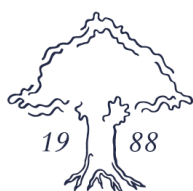


PROMOTING
RESEARCH
EXCELLENCE
FOR POLICY
AND
PROGRESS



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

CARDIFF

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY

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CLOSING REPORT 2025 &
CELEBRATING TEN YEARS 2016-2025



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2025, our final report before closing at the end of the year. We take the opportunity to take stock of the Hub's ten years, to celebrate all we have achieved and to look forward to Cardiff University's continuing role in the European Scientific Advice Mechanism.

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM HUB DIRECTOR, OLE PETERSEN



It is with some sadness, but also satisfaction, that I am writing this message in connection with the Academia Europaea Cardiff Hub's final Annual Report.

The establishment of the AE Cardiff Hub was decided 10 years ago, following AE President Sierd Cloetingh's successful visit to Cardiff, when an agreement was reached with Cardiff University's President and Vice-Chancellor Colin Riordan CBE MAE. Crucial support for this move was provided by Pro Vice-Chancellor Hywel Thomas CBE FRS MAE.

At that time (2015), I had just completed my term as Director of Cardiff University's School of Biosciences and became the inaugural - and, as it turned out, the only - Director of the Hub in its 10 years of existence. Judith Lockett, who had been my PA throughout my 5 years as Bioscience School Director, was initially the sole administrator of the AE Cardiff Hub and she organised its first major event in spring 2015, a high-level 2-day international symposium on recent advances in biomedical research, generously supported by the Welsh Government, thanks to its then Chief Scientific Adviser, Julie Williams CBE.

The formal opening of the Hub occurred at AE's Annual Conference in 2016, which took place in Cardiff, by which time Louise Edwards had been appointed Hub Manager. The original concept for the AE Cardiff Hub was to provide a focus on AE's interests in the biomedical sciences, but this changed quickly after Sierd Cloetingh decided that the Cardiff Hub should take care of AE's work in the newly established European Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) via SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies). I have described the detailed history of this development in the Gold Medal Lecture I delivered at the AE Annual Conference in Barcelona in 2021 (*European Review* 30, 591-626, 2022).

Our work for SAM, which happily continues (supported by a European Commission grant to Cardiff University, 2025-2029), became one of the most visible AE activities, greatly contributing to the increasing prestige of the Academy, as described in this report. However, many other important activities have been arranged by the Hub, as demonstrated in the report, including the grand celebration of the Academy's 30th anniversary in 2018, held at the Royal Society in London, thanks to our then Chair of the Hub's Steering Group Sir John Skehel FRS MAE who, at that time, was Vice-President and Biological Secretary of the Royal Society.

The financially-driven decision by CU to discontinue its support for the AE Cardiff Hub at the end of 2025 was a disappointment. It will inevitably diminish the University's visibility in Europe and, together with the move of AE's Headquarters from London to Munich, also diminish the UK's influence on European academic affairs. Considering that the UK (via the Royal Society) played the key role in establishing Academia Europaea in 1988, this is a rather sad and negative outcome. Nevertheless, as this report will demonstrate, much has been achieved in the 10-year existence of the Hub.

It is with profound gratitude to the excellent Hub staff, particularly Louise Edwards, Juliet Davies and Alice Sadler, that I conclude this message. I also want to thank our Steering Group, in particular our recent Chair, Sir Mark Walport FRS MAE, Vice-President and Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society for his great support of the Hub. Finally, it is worth mentioning that the Hub would not have come into existence without the vision and support of Sierd Cloetingh, Hywel Thomas and Colin Riordan.



Professor Ole H. Petersen CBE FRS FMedSci ML MAE FLSW

Director of the AE Cardiff Hub

OUR WORK IN 2025

Science advice and policymaking

AE Cardiff continued to provide major input to evidence reviews conducted as part of the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM), including the forthcoming reports on *Advanced Materials* and *AI and Crisis Management*. In partnership with the Cardiff University Library Service, including the Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE), we have conducted literature reviews to inform both the Scientific Advice Mechanism and the European Group on Ethics (EGE). Topics in 2025 have included the *Just transition*, *Human embryo models*, *Sustainable aviation*, *Advanced materials*, *AI and crisis management* and *Ultra-processed food*. We have also provided significant input to supporting work packages on *EDI and science advice* and the *Use of AI in the SAM*.

