



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA CARDIFF KNOWLEDGE HUB

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



PROMOTING
**RESEARCH
EXCELLENCE**
FOR **POLICY**
AND **PROGRESS**

CARDIFF
UNIVERSITY
PRIFYSGOL
CAERDYDD



Professor Ole H. Petersen
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Introduction

By Professor Ole Petersen

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Welcome to our Annual Report 2017, highlighting our latest achievements in meeting the priorities set out in our Strategic Plan 2016-2019.

Founded in 1988, *Academia Europaea* is a non-governmental association, acting as a pan-European Academy. Our members are leading scientists and scholars who collectively promote research, learning and education. Our membership now numbers approaching 4000, including 75 Nobel laureates.

Academia Europaea operates through a network of regional knowledge hubs in Barcelona, Wroclaw and Bergen. Our own hub, hosted at Cardiff University, joined as the fourth in 2016. Cardiff's world-leading research was ranked fifth for quality amongst UK universities in the last UK Research Excellence Framework and second for impact.

In 2017, the Hub set itself three major objectives for the second year of operation. Firstly, to meet our commitments in the SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) project, funded under Horizon 2020 and supporting policymaking in Europe. Secondly, to run a successful programme of Hub events. Thirdly, to continue to raise our profile, both regionally and internationally.

Sound progress was made in all of these areas, as we describe in this Report. In particular, I draw attention to the lead coordination role played by the Cardiff Hub in the *Food from the Oceans* project, the first evidence review report delivered by the SAPEA Consortium under the European Scientific Advice Mechanism. After extremely hard work by all staff members of the Hub, the year came to a very successful end, with the handover of the *Food from the Oceans* Evidence Review Report to the European Commission in Brussels on 29th November.

I would like to thank Sir John Skehel for his very active engagement as Chair of the Hub Steering Group. My thanks also to Professor Nora de Leeuw, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International and Europe), Cardiff University, for her great support.

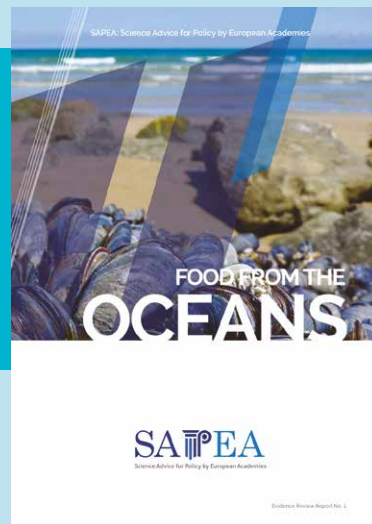
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ole H. Petersen', written in a cursive style.

Professor Ole H. Petersen

Highlights in 2017

Coordination of the Food from the Oceans evidence review for the European Commission, with handover of the Evidence Review Report to the Commission in November

*Food from the Oceans
Evidence Review Report*



A vital role for the Cardiff Hub in the SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) project, funded by the Horizon 2020 programme

Meeting of the European Commission with representatives from SAPEA and Members of the High Level Group of Scientific Advisers, January. Commissioner Moedas (second front-left), Sir Paul Nurse MAE FRS (second front-right), Robert-Jan Smits (back-left), Professor Ole Petersen (second row, second-right)



Reaching a mass audience through public engagement events in Norway, Wales and Germany, June-September



Panellists at the Hamburg Academy, October [l-r] Prof Edwin Kreuzer, Angela Grosse, Prof Marian Paschke, Dr Gesche Krause, Prof Gerd Krause, Prof Ole Petersen, Prof Rolf-Dieter Heuer (Chair, High-Level Group of Scientific Advisers)

Achievements in 2017

Our achievements are set out in the context of the five priorities in the Strategic Plan 2016-2019.

