



SSH in Horizon 2020

Perspectives for Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) Research and Infrastructures in Europe

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Dear Reader,

2013 is a decisive year for the future of science and research in Europe. The deliberations on the future European framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020, are currently in their final phase and the Commission seeks to accomplish the European Research Area until 2014. For ALLEA, it has - until now - already been a very busy year with numerous activities related to the current science policy developments in Europe but also beyond:

Earlier this year we came together in Berlin for our 14th General Assembly, our Working Groups organised meetings and conferences, issued statements and made recommendations regarding the conditions for science and research in Europe, the ALLEA Board and Presidency have been working on pressing issues for the future of our European federation of Academies which – since our last annual meeting – comprises 55 members from 43 countries.

In order for you to get detailed insights into what has been done, what is being planned and how our activities evolve we have revived the idea of an ALLEA newsletter. This first issue focuses on the perspectives for Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) research and infrastructures in Europe against the background of the above mentioned science policy developments. With dedicated and continuous efforts including namely the activities of our Working Group on Social Sciences and Humanities, so ably led by the British

Academy, a research infrastructure conference that ALLEA co-organises on the invitation of the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) and the launch of a survey and analysis project on basic social sciences and humanities research, ALLEA has quite a say in this context and is regarded as a trusted and renowned advisor to the European decision makers.

In the future, the ALLEA newsletter portrays three times a year the most important activities conducted by our Working Groups, the Board and Presidency as well as selected joint activities of ALLEA member academies. Each issue addresses a focal topic of high relevance for science and research in Europe in general and for the Academies in particular. In its digital format you can make use of related background information accessible via numerous links in the articles.

Since this actual issue is the first one and thus covers more information and a longer period of time it is more comprehensive than the upcoming issues. Nonetheless, I hope you will find the time for an enjoyable lecture of the articles and reports on the following pages.

With kindest regards,

Günter Stock
ALLEA President

The ALLEA Board 2012-2014



Günter Stock
(President/Chair)
Union of the
German Academies of Sciences
and Humanities,
Berlin- Brandenburg Academy of
Sciences and Humanities



Daniela Jezova
(Vice President)
Slovak Academy
of Sciences



Ed Noort
(Vice President)
Royal
Netherlands
Academy of Arts
and Sciences



Oivind Andersen
Norwegian
Academy of
Science and
Letters



Carlo D'Adda
Accademia
Nazionale dei
Lincei, Italy

The ALLEA Board comprises eight members, elected biennially by the General Assembly, and the President who chairs the Board. The Vice Presidents are elected from among the members of the Board. The President of EASAC is invited to the meetings of the ALLEA Board as a guest.

The ALLEA Board for 2012 – 2014 was elected on the occasion of the General Assembly in Rome on 12 April 2012. It has 3 - 4 regular meetings a year.

Find regularly updated information about the Board on the [ALLEA Website](#).



Peter Kennedy
The Royal Irish
Academy



Nikolay G. Miloshev
Bulgarian
Academy
of Sciences

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 2013
Lisbon

March 2014
Brussels

September 2014
tbc

December 2014
Jerusalem



Jürg Pfister
Swiss Academies
of Arts and
Sciences



Menahem Yaari
Israel Academy
of Sciences and
Humanities

ALLEA Board Meeting in Wrocław, Poland

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary conference of Academia Europaea, the ALLEA Board held its third regular meeting in the running year in the city of Wrocław, Poland, on 16 September 2013.

ALLEA President Günter Stock opened the meeting with words in the memory of Eugene Nickolov, delegate of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences to the ALLEA Board, who unexpectedly and tragically had passed away in July 2013. The Board kept a minute of silence and paid tribute to his memory.

With deep sorrow and regret we received the message of the unexpected death of our colleague in the Board of ALLEA, the Scientific Secretary-General of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Professor Eugene Nickolov.

We have known Professor Nickolov as an outstanding scientist and science manager and always appreciated his invaluable and thought-provoking contributions, his well-chosen arguments and comments and his support for the idea of a European intellectual community. We have lost a dear colleague who will be greatly missed and we pay tribute to his memory.

The ALLEA Board

In addition to reports about recent and on-going activities of Presidency and Working Groups and on the ALLEA budget for 2013, issues discussed in the meeting included new and pending membership applications, the scientific programme for the General Assembly 2014 and the launch of ALLEA activities funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, namely [an investigation project](#) addressing basic SSH research and research infrastructure in Europe (conducted by ALLEA and the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities) as well as the co-organisation of an [ESFRI-conference](#) by ALLEA in late 2013.

Further topics included a science policy workshop, attended by ALLEA President Günter Stock on the invitation of EuroCASE with the Joint Research Council (JRC) and high level officials from numerous EC directorate generals as well as with the Chief Scientific Advisor to EC President Barroso, Professor Anne Glover. EuroCASE, recently under new leadership of Reinhard Hüttel (acatech, Germany), showed an increasing interest in close ties between the two academy organisations in Europe.

Günter Stock reported how the workshop revealed the Commissions desire to hear the European Academies speak with one voice and

that scientifically based policy advice would need to include societal aspects of future challenges also in the field of technology. ALLEA was seen as a very relevant actor and natural partner for this endeavour.

The participants also addressed the governmental ambitions in Russia to restructure the national science system and reiterated their concern that the intended legislative changes represent a negative impact on the future position of the Russian ALLEA member, the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), particularly as regards its independent functioning on the basis of scientific excellence and autonomy.

Intensified Collaboration

Roundtable discussion of ALLEA, EASAC and Academia Europaea in Wrocław

In the context of the 25th anniversary conference of Academia Europaea, representatives of the three European academy organisations Academia Europaea (AE), All European Academies (ALLEA)

and the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) assembled for a roundtable discussion on 16 September 2013 ahead of the conference programme.

ALLEA President Günter Stock and Vice President Ed Noort, EASAC President Sir Brian Heap and President elect Jos van der Meer – all long standing members of the Academia Europaea – followed an

invitation of AE President Lars Walloe and foreign secretary Jerzy Langer to discuss an intensified collaboration of the three organisations in order to strengthen the position of academies in Europe in general and towards EU authorities in Brussels in particular.

