

**President's summary report of the Academia Europaea activities and highlights in 2023**

Dear members.

On behalf of the Board of trustees, I would like to thank all of the organisations that have sustained the Academia through their generous general financial sponsorships. In particular the authorities supporting the Academia Europaea Regional Knowledge Hubs and the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina) - a Patron member of the Academia Europaea in 2023. The trustees also thank those other foundations and organisations that have contributed to the running of specific events and activities of the Academia during the period of this report. The support of these organisations is identified in various places within this report and in the separate annual accounts and have been identified within the various individual Hub reports annexed to the main report that you can find on our website. The full trustees report (2023) is available as a pdf on the ae-info website.

I confirm that in 2023, the trustees have been active in their engagement in the affairs of the Academia and a majority have attended every meeting of the trustees. The trustees wish to express their gratitude to the elected officers of the Academy for their additional work on behalf of the membership. In particular, we would like to thank Our Vice president and treasurer who together with me as President, this year played pivotal roles in our new policy related work representing the European Commission as a member of the G-20 science academy network. I would also like to specifically thank the outgoing chair of our HERCuLES group – Lars Engwall who has maintained the excellence of the symposia that the group organises. I would also like to record again this year our thanks to the Wenner Gren Foundations who provide both a venue and support for these events. Professor Britte-Marie Sjoberg MAE who has served the Wenner Gren as their Science Director and CEO for a number of years is also retiring and we are grateful for her unfailing support..

In 2023, the AE was able to continue its return to a more substantial programme of real-time international events (conferences and workshops) and to maintain a programme of online activities (webinars and streamed events). Some of these are reported in the main report and in more detail in the individual Hub annual reports. The Horizon 2020 funded SAPEA activity continued mostly virtually (see later report). The European Review continued to be published and generated royalty income (see below).

The trustees wish to record their thanks to the Technical University of Graz data centre staff for their continuing and dedicated I.T. and corporate web support and to Professor Balazs Gulyas for his management of the AE Erasmus Medal process. The lecture given by Prof Jean-Pierre Changeux was excellent. I am pleased to announce that a call for nominations will be published before the end of the year, for candidates to receive the 2025 Erasmus Medal – this time it is the turn of Class B – Exact Sciences.

The trustees are pleased to report, that in 2023, our inter – organisational links were further strengthened with a number of European federation organisations (ALLEA, FEAM, EASAC and euroCASE) and also continued with our engagement as a member of the EASAC consortium. The AE was a signatory to a range of European Research and Higher Educational policy initiatives, including a

recent initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) call to ensure that the new EU Commission has a dedicated Commissioner for Innovation and Research.

As President, I and other trustees have engaged in a number of specific activities that responded to policy issues across Europe. A new Expert group on A.I. was established under the chairmanship of Prof. Erol Gelenbe. In addition, each of the seven 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 trustees are pleased to report a further widening of the membership of the Academia Europaea with the election in 2023 of 320 scholars across a four classes. The full 2023-election list is at annex 1 of the main report. Member statistics can be found on the AE website at [ae-info.org](http://ae-info.org). Unfortunately, there has only been a very slow improvement in gender balance and there remains a deficit with respect to the membership from the less research intensive countries of Europe. The trustees also continued to support the further development of the Young Academy of Europe, in recognition of the AE mission to promote young researchers and have agreed to re-invigorate this relationship in the coming months.

The AE has a membership of individuals that are drawn from the whole continent of Europe and Foreign members from beyond Europe. Up to date membership statistics can be found in graphical representations on our website. In order to ensure that the AE has secure, future access to EU project funding, the trustees completed the establishing of the new Munich based legal entity in 2023. That office is gradually taken up tasks from the London office and will be the headquarters office responsible for all EU related matters, including future SAPEA project participation by the AE. Overall direction of Academia Europaea (Munich) e.V is in the hands of our Vice president – Don Dingwell.

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

On behalf of the Board of trustees, I am pleased to report that the Academia is on a solid growth trajectory and **I recommend members TO ADOPT THE 2023 Trustees report.**

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

Marja Makarow

President

Helsinki

September 2024