



In Search of an Intellectual Europe

Dear Reader,

I hope and trust that you had a good start in the New Year.

The year 2014 will be of great importance for the scientific community in Europe. Horizon 2020 has finally come into force and the first project calls are open. As you

know, ALLEA has been and is in a constant dialogue with the European Commission in order to raise the voice of the Academies in the shaping of the conditions for science and research in Europe.

2014 is also the targeted year for the completion of the European Research Area (ERA) – an ambitious project that ALLEA has supported from the very beginning. The concept of the ERA is intriguing and demanding at the same time. It is not only about the distribution of funds for research being performed in Europe. The future objective, albeit ambitious, must be the strengthening of Europe as a competitive and foremost place for excellent science and research. But there is more to it: Research is highly dependent on education, or – as it is called in German “Bildung” – a term that comprises the concepts of education and formation as well as training and learning.

A major obligation of academies can be seen in these fields. We care for conditions for research and education, while at the same time we promote and foster the concept of an intellectual Europe to be strengthened, including the preservation, protection and interpretation of the European cultural heritage.

Europe is an economic giant in a multi-polar world. But it also has to strive to maintain – and even increase – its intellectual potential by cooperation and integration amongst European scholars and scholarly institutions. We

have to avail of the grand opportunities that the cultural and intellectual diversity and richness of Europe offer.

This second issue of the ALLEA Newsletter therefore undertakes a “search for an intellectual Europe” by presenting selected examples where academies or scholars examine and discuss facets of an intellectual Europe, its rich culture and diversity. In order to find out more about similar projects and debates all over Europe I would like to invite you to tell us about your activities in addressing the intellectual and cultural kaleidoscope of Europe.

In this issue we also present on-going and planned ALLEA activities in this regard, such as an international workshop on “Music in European Integration”, the launch of a book series about a variety of pan-European topics or the “All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for cultural values” that will be awarded for the first time this year to a scholar with exceptional commitment to the identity and the cultural values of Europe.

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

Content

Board/Presidency

- 2 ALLEA Board Meeting in Lisbon
- 3 ALLEA policy for science activities

Focus: In Search of an Intellectual Europe

- 4 Contributions of European academies
- 6 Music and European Integration
- 7 “Zukunftsort: Europa”
- 8 Trust in Europe as a Cultural and Intellectual Region

ALLEA Working Groups

- 9 Intellectual Property Rights
- 11 SSH
- 12 E Humanities
- 14 Science Education

Miscellaneous

- 15 Imprint, Next Topic

ALLEA Board Meeting at the Academy of Lisbon

ALLEA Board convened for last meeting in the year 2013

On 2/3 December 2013 the ALLEA Board held its last meeting in 2013 on the invitation of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon in the Portuguese capital. The President of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, Professor Aires Barros, and the Secretary General, Professor Soares Pais, welcomed the Board members.

Issues addressed in the meeting included the activities report by the Presidency, a financial review for 2013, the preparation of the General Assembly 2014 in Oslo as well as possible recommendations of applying academies for membership in ALLEA which will be submitted for subsequent decision by the General Assembly in April.

ALLEA President Günter Stock reported from further exchanges with the European Commission regarding the shaping of the Horizon 2020 programme and the European Research Area (ERA) as well as from meetings with the Presidents



Professor Aires Barros, President of the Academy of Lisbon opened the ALLEA Board Meeting



Antique library and assembly hall of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon

of Academia Europaea (AE) and the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC). The Board welcomed the initiatives to intensify the dialogue between ALLEA and the policy makers responsible for science and research in Europe and to further strengthen the future collaboration between the three academy organisations. On the fringes of the meeting, the participants visited the extraordinary facilities of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon which offered to host the ALLEA General Assembly in the year 2015. On the occasion of a festive dinner in the premises of the Academy building, the ALLEA President expressed his high appreciation and gratitude for the long-standing close collaboration with the Academy of Lisbon.