The discussions followed up on earlier meetings of the three Presidents initiated in 2012. Previous cooperation had led *inter alia* to

a joint letter of concern to the heads of state and governments in Europe issued in the context of expected cuts in the EU budget for research and innovation in the previous

year. The next meeting is planned to take place on the occasion of the

Joint letter of support for research budget in Europe (11/2012) by Academia Europaea, ALLEA and EASAC

upcoming EASAC Council meeting in early December 2013 in Rome.

Fact Finding Commission

ALLEA delegation visits Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) and The Science Academy, Istanbul (SAI)



Left photo (from left): ALLEA Vice President Professor Ed Noort, Board member Professor Peter Kennedy, SAI President Professor Mehmet Ali Alpar, ALLEA President Professor Günter Stock; right photo: TÜBA President Professor Ahmet Acar (left) with ALLEA delegation

On 25 – 27 September 2013 a delegation of the ALLEA Board visited the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) in Ankara and the recently established Science Academy based in Istanbul. During their stay, ALLEA President Günter Stock, Vice President Ed Noort and Board member Peter Kennedy convened meetings with the presidencies of both academies respectively.

The visit aimed to gather information and to gain more insights into the current situation of the academies landscape in Turkey against the background of an application from the Science Academy, Istanbul, for membership in ALLEA.

Issues addressed in the meetings focused on recent legislative changes in the Turkish science system and their impacts on the constitutional structure and procedures of TÜBA which led to the foundation of the Science Academy by a number of resigning TÜBA members in late 2011.

Both in Ankara and Istanbul, the ALLEA delegation discussed the legal status, appointment and election procedures and valid statutes of the respective academy as well as its role and position within the national science system and towards the Turkish government. Findings will be reported and discussed on the occasion of the next ALLEA Board meeting in December 2013.

Procedure for admission to ALLEA

The possible admission of new members to ALLEA follows a step-wise approach including the thorough revision of a comprehensive application dossier, the consultation of existing member academies in the applicants' countries and a recommendation of the ALLEA Board to the General Assembly. Based on the recommendation and the application dossier, the ALLEA member academies decide by majority vote on the admission of new members to ALLEA. In the last General Assembly, in April 2013 in Berlin, three academies were admitted to become members in ALLEA ([>>read more](#)).

“Symbol of Courage and Conviction”

ALLEA President visits the ALLEA member Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo



Left photo: Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo Hajredin Kuçi (2nd from left); right photo: Professor Hivzi Islami; President of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo (l.), Günter Stock, President of ALLEA

On 29/30 August 2013 ALLEA President Günter Stock visited the ALLEA member Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo. The first day of the visit included in depth discussions with Academy President Professor Hivzi Islami and further members of the academy as well as diplomats from the German Embassy in Prishtina. On the second day, the Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo, Professor Dr. Hajredin Kuçi, officially welcomed President Stock and discussed scientific developments in Kosovo especially regarding the Academy of Sciences and Arts as well as opportunities for international cooperation. The reception was followed by a lecture by Günter Stock to a selected audience of Academy members, representatives of Prishtina University and the media.

In his lecture entitled “The Academies’ role in the course of history – Responsibilities and principles of Academies in the past and present” the ALLEA President outlined the basic principles of excellence and autonomy on which academies build upon since their very beginning. He described these principles as mutually

dependent and as a prerequisite for the work of academies. As a key responsibility that has not changed over the centuries he pointed to the independent advisory role of academies.

The presentation of on-going ALLEA activities particularly included the federations’ recent actions when it came to infringements of fundamental principles of member academies due to political interference. Examples could be found in letters of concern issued to the heads of state in Turkey and Russia within the past months.

The ALLEA President expressed his highest respect and appreciation for the solidarity towards the Academy from members and supporters in most difficult times, 1994-99, when activities were maintained in a self-organised way and without any public support. “The continuation of the academy’s work since 1975 despite adverse conditions represents a strong symbol of courage and conviction. Even in times when academic freedom is constrained: Ideas and thoughts cannot be oppressed”, he pointed out.

The Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo was founded in the Autonomous Socialist Region of Kosovo in October 1975. Among the aims of the Academy are the stimulation, the development and the promotion of scientific thinking and artistic creativity by direct participation in creating scientific and arts policies. It comprises four sections: Language and Literature, Humanities, Sciences and the Section of Arts.

Since its foundation the academies’ organisation and funding were repeatedly threatened and disrupted by the instability of a continuously changing political environment of the war-torn region of Ex-Yugoslavia. Despite these adverse conditions the academy kept up its engagement to foster the spirit of and interest in sciences and arts, issuing editions and initiating international cooperation even in periods when public funding was cut off completely.

After the 1999 war the Academy returned to its premises and continued its work. In 2004 the

academy's existence was secured in a new law issued by the Kosova Parliament describing it as "the supreme institution of science and arts in Kosovo". Since then it is

referred to as Akademia e Shkencave dhe e Arteve e Kosovës – Accademia Scientiarum et Artium Kosoviensis.

In 2004, the Academy of Science

and Arts of Kosovo became member of ALLEA alongside the Academies of its neighbour states Serbia and Montenegro.

70th Anniversary Celebration of Armenian Academy

ALLEA Vice President attends the 70th anniversary celebration of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia



Left photo: view on Yerevan and Ararat Mountain; middle: President NAS RA Radik Martirosyan; right: President of the Republic of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan (middle), Director General of the Hermitage St. Petersburg Mikhail Piotrovsky (right)

On 15-16 October 2013 the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia (NASRA) - since April 2013 a member of the ALLEA - celebrated its 70th anniversary in Yerevan. Vice President Ed Noort contributed to the programme with addresses and lectures on behalf of ALLEA.

In a high level meeting with NASRA President Radik Martirosyan, Professor Noort and numerous academy delegates particularly from the Caucasus region, Russia, Romania, Belarus and the Baltic states discussed among other issues the advancement of science and research in Armenia, strategies for encouraging the youth to opt for scientific careers and possibilities to enhance the perspective of young researchers.

In the following, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Tigran Sargsyan, opened an exhibition on the achievements of the NASRA institutions. The ceremony also comprised the awarding of prizes

to outstanding young scientists by the Armenian National Assembly, Government and different Ministries.