**Scientific
Advice
Mechanism**
to the European Commission

EVENTS

Following the publication of the SAPEA Evidence Review Report on *Solar Radiation Modification*, project-managed by AE Cardiff, we ran a webinar series by way of outreach. The first webinar, held in January, focused on strategy and policy; the second, in February, explored perspectives from the social sciences; the final webinar, held in March, examined SRM technologies. Each webinar attracted approximately 100 participants and generated lively dialogue. In April, Hub Manager, Louise Edwards, delivered an Insights Wales seminar, *Solar radiation modification: What's the debate, and why does it matter?*

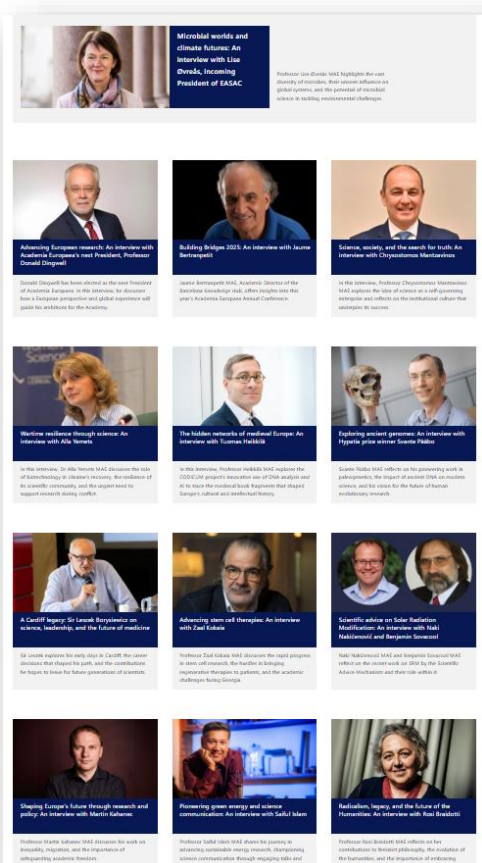
Promoting research excellence

WEBSITE

Our new website, launched at the end of 2024, was developed further in 2025 to include a dedicated resources section that showcases the most important areas of our work.



INTERVIEW SERIES



Our Interview Series remains a popular feature of our website. In 2025, we published a number of interviews with Members of Academia Europaea (MAE), representing a wide variety of academic disciplines and fields including:

Humanities: Rosi Braidotti MAE, Distinguished Professor of Humanities; Tuomas Heikkilä MAE, Professor in Church History; Chrysostomos Mantzavinos MAE, Professor of Philosophy; Caroline Bassett MAE, Professor of Digital Humanities

Social and related sciences: Martin Kahanec MAE, Professor of Economics; Naki Nakicenovic MAE, Group of Chief Scientific Advisors to the European Commission; Ben Sovacool MAE, Professor of Energy Policy

Exact sciences: Saiful Islam MAE, Professor of Materials Modelling

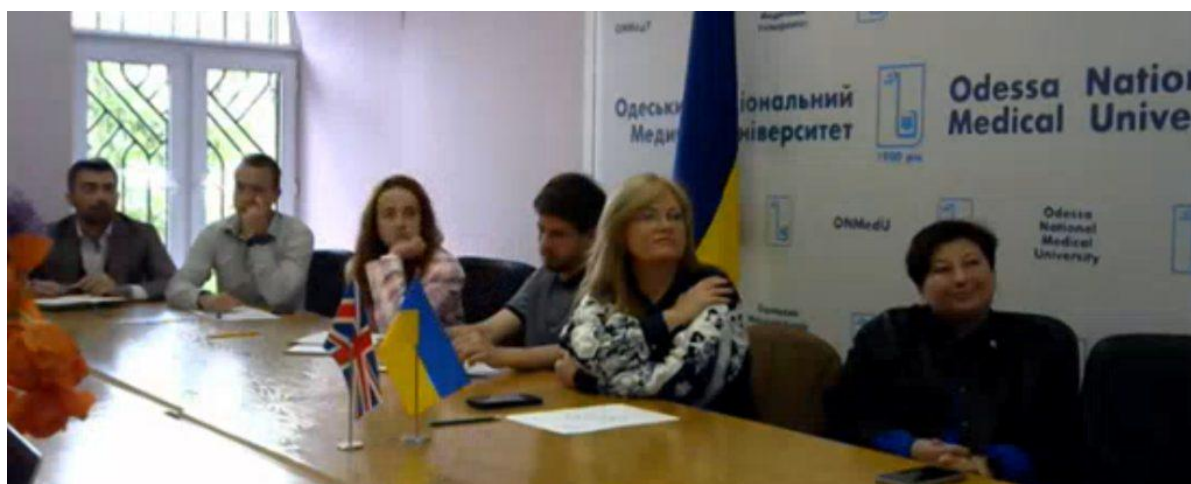
Life sciences: Annette Dolphin MAE, Professor of Pharmacology; Zaal Kokaia MAE, Professor of Experimental Medical Research; Svante Pääbo MAE, Professor of Comparative Genomics; Lise Øvreås, Professor of Microbial Ecology