The Academy of Sciences of Lisbon (Portuguese: Academia das Ciências de Lisboa) was founded in 1779 in Lisbon as an institution dedicated

to the advancement of science and learning (particularly mathematics in Portugal) with the goal of promoting academic progress and prosperity to the country. The Academy has two classes, one for Sciences and one for Letters, with 35 full members and 70 corresponding members distributed in seven sections respectively. It furthermore elects eminent foreign members.



Academy of Sciences of Lisbon

Policy for science activities towards the European authorities

With the release of the Horizon 2020 draft work programmes for 2014/15, ALLEA reiterated its position as regards the opportunities for interdisciplinary research throughout the programme as well as concerning the integration of Social Sciences and Humanities experts in the Horizon 2020 advisory groups in order to guarantee substantial involvement of SSH approaches at every stage of the process ([read more about policy for science actions towards SSH](#)).

Both issues were taken up in response letters from the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn. On the invitation of the Commissioner ALLEA President Günter Stock and British Academy Vice President Dame Helen Wallace discussed more in detail ALLEA's position in a personal meeting in Berlin on 28 January 2014 with the participation of the Commissioner, the Director General and the Commissioner's head of cabinet. ALLEA and the Directorate General for Research and Innovation agreed on a number of concrete interactions within the next months which were integrated in the future scope of activities of the [ALLEA Working Group on SSH](#), led by the British Academy, which held an in-parallel meeting in Berlin on 27/28 January 2014. Detailed information about the meetings and the follow on actions will be made available in the next issue of the ALLEA newsletter.

Interdisciplinarity in Horizon 2020

In late 2013, the ALLEA President provided the Directorate General for Research and Innovation with "Guidelines for an interdisciplinary research programme" resulting from an exemplary workshop which assembled scholars from various

disciplines who addressed the topic "Sustainable aquatic food supply" in a dedicated interdisciplinary manner. The project was initiated by the Vice President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Professor Klaus Lucas, and supported by the Volkswagen foundation.

In her personal response letter, the Commissioner highly appreciated the concrete proposals and assured that the guidelines be fed into the relevant units within her Directorate-General as a contribution providing "useful inputs for the preparation of future work programmes".



A separate response from the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) highlighted the usefulness of the presented design not only for the Societal Challenges, but also for other programme lines such as "Future and Emerging Technologies" or "Industrial Leadership". The guidelines will also provide input to a Commission study aiming "to make recommendations on how to best shape smart approaches to multi-, inter- and transdisciplinarity", the letter states.

The report "Sustainable Aquatic Food Supply - Guidelines for an Interdisciplinary Research Program" can be downloaded here: [full report](#) or [short version](#).

Horizon 2020 advisory groups

As a follow on to an earlier ALLEA *ad hoc* initiative which yielded the [ALLEA comments on the ERA communication](#) led by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences the Director General for Research and Innovation, Robert-Jan Smits, asked ALLEA to come up with a list of experts from the ALLEA academies in order to provide expert advice in the programme parts related to the Social Sciences and Humanities.

Upon receipt of a comprehensive list of eminent experts prepared to engage in the advice activities separate letters from Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn and Director General Robert-Jan Smits invited and encouraged the ALLEA experts to register for the official Horizon 2020 expert advisory groups which monitor and supervise the formulation and implementation of Horizon 2020 calls in the work programmes. Director General Smits stated that the ALLEA expert list will furthermore be forwarded to the responsible units in the Commission, "to all colleagues who are in charge of calls across Horizon 2020 and specifically of calls for societal challenges". The Commissioner underlined her gratitude for ALLEA's continued and "valuable support" to a successful implementation of Horizon 2020 and encouraged ALLEA to contribute to the parts of the work "which requires support from external experts".

Further recent ALLEA positions directed to the relevant European authorities included statements of the [ALLEA Working Group Intellectual Property Rights](#), addressing the issue of stem cell research as well as the problem of the grace period ([read more](#)).