In context of the subsequent solemn meeting devoted to the 70th anniversary of the founding of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, the ALLEA Vice President gave a speech which highlighted the history of the Armenian Academy with its excellent scientists and scholars. He presented selected ALLEA activities in the field of "policy for science" and emphasized the importance of promoting young researchers, e.g. by establishing young academies or intensifying scientific and scholarly exchange within the international scientific community. In the further course of the event, academy delegates were invited to discuss with the President of the Republic of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan, how to foster international cooperation especially in the field of science and research. Again the future of young scientists was recognized as one of

the most important problems. In the subsequent ceremony the President of Armenia awarded prizes to excellent students of schools and universities and asked the ALLEA Vice President to address the prize winners. Professor Noort spoke on curiosity in science and on the relation between applied science and blue-sky research.

Participants then had the honour of meeting his eminence Catholicos Karekin II, the religious leader of the Armenian people, in his residence in Echmiadzin. The anniversary celebrations concluded with a dinner hosted by the Academy President. Both days were accompanied by a comprehensive cultural programme.

The National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia was founded on 10 November 1943 as Armenian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences. It became a member of the All European Academies by decision of the 14th General Assembly held in Berlin on 30 April 2013.

“Excellence and Independence”

ALLEA Vice President Ed Noort holds academy lecture in the context of the 43rd General Assembly of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA)

On the occasion of the 43rd General Assembly of its member academy TÜBA, ALLEA was invited to contribute to the award ceremony preceding the annual TÜBA meeting in Ankara on 8 June 2013. In his lecture entitled “The role of ALLEA and the position of Academies in Europe”, ALLEA Vice President Ed Noort gave a historic overview on academies and their nature and mission in the past and presented current challenges for academies and the role and work of ALLEA.



Lecture held by ALLEA Vice President Professor Ed Noort

Starting from the birth of the idea of an academy by Plato (387 BCE) – “in a grove outside the political center of Athens” – academies provided a place for research, reflection and for advisory activities independent from the political sphere of the Greek societies.

This idea and mission, so the ALLEA Vice President, have prevailed and need to be permanently safeguarded until today. Exemplified by the courageous support and shelter that the early Accademia dei Lincei provided for its prominent member Galileo Galilei against the religious and political prosecution by the Catholic Church and the Roman Empire, also in our days academies would need to strive for excellence and independence as a *conditio sine qua non* for their very *raison d’être*.

Therefore, one of ALLEA’s primary and most important objectives would

be to ensure that academies could autonomously and unrestrictedly exercise their role “as the voice and conscience of science and as guards of the quality of science”. Against the

background of a number of recent examples of political interference in the rules and procedures of European academies, e.g. regarding the criteria of membership selection, the ALLEA Vice President pointed to different causes that would endanger the independence and autonomy of academies, among others when research results were influenced by economic and financial interests or when scientific topics and outcomes were prescribed by political preferences. It would lie within the responsibility both of each individual academy as well as of the supra-national academy organisations to face these dangers.

Other objectives of every single academy would be the sharing of best practice, learning from common interest, defending the vital role and the diversity of science and research

for economic and social well-being. ALLEA’s mission would include promoting these shared aims of its member academies and to offer European science and society advice from the most excellent scholars in the European countries represented in the federation.

The Vice President highlighted that TÜBA – particularly in the recent past – has been an active member in the ALLEA with its past President serving in the ALLEA Board for three terms (2004 – 2010). Also, TÜBA has been and is represented in different ALLEA advisory groups,

e.g. in the permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights or formerly in the working groups on Evaluating for Science and Science Education.

TÜBA was established in 1993 as a scholarly society and initiated its activities one year later. Today it comprises 150 principal and 150 corresponding members. Among TÜBA’s self-described aims are “to establish the criteria of scientific excellence in Turkey, to encourage and foster scientific endeavours, to ensure that scientific principles be applied in all spheres and to create an environment of debate so that basic social strategies may be defined in the light of scientific and technological data.”

For more information, please [visit the TÜBA website](#).

“The hardware of society, on which all other sciences depend”

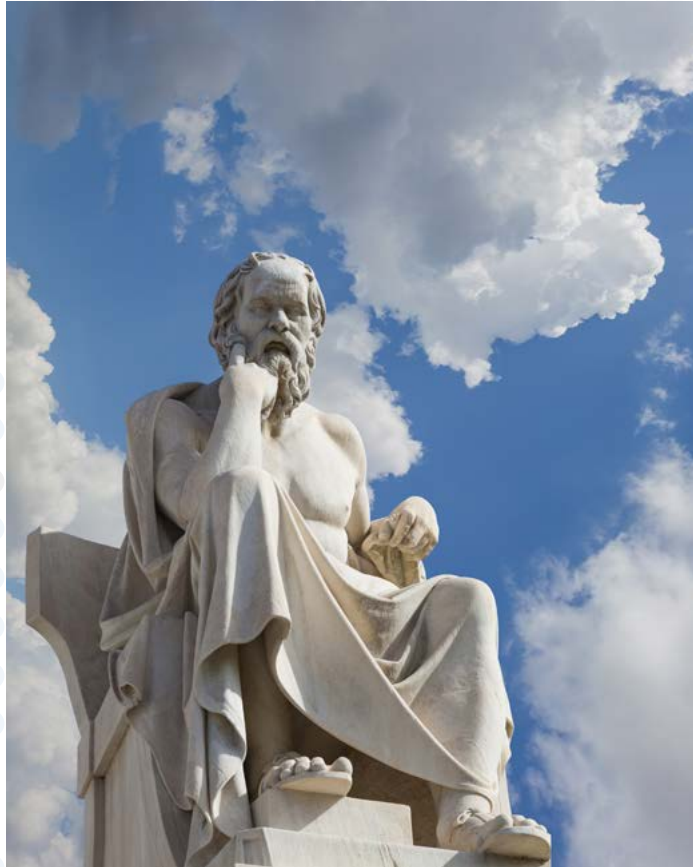
Statement on developments and perspectives for SSH in Horizon 2020 and the role of ALLEA by Professor John Bell and Philip Lewis, British Academy/ALLEA WG SSH

The future of the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in Horizon 2020, the EU's next seven-year research and innovation funding programme, is the core mission of ALLEA's SSH Working Group. This was also fittingly the title of a speech that Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn gave at the British Academy on 10 November 2011.