SUPPORTING UKRAINE

AE Cardiff continued to stand wholeheartedly with Ukraine, as it has since the illegal invasion of 2022. A dedicated *Supporting Ukraine* section on our website includes news features and interviews with Ukrainian MAEs. This year, we interviewed Ukrainian biologist Alla Yemets MAE, who discussed the role of biotechnology in aiding Ukraine's recovery, the resilience of its scientific community, and the urgent need to support research during conflict.

In May, AE Cardiff took action to support Ukrainian researchers facing scientific isolation, due to the war. In collaboration with Odesa National Medical University, we launched a pilot initiative to connect Ukrainian PhD students with academic mentors across Europe.

AE Cardiff, hosted a webinar meeting chaired by our Hub Director, Ole Petersen MAE. Attended by almost 100 participants, there were presentations by senior representatives of Odesa National Medical University as well as from PhD students seeking academic support. They shared their challenges, aspirations, and highlighted the vital role international collaboration plays in sustaining Ukrainian medical research.



Representatives from Odesa National Medical University

COMMUNICATIONS WORK FOR ACADEMIA EUROPAEA

AE Cardiff again led on communications to the AE membership. This year, we rolled out a branding refresh for Academia Europaea. We also published interviews with newly elected AE President, Donald Dingwell MAE and AE Barcelona Hub Director Jaume Bertranpetit MAE. We also led on communications work for the AE Annual Conference, held in Barcelona in October, including published interviews with keynote speakers.



Stakeholder relationships

AE participated in the launch of the European Chapter of the International Network for Governmental Science Advice (INGSA), with the inaugural conference at Queen's College Oxford. The Hub Managers of AE Cardiff and AE Budapest, Louise Edwards, and Gergely Böhm, were among the invited participants, highlighting AE's active role in shaping conversations on evidence-informed policymaking across Europe.



Participants at the launch of the European Chapter of INGSA, including AE Cardiff Hub Manager Louise Edwards (front row, far right)



In May, we organised a webinar, *Science advice at a time of crisis: Are we better prepared, or is more still to be done?* A side event to the European Scientific Advice Mechanism 2025 Conference, it was organised and hosted by AE Cardiff and SAPEA, in partnership with the UK Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN).

In July, our webinar *One Health, One Planet: Highlighting the environment in One Health policy and practice*, explored the role of environmental and ecosystem sustainability within the One Health framework. The webinar was a cooperation between the Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM), AE Hubs at Cardiff University and the University of Bergen, the Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM) and Environment Platform Wales.

Looking to the future

Cardiff University secured an increased budget as part of the consortium that will take SAPEA forward from 2025 to 2029. Although the University took the decision to close the AE Hub, the University will nonetheless continue to play a full role in SAPEA and the SAM over the coming years.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF
ACADEMIA EUROPAEA CARDIFF



2016-2025

2016



Cardiff University, host to the AE Cardiff Hub

Backed by a **Collaboration Agreement** between Academia Europaea and Cardiff University, the AE Cardiff Hub was established. The agreement was signed in 2015 by AE President, Professor Sierd Cloetingh MAE, and the President and Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University, Professor Colin Riordan MAE. The Vice-President of Academia Europaea, Professor Ole Petersen MAE, was appointed Academic Director of the Cardiff Hub and Sir John Skehel MAE, Vice-President and Biological Secretary of The Royal Society, was named Chair of the Hub's Steering Group. The Cardiff Hub was the fourth AE Hub to open, following Wroclaw (2011), Barcelona (2013) and Bergen (2014).