In Search of an Intellectual Europe

Contributions of European Academies

In his speech inaugurating the European Commission's initiative "A New Narrative for Europe" President José Manuel Barroso explained the rationale for the project as follows: "A new narrative for Europe not because we don't remain loyal to the *raison d'être* of the European community and the European Union; of course this remains valid. But because I think we need, in the beginning of the XXI century, namely for the new generation that is not so much identified with this narrative of Europe, to continue to tell the story of Europe."

And he continued "why culture? Precisely because Europe is not just about economy. It is about culture in the broad sense of the word, encompassing so many of the activities linked to knowledge."

Some months before, in his state of the Union speech of September 2012, Barroso referred to an open and forward-looking debate on the future of Europe and its narrative: "This debate has to take place in our societies and among our citizens. But, today, I would like to make an appeal also to European thinkers. To men and women of culture, to join this debate on the future of Europe."

Taking President Barroso's invitation to the academies in Europe, one could now ask: How can European academies best contribute to a narrative of Europe understood as an intellectual and cultural European story? This question seems more and more important since in the media, among politicians and - as it seems - increasingly also in the minds of many



Viviane Reding, José Manuel Barroso, Androulla Vassiliou and Paul Dujardin, Moderator Per Nyholm (from left to right) at the launch of the "A New Narrative for Europe" project ©European Union 2014

citizens, Europe is being reduced to a merely economic dimension. Academies with their long-standing tradition of preserving, securing and making available the cultural heritage of Europe indeed seem particularly designated to show and promote the intellectual and cultural diversity and richness of Europe.

In the above mentioned inauguration of the "A New Narrative for Europe" project, which took place in Brussels in April 2013, the ALLEA President therefore made proposals for activities and contributions that European Academies could offer to the debate ([see video](#)).

In order to more actively recognize and show the long standing values and characteristics of Europe, the colourful Europe of openness and of intellectual and cultural vibrancy, he proposed to the

European Commission to award a prize to European scholars whose work represents an exceptional contribution to the cultural and intellectual values of Europe and to the idea of European integration.

This idea found wide acceptance and support, including the agreement of the Commission's President to award the prize to the laureate personally, and has until today been taken further considerably. A prize jury was formed, a name was found, sponsors were approached and a concept developed:

The **All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values** will be awarded for the first time. The celebrations will take place in Brussels on 9 April 2014 in the premises of the Belgian Academies where the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso,

hands over the prize. It is endowed with 25.000 EUR, made possible by the co-sponsorship of the [Stiftung Mercator](#).

The prize is awarded to scholars well known for their merits in the fields of history, political science, social science, religion, law or any other field in the humanities, and whose work is of remarkable significance also for the emerging and necessary values of Europe in present times and in the future. After completing the search for nominations, the prize jury will soon announce the name of the laureate in the year 2014.

The prize is complemented by two further activities, forming an ALLEA initiative conducted at the European academies in order to tackle the growing lack of commitment and trust in Europe as a cultural and intellectual region and show that the European Academies are prepared and willing to join the debate on the future of Europe:

Symposia and workshops are planned to be held at different member academies addressing major topics of pan European interest and significance, providing contributions from various European countries in order to gather views from different national and cultural perspectives.

In parallel, a book series tentatively called "In search of an intellectual Europe - Discours Européens" has been initiated. First compilations of articles are in progress under the lead of fellows of ALLEA member academies and around issues such as "The boundaries of Europe" or "Music in European integration", the latter being connected to a workshop on this topic to be held in Berlin in March 2014 ([see here for more information](#)). Academies dispose of the intellectual

Anne Louise Germaine Necker, Madame de Staël-Holstein, 1766-1817, was the daughter of the French politician Jacques Necker and Suzanne Curchod; growing up, she was exposed to the intellectual salon her mother hosted in her house. In 1786 she married Baron de Staël-Holstein, the Swedish ambassador, and soon established her own salon as a centre of progressive political and intellectual discussions. In 1803, Staël was banned from Paris by Napoleon, and took up residence in Coppet near Lake Geneva, where she established a new salon.



