, Professor of English Literature, Penn State University, USA.

"Crisis of Knowledge in the Seminar - Who is Afraid of Academic freedom?". Nadia Al-Bagdadi, Professor of Modern Islamic history, Central European University and former president of the Network of European Institutes for Advanced Studies, Vienna, Austria

### **Session: What Should Be the Drivers for Research Agendas?**

Chair: Jürgen Enders, Professor of Higher Education Management, University of Bath, United Kingdom and HERCULES member.

"Setting Research Agendas, a Permanent Fight for the Scientific Community". Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, Professor of Mathematics, Honorary Professor at the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques, former President of the European Research Council (ERC) and HERCULES member

"Who Should Decide a Scientist's Research Agenda?". Uwe Schimank, Professor of Sociological Theory, University of Bremen für Soziologische Theorie an der Universität Bremen, Germany

### **Session: Research under Political Pressures**

Chair. Milena Zíc Fuchs, Professor of Linguistics, University of Zagreb, Croatia and HERCULES member.

"The Missing Guardrails of Academic Freedom in Sweden". Shirin Ahlback Öberg, Professor of Political Science, Uppsala University, Sweden.

"TBA". Elizaveta Potapova, Senior Researcher in Public Policy and Management Institute, Lithuania

### **Session: Dissemination under Bibliometric Pressures**

Chair: George Sharvashidze, Professor of Education, Tbilisi State University, Georgia and HERCULES member.

"Redefining Academic Dissemination: Navigating the Shifts in Scholarly communication". Rafael Ball, Director of ETH-Bibliothek, ETH, Zürich, Switzerland.

"The Changed Publishing Culture of Science". Peter Weingart, Professor emeritus in Sociology, former Director for the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research at Universität Bielefeld, Germany

### **Session: Dissemination and International Collaboration**

Chair: Helena Buescu, Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Lisbon, Portugal and HERCULES member.

"Openness Challenged: The University at Risk?". Marijk van der Wende, Professor of Higher Education, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands and HERCULES member.

"Global Shifts in Scientific Production: The Impact of Academic Freedom on International Collaboration". Rickard Danell, Professor of Sociology, University of Umeå, Sweden.

### **Concluding Panel**

Chair: Lars Engwall, Professor of Business Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden and HERCULES Chair

#### Panellists:

Alban Kellerbauer, Professor of Nuclear Physics, Joint Research Centre, Karlsruhe, Germany and HERCules member.  
Gemma Modinos, Professor of Neuroscience, King's College, London, United Kingdom and HERCules member.  
Jo Tollebeek, Professor of Cultural History, University of Leuven, Belgium and HERCules member.  
Milena Zic Fuchs, Professor of Linguistics, University of Zagreb, Croatia and HERCules member.

#### • Other Hubert Curien grant funded initiatives (member and/or Hub initiated) in 2024

**AI Challenges for European Research and Academia:** 4th and 5th September 2024, CNRS Abraham de Moivre Mathematics Laboratory, Dept. of Mathematics, ICL South Kensington Campus, London, UK

**Sponsors:** Academia Europaea & CNRS Abraham de Moivre Mathematics Laboratory, Imperial College London Co-Sponsor: Foundation for Science and Technology, UK

Organizing Committee: Dan Crisan, Maths. Dept., ICL, Erol Gelenbe, Inst. Theoretical & Applied Informatics, Polish Acad. Sci., Federica Pratola, Maths. Dept. ICL

#### Research Topics & Presentations

##### Introduction

- Thomas Eiter MAE, Fellow Austrian Acad. Sci., "Logic versus ML: Links to the Foundations of AI"
- Zeina Zakhour, CEO Global Security Eviden/ATOS, "AI for Cybersecurity and the Security of AI"  
<zeina.zakhour@eviden.com>

##### Brain Modelling

- Samuel Laurent-Deslosieres, INRIA, "Modeling the Brain Connectome"
- Dan Farina, Dot. Bioengineering, ICL, "Mapping Brain and Spinal Sensorimotor Activity"

##### Machine Learning

- Eric Moulines, Fellow Acad. Sci. France, Ecole Polytechnique, "Advances in Transfer Learning"
- Yonina Eldar MAE, Fellow of Israel Acad. of Sci., Hebrew University of Jerusalem, "Signal Acquisition Learning"
- Tolga Birdal, Dept. Computing, ICL, Imperial College, "Topological Deep Learning: Beyond Graph Data"
- Erol Gelenbe MAE, "Wave Equation for Quantum Neural Networks"
- Ekin Dogus Cubuk, Google DeepMind, "Scaling up computational materials discovery via deep learning"

##### AI in Cybersecurity, Trust and Privacy

- Yves-Alexandre de Montjoye, Depts. of Computing and Math. ICL, "Computational Privacy and AI"
- Zheng Yan, Xidan University, "AI-empowered Trust and Trust-controlled AI"