The official **AE Cardiff Hub launch** took place during the 2016 Academia Europaea Annual Conference and Meeting, hosted in Cardiff. With 150 delegates from 20 countries, the Conference featured a stimulating programme, with the Erasmus Lecture a highlight, given by Lord Martin Rees OM FRS MAE, the UK's Astronomer Royal. The Conference also included a debate on scientific advice mechanisms, chaired by Sir Emyr Jones Parry (then President of the Learned Society of Wales). The expert panel included Patrick Child (Deputy Director-General of DG-Research and Innovation, European Commission), Professor Sierd Cloetingh MAE, Professor Colin Riordan MAE, Sir John Skehel MAE, Professor Günter Stock MAE (then President of ALLEA), Sir Mark Walport MAE (then Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government) and Professor Julie Williams (then Chief Scientific Adviser to the Welsh Government).



Debate on scientific advice mechanisms at the AE Annual Conference, Cardiff, 2016

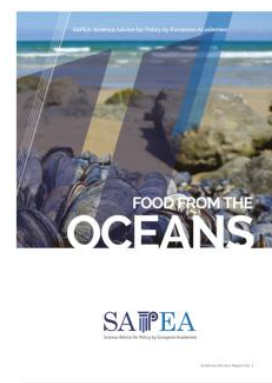
Academia Europaea became part of the **SAPEA** (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) consortium, within the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). The Cardiff Hub has conducted most of the Academy's work for SAPEA since 2016.



In November, the Hub launched its **events series**, holding its very first event, on *The future of UK research and scholarship*. In our 10 years, the Hub developed an ambitious events programme and held around 70 events including international conferences, workshops and webinars attracting audiences of up to 300 from almost 40 countries.

2017

AE Cardiff led the very **first SAPEA Evidence Review Report, *Food from the oceans***. The report was formally handed over to the European Commission, together with the Scientific Opinion of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors. Outreach events were held in a number of European locations, including Cardiff, Bergen, Hamburg and Sofia.



Handover of the Food from the Oceans reports to Commissioners Karmenu Vella (front row, 3rd from left) and Carlos Moedas (front row, 2nd from right). AE President Sierd Cloetingh MAE is at the back-right.

AE Cardiff began its **interview series** with Members of Academia Europaea, each interview showcasing their research and exploring views on key issues in their field. Over the years, we published 80 in-depth interviews with distinguished Members of the Academy. Notable interviewees have included:

- **Professor Sir Roger Penrose OM FRS MAE** – Nobel laureate, renowned mathematician and physicist, and recipient of the Academia Europaea Erasmus Medal (2021).
- **Sir Leszek Borysiewicz MAE** – Former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge and Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council.
- **Sir David King MAE** – Former UK Chief Scientific Adviser and a leading voice in climate policy.
- **Professor Martin Rees OM FRS MAE, The Lord Rees of Ludlow** – Astronomer Royal and eminent cosmologist.

2018

In March, the Cardiff Hub hosted a major international symposium, *Physiology and pathophysiology 2018*, to mark the **75th birthday of Professor Ole Petersen MAE**, the Vice-President of Academia Europaea and Academic Director of the Cardiff Hub. The event attracted 100 delegates from across the world, many of whom had worked with or been mentored by Professor Petersen.

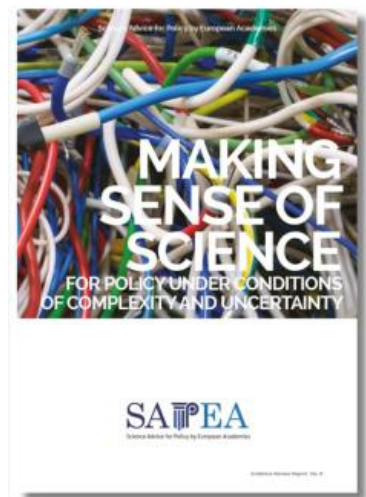


In September, the Cardiff Hub held an event called ***Science for policy: a European perspective*** at Swansea University. A panel of experts, chaired by Hub Steering Group member, Professor John Tucker MAE FLSW, provided a range of insights into the relationship between science advice and policymaking. The Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales, Professor Peter Halligan, was the keynote speaker.