Portrait of Madame de Staël by François Gérard, approx. 1810

Celebrated for her conversational eloquence, she participated actively in the political and intellectual life of her times. Her works, both critical and fictional, made their mark on the history of European Romanticism. In 1814, the French memoir writer Madame de Chastenay summed up her life in a single epigram. There were, she wrote, three great powers struggling against Napoleon for the soul of Europe: "England, Russia, and Madame de Staël."

potential to contribute to the debate on the future of Europe as a place of intellectual and cultural richness not only by selective actions. Further below, an example for an intensive and comprehensive dedication to this topic over two years can be found: The Topic of the year initiative of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Science and Humanities on "Zukunftsort: Europa" ([read more](#)) culminating in a major public event which offered a variety of performances and presentations

all focusing on questions towards the future of Europe, including a contribution set up by ALLEA ([see here](#)).

Member academies are invited to take these examples as an encouragement and inspiration to consider similar activities at their seats in the context of the ALLEA initiative described above and in collaboration with the ALLEA services.

by Matthias Johannsen

A Few Thoughts on Music and European Integration

by Albrecht Riethmüller

The idea of ALLEA's President to initiate a book series is to include a volume on music that examines its relation to the process of European integration since the Second World War.

Before one peruses the role of music in European culture these past sixty years, it is helpful to be aware of music's historical contribution to European identity. Observers beyond Europe's borders automatically recognise various cultural institutions such as opera houses, concert halls, orchestras – including their instruments – as well as the plethora of music composed for them as being achievements of European music. The same holds true for the various musical folklores synonymous with regional or national diversity, regardless of whether they are placed in a context of divergence or convergence, or as factors leading to discrimination or identity.

Aside from generally positive or even neutral views on European music, anthropologists and ethno-

musicologists began decades ago to lament the saturation of Eurocentrism in classical and modern music, as well as in the fields of rock and pop. Subsequently, the slogan "world music" came into use, with its underlying contradistinction to European dominance. For decades the terms "western" and, in France, "occidental" have been used in central European discourse on music. Both labels are antipodean to "oriental" music. The concept of occidental music, however, is itself riddled with historical complexities stemming from its reception both within and beyond its role in sacred music. Other questions concerning the development and reception of music arise. One might have imagined, for instance, that in the aftermath of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution, a secular history of music would have taken precedence, and yet nineteenth-century's western paradigm of "art religion" – the replacement of religion by art – prevailed. In the twentieth century, shifting political borders critically influenced the definition of



Professor Albrecht Riethmüller

European music: during the decades of the Iron Curtain, Berlin formed its easternmost outpost; after the wall's fall, leverage shifted to Istanbul, the door to the orient.

To help shape the content of the forthcoming volume, ALLEA is organising a workshop at the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin on 11/12 March 2014, co-sponsored by the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities and the Free University of Berlin, to bring together an international group of musicologists to discuss musico-political questions as they relate to European integration.



Foto: Paul-Georg Meister / pixelio.de

Albrecht Riethmüller is professor of musicology at the Free University of Berlin and member of the [Academy of Sciences and Literature of Mainz](#).

Since 2004 he is the ALLEA delegate of the [Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities](#).

“Zukunftsort: Europa“

The Topic of the Year 2013/14 at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Europe stands at the Crossroads. 2014 marks not only the year of the European elections, but also the fifth year of the economic and public debt crises. The symptoms of the ongoing crisis stretch far beyond the economic system. Furthermore they epitomize a crisis of confidence and public support for the European project as well. Europe - that is more than just an institution or an economic and monetary union. Europe is a cultural and intellectual sphere with various definitions. These definitions may change over time, depending on who is determining and drawing the visions for the future. Thus, Europe itself is the place where Europe is re-conceptualized on a daily basis: “Zukunftsort: Europa”.