PRIORITY 1:

Establish a major role in supporting policymaking in Europe

A new project, SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies), kicked off in November 2016. Funded under the Horizon 2020 programme, the Cardiff Hub plays a major role in delivering work in the project, on behalf of *Academia Europaea*. The Hub undertook the coordination of the *Food from the Oceans* evidence review, the result of a request from the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella. It addressed the key question of how more food and biomass can be obtained from the oceans in a way that does not deprive future generations of their benefits.

The *Food from the Oceans* Evidence Review Report was delivered on-time and to-budget and was the first in the series to be published by SAPEA.



Handover of the SAPEA Evidence Review Report to the European Commission, November

In establishing a management framework for the topic, Professor Petersen represented SAPEA and *Academia Europaea* on the Coordination Group, with Louise Edwards, the Cardiff Hub Manager, chairing the SAPEA staff team. The Cardiff Hub oversaw the setting up of two international working groups of experts in the field, one in the natural sciences and the other in the social sciences/humanities. We also organised five meetings of the working groups, which took place in May and June.

Cardiff University Library, recognised widely for its expertise in the systematic review

method, conducted the literature search. Working with communications professionals at SAPEA, we ran successful public engagement events on the theme of *Food from the Oceans* in the cities of Bergen, Cardiff and Hamburg. We also promoted our work at an event organised by Cardiff University's Sustainable Places Research Institute to mark *World Oceans Day* on 8th June.

In another area of the SAPEA project, Professor Petersen served on an expert working group to establish procedures for assuring the quality of scientific advice. The group's output, *Guidelines on Advising Policymakers and Society & Procedures for Quality Assurance of Scientific Advice*, was delivered in July and subsequently published on the SAPEA website.

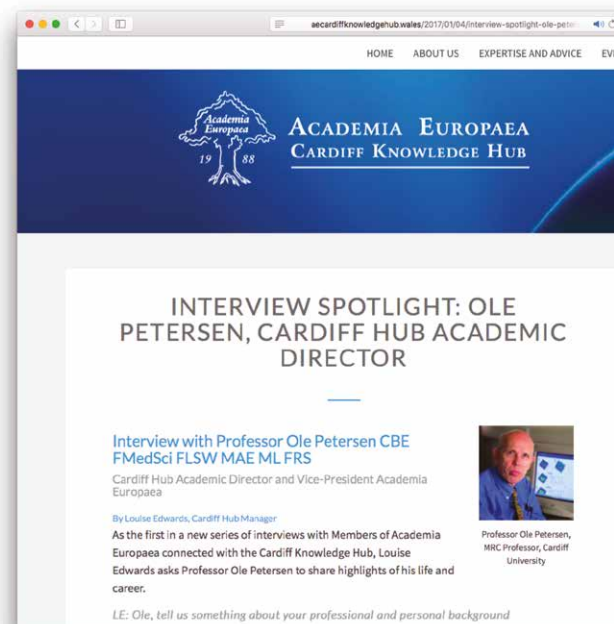


Professor Ole Petersen and Louise Edwards at the expert working group meeting on quality assurance, Paris, April

PRIORITY 2: Showcase outstanding regional research

Since the professional re-design and launch of the Cardiff Hub website in October 2016, we have published a continuous flow of news items and more in-depth articles, for example, reports on our events and SAPEA-related work.

We also launched an interview series with regional *Academia Europaea* members, providing insight into their research career and achievements. The first of these was with Professor Petersen.



Professor Graham Hutchings FRS FLSW MAE (Cardiff University) was appointed to membership of the CCU (Carbon Capture and Utilisation) Working Group

All these new editorial approaches have been effective in driving up traffic to the Hub website. Between January and December 2017, there was an increase of 57% of online visits, compared to January-December 2016.

To facilitate our work in the SAPEA project, we undertook a major data-gathering exercise to update the expertise database of *Academia Europaea*. Around 800 AE members and YAE (Young Academy) members have responded to date, making it easier for us to identify experts in specific research fields. Of note, *Academia Europaea* and the Young Academy of Europe have both been particularly successful in having members appointed to SAPEA international working groups.