In that speech the Commissioner for the first time confirmed there would be an additional societal challenge that would be aimed particularly at the social sciences and humanities communities alongside acknowledging the critical position SSH will have in addressing all of the societal challenges and pillars in Horizon 2020.

The Commissioner also assured “that future funding at the European level will provide significant space for social sciences and humanities research” and highlighted the crucial importance of the social sciences and humanities throughout her speech. One such segment included:

“In the current context of the deep economic crisis and of constant transformation in our economy and society, the social sciences and humanities help us to address the most fundamental economic, social, political and cultural issues. The challenges we face are fundamentally social and human in nature – they



New horizons for SSH in Europe? Socrates memorial in Athens

in understanding and tackling the problems we face. They help us deal with change and since change is constant, the social sciences and humanities will always be an important part of the research landscape.”

In essence, we have been working to keep the Commissioner to these promises to ensure the content, funding and structures of Horizon 2020 are fit to deliver both its interdisciplinary vision and a strong position for the social sciences and humanities. It has been, and still is, a long hard struggle!

As the launch of Horizon 2020 draws ever closer at the end of this year we have

been working intensively to achieve the best possible outcome for the social sciences and humanities in what has been a difficult environment. In terms of the content of Horizon 2020,

are the result of individual and collective human behaviour. They are intrinsically linked to how we behave. The social sciences and humanities must, therefore, play a central role

Working Group Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

The purpose of the Working Group is to ensure that the interests of the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities within the member academies of ALLEA are appropriately represented in the scope, organisation and funding of the EU Programme Horizon 2020. In achieving that purpose the Working Group engages in consultation with the Academies and in lobbying relevant EU institutions.

Chair/Lead: Professor John Bell, The British Academy

[>>Website](#)

there is now a sixth societal challenge on inclusive, innovative and reflective societies which should, if the Work Programme and Calls are drawn up properly (please see below), enable significant social science and humanities research.

SSH is also meant to be 'embedded' throughout Horizon 2020. The phrase 'embedding' is the new fashionable word that has replaced 'mainstreaming' as it seems widely acknowledged in Brussels that previous attempts to 'mainstream' certain matters did not lead to the desired result. We are unsurprisingly keen for a more substantive reform in the processes around 'embedding' or 'mainstreaming' to take place than simply a change in the name. If social science and humanities researchers have the opportunity to apply for funding across Horizon 2020 in a proper and interdisciplinary manner this would be a large step forward for European research and innovation, and not just for the social sciences and humanities. Whether this comes to pass is the question.

The structures for how Horizon 2020 is being and will be developed and implemented are thus utterly vital in providing the level playing field for the social sciences and humanities that the Commissioner and Horizon 2020 promise as well as for delivering on its interdisciplinary vision. We have raised consistently throughout this year the essential need for structures to organise, manage and oversee the 'embedding' of SSH in Horizon 2020. In March this year [the Working Group's roadmap](#) on embedding SSH in Horizon 2020 highlighted this as a key action required; in June the Working Group's Chair, Professor John Bell FBA of the British Academy, and ALLEA's President, Professor Günter Stock, [wrote to Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn](#) raising this

ALLEA President Professor Günter Stock about SSH Horizon 2020

düz: The funding lines "Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies" and "Science with and for Society" are set to bring 1.7 billion Euro to researchers in the social sciences and humanities. Is that enough?

Stock: It's a step up from the 7th EU Framework Programme, at least. And there are still opportunities to acquire further funding from the European Research Council – provided we can devise worthy applications.

Isn't there a risk that those disciplines will then become seen as ancillary only?

I think the risk of this abated with Brussels's genuine openness towards multidisciplinary approaches. We need to take advantage of this openness and make sure we play a key role in the detailed planning stage of the programmes.

What is it that the programmes will fund, exactly?

The exact content of the programmes is still under discussion. We have to think carefully about which projects we need to support. If we only take a half-hearted approach to accepting the EU's offer, it could result in money being withdrawn from the programmes.



**Professor Günter Stock,
President of ALLEA**

What really needs to be funded?

Migration is an important topic, for example, and a pan-European phenomenon. How we deal with religious diversity as a society is another central question. The preservation and interpretation of European cultural heritage is another vital topic, as is the question of the youth in Europe.

Critics have advanced that the humanities receive less support than the social sciences. What is your opinion on this?

Naturally the funding line "Science with and for Society" has a strong social science leaning. But the funding programmes are competitive, and if the humanities really make an effort then they will fare well. Social scientists are well practiced in thinking in terms of the broader research context and working in research consortia, where the humanities still have a fair bit to learn. But there are also issues in the humanities that can only be approached in the context of the bigger research picture. These should be the core of our proposals to Brussels.

The approval rates for funding applications in the social sciences and humanities were very low in the 7th EU Framework Programme. Is that going to change?

I anticipate rather that competition will rise even more. Many EU member states are struggling to come up with significant research budgets, which is why researchers are increasingly turning to EU funding programmes.

Excerpt of an interview first published in the independent German University Magazine "düz - Deutsche Universitätszeitung" (11/2013, 25.10.2013, p. 37)
>>www.duz.de

amongst other concerns and the Working Group [provided evidence](#) to the Lithuanian Presidency conference on SSH to this effect as well. [The response from the Director General of the Research & Innovation Directorate-General](#), Robert Jan-Smits, to our letter failed to provide an assurance on this point.

Nevertheless, it does seem that the Commission will look to highlight areas within Horizon 2020's Calls in which the social sciences and humanities will be able to bid for funding, which is encouraging. It is as yet unknown though how this will look like in reality and we are waiting to see how the Commission tries to put this into practice. Furthermore, this does not represent a structure within the Commission or overarching Expert Advisory Group responsible for ensuring that cross-cutting priorities in Horizon 2020 like the social sciences and humanities are implemented as required. This absence is troubling as such structures given an appropriate remit would provide the necessary manpower and oversight to ensure the social sciences and humanities are 'embedded'. It is perplexing why the Commission does not see, or wish to see, the need for such structures.