The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities initiated “Zukunftsort: Europa” (which translates roughly as “Europe, a place where future is planned”) as its Topic of the Year 2013/14 to commit to Europe as a precise part of our future without losing the

historical depth of field. Through this initiative the Academy aims to contribute comprehensive academic perspectives to the impassioned debates about the future of our continent and invites a broader public to share different opinions about our “Zukunftsort: Europa”.



To gain a better understanding of current European challenges, lectures and public discussions within the Topic of the Year examine the present situation in its historical genesis and Europe as an ongoing transformation. During events and discussions about the Mediterranean Sea or the city of Sarajevo in 2013, Academy members and international guests already debated questions of European remembrance and future visions as well as internal and external perspectives on Europe.

Also in 2014, researchers, students and (international) actors with backgrounds in culture, politics and the economy will consider the “Zukunftsort: Europa” from interdisciplinary perspectives in the events and projects of the Topic of the Year. For example a short film competition engages film students and young researchers to undertake a Research for Europe’s forgotten diversity. This cooperation including four different film schools in the Region Berlin-Brandenburg involves

a young generation in analysing and comparing existing images as well as producing new narratives of Europe. The best movies will be presented at a short film festival that promotes dialogue between the arts and humanities under a European focus.

During the summer term, the lecture “Europe in a global perspective” inquires into European “blindness” towards non-European knowledge and academic cultures and encourages critical thinking about Europe’s future role in the world.

“Zukunftsort” means to critically reconsider our past and present visions of Europe, to ask for idle capacities and release new ones. Therefore, the Academy organizes an international conference on cultural heritage research in Europe that aims to present and discuss innovations and best practices examples in this core competence of European Academies. The conference will take place in cooperation with the German Research Alliance Cultural Heritage, the British Embassy in Berlin and the Office of the Land Berlin to the EU as the Topic of the Year 2013/14 also strives to bundle the activities of (scientific) institutions into one thematic complex, and in doing so, strengthens the inter-institutional network in a sustainable fashion.

By Susanne Hauer

Contact and Information:

Susanne Hauer
Coordinator
+49 (0)30 20370 586
jahresthema@bbaw.de
jahresthema.bbaw.de



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Trust in Europe as a Cultural and Intellectual Region

ALLEA features presentations at “Salon Sophie Charlotte” in the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

On 18 January 2014 the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities opened its doors for the Academy's annual event highlight “Salon Sophie Charlotte” which attracted more than 2000 guests. This year, under the Salon's general heading “Zukunftsort: Europa”. ALLEA for the first time presented its own programme with two presentations discussing the contributions of music in the process of European integration and its role for the European identity.

The ALLEA delegate of the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities, [Professor Albrecht Riethmüller](#), guided through the ALLEA session and opened the stage with a presentation on “The Anthem of Europe”. Accompanied by musical examples, Riethmüller presented the different uses and interpretations of Beethoven's “Ode to Joy” until becoming the official anthem of the European Union in an instrumental version after other proposals - such as an anthem sung in the universal language of Esperanto - had not been considered convincing.

The presentation was followed by a lecture entitled “Beethoven 2020 in Europe” given by the Director of the Beethoven House in Bonn, Malte

Boecker. Outlining the historical background in which Beethoven lived, Boecker investigated the dedication of the German composer to the European identity beyond the area of music and composition.

These contributions form part of a wider ALLEA initiative directed at tackling the growing lack of commitment and trust in Europe as a cultural and intellectual region in times of economic crisis. ALLEA therewith joins the debate on the future of Europe with a set of activities planned, such as workshops on pan-European issues at different member academies resulting in a book series documenting the results of the discussions and deliberations. For the topic “Music in European Integration” a workshop will take place at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities in March 2014, bringing together an international group of musicologists to discuss musico-political questions as they relate to European Integration. Read more [here](#).