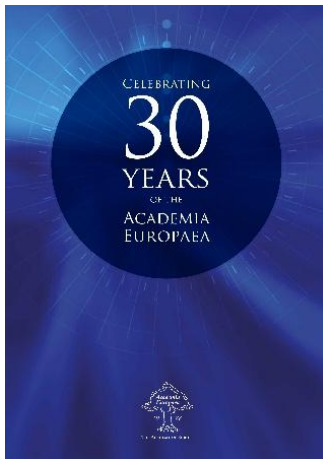


Science for policy: a European perspective, panel of experts. Including Professor Ole Petersen MAE, Professor John Tucker MAE and Professor Peter Halligan, the Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales. Swansea University's Bay Campus, September 2018

The AE Cardiff Hub oversaw the completion of a **second SAPEA Evidence Review Report** *Making sense of science for policy under conditions of complexity and uncertainty*. The Evidence Review Report, together with the accompanying Group of Chief Scientific Advisors' Scientific Opinion, were presented at a dedicated session within the European Commission's Research & Innovation Days. The Working Group was chaired by Professor Ortwin Renn and included Professor Marja Makarow MAE, who became AE President in 2022.



The SAPEA Evidence Review and the EU Group of Chief Scientific Advisors' Opinion are presented at the EC's Research & Innovation Days. The Hub Manager, Louise Edwards is second-left and the AE President, Sierd Cloetingh, is first-right. Professor Pearl Dykstra MAE is holding the Scientific Opinion and Ortwin Renn the SAPEA report.



In September, Academia Europaea celebrated its **30th Anniversary** at the Royal Society in London. It was marked by a commemorative brochure, created and published by AE Cardiff, and a special celebratory event hosted at the Royal Society. Organised by the Cardiff Hub, the event was generously supported by the President of the Royal Society, Sir Venki Ramakrishnan FRS, and Royal Society Vice-President Sir John Skehel MAE. Highlights included Sir Arnold Burgen FRS MAE, Founding President of the Academia, speaking on the original aims of the Academy and its key achievements, and the presentation of AE's Gold Medal to Robert-Jan Smits MAE, the European Commission's Open Access Envoy and formerly Director-General of the

Commission's Research and Innovation Directorate. As part of the programme, a roundtable discussion took place on *Making sense of science for policy*. Chaired by Professor Sierd Cloetingh MAE, the expert panel included Professor Nicole Grobert MAE (Group of Chief Scientific Advisors) and Professor Ortwin Renn, Chair of the SAPEA Working Group.



AE's Gold Medal is presented to Robert-Jan Smits at AE's 30th Anniversary (left)

Professor Ortwin Renn and Professor Nicole Grobert on the Making sense of science for policy panel at the Royal Society, September 2018 (right)

An **Asthma UK** meeting, *Curing and preventing asthma; Where do we go next?* was hosted by AE Cardiff in November, chaired by Sir Stephen Holgate MAE. Following the meeting, Asthma UK released a new report *Asthma still kills: Urgent priorities for the international research community to treat, prevent and cure asthma*. The report, published in 2019, identified urgent priorities for the research community and highlighted the need for funding to address these issues.



Asthma UK meeting, Curing and preventing asthma; Where do we go next? November 2018. Left to right: Dr Samantha Walker, Professor Ole Petersen CBE FRS MAE, Professor Sven-Erik Dahlén MAE and Professor Stephen Holgate CBE MAE

2019

In 2019, the AE Cardiff Hub and the **Young Academy of Europe (YAE)** entered a collaboration, with the aim of working together more closely. The YAE, a pan-European initiative of outstanding young scientists for networking, advocacy, scientific exchange, and science policy, has been formally affiliated with the Academia Europaea since 2012.



Key participants at the Translational Medicine Conference at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, September 2019, including Dr Joao Monterio, Editor-in-Chief of Nature Medicine, (second from right), Professor Ole Petersen MAE and Professor Peter Hegyi MAE

The Cardiff Hub supported Academia Europaea's **Translational Medicine Project**, including a two-day workshop in September at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest. The project was led by Professor Peter Hegyi MAE, with additional input and advice from the Chair of AE's Clinical and Veterinary Science Section, Sir Stephen Holgate MAE and Hub Director, Professor Ole Petersen MAE. To advance the project, AE Cardiff held a webinar on translational medicine in June 2020. A position paper was published in the open access journal, the *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, also in 2020.