One of the most contentious parts, if not the most contentious, of the Horizon 2020 negotiations has been on the budget available for SSH. As SSH is being 'embedded' it does not have a formal budget as it did in Framework Programme 7 when SSH received € 623 million. The Commission's line has been that no particular research area will receive any discipline-related funding as Horizon 2020 will fund projects via a challenge-drive approach. That is all well and good but it depends on the structures to implement the content of the Work Programmes and Calls, which as we have highlighted above



Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn holding a speech on “The future of the social sciences and humanities (SSH) in Horizon 2020” at the British Academy

are not certain at the very least. It is also the case that whilst SSH will no longer have a dedicated funding stream, DG Research Directorates on energy and health, for example, do have dedicated societal challenges and we can only hope, as well as continuing to press, the Commission opens up these societal challenges to social science and humanities researchers.

In terms of the sixth societal challenge on inclusive, innovative and reflective societies, which is meant to be the most SSH-oriented challenge, it frustratingly will receive the smallest percentage of funding of all the societal challenges at 1.7 %. Much more disturbingly though, we now understand that DG Research are looking to give over almost 30 % of the sixth challenge's budget to Information and communications technology (ICT) in a bizarre compromise which in our opinion ignores the legal basis provided by Horizon 2020's Specific Programme and certainly does not honour the spirit of a challenge on inclusive, innovative and reflective societies. This would leave far less funding

available to SSH than was the case in FP7. It is clearly a huge step back in terms of understanding that SSH research is vital in achieving Europe's stated research and innovation goals. We are working very hard to ensure such a final budgetary settlement does not come to pass.

From our reading of the draft Work Programmes for the societal challenges they are, in terms of SSH's integration in them, very disappointing indeed. We are advocating for substantial improvement. In their current state the draft Work Programmes do not represent an understanding of the social sciences and humanities as “the hardware of society, on which all other sciences depend” as Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn described it in a speech this year at the Royal Irish Academy.

We must make sure that Horizon 2020 lives up to its challenge-driven interdisciplinary vision not only for the sake of the social sciences and humanities but for the future of European research and innovation for the next seven years.

Mapping Basic SSH Research in Europe

ALLEA and the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities launch the first survey and analysis of basic social sciences and humanities research at the European Academies (SASSH)

In August 2013, ALLEA and the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities launched an investigative survey and analysis of basic SSH research at the European Academies (SASSH), funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education

between the academies and their existing research infrastructures, and deficits in the same. Ultimately, the initiative hopes to use these insights to formulate recommendations for a cultural heritage research programme at the European academies

at the institutions. Questions will specifically address the research topic, institutional framework, funding, use of digital tools to access, process and publish data, collaborations and multidisciplinary.



and Research. The initiative uses a written survey to map who is doing what research, where and using which (digital) resources. Guided by a Scientific Advisory Board of leading SSH experts from around Europe, the results of the initiative will be available after the project concludes in May 2015.

The European Academies of Sciences and Humanities offer the ideal framework for implementing a collaborative pan-European research network. Using the survey and analysis results, the goal of SASSH is therefore to identify opportunities for optimising cohesion and interoperability

including the necessary (digital) research infrastructures and funding opportunities at the European level.

The presidents of the ALLEA Academies have already received a request to nominate relevant projects to participate in the initiative, and nominees will be receiving a survey before the end of the year. Further science academies and learned societies in Europe with SSH departments will also be invited to participate. The survey is designed to provide detailed information on the nature of the research projects undertaken and the research infrastructures in place

For further information about the project please visit [the project's website](#).

[>>Project Flyer](#)

Contact

Project Coordinator:

Camilla Leathem

leathem@akademienunion-berlin.de

ALLEA

c/o Berlin-Brandenburg Academy

of Sciences and Humanities

Jaegerstr. 22/23

D-10117 Berlin

Germany

Tel.: +49 30 203 70 627

Facing the Future: European Research Infrastructures for Humanities and Social Sciences

ALLEA co-organises SSH research infrastructures conference in Berlin

On 21/22 November 2013 ALLEA and the German Data Forum (RatSWD) jointly host a conference entitled *Facing the Future: European Research Infrastructures for Humanities and Social Sciences*. The conference is initiated by the Social and Cultural Innovation Strategy Working Group of ESFRI – the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures – and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and will take place in the Federal Press Conference building (Bundespressekonferenz) in Berlin.



A selected audience of humanities and social sciences experts, policy makers, and scientific research infrastructure coordinators are invited to engage in a productive exchange of ideas for a roadmap to strengthen humanities and social sciences alike with a particular focus on research infrastructures. Hereby the conference aims to identify and discuss relevant topics - e.g. possible ways of getting countries more involved in the current ESFRI roadmap and the importance of “big data” across different domains - and to highlight opportunities for an excellent research environment as a basis for innovative research today and in the future.

The presentations will focus on the questions how research infrastructures will look like in the next decade, what has to be done to face upcoming challenges, and how they will relate to the emerging “big data” movement. These questions being among ALLEA’s key priorities,

the European federation of academies had addressed related issues in the context of its annual meeting in April 2013 when experts from academia and science policy discussed the topic “management of large data corpora” in a scientific symposium in Berlin.

ESFRI is a strategic instrument to develop the scientific integration of Europe and to strengthen its international outreach. Its mission is to support a coherent and strategy-led approach to policy-making on research infrastructures in Europe, and to facilitate multilateral initiatives leading to the better use and development of research infrastructures, at EU and international level.

ALLEA was invited by ESFRI and the BMBF to enrich the conference with its scientific expertise particularly in the field of the humanities. To this end, the ALLEA Working Group on E Humanities is strongly involved in

the preparation and holding of the conference with Working Group chair Sandra Collins co-chairing the session on Digital Humanities on the second day of the forum. Among other inputs by ALLEA, President Günter Stock will hold the closing words of the conference.

The involvement in the ESFRI conference is part of an initiative of ALLEA and the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities addressing basic research and digital research infrastructures for SSH in Europe. The initiative aims to formulate recommendations for a cultural heritage research programme at the European academies including the necessary (digital) research infrastructures and funding opportunities. [Read more on page 11](#) in this newsletter.