This year's Salon Sophie Charlotte was oriented towards the Academy's current topic of the year which throughout 2013 and 2014 addresses a multitude of issues and aspects around the theme “Zukunftsort: Europa”. The Salon offered lectures, artistic performances, guided tours and cultural presentations from different perspectives all focusing on questions towards the future of Europe such as “What are Europe's perspectives under consideration of the symptoms of the current crisis?”, “What is it that holds us together?” or “How strong do values such as



Malte Boecker, Director of the Beethoven House in Bonn

freedom, social justice and democracy unify us?”.

Further contributors included the Swiss philosopher and novelist Pascal Mercier (Peter Bieri), the Dutch novelist Geert Mak, the Austrian writer Robert Menasse and a great number of other internationally distinguished and widely renowned intellectuals and artists.

The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities established its “Topic of the Year” programme in 2007. It is committed to promoting the dialogue between science and society. Among its primary objectives is to inform the public about the Academy's research projects and to encourage discussion and debate on most relevant issues on the interface of science and scholarship, arts and society. Read more [here](#).



Permanent Working Group Intellectual Property Rights

Statements released on Open Access, The Grace Period and Stem Cell Research

The ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights has recently released three statements.

The Statement **Enhancement of Open Access to Scientific Publications in Europe** invites European authorities to take measures facilitating an Open Access model under consideration of the specificities of the various scientific disciplines. It stresses the need to further coordinate the steps towards an Open Access policy between the numerous institutions involved and to complement the short-term access by a system ensuring long-term preservation of research data and results.

The statement addresses a key challenge for the scientific community since academic publishing is undergoing significant changes in the digital environment. It was prepared by the **ALLEA Permanent Working Group** on Intellectual Property Rights under the lead authorship of Professor Alain Strowel, Brussels.

The group is chaired by Professor Joseph Straus, representing the Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities, and has repeatedly issued recommendations regarding questions of intellectual property related to open access in previous statements such as **Opportunities and Risks: the Digitisation of Books and the Google Book Settlement** (June 2011).

On different occasions in the past, ALLEA has been strongly engaged in the debates on Open Access publishing which determines the ways in which scientific information will be presented, disseminated



Kiev Conference on the Grace Period

and used in the future. At the ALLEA General Assembly 2012, a joint declaration **Open Science for the 21st century** was issued by ALLEA and the Vice President of the European Commission Neelie Kroes, with a call to scientific communities and their institutions to make decisive steps towards open science. Neelie Kroes, Commissioner in charge of the Digital Agenda for Europe, addressed a special policy session on “The Digital

Agenda and Access to Scientific Information” under the heading **Open e-Infrastructures for Open Science**.

Conference and Statement Release on “The Grace Period”

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**”, which concluded with the adoption of a joint **statement on the Grace Period**.

With the conference and the statement, ALLEA followed 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**). The statement aims to find an internationally 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

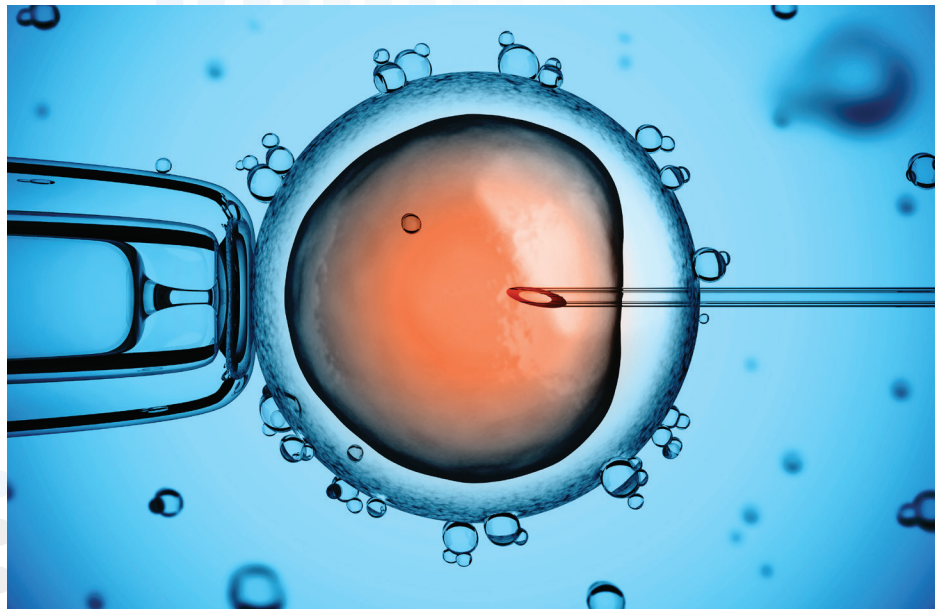


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and researchers in academia and small and medium sized companies.