PRIORITY 3: Engage with our membership

We have continued with our successful programme of lunchtimes debates on key aspects of science and research. The events are free and open to all, attracting a wide audience from the academic, public and corporate sectors. These events also gained traction on Twitter, regularly featuring in our monthly 'Top Tweet'.

Four debates were held in 2017:

- Open Science, 17th February
- Research Evaluation, 5th April
- Interdisciplinary Research, 9th June
- International Research Networks, 28th November



Our panel on interdisciplinary research ([l-r] Prof Petersen, Dr Stephen Hill, Dr Ian Viney, Prof Nicky Prialoux, Prof Nick Pidgeon, Prof Cathy Holt (not pictured))

PRIORITY 4: Engage with wider stakeholders

Our quarterly newsletter has a circulation of nearly 5,000, including not only the membership of *Academia Europaea* but also senior staff at Cardiff University, the Welsh Government and the Learned Society of Wales. Participants in Hub events has included academic colleagues at universities in the region, for example, Cardiff Metropolitan, the University of South Wales and the GW4 universities at Bristol, Exeter and Bath. Small business owners and other corporate representatives have also been involved. Our performance in social media activity has been particularly strong, where we have used Twitter to reach out to a wider audience.

The Cardiff Hub supported an international symposium, *Neuroplasticity and Synaptic Function in Neuropsychiatric Disorders*, held at Cardiff University on 27th-28th April.

Hub staff have also been speakers at external events. On 8th May, the Royal Institution held a summit for scientists, policymakers and other key stakeholders to consider the impact of the Brexit vote on science and innovation. The event, *Brexit: the scientific impact*, was jointly supported by *Academia Europaea*, EuroScience and the Royal Institution. *Academia Europaea* was represented by Professor Ole Petersen, in his capacity as Vice-President.



Prof Ole Petersen with other speakers at the Royal Institution, May 2017

On 21st June, Hub Manager Louise Edwards spoke on the role played by Wales in the new European Scientific Advisory Mechanism, at a workshop held by the Sêr Cymru National Research Network for Low Carbon, Energy and Environment.

A highly innovative aspect of the SAPEA work has been public engagement activities for *Food from the Oceans*. These events provided the perfect opportunity for the *Academia Europaea* Hubs at Bergen and Cardiff to collaborate. The first, held in Bergen on 18th June, marked UNESCO Sustainable Gastronomy Day and Bergen's status as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. A series of colourful stalls offering food samples attracted around 2,000 visitors and featured on the main news of TV2, Norway's principal commercial channel, with up to 1 million viewers. A programme of public talks and an open debate on the theme of *Food from the Oceans* also took place.



Mat fra havet – *Food from the Oceans*, Bergen, June

The second event saw around 80,000 people come to Cardiff Bay over three days, 14th to 16th July, to enjoy the annual Cardiff International Food and Drink Festival. *Food from the Oceans* was the theme of a programme of events hosted at the Norwegian Church.



Crowds gather at the stall in Cardiff

This open and free programme of events was the result of collaboration between the Cardiff and Bergen Hubs, together with SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies). We also worked closely with other partners, including the SAM (Science Advice Mechanism) Unit, the Learned Society of Wales, the Hordaland County in Norway and Cardiff University. Especially popular was the *Food from the Oceans* stall, serving a variety of seafood from Norway and informing the public about SAPEA and the *Food from the Oceans* topic.



Reception to mark the 25th Anniversary of the restoration of the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay, July 2017

The highlight of a full programme of public talks on the theme of *Food from the Oceans* was a reception to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the restoration of the Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay, supported financially by the Royal Norwegian Embassy and hosted in partnership with the Welsh Norwegian Society.

In co-operation with SAPEA and the Union of German Science Academies, a third public event, a debate on how to extract more food from the oceans in a sustainable manner, took place at the Hamburg Academy in the city of Hamburg, Germany on 5th October. SAPEA was represented by Professor Ole Petersen. Dr Gesche Krause spoke as a member of the SAPEA international working group and Professor Rolf-Dieter Heuer represented the European Commission's High-Level Group of Scientific Advisers.

Senior staff of the *Academia Europaea* Hubs played an active role at SAPEA workshops designed to strengthen relationships between European academies, held in Madrid and Bucharest. Professor Petersen represented SAPEA at the Bucharest meeting and took part in a panel that discussed the role of academies in providing scientific advice. Louise Edwards and Esther Dorado-Ladera of the Cardiff Hub facilitated some of the sessions at both events.



Professor Petersen addresses the public event at the Hamburg Academy



Royal Academy of Engineering, Madrid, September 2017



Prof Ole Petersen [centre], with Dr Yves Caristan (Secretary General, Euro-CASE) and Rapela Zaman (Director of International Affairs, The Royal Society), Bucharest, October 2017

On 12th October, a largescale international conference in Tallinn, Estonia, focused on the impact and value of European research. The event was organised as part of the Estonian Presidency of the European Council, with Professor Sierd Cloetingh (AE President) and Louise Edwards (Cardiff Hub Manager) acting in advisory and editorial roles as members of the Steering Group.

Louise Edwards also played a pivotal role in shaping the programme for the SAPEA symposium, *Crossing Boundaries*, which was held the following day, and authored the published report (available on the SAPEA website).

In November, we were delighted to welcome *Academia Europaea* President, Professor Sierd Cloetingh, and Sir John Skehel, Chair of our Steering Group, to the Cardiff Hub. In addition to meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University, Professor Cloetingh also spoke at the Hub networking event and panel debate, *International Networks*.



Prime Minister of Estonia, Jüri Ratas, addresses the Tallin conference



Panel discussion on public engagement at the *Crossing Boundaries* symposium



[l-r] Prof Ole Petersen, Prof Sierd Cloetingh, Prof Adrian Harwood, Abdul Rahim, Prof Phil Jones and Sir John Skehel, International Networks panel

PRIORITY 5: Ensure future sustainability

In addition to the core operational funding provided by Cardiff University, the Hub was boosted by Horizon 2020 funding for the SAPEA project, which enabled us to employ an extra member of staff from September. We welcomed Dr Esther Dorado-Ladera to the team as Executive Officer (Projects).

GOVERNANCE

The Cardiff Hub Steering Group held its second meeting on 19th October. The following distinguished scientists and scholars serve on the Group:

Yves Barde MAE FRS

Nora de Leeuw FLSW MAE

Dianne Edwards CBE FLSW FRS MAE

Theo D'Haen MAE

Donald Dingwell ML MAE

Stephen Holgate CBE FMedSci MAE

Colin Riordan FLSW

Irene Schulz-Hofer ML MAE

Sir John Skehel FRS FMedSci MAE (Chair)

John Tucker FLSW MAE

RESOURCES

Staffing



Academic Director
Professor Ole Petersen



Knowledge Hub Manager
Louise Edwards



Executive Officer
Judith Lockett



Executive Officer
Esther Dorado-Ladera

FINANCE

Cardiff University covered the salary costs of one FTE member of staff and one half-time member of staff, in addition to providing £10,000 for operating costs in the financial year 2017-18. The SAPEA project has also been a significant source of funding.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	RESULT	PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMPARED TO 2016
Number of attendees at the Hub and Hub-supported academic events in Cardiff, January-December 2017	340	↑ 40%
Number of attendees at Hub-supported public engagement events	2000 (approx.)	n/a
Number of visits to the Hub website January-December 2017	4,174	↑ 57%
Number of pages viewed on the Hub website January-December 2017	11,073	↑ 42%
Average number of times users were served a Hub Tweet in timeline or search results (per day, January-December 2017)	275	↑ 213%
Number of active user engagements (e.g. re-Tweets, likes) with the Hub Twitter account January-December 2017	1,334	↑ 959%
Number of Twitter followers	140	↑ 268%



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