For further and up-to-date information please visit [the conference’s website](#).

The Working Groups of ALLEA

Permanent Working Group Science and Ethics

On 2 October 2013 ALLEA has published a statement on “Ethics Education in Science” prepared by the ALLEA permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics. The statement highlights the need for adequate tools for ethics education and its integration in the curricula for early career researchers and scientists. It formulates recommendations to universities and academies carrying out or promoting research and emphasises their responsibilities in this context.



The statement provides reasons why ethics education is of increasing importance for the research community, society and the individual scientists. It underlines ALLEA's long term interest in promoting excellence and high ethical standards in the conduct of science and research in Europe.

The authors, the ALLEA permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics chaired by Professor Göran Hermerén, state that researchers – perhaps more than ever – need to be able to take decisions based on a solid legal, ethical and scientific understanding of the subject matter and its potential implications for science and society. To this end, societies would need to set aside or create resources in order to ensure that all research is conducted by individuals who are endowed with the necessary literacy in ethics. The recommendations address ethics education in all scientific disciplines

The permanent ALLEA Working Group on Science and Ethics is concerned with a wide range of problems, ‘internal’ (within the scientific community) and ‘external’ (relations between science and society). Since ethical considerations have been an essential component in the consolidation of the new Europe, and in the creation of ALLEA, the permanent Working Group has been extending its capacities and activities during recent years, in order to fulfil adequately its mission of collective deliberation on topics like research integrity, plagiarism, ethics education etc.

Chair/Lead: Professor Göran Hermerén, Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities

Next Meeting: April 2014, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest

[>>Website](#)

including the behavioural, the social sciences and the humanities.

The publication of the statement “Ethics Education in Science” coincided with the meeting of the ALLEA permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics in Bonn, Germany, on 2 October 2013. The meeting was held in the premises of and jointly with the German Reference Centre for Ethics in the Life Sciences (DRZE)/ Institute of Science and Ethics in Bonn which since 2004 has been a research centre of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences, Humanities and the Arts, an associate member of ALLEA.

DRZE director Dieter Sturma and executive manager Dirk Lanzerath

presented the existing facilities and resources of the centre and discussed with the ALLEA delegates possible areas of collaboration in elaborating the second statement including examples of best practice in ethics education and references to relevant on-line facilities of the kind provided by DRZE. The meeting was preceded by a welcome dinner on the invitation of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences, Humanities and the Arts, represented by its Vice President Wolfgang Dieter Lebek, on the evening prior to the meeting.

Please [click here to download](#) the statement “Ethics Education in Science”. Printed copies of the statement will be provided upon request (secretariat@allea.org).



Participants of the Working Group meeting in October 2013 in the DRZE, Bonn

Permanent Working Group Intellectual Property Rights

On 10/11 October 2013 ALLEA - through its permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights - and the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NAS) jointly convened an international conference on "The Grace Period and Topical Issues of Intellectual Property" on the premises of the NAS in Kiev, Ukraine, that was supported by the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science and the Professor Schindler Foundation.

After a welcome address by ALLEA Board Member Prof. Carlo D'Adda, in his introductory remarks Working Group Chair Prof. Joseph Straus discussed the subject "Grace Period - a topic of harmonisation of patent law since 30 years". Prof. Yuriy Kapitsa, fellow of NAS and member of the Working Group co-chaired the session on "Topical issues of intellectual property protection and commercialisation".

Throughout the conference, opportunities for a harmonised solution potentially acceptable also for the countries which currently do not provide for a grace period were discussed and the importance of a

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), be it patents or copyrights play an important role in all academic activities. The ALLEA permanent Working Group Intellectual Property Rights, which has been in existence since the 1990s, has prepared and issued reflections, declarations and recommendations on the most challenging topics of IPRs. At present it is developing a horizon-scanning mechanism to identify emerging issues and suggest appropriate solutions.

Chair/Lead: Professor Joseph Straus, Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities.

[>>Website](#)

grace period in international relations reaffirmed. The conference closed with the adoption of a joint statement on the grace period prepared by the ALLEA permanent Working Group and endorsed by delegates from participating patent offices such as the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) and the Patent Office of Ukraine. It will be submitted to several other international authorities for consideration and endorsement.

With the conference and the joint statement, ALLEA follows up on past efforts in favour of a harmonised international agreement on the grace period (e.g. in a statement on [The Future Patent System of the European Union](#)). Together with

NAS it aims to find a workable and generally acceptable solution for the grace period problem. Such a solution is designed to help overcoming the existing imbalance in international relations which is of particular disadvantage to scientists and researchers in academia and small and medium sized companies.

Further current activities of the permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights include the finalisation of two statements addressing the issues of *Patenting Human Embryonic Stem Cells* and *Open Access* respectively, which will be published and distributed shortly.

Working Group Science Education

In a comprehensive report written upon request of the European Commission and entitled "A renewal of science education in Europe - views and actions of national academies", the ALLEA Working Group Science Education recently detailed the views and actions taken by European Academies to advance the renewal of science education and maintain the passion for science and technology among the youth. The report mainly pleads for an extension of the so called "Inquiry-based Science Education" (IBSE) and for strong efforts in the

Nowadays science often has a poor image in European societies and a shortage of manpower in scientific and technical jobs can occur. One reason for this negative situation is the poor pedagogical quality (or even absence) of science education at the pre-university level, especially at primary and lower secondary school level. Thus the Working Group on Science Education is presently engaged in fostering science education and improving its quality (e.g. through the new inquiry-based pedagogy) as well as in raising awareness amongst politicians and science policy makers about the importance of this matter.

Chair/Lead: Professor Odile Macchi, Académie des Sciences (Institut de France)

Next Meeting: 20/21 November 2013, The Royal Irish Academy, Dublin

[>>Website](#)

sphere of science teachers training as well as for better interaction at the level of the national education systems and between the scientific community and stakeholders in politics, society and the corporate sector ([download report](#) / [download executive summary](#)).