##### Research on Language Technology

- Iryna Gurevych, TU Darmstadt, "How to InterText? Modeling Text as a Living Object in Context", iryna.gurevych@tu-darmstadt.de
- Anna Korhonen, University of Cambridge, "Towards globally equitable language technologies," anna.korhonen@gmail.com (Sep 5)

##### AI in Healthcare

- Bernard Macq, Fellow of the Royal Acad. of Belgium, Univ. of Louvain, "Coalition Learning for Healthcare"
- Payam Barnaghi, Imperial College, "AI for Personalized Healthcare Alerts"
- James Cole (UCL) "AI in the Analysis of Brain Ageing" <https://profiles.ucl.ac.uk/32379-james-cole>

##### AI in Engineering

- Louis Wehenkel MAE, Univ. of Liege (Belgium), "Physics informed machine learning for the operation of bulk electric power systems"
- Marco di Renzo MAE, CNRS and Centrale Supélec "Smart Metasurfaces for Communications"
- Alexandra Brintrup, Cambridge University, "Explainable AI for Supply Chains", ab702@eng.cam.ac.uk
- Emannuell Papastavridis, Kings College "Interchangeability between AI and Control Theory for the Control of Robots"
- Eiman Kanjo, Nottingham Trent University and Imperial College, "Tiny ML" [ekanjo@ic.ac.uk](mailto:ekanjo@ic.ac.uk)

In addition to the event listed above. The Board had approved the establishing of a new international collaboration research network (TEA NET) The AE Translational Medicine Working Group (TMWG) network. It started its work on 1 January 2023 and continued throughout 2024. Its primary objective is to process, analyse, and interpret high-quality macro and micro data collected in the field of biomedical sciences with full European coverage. TMWG and training of talented research and clinical scientists dedicated to translational medicine are strongly promoted within AE, which is coordinated by the AE Clinical and Veterinary Section under the overall direction of Professor Peter Hegyi (Academic Director of the AE Budapest Knowledge Hub).

**The European partners** of the TEA NET are the Semmelweis University and the National Biomedical Foundation.

**The Asian partners** will be the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) in Hong Kong (coordinating site), and its collaborating or affiliated institutions in Shenzhen, including the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technologies [SIAT], CUHK Shenzhen Research Institute [SZRI], and CUHK Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Research Institute (Futian) [FITRI] at this stage.

## **SECTION 7: Corporate, Hubs and membership**

### **2024 New members elected**

On 25 March 2024, the trustees approved the recommendation of the Classes and elected 365 new members. Each Class chair introduced their recommended list for election of new members. The trustees discussed each class list and Class chairs highlighted any specific issues that had arisen with any individual Section.

The Trustees then formally elected new members for each Class as follows:

Class A1 – Humanities – elected 85; not elected 17

Class A2 – Social and related sciences – elected 42; not elected 13

Class B – Exact sciences – elected 73; not elected 163

Class C – Life sciences – elected 165; not elected 37

The Class chairs responsible for oversight of the nominations process in 2024 were:

Class A1 – Humanities and Arts – Sections A1-A6 [Chair Professor Poul Holm (Trustee)]

Class A2 – Social and related sciences – Sections A7 – A10 [Chair Prof Bjorn Wittrock (Trustee)]

Class B – Exact and Natural Sciences – Sections B1 –B5 [Professor Paolo Papale (Trustee)]

Class C – Life Sciences – Sections C1 – C5 [Professor Eva Kondorosi (Trustee)]

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### **Communications**

The Hubs and HQ (via the Cardiff Hub Communications team) issued regular monthly electronic newsletters throughout the year. The Graz Data centre maintained the ae-info.org website and both Graz and Wroclaw ensured that member data was updated, including for the new members elected in 2023. All new members were notified of the AE GDPR policy and members were asked to opt-in to that policy at the time of their election. Newsletters are archived on the ae-info website at:

### **Governance meetings held in 2024**

#### **The Trustees, Council and their subcommittees**

The Board of Trustees met to transact business virtually on 4 occasions throughout the year and in a physical Board meeting on 3 occasions (with a zoom option). All meetings were quorate. Minutes were filed.

A physical/virtual hybrid AGM took place on November 26th in Wroclaw

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#### **36th Annual Business Meeting 2024 (AGM) – Wroclaw 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 held at 16:00 – 18:00 (CET)**

This was a hybrid meeting. The President Marja Makarow chaired the AGM. There were 67 physical delegates. The AGM was also online to all members.