Panellists and organisers of The future of research: Assessing the impact of Plan S, November 2019

The Cardiff Hub and KU Leuven Libraries jointly held a **major international symposium on the impact of Plan S**, the initiative for Open Access publishing, in November. An audience of 130 gathered at the historic Leuven Institute for Ireland in academies and publishers. It was chaired by Professor Theo D'haen MAE, Hub Steering Group member and Editor of the *European Review*. Professor Johan Rooryck MAE, Open Access Champion of cOAlition S, delivered the keynote address. The Hub later published a comprehensive event report, *The future of research: Assessing the impact of Plan S*, which highlighted the key messages of the discussions.



2020

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cardiff Hub made a rapid transition to **online events**, significantly expanding our reach to a large international audience. The Hub ran its first webinar in June, on *The Future of Translational Medicine*. An international audience of around 300 from 28 countries participated in the live session.

In April, AE Cardiff began **collating COVID-19 academic papers** written by MAEs, providing a useful resource to those following latest research on COVID-19.

In June, SAPEA published its **Sustainability Plan**, laying out the consortium's future development in providing evidence for the European Scientific Advice Mechanism. Work on the plan was undertaken by the Cardiff Hub, on behalf of Academia Europaea.



*Sir Mark Walport MAE, AE
Cardiff Hub's Steering Group
Chair*

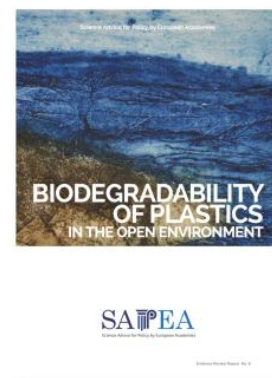
The Hub dedicated much of 2020 to working on a **third evidence review** on *Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment* for the European Commission. This was the first review to be conducted by virtual means rather than physical meetings. The report was presented at the official online handover event on 14th December. European Commissioners Mariya Ivanova Gabriel and Virginijus Sinkevičius were in attendance.



The Hub's first webinar was on The future of Translational Medicine, with Professors Sir Stephen Holgate, Ole Petersen and Péter Hegyi



In September, **Sir Mark Walport MAE** was announced as the new AE Cardiff Hub Steering Group Chair, succeeding Sir John Skehel MAE. Sir Mark was the UK's Government Chief Scientific Adviser between 2013 and 2017, and the Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) from 2017 to 2020.





The Hub also oversaw a comprehensive **systematic review on the European food policy landscape**, on behalf of the Scientific Advice Mechanism. The systematic review was specifically requested by the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and was the result of cooperation between the Cardiff Hub, the Specialist Unit for Review Evidence (SURE) and academic experts at Cardiff.

Academia Europaea announced that Cardiff Hub Director, Professor Ole Petersen MAE, would be awarded **AE's Gold Medal** for his contribution to the development of European Science.



Ole Petersen MAE receives Academia Europaea's Gold Medal from then AE President Sierd Cloetingh

2021



Panellists at the Hub's Digital Media in Crisis Situations webinar

In March, AE Cardiff organised a special online event, **in partnership with the universities of Bremen and Cardiff**, to support the *Wales in Germany 2021* campaign. Panellists discussed the role of the digital media on public debate, attitudes and behaviour during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 100 joined the webinar from 23 countries across the world.

Speakers included Professor Rudolf

Allemann, Cardiff's Pro Vice-Chancellor, International and Student Recruitment and Professor Eva-Maria Feichtner, Bremen's Vice-President International and Diversity. Professor Peter Halligan, representing the Welsh Government, also gave a presentation.

AE Cardiff launched a new **briefing series** summarising key points of discussion from the Hub's webinars, with the aim of providing a useful resource on important topics.

A **renewed cooperation agreement** between Academia Europaea and Cardiff University was signed by Professors Sierd Cloetingh MAE and Colin Riordan MAE.

In June, AE Cardiff co-organised, together with the European Parliament's Intergroup Climate Change, Biodiversity & Sustainable Development and SAPEA, a **high-profile webinar** on *Plastics pollution: Are biodegradable plastics a solution?* A global audience of over 300 attended. The event was hosted by Mohammed Chahim MEP and chaired by Professor Ole Petersen, It was the first time that AE Cardiff was directly engaged with the European Parliament; a very important step for Cardiff University, AE and SAPEA.



The welcoming address was given by Mohammed Chahim MEP

The Cardiff Hub was invited to join a consortium working on the Horizon 2020-funded project, **CALIPER**. This project supported nine research organisations, predominantly in Southern and Eastern Europe, to establish Gender Equality Plans. Working with the Young Academy of Europe, the Cardiff Hub led on communications across Europe, creating an engaging series of role model videos showcasing women in STEM. After the CALIPER project concluded, we continued this inspiring interview series, featuring Members of Academia Europaea who are actively working to promote gender equality in STEM.



Our series of role model videos. An interview with Virginia Petre

2022

The Cardiff Hub initiated a ***We Stand with Ukraine*** campaign, featuring editorials and also interviews with two newly elected Ukrainian members of AE. AE Cardiff has stood wholeheartedly with Ukraine, since the February 2022 invasion.



To inform SAPEA's Evidence Review Report on *Improving cancer screening in the European Union*, AE Cardiff oversaw the production and publication of three **rapid reviews of the literature**.

AE Cardiff collaborated closely with ALLEA in the production of a new SAPEA Evidence Review Report, ***Strategic crisis management in the EU***, published in November. We organised a successful expert workshop and coordinated the peer review process, as well as undertaking extensive editorial work.



The **SAPEA project was renewed** for a further period, from May 2022 to December 2024. Academia Europaea and the Cardiff Hub received a UK Government funding guarantee, administered through Innovate UK.

AE Cardiff hosted the **CALIPER consortium meeting** in June, at Woburn House in London. Over 30 consortium partners from across Europe were in attendance, either in person or online. Professor Ole Petersen MAE, Director of AE Cardiff, opened the meeting and later hosted a dinner for the participants.



Members of the CALIPER consortium in London



Academia Europaea's Annual Conference, Building Bridges 2022, Barcelona

The Cardiff Hub was asked to lead **communications work for Academia Europaea's Annual Conference**, held in Barcelona in October. We published in-depth interviews with medal winners and key conference speakers and compiled a video of conference highlights. Our social media campaign for the conference created a huge increase in engagement for Academia Europaea.

2023

In SAPEA, we delivered further **literature reviews** to the European Scientific Advice Mechanism and the European Group on Ethics, as well as coordination of a **new evidence review** on *Solar Radiation Modification*. The Cardiff Hub also led work on a new **SAPEA Strategic Development Plan**.

The **CALIPER project**, focusing on gender equality, came to a close at the end of the year, with Cardiff successfully delivering its work within the consortium.



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

From left to right: Professor John Harwood (Cardiff School of Biosciences), Professor Carl Petersen MAE, Professor Alex Verkhatsky MAE, Professor Ole Petersen MAE, Professor Jim Murray MAE, Professor Valerie O'Donnell MAE and Professor Anant Parekh MAE



In July, the Cardiff Hub organised a successful landmark event at Wolfson College Cambridge to mark the **30th anniversary of European Review**, the journal of Academia Europaea. The event was held in collaboration with Cambridge University Press.

Panellists and session chairs at Wolfson College Cambridge including Lord Rees OM FRS MAE



In September, AE Cardiff Hub organised an international workshop on behalf of Academia Europaea's **Task Force for Environment, Sustainability, and Climate (TFESC)** at Wolfson College, Cambridge.

Participants at the TFESC workshop, Wolfson College, Cambridge



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

Beyond Borders: Strengthening EU-UK research collaboration, Cardiff University

nurture the research relationship between the EU and the UK, following the UK's association to Horizon Europe and Copernicus. Panellists included Professor Christopher Smith FRSE MAE, Executive Director of the Arts & Humanities Research Council and UKRI International Champion, and Professor Hywel Thomas CBE MAE FLSW FRS, President of the Learned Society of Wales.

Following a request from Academia Europaea, the Cardiff Hub **led on communications to the AE membership**, assuming responsibility for AE's quarterly newsletter, which we redesigned. The Hub was asked to lead on **communications work for the AE Annual Conference**, held in Munich in October. We published interviews with medal winners including Jean Pierre Changeux, winner of Academia Europaea's Erasmus medal. We again ran a successful social media campaign.