In order to concretely follow up on these recommendations, the next Working Group meeting in Dublin will be preceded by an open session “Academia-Industry Alliance: Joint efforts in Science Education” on 20

November 2013, co-organised by the Royal Irish Academy and ALLEA, and bringing together selected representatives from academies, schools and industry. Expected outcomes include the identification of possible future alliances between the different sectors with the aim of building a rigorous system for training and continuous professional development of science teachers.

Against the background of the important role of science education in fostering development and growth

particularly in developing countries, the conference “African-European-Mediterranean Academies for science education” (AEMASE), to be held in spring 2014 on the premises of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Rome, will expand the geographical scope of efforts – bringing together European Academies with Academies and other scientific institutions from the African-Mediterranean region – in order to enhance the perspectives of science education also beyond the limits of Europe.

Working Group E Humanities

As a follow-up to the ALLEA General Assembly 2012 in Rome which in a special session addressed “The Digital Agenda and access to scientific information”, the ALLEA Board established a Working Group dedicated to the challenges and opportunities of digitisation in the humanities and related disciplines. The Working Group E Humanities collaborates with European research infrastructure consortia such as DARIAH or CLARIN and takes further the dialogue initiated in Rome between ALLEA President Günter Stock and European Commission Vice President Neelie Kroes on the Digital Agenda in Europe ([>>Video](#)).

In March 2013, a delegation of the ALLEA WG met representatives of the European Commission Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology (DG Connect) in Brussels and discussed opportunities for a balanced growth of digital activities across Europe. The Commission showed interest

The Working Group E Humanities is charged with identifying and raising awareness for priorities and concerns of the Digital Humanities, contributing to the Open Access agenda from a Humanities and Social Sciences perspective, and building consensus for common standards and best practices in E-Humanities scholarship and digitisation.

Chair/Lead: Dr Sandra Collins, The Royal Irish Academy
Next Meeting: 20 November 2013, Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin

[>>Website](#)

in working with networks instead of single bodies and encouraged the Working Group to draft a report about key developments, major challenges and core issues of for the digital humanities in Europe. The report is currently being compiled in close collaboration with the DARIAH network (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities).

The Working Group has been strongly involved in the realization of ALLEA's [General Assembly 2013](#) on “Management of large data corpora”.

It will also take a lead in the [upcoming conference](#) “Facing the Future: European Research Infrastructures for the Humanities and Social Sciences” which is co-organised by ALLEA on the invitation of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI). Representatives of the Working Group also serve in the Scientific Advisory Board of [the recently launched project](#) “Survey and Analysis of Basic Research in SSH conducted at the European Academies of Sciences and Humanities” (SASSH), covering particularly the area of (digital) research infrastructures.

For information about the **Working Group on Social Sciences and Humanities** and its recent activities see the article [“The hardware of society, on which all other sciences depend”](#) in this issue (page 8 ff.)

ALLEA General Assembly 2013

German Minister for Education and Research opens annual meeting in Berlin

For the first time in the last 15 years, ALLEA convened its General Assembly 2013 in Germany. The meeting in the city of Berlin comprised a scientific symposium on “Management of Large Data Corpora” open to the public (29 April 2013) and the annual internal business meeting for the delegations of the ALLEA member academies (30 April 2013). Since 1994, it was the 14th General Assembly of the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities.

Symposium “Management of Large Data Corpora”

The symposium was opened by the German Federal Minister for Education and Research, Professor Johanna Wanka, and the Deputy Director General of DG Connect, Dr Zoran Stancic, and highlighted the challenges and opportunities that the rapid progress in data digitisation creates for scientists and researchers, including questions of storage, accessibility and long-term preservation of research data, pan-

European interoperability and large-scale European data infrastructures, as well as reliable digital archives and repositories.

International experts from various European countries and different institutional backgrounds presented examples of best practice and addressed the opportunities and challenges that arise when dealing with these issues. The event was chaired by Dr Sandra Collins, director of the Digital Repository of Ireland and chairperson of the ALLEA Working Group E Humanities.

In their presentations, the invited experts addressed the most pressing questions related to digitisation of research data and results including “Challenges and Opportunities of Digital Preservation” (Dr William Kilbride), “Scholarly Work and Open Access” (Professor Laurent Romary), “Research Infrastructures and Cultural Data” (Professor Claudine Moulin), “Bibliographic eArchives” (Professor Tito Orlandi), “Trusted Digital Archives” (Dr Peter Doorn).

Minister Wanka expressed her pleasure about the General Assembly taking place in Germany after many years again. The minister stated that the positions elaborated by leading European scholars from the ALLEA member academies would represent valuable and important contributions to on-going and future developments in science and research in Europe.

Plenary Business Meeting

In the plenary business meeting on the following day, the ALLEA delegates heard a programmatic speech by ALLEA President and assembly chair Professor Günter Stock and reports on the financial year 2012 and on the prospects for the coming years by ALLEA Vice President Ed Noort. The assembly agreed on procedures for the endorsement of ALLEA publications and for the tasks and activities conducted by the ALLEA Working Groups whose scope, membership and on-going activities were presented by the chairs, respectively.

(continued on page 14)



Left photo: (from left) Professor Johanna Wanka, German Federal Minister for Education and Research, Professor Günter Stock, ALLEA President, Dr Zoran Stancic, Deputy Director General in the European Commission; right: audience of the symposium



Left photo: ALLEA delegates in front of the Concert Hall in Berlin; right: Dr Sandra Collins, director of the Digital Repository of Ireland and chairperson of the ALLEA Working Group E Humanities in discussion with the presenters

ALLEA Vice President Daniela Jezova gave insights into the complex and diverse landscape of European academy organisations of which the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) was presented by its President elect Jos van der Meer who informed about the Advisory Council's priorities and current activities.

With an absolute majority of the votes cast, the ALLEA General Assembly decided to invite three further academies to become part of the ALLEA. On the basis of the comprehensive application dossiers that the applicants had provided, the ALLEA Board had recommended the admission of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia as well as of the two Belgian academies Royal Academy of Dutch Language and Literature (Koninklijke Academie voor Nederlandse Taalen Letterkunde) and Royal Academy of French Language and Literature (Académie Royale de langue et de littérature françaises de Belgique). With the admission of the three new members, ALLEA currently comprises a total of 55 member academies from 43 countries.