The President, Professor Marja Makarow welcomed members to Wroclaw and thanked the local organiser (Professor Arkadiusz Wójs)

The announcement of the AGM had been published on the AE website and made known to all members by E-newsletter more than 21 days in advance. A series of online ballots had been announced and taken on specific items of business (adoption of the annual accounts, annual activity report, re-appointment of examiners and recommended membership subscriptions for 2025). The draft agenda and all papers associated to the AGM were made available on the website in advance and had been tabled for delegates in the room. No motions or resolutions from the membership had been received in advance, as set out in the notice for the AGM. The motion to approve the draft agenda was adopted by the members present.

The Honorary Treasurer (Professor Stephen Evans) summarised the financial position as set out in the accounts for 2024 and additionally gave indications of the current year. He reported that the financial position of the AE was stable but a significant amount of reserves had been expended in 2024 on the new Munich HQ office. He highlighted the reliance of the AE on member donations for all areas of activity and reminded members that annual contributions were a vital part of their acceptance as members. He pointed out that there were still a significant number who did not contribute at all. He also raised the issue of the very small base of external financial support from non-member organisations.

A note of thanks was recorded for sponsors as follows: To the Wenner Gren Foundations for their continuing support to HERCuLES group activity.

A number of electronic member-wide ballots had taken place in advance of the AGM (25<sup>th</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> September). The results were reported to all members at the AGM and through normal newsletter channels. Large majorities had approved all motions.

**Motion to adopt the examined accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 - adopted**  
**Motion to adopt the trustees (activity report) for the year ending 31 December 2023- adopted**  
**Motion to re-appoint the auditors (examiners) - approved**  
**Motion to set the level of membership fees for the year 2025 – approved**

The treasurer had tabled in advance, a motion for decision by the room “Members are invited to approve a one-time establishment fee for new members (2025) of 200 Euros – irrespective of age at the time of their acceptance of membership. **This motion was adopted on a show of hands without dissent.**

Elections of Officers and appointments of trustees. There was no scheduled election in 2024. However, Professor Makarow reported that she would not seek a second term as President and would step down at the end of 2024. The Vice President Professor Dingwell would then function as chair of the Board of trustees and President *pro tem* until a call for nominations and the subsequent election of a new President could be managed in 2025. Members would be fully informed.

#### Appointments and co-options to the Board of trustees

A. A document had been tabled that set out the terms of service already approved for those trustees that had been co-opted. Members present noted the terms for co-opted trustees. The AGM were informed that following a search process by members of the Class for Social and related Sciences, the Board of trustees had accepted a recommendation, that Professor Martin Kahanec (Section chair for Economics) would be co-opted as the Class chair of Class A2 to replace Professor Wittrock with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Professor Wittrock had agreed to remain as a co-opted trustee until the AGM of 2025 (renewable).

- Professor Poul HOLM (Dublin) – Class chair (A1) Humanities – to 31st December 2025
- Professor Bjorn WITTROCK (Uppsala) – Class chair (A2) – Social and Societal Sciences – to 31st December 2024
- Professor Paolo PAPAIE (Rome) – Class chair (B) – Exact Sciences – to 31st December 2027
- Professor Eva KONDOROSI (Budapest) – Class chair (C) - Life Sciences – to 31st December 2026

B. Members present also approved a proposal to continue the co-option of the following trustees on a renewable basis. As follows:

Professor Eystein JANSEN (Academic Director of the Bergen Knowledge Hub) – to 31st December 2025  
Professor Milena ZIC-FUCHS – to 31st December 2026

#### Other reports

Professor Petersen (Academic Director of the Cardiff Hub), reported on AE involvement in the SAPEA and SAPEA Plus projects.

There followed a series of presentations by Hub managers as follows:

Barcelona (Prof. Jaume Bertranpetit Academic Director, Ms Maite Sánchez - Hub Manager).

Bergen (Prof. Eystein Jansen Academic Director, Ms Kristen Baaken - Hub Manager).

Budapest (Prof Peter Hegyi Academic Director, Katalin Fodor Hub Manager).

Cardiff (Prof. Petersen Hub Director).

Tbilisi (Prof David Prangishvili – Academic Director, Ms Sofia Kobakhidze – Hub Manager),

Wroclaw Hub (Prof. Arkadiusz Wojs Academic Director, Ms Anna Jarosz – Hub Manager),

Graz Data Centre (Dr Helmut Leitner – Centre manager, Ms Dana Kaiser manager)

Professor Alban Kellerbauer, the Editor-in-Chief of the journal – The European Review, gave a synopsis of the 2024 volume and reported on the translation into an Open Access Journal from 2025.

The President and Vice President then reported on developments at the Munich Hub. They announced the steps that had been taken towards the establishing of the new Munich office of the AE – The Academia Europaea e.V. Professor Makarow reported that as of 20th September 2023, and new AE Munich legal entity (Academia Europaea e.V.) had been formally established. All members of the AE had been informed of the plans at the AGM of 2022, and the strategic plan refers to the Board of trustees keeping the post-BREXIT situation under review. The background and motivation for this development was that the AE has its legal base in the UK and is a UK registered company and not-for-profit charity. None of the current Hubs are, of themselves, legal entities. The Board and the IAG therefore agreed that the establishing of a separate legal entity at Munich (in an EU member state) would guarantee future AE participation, not only in SAPEA, but also in other possible EU funded projects. Since the creation of the new legal entity, the office had recruited a Hub manager (Frau Friederike Brandthaus and other staff to manage the new SAPEA three project. LMU Munich had been appointed to manage the SAPEA three finances for the project consortium as a whole and Mr Rudy Hielscher had been employed to manage the project as overall co-ordinator. The Cardiff Hub would still manage aspects of SAPEA three but, the University of Cardiff had been included as a named beneficiary in the project in its own right and therefore all links to AE London had been ended as far as SAPEA was concerned. The intention is that the new Munich entity will become the operational AE HQ for all dealings with the EU and facilitate access for all members of the AE. The President then reported, that planning for SAPEA three had been completed and the project was approved. It would cover five years, the period from 2025 to 2029. The President also re-affirmed that the establishing of the new legal entity would not affect members. Both legal entities would continue for the foreseeable future and would co-administer aspects of the AE on behalf of all members. Members are de facto, members in common of both entities. There will still be a single identity for the AE, as far as external audiences are concerned.

There were no questions from the floor or interventions, and the 2024 AGM was declared closed at 18:15pm

## **SECTION 8: Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also the directors of 'The Academia Europaea – The Academy of Europe', for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information about which charitable company's examiner of accounts is unaware; and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the examiner of accounts is aware of that information.
- The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions

## **Risk assessment**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular, those relating to the operations and finances of the charity and post BREXIT impacts and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate our exposure to these risks. However, the situation will be kept under constant review and any necessary steps taken.

## **Financial Report**

The trustees confirm that suitable accounting policies have been used and applied consistently, and that reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been made in the preparation of the financial statements for the year 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024. The Trustees also confirm that applicable accounting standards have been followed and that the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. The assets are available and adequate to fulfil obligations on a fund - by - fund basis.

Academia is required by UK law to present its accounts in Pounds Sterling. A version expressed in Euros could be prepared by converting the figures at the exchange rate for a particular date, but this would not be accurate since transactions are spread throughout the financial year, during which a range of exchange rates has existed. Any significant foreign exchange impacts are described in the notes to the accounts. The full accounts have been published separately to this activity report.

## **Reserves policy**

The examined accounts show the total of unrestricted funds for the year ended 31 December 2024 was (£33,600) [YE 31 December 2023, £4,266). The reserves were decreased by £58,848 due to the costs associated with the maintenance and operation of the Academia Europaea e.V in Munich (actual cash of Euro 87,000). However, the actual total of cash at the bank remained positive at the end of the year. Nonetheless, it is the policy of the trustees to maintain sufficient reserves for the Academia Europaea to continue its charitable activities and in view of this, the trustees aim to achieve reserves equal to approximately six months of operations. The reserves policy was not met in the last two consecutive years due to the creation and support given to the Academia Europaea c.V in Munich. Trustees are responsible to review the reserves policy every year. It is worth noting that there is a 10% deferred income from lifetime members that are recognised in the statement of financial activities annually. For the

accounts year ended 31 December 2024 the deferred income in the creditors amounted to £177,513, while for the previous year 2023, it was £175,684.

### **Income and expenditure for the period ended 31 December 2024 (summary overview)**

The year was one of a caution. Following the legal costs in 2023 surrounding the creation of the Munich e.V. and budgeted establishment costs for the new Munich office in 2024, the cash reserves had taken a hit. To partially offset these additional expenditures, there was a tightening of non-designated expenditures, with a suspension of calls for the Hubert Curien Fund and a scale back of ad hoc project expenditures, a reduction in London labour and office costs and with steps to reduce longer term IT expenditures. Our total unrestricted income for the year was £285,259 Total unrestricted expenditure was £308,806.

The AE as a charity seeks to operate an effective zero balance budget. We are essentially dependent upon members' donation income. In 2024, this was at £264,999 and life membership payments totalled £21,552.89 this total was a slight reduction in the income received over 2024 and reflected a large change in the age profile of a cohort of members, who as is allowed, opted to donate at a reduced level. The Trustees stress to all members the importance of supporting the Academia by making a donation every year, preferably at the recommended level. Without more members making a payment, the AE will not be able to grow the range and type of activity and support for member initiatives that we need to deliver our obligations as a charity. Whilst a voluntary scheme remains our policy, the Trustees reviewed this policy and decided to levy a recommended general fee rate, linked to an age-related banding for annual donations, per member. Sponsorship continued to be successful for individual activity, and we thank the Wenner Gren Foundations (Sweden), The Heinz-Nixdorf Foundation (Germany), and The Balzan Foundation (Switzerland) for their support and the support of other sponsors. The Board continued to recognise the ongoing difficulty in obtaining core financial support from public and private institutions and expect that the Finance and Sponsorship sub-committee will try to address this. The members at the AGM approved a significant increase in the age-related individual member's fee requests for 2025. The first increase in over a decade. We also thank the Hungarian Research network which became a new Patron member of the AE in 2024.

The examiner's accounts for 2024 are filed separately and can be viewed through the Academia Europaea website, the UK government Companies House and the Charities Commission of England and Wales websites respectively.

**Don Dingwell, President**  
**On behalf of the Board of Trustees**

**October 2025**

## **Annex 1 Trustees, ‘Council’, and Section Committee composition as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 for AE London**

At the AGM in September 2015, the Regulations were amended to allow the appointment by the Board of a variable number of Vice Presidents (ex officio) to provide flexibility to the President and that serve a VP term limited to that of the President. These changes are within the overall limits set for the Trustees in the Articles of Incorporation and do not impact on the role or seniority of the elected officers. The Articles prescribe a Board made up of not less than 3 and NOT MORE than 15 members. The Articles describe a Board made up of elected officers (President, Vice Presidents and the Treasurer – all elected by the membership (at a general meeting); a number of members (appointed by the ‘Advisory Council’ – who are the Class chairs) and a number of co-opted (by the Board) members. The subsidiary Regulations are used to determine numbers and balance up to the limit of 15. The current formula is – Officers: [President, elected Vice presidents (up to two were approved by AGM in 2012); Treasurer]. Others co-opted.

In November 2015 the Board approved the designation of several existing Trustees as Vice Presidents ex officio, to reflect new portfolios. In 2023 these were Professor Paolo Papale (Class Chair); Professor Poul Holm (Class Chair) Professor Bjorn Wittrock (Class Chair) and Professor Eva Kondorosi (Class Chair). Governance and incorporation documents can be found on the website ([www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org)).

### **Members of the Board of Trustees (on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024)**

Elected officers:

The President – Professor Marja Makarow until end of 2024.

Treasurer - Professor Stephen Evans from January 2023 until end of 2026, then renewable.

The Vice President (officio) – Professor Don Dingwell from January 2023 to end of 2026, then renewable.

Trustees

Poul Holm (IRL) – Class chair – Class A1 (Humanities) co-opted Vice president *ex officio*; until end of 2025,  
Paolo Papale – Class Chair – Class B (Natural Sciences) co-opted Vice president *ex officio*. Until end of 2027,  
Eva Kondorosi (HUN)– Class Chair – Class C (Life Sciences) co-opted Vice President *ex officio* until end of 2026,  
Bjorn Wittrock (SWE) - Class chair from January 2018 co-opted Vice president *ex officio* until end of 2024,  
Professor Eystein Jansen (NOR) co-opted until the end of 2024. Academic Director of the Bergen Hub, renewable  
Professor Milena Zic-Fuchs (Croatia) co-opted from January 2023 until the end of 2026, renewable

**Note: that the same Board of trustees reported here as operating for AE London, also functions under identical terms of office and regulations for election and appointment as the Board of trustees for the Academia Europaea Munich e.V legal entity. In all essentials the AE London and the AE Munich entities operate as a single coordinated functional unit, with commonly derived statutes, with the same mission and objectives and all members of the Academia Europaea on election and pre-the creation of AE Munich are de facto members of both legal entities without exception and discrimination. The two entities do however maintain independent financial systems and management responsibilities and the accounts are not consolidated as both entities are independent legal personalities. The Board of trustees maintains a common oversight of both organisations.**

### **Academia Europaea - Composition of the Advisory Council (on 31 December 2023)**

Following the establishment of the Class structure and the allocation of Sections into the four Classes, the role for a single Advisory Council (hereinafter The Council) meeting only annually and with a very limited function, has been replaced by a variable configuration composed of the four classes. The Section chairs (as members of the Council) are all members of one of the four Class committees. Within each Class configuration, each Section chair has a term three years, with the possibility of renewal for one further period of three years. The Class chairs are independently appointed and are members of the Board of trustees, and therefore they act as the (independent) representative of the Council (the Sections) on the Board. This structure ensures stronger flow of information and consultation between the Board of trustees and the Advisory Council (the four Class committees) than was formerly the case. This structure has also facilitated a greater devolving of responsibility to the Class level than had been possible under the old Council formation.

**Academia Europaea Section Committees  
Chairpersons and Council Members<sup>1</sup>**

**A CLASS A1**

Class Chair, Poul Holm (Trinity, Dublin, R of Ireland) [holmp@tcd.ie](mailto:holmp@tcd.ie) (to end of 2025)

Deputy chair: Professor Göran Bolin, Sweden [Goran.bolin@sh.se](mailto:Goran.bolin@sh.se) (to end of 2026)

**A1 History & Archaeology**

Chairperson2: Amélia Polónia (to December 2025, renewable)<sup>4</sup>

Department of History, Political and International Studies, University of Porto

amelia.polonia@gmail.com [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Pol%C3%B3nia\\_Am%C3%A9lia](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Pol%C3%B3nia_Am%C3%A9lia)

**Committee:** Nikita Harwich (till end 2025, renewable); Korine Amacher (till end 2025); Maxine berg (till end 2025); Markus Denzel (till end 2025); Bogdan Szlachta (till end 2025); Manuel Lucena-Giraldo (till end 2025; Guido Abbattista (until end of 2025, renewable); Judith Pollman (until end of 2025, renewable).

**A2 Classics & Oriental Studies**

Chairperson: Gerd Haverling (to end of 2025)

gerd.haverling@lingfil.uu.se

Uppsala University, Dept. of Linguistics & Philology

**Committee:** Gianfranco Agosti (till end of 2024), Alessandro Bausi, (to end of 2024), Irmela Hijjiya-Kirschnerreit (to end 2025); Joachim Kurtz (to end of 2025, renewable), Eva Cancik-Kirschbaum (to end of 2025, renewable).

**A3 Linguistic Studies**

Chairperson: Pier Marco Bertinetto (till end 2025).

SNS, Pisa, Italy

Pierremarco.bertinetto@sns.it

<http://linguistica.sns.it/PaginePersonal/Bertinetto.htm>

**Committee :** Asifa Majid Vice Chair (to end of 2023), Nigel Vincent (to end of 2023), Alain Peyraube (to end 2025), Angela Ralli, to end of 2025), Katalin E. Kiss (to end of 2023, renewable), Louise McNally (to end of 2026, renewable), Martin Kümmel (to end of 2026, renewable), Mark Steedman (to end of 2026, renewable).

**A4 Literary & Theatrical Studies**

Chairperson: Françoise Lavocat (to end of 2025, renewable)

Department of Comparative Literature, University Paris 3-Sorbonne nouvelle

[https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Lavocat\\_Francoise](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Lavocat_Francoise) francoise.lavocat@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr

**Committee:** Vladimir Biti (to end of 2025, renewable), Vivian Liska (to end 2023), Martin Middeke (to end of 2024), Catriona Seth (to end of 2023, renewable), Massimo Fusillo (to end of 2025, renewable).

**A5 Musicology & Art History**

Chairperson: Ulrich Pfisterer (to December 2025, renewable)

Institut für Kunstgeschichte der LMU, Munich

ulrich.pfisterer@lrz.uni-muenchen.de [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Pfisterer\\_Ulrich](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Pfisterer_Ulrich)

**Committee:** Melanie Wald-Fuhrmann (until end of 2024), Tanja Michalsky (to end of 2025), Barbara Baert (to end of 2023 renewable), Thierry Favier (to end of 2023, renewable), Anne Piéjus (to end of 2026, renewable).

**A6 Philosophy, Theology & Religious Studies**

Chairperson: Mircea Dumitru (to December 2025, renewable)

University of Bucharest mirdumitru@yahoo.com [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Dumitru\\_Mircea](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Dumitru_Mircea)

**Committee:** Genoveva Marti (till end of 2025, renewable); Martin Carrier (to end of 2025), Cinzia Ferrini (to end of 2025), Margit Sutrop (to end of 2025), Timothy Williamson (to end of 2025), Alex Fidora (to end of 2025).

## CLASS A2

Class Chair Björn Wittrock, Uppsala University and Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study.

[bjorn.wittrock@swedishcollegium.se](mailto:bjorn.wittrock@swedishcollegium.se) (to end of 2024)

Deputy chair: Professor Shalini Randeria, Central European University, Vienna and Budapest.

[president@ceu.edu](mailto:president@ceu.edu) (to end of 2025)

### A8 Economics, Business and Management Sciences

Chairperson: Martin Kahanec (to end of 2026) stepped down at the end of 2024 to take up the role of Class Chair

[kahanecm@spp.ceu.edu](mailto:kahanecm@spp.ceu.edu) Central European University, Vienna, and Central European Labour Studies Institute (CELSI, Bratislava)

Committee: Andreu Mas-Colell (to end of 2025), Klaus Zimmermann (to end of 2026), Marie Claire Villeval (to end of 2025, renewable). Karine Nyborg (to end of 2026, renewable)

### A9 Governance, Institutions and Policies: Education, Health and Welfare

Chairperson: Professor Pauli Kettunen, University of Helsinki (to end of 2026, renewable)

[pauli.kettunen@helsinki.fi](mailto:pauli.kettunen@helsinki.fi) Faculty of Social Sciences, Political History, University of Helsinki, Finland.

Committee: Archana Singh-Manoux (to end of 2022), Stefano Bartolini (to end of 2026, renewable), Liudvika Leisyte (to end of 2026, renewable), Liviu Matei (to end of 2026 renewable), Jonathan White (to end of 2026, renewable).

### A 10. Human Mobility, Governance, Environment and Space

Chairperson : Benno Werlen (to end of 2026, renewable)

[benno.werlen@gmail.com](mailto:benno.werlen@gmail.com)

Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany

Committee: Leo van Wissen (until end of 2025), Tovi Fenster (until end of 2024, renewable), Jennifer Robinson (until end 2024, renewable), Ilona Palne Kovacs (to end of 2026, renewable), Kene Henkens (to end of 2026, renewable).

### A11 Law

Chairperson: Nina Dethloff (to end 2025)

[dethloff@uni-bonn.de](mailto:dethloff@uni-bonn.de)

Faculty of Law, University of Bonn

Committee: Maarit Jäntäerä- Jareborg (to end of 2025), Christina Gonzalez-Beilfuss (to end of 2025), Dieter Gosewinkel (until end of 2025); Tatjana Josipović (until end of 2026). Rianne Letschert (until end of 2026). Christopher Thornhill (to end of 2026), Bea Verschraegen – Vice Chair (until end of 2025, renewable).

### A 12. Social Change and Social Thought

Chairperson: Peter Wagner (to end of 2025)

[Peter.Wagner@ub.edu](mailto:Peter.Wagner@ub.edu)

Catalan Institute for Research and Advanced Studies and University of Barcelona

Committee: Lars Magnusson (to end of 2025), Chris Hann (to end of 2026, renewable), Penelope Harvey (to end of 2026, renewable).

### A 13. The Human Mind and Its Complexity

Chairperson: Jüri Allik (to end of 2025)

[juri.allik@ut.ee](mailto:juri.allik@ut.ee)

Dept. of Experimental and Cognitive Psychology, University of Tartu, Estonia

Committee: Kimmo Alho (to end of 2025), Gian Vittorio Caprara (to end of 2023), Mara Dierssen (to end of 2026), Alexandra Bendixen (to end of 2026, renewable), Mats J. Olsson (to end of 2026, renewable), Anu Realo (to end of 2026, renewable).

## CLASS B

Class Chair: Paolo Papale (To end of 2027)

[paolo.papale@ingv.it](mailto:paolo.papale@ingv.it)

**Deputy Chair: vacant**

**B1 Mathematics**

Chairperson: Philippe Michel (to end of 2025)

[philippe.michel@epfl.ch](mailto:philippe.michel@epfl.ch)

Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne

Committee: Jean-Benoît Bost (to end 2024), Martin Hairer (to end 2024), (Volker Mehrmann (to end 2024), Amie Wilkinson (to end 2025), Karen Vogtmann (to end of 2024, renewable), Benoit Perthame (to end of 2025, renewable).

**B2 Informatics**

Chairperson: Erol Gelenbe (to end of 2025, renewable)

Institute of Theoretical and Applied Informatics, Polish Academy of Sciences

[gelenbe.erol@orange.fr](mailto:gelenbe.erol@orange.fr) [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Gelenbe\\_Erol](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Gelenbe_Erol)

Committee: Schahram Dustdar (to end of 2025, renewable), Wil van der Aalst (to end of 2023, renewable), Rajiv Ranjan (until end of 2024, renewable), Pierangela Semerati (to end of 2026, renewable), Thomas Eiter (to end of 2026, renewable), Carlo Ghezzi (to end of 2026, renewable)

**B3 Physics and Engineering Sciences**

Chairperson: Pavel Exner (until end of 2024)

[exner@ujf.cas.cz](mailto:exner@ujf.cas.cz) Doppler Institute, Brehova 7, 11519, Prague, Czech Republic

Committee: Michael Peter Kennedy (until end 2023), Angela Bracco – Vice Chair (until end 2023), Ursel Fantz (until end of 2024), Itamar Procaccia (until the end of 2023, renewable), Paul Linden (until the end of 2023, renewable), Päivi Törmä (from Jan 2022 to end of 2024, renewable), Fabio Zwirner (until the end of 2024, renewable); Tomasz Dietl (until end of 2026, renewable).