Ole Petersen delivers the Laudation for Jean-Pierre Changeux's Erasmus Lecture. From left to right: Balázs Gulyás MAE, Ole Petersen MAE, Jean-Pierre Changeux MAE and Eva Kondorosi MAE.



Hub Director Professor Ole Petersen MAE officially represented AE at a special event at the **2023 Semmelweis Symposium** in Budapest, where a co-operation agreement between AE, Semmelweis University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong was signed. The symposium and the following event in Szeged were also a joint celebration of

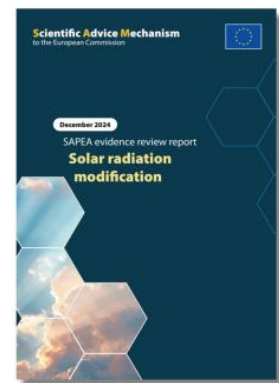
the 10th Anniversary of the Nobel Prize Award to Thomas Südhof and Randy Schekmann, as well as marking Professor Petersen's 80th birthday.



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

2024

In the Strategic Advice Mechanism, we led the coordination of the evidence review on *Solar Radiation Modification*, as well as providing significant input to reviews on *AI in Science* and *One Health*. Cardiff also conducted literature reviews to inform the European Group on Ethics Statement on *Strengthening democracy*.



In July, AE Cardiff hosted an interactive workshop for academies, as part of a SAPEA series. *Reaching out to society: How academies can maximise the impact of their public engagement* was attended by around 100 representatives from Europe's academies. The workshop outlined the purpose of public engagement, highlighted some of the latest trends and methods, and facilitated knowledge-sharing. The main outcomes were written up as part of a deliverable to the European Commission.

AE Cardiff again led on communications to the AE membership. We coordinated a branding refresh for Academia Europaea and also led on communications work for the AE Annual Conference, held in Wroclaw in November.



In May, we hosted a webinar, *Boosting research impact: Policy engagement for early-career researchers*, in partnership with the Learned Society of Wales Early Career Researchers Network. The webinar attracted around 170 participants.



In August, Professor Ole Petersen MAE delivered a keynote address at the 22nd European Bioenergetics Conference (EBEC). The event took place at the University of Innsbruck, attracting more than 500 participants.



In November, we supported an open forum at Cardiff University, organised with CONNECTS-UK, a partnership to foster scientific collaboration between Europe and the UK. The hybrid meeting. *AI: What does it mean for research, for society and for you?* included as a speaker the Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales, Professor Jas Pal Badyal FRS.

Speakers and organisers of AI: what does it mean for research, for society and for you. They include Professor Ole Petersen MAE (far-left) and next to him, Professor Jas Pal Badyal FRS, Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales

Our newly revamped website was launched at the end of 2024, following an extensive review of content and design.



2025

Cardiff University's position in the European Scientific Advice Mechanism was again confirmed, with the continuation of the SAPEA project from 2025 to 2029. The University plays a significant role, coordinating evidence reviews and conducting high-quality literature reviews for both the SAM and the EGE.

**Scientific
Advice
Mechanism**
to the European Commission

The Hub's hosts, Cardiff University, took the decision to close the AE Cardiff Hub at the end of the year. Nonetheless, the Hub's legacy lives on, through the University's commitment to full participation in the European Scientific Advice Mechanism, and the University's membership of the SAPEA consortium.

STAFFING



Academic Director **Professor Ole Petersen CBE FLSW FMedSci FRS MAE**

Hub Manager **Louise Edwards**

Executive Officer **Juliet Davies**

Communications Officer **Alice Sadler**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AE Cardiff would like to thank colleagues of all organisations that have given us their support - not only in 2025, but over the last ten years. Our sincerest thanks to:

- Academia Europaea, in particular Members who have supported and engaged with the Hub, and our colleagues across Europe
- Academia Europaea Cardiff Hub Steering Group
- Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS)
- Agar Scientific
- ALLEA, All European Academies
- Alliance for Useful Evidence
- APS (American Physiological Society) and FUNCTION
- Association of Learned & Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP)
- Asthma UK
- Bergen Aquarium
- Cairn Research
- Cambridge University Press
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