The meeting furthermore discussed the important role of ALLEA as a link between the academies in Europe,

its network of partnerships and cooperation, its financial contributing system as well as future priorities in times of severe budget constraints including most of the member academies countries' funds for research and education. The assembly

closed with an invitation by ALLEA Board member Oivind Andersen to celebrate the next General Assembly on the premises of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in Oslo on 24/25 April 2014.

Links to presentations and documents of the General Assembly 2013

Programme (pdf) (ALLEA Symposium)

Welcome Addresses (pdf)

- [Professor Günter Stock](#) (ALLEA President)
- [Professor Johanna Wanka](#) (German Federal Minister for Education and Research)
- [Dr Zoran Stancic](#) (European Commission, Deputy Director General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology)

Presentations of the speakers (pdf)

- Dr Sandra Collins - [Introduction](#)
- Dr William Kilbride - [The Challenges and Opportunities of Digital Preservation](#)
- Professor Laurent Romary - [Scholarly Work and Open Access](#)
- Professor Claudine Moulin - [Research Infrastructures and Cultural Data](#)

- Professor Tito Orlandi - [Bibliographic eArchives](#)
- Dr Peter Doorn - [Trusted Digital Archives](#)

Recordings of the event (mp3)

- [Dr Sandra Collins](#)
- [Dr William Kilbride](#)
- [Professor Laurent Romary](#)
- [Professor Claudine Moulin](#)
- [Professor Tito Orlandi](#)
- [Dr Peter Doorn](#)

Photos

ALLEA members can visit the [restricted area](#) on the ALLEA homepage in order to access the full set of meeting and background documents of the 14th General Assembly 2013.

The **next issue** of the ALLEA newsletter addresses the topic:

In search for an intellectual Europe – responsibilities and contributions of the European academies

How can European academies best contribute to the idea and perception of Europe as an intellectual and cultural region? This question seems more and more important since in the media, among politicians and - as it seems – increasingly also in the minds of many citizens, Europe is being reduced to a merely economic dimension. The academies in Europe are particularly designated to show and promote the intellectual and cultural diversity and richness of Europe.

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All European Academies (ALLEA)
Professor Dr Günter Stock (President)
c/o Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of
Sciences and Humanities - Jaegerstr. 22/23 -
10117 Berlin - Germany
tel +49 (0)30-3259873-72
fax +49 (0)30-3259873-73
secretariat@allea.org

Authoring and editing: Matthias Johannsen,
Aline Kahler-Al Dahabi and Dominik Adrian

Layout: Dominik Adrian

Further authors in this issue: John Bell,
Philipp Lewis, Camilla Leatham

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Save the Date

ALLEA General Assembly 2014

On the premises of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters
24/25 April 2014 | Oslo

Preliminary Programme:

- Celebratory event: 20th anniversary of ALLEA
- Scientific Symposium *Enabling early career researchers - Needs for training of a new generation* (working title)
- Annual plenary meeting 2014

Member Academies

Albania: Akademia E Shkencave E Shqipërisë; **Armenia:** գիտությունների ազգային ակադեմիա;
Austria: Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften; **Belarus:** Нацыянальная акадэмія навук
Беларусі; **Belgium:** Académie Royale des Sciences des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique;
Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten; Koninklijke Academie
voor Nederlandse Taalen Letterkunde; Académie Royale de langue et de littérature françaises de
Belgique; **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Akademija nauka i umjetnosti Bosne i Hercegovine; **Bulgaria:**
Българска академия на науките; **Croatia:** Hrvatska Akademija Znanosti i Umjetnosti; **Czech
Republic:** Akademie věd České republiky; **Denmark:** Kongelige Danske Videnskaberne Selskab;
Estonia: Eesti Teaduste Akadeemia; **Finland:** Tiedekatemia iain neuvottelukunta; **France:** Académie
des Sciences - Institut de France; Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres; Académie des
Sciences Morales et Politiques; **Georgia:** საქართველოს მეცნიერებათა ეროვნული აკადემია;
Germany: Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina; Union der deutschen Akademien
der Wissenschaften; Akademie der Wissenschaften in Göttingen, Akademie der Wissenschaften
und der Literatur Mainz, Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin-Brandenburgische
Akademie der Wissenschaften, Akademie der Wissenschaften in Hamburg, Heidelberger
Akademie der Wissenschaften, Nordrhein-Westfälische Akademie der Wissenschaften und der
Künste, Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Leipzig (Associated Academies); **Greece:**
Ακαδημία Αθηνών; **Hungary:** Magyar Tudományos Akadémia; **Iceland:** Vísindafélag Íslendinga;
Ireland: The Royal Irish Academy - Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann; **Israel:** תל ארשיה תימואלה הימדקאה
סיעדמל; **Italy:** Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei; **Kosovo:** Akademia e Shkencave dhe e Arteve e
Kosovës; **Latvia:** Latvijas Zinātņu akadēmija; **Lithuania:** Lietuvos mokslų akademijos; **Macedonia:**
Македонска Академија на Науките и Уметностите; **Moldova:** Academia de Științe a Moldovei;
Montenegro: Crnogorska akademija nauka i umjetnosti; **Netherlands:** Koninklijke Nederlandse
Akademie van Wetenschappen; **Norway:** Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi; **Poland:** Polska
Akademia Umiejętności; Polska Akademia Nauk; **Portugal:** Academia das Ciências de Lisboa;
Romania: Academia Română; **Russia:** Российская академия наук; **Serbia:** Srpska Akademija
Nauka i Umetnosti; **Slovakia:** Slovenská Akadémia Vied; **Slovenia:** Slovenska akademija
znanosti in umetnosti; **Spain:** Real Academia de Ciencias Morales y Políticas; Real Academia de
Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales; **Sweden:** Kungl. Skogs- och Lantbruksakademien; Kungl.
Vetenskapsakademien; Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien; **Switzerland:**
Akademien der Wissenschaften Schweiz; **Turkey:** Türkiye Bilimler Akademisi; **Ukraine:**
Національна академія наук України; **United Kingdom:** The British Academy; The Royal
Society of Edinburgh; The Royal Society of London; **Vatican:** Pontificia Academia Scientiarum