**B4 Chemical Sciences**

Chairperson : Johannes Lercher (to end of 2026, renewable)

[johannes.lercher@tum.de](mailto:johannes.lercher@tum.de)

TU München

Department Chemie

Committee: Janine Cossy (to end of 2022), Bert Weckhuysen (to end 2022), Valentine Ananikov (to end of 2022, renewable), Hans-Peter Steinrueck (to end of 2025, renewable), Gianfranco Pacchioni (to end of 2025, renewable), Eleanor Campbell (to end of 2025, renewable).

**B5 Earth and Cosmic Sciences**

Chairperson: Professor Valerio Acocella (until end of 2026, renewable)

[valerio.acocella@uniroma3.it](mailto:valerio.acocella@uniroma3.it) Università Roma Tre

Committee: Gerald Gilmore (till end of 2023), Todd Ehlers (till end 2025), Liane G. Benning (to end of 2025, renewable), Laszlo Kiss (to end of 2026, renewable), Pilar Ruiz-Lapiente (to end of 2026, renewable).

**CLASS C**

**Class Chair, Eva Kondorosi (to end of 2026)**

[eva.kondorosi@gmail.com](mailto:eva.kondorosi@gmail.com)

**Deputy Chair. Vacant**

**C1 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**

Chairperson: Ray Dixon (to end of 2024, renewable)

[ray.dixon@jic.ac.uk](mailto:ray.dixon@jic.ac.uk) John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK

Committee : Brigitte GICQUEL (to end of 2023, renewable), Annalisa PASTORE (to end of 2023, renewable), Mart SAARMA (TO END OF 2023, renewable), Maria Carmo-Fonseca (to end of 2025, renewable), Kathryn Lilley (to the end of 2026, renewable), Anja Böckmann (to end of 2026, renewable).

## C2 Cell and Developmental Biology

Chairperson: Crisanto Gutierrez (to end of 2023, renewable)

[cgutierrez@cbm.csic.es](mailto:cgutierrez@cbm.csic.es)

Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Madrid, Spain

[https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Gutierrez\\_Crisanto](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/Gutierrez_Crisanto)

Committee: Christine Mummery (to end of 2024), Maria-Elena Torres-Padilla (to end of 2024, renewable), Ivan Dikic (to end of 2024, renewable), Elaine Dzierzak (to end of 2025, renewable), Lena Claesson-Welsh (to end of 2025, renewable).

## C3 Physiology and Neuroscience

Chairperson: Balazs Gulyas (to end of 2024, renewable)

Karolinska, Stockholm and

Centre for Neuroimaging Research at NTU. Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. Hong Kong

[balazs.gulyas@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:balazs.gulyas@ntu.edu.sg)

Committee: Dmitri Rusakov (to end 2025), Alexey Semyanov (until the end of 2026), Michaela Matteoli (until end of 2026), Karin Sipido (until end of 2024, renewable), Zaal Kokaia (until end of 2024, renewable), Mara Dierssen (to end of 2025, renewable), Thomas Perlmann (to end of 2025, renewable).

## C4 Ecology and Evolution

Chairperson: András Báldi (to end of 2025, renewable)

Centre for Ecological Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

[baldi.andras@ecolres.hu](mailto:baldi.andras@ecolres.hu) [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/B%C3%A1ldi\\_Andr%C3%A1s](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Member/B%C3%A1ldi_Andr%C3%A1s)

Committee: Cristophe Thebaud (to end of 2025), Per Ahlberg (to end of 2025); Dianne Edwards (to end 2025), Louise Fresco (to end 2025); Mike Hassell (until end 2025). Richard Bardgett (to end 2025), José Maria Fernández-Palacios (to end of 2026, renewable)

## C5 Clinical and Veterinary Science

Chairperson: Peter Hegyi (To end 2024, renewable)

[hegyi2009@gmail.com](mailto:hegyi2009@gmail.com)

Semmelweis University, Budapest

Committee: Antonia Trichopoulou (to end of 2024, renewable), Helena Leino-Kilpi (to end of 2024, renewable), Jose J Céron (to end of 2024, renewable), Lajos Kemény (to end of 2024, renewable), Rebecca Fitzgerald (to end of 2024, renewable), John Neoptolemos (to end of 2024, renewable), Jacek Jassem (to end of 2024, renewable), András Varró (to end of 2024, renewable).

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**1 Committees** are elected by the members of the section accordance with the Regulations for Section Committees. At least 50% of the committee has to be elected by a ballot of the membership of the Section. All members of the Section are eligible to stand for election as Committee candidates. The exact procedure for rotation and elections is decided by the Committees themselves. The Chair must ensure the committees reflect a balance of representation of the fields within the Section and should ensure a regular rotation of members of the committee.

**2 Chairs** serve a three term, renewable once only for a further three years.

**3 Committee members** serve a three-year term that can be renewed once only for a further three-year period.

**4** (date first term ends / date second and final term ends subject to agreement of the committee and Council)