The conference was held on the premises of the NAS in Kiev, Ukraine and 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 Professor Carlo D'Adda, in his introductory remarks the chair of the ALLEA Permanent Working Group, Professor Joseph Straus, discussed the subject "Grace Period - a topic of harmonisation of patent law since 30 years". Professor Yuriy Kapitsa, fellow of NAS and member of the ALLEA 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 grace period in international relations reaffirmed. The statement summarizes the outcomes of the conference and was endorsed by numerous delegates from participating patent offices, such



as the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) and the Patent Office of Ukraine. It has been submitted to several other international authorities for consideration and further dissemination.

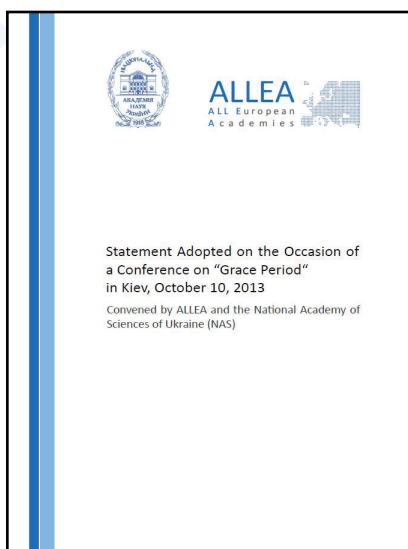
Follow-up Statement on the Patentability and Research Funding relating to embryonic Stem Cells

With its third statement on **Patentability and Research Funding relating to embryonic Stem Cells** ALLEA follows up on two previous statements regarding this issue – released in May 2011 and September 2012 respectively – both closely linked to the case *Brüstle v. Greenpeace* and the corresponding Judgment of the Court of European Union (CJEU).

The statement raises concerns against a possible acceptance of the above mentioned Judgment which would most seriously affect research of essential importance to citizens of the European Union. Therefore, the competent bodies of the European Union are urged "not to accept the proposed amendments and to continue the well balanced funding of the respective research at the Union level". It is furthermore argued that

basic research in this field would need more EU funding rather than less.

In its previous statements, ALLEA had explicitly underlined that a lack of patent protection in the area of embryonic stem cell research could negatively affect the investment in developing therapeutics based on human pluripotent embryonic stem cells. It was also stated that serious concerns of the European scientific community regarding the effects for research in this important area of medicine would need to be taken into account.



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Working Group on Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

ALLEA and the British Academy raise the urgent need for changes within the Horizon 2020 work programme for social sciences and humanities

In a [joint letter of concern](#) (dated 13 November 2013) to European Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn ALLEA and the British Academy have emphasized once more their deep concerns regarding the elaboration of the work programmes of Horizon 2020. With respect to the sixth societal challenge “Europe in a changing world – inclusive, innovative and reflective societies” and concerning the embedding of social sciences and humanities throughout Horizon 2020, ALLEA and the British Academy strongly recommend three important changes which should be taken into account for the finalization of the Horizon 2020 work programmes.

1. The budget in Horizon 2020 available for SSH, and in societal challenge six in particular, is increasingly object to a process of

being allocated to ever more items. By this, the amount currently proposed for genuine SSH programme is in danger to be substantially and critically decreased.

2. In the current structure of the SSH funding lines – with bids of between 1.5 and 2.5 Million Euro for each call - most of high quality bids for SSH-projects would have to be rejected. If this is not altered, the SSH communities may question the value of bidding at all in the light of the very limited chances to be successful.

3. The need for a truly interdisciplinary nature of the Horizon 2020 programme has been pointed out by the scientific communities on several occasions and was explicitly acknowledged by the European Commission. Nonetheless, the current approach lacks adequate structures to support such an

interdisciplinary embedding of SSH throughout the other funding lines. In the letter the European authorities are urged to take the necessary steps in that direction, since structures, such as a cross-cutting Advisory Group bringing together SSH experts to monitor and ensure “embedding”, are critically needed.

ALLEA has been actively engaged in the formulation of recommendations and advice from the beginning of the deliberations on Horizon 2020 and particularly on the role of social sciences and humanities (SSH) therein.

Earlier this year a [roadmap for “Embedding the Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020”](#) was presented to the Director General Robert-Jan Smits (DG Research and Innovation).

Director General for Research and Innovation responds to ALLEA petitions to Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn regarding the role of SSH in Horizon 2020

Initiated by the ALLEA working group on Social Sciences and Humanities, led by the British Academy, in June this year ALLEA sent a [petition letter](#) to the European Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn (Research and Innovation) asking for a “central and pervasive position of the social sciences and humanities” and for adequate recognition and support of these disciplines “in a meaningful and comprehensive way within Horizon 2020 in terms of budget, provision and enhancement of dedicated

supports within DG Research & Innovation”.

The ALLEA petition was followed by numerous letters of support from ALLEA Member Academies and further stakeholders from the SSH community. In addition to an individual answer by Director General Robert-Jan Smits to the ALLEA petition, ALLEA was now asked to publish a general reply to all petitioners from the SSH community on its website. The response letter can be found [here](#).

The Director General states that “Social Sciences and Humanities research is part of the solution, not only to examine, interpret and understand the big societal challenges, but also to point us towards the answers.” He points to a number of ways SSH will be supported throughout the Horizon 2020 programme in addition to the sixth societal challenge “Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies”.

Working Group E Humanities

ALLEA co-hosts international conference on SSH research infrastructures in Berlin

More than 70 SSH researchers, policy makers and infrastructure coordinators attended the conference “Facing the Future: European Research Infrastructure for Humanities and Social Sciences” which took place on 21/22 November 2013 in the House of the Federal Press Conference in Berlin. The conference had been initiated by the Social and Cultural Innovation Strategy Working Group of ESFRI (SCI SWG) and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), and was co-hosted by ALLEA and the German Data Forum (RatSWD). Throughout the two days, participants from all over Europe discussed the on-going developments, chances and challenges that researchers are dealing with in the light of the rapid changes that new digital infrastructures impose.

The ALLEA Working Group E Humanities contributed to the conference by providing expertise in the humanities related aspects of the programme. Working Group Chair Dr

Sandra Collins co-chaired the session on “Digital Humanities” and Professor Gerhard Lauer, chair of the Göttingen center for Digital Humanities and member of the Working Group gave an introductory overview on the “Challenges of the humanities”.

The conference was opened by Dr Dietrich Nelle, Head of the Directorate “Research Organizations” at the BMBF, Dr Adrian Duşa, Chairperson of the ESFRI SCI-SWG and Professor Gerd G. Wagner, Chairperson of the RatSWD.

Peter Farago, Director of FORS Swiss and Former Chairperson of the SCI-SWG and Peter Elias, Strategic Advisor for Data Resources at the University of Warwick, highlighted the challenges that the ever increasing amount of data available creates, particularly in the domains of the social sciences, making reference to what can be summed up under the concept of “Big Data” which resulted a cross cutting issue of the conference. With respect



Gerhard Lauer, member of the ALLEA-Working Group E Humanities

to the humanities Gerhard Lauer stressed the opportunities of digital research infrastructures, *inter alia* regarding the semantic linking of the cultural heritage that would arise if the same digital processing standards were used internationally.

A session on future strategies and directions discussed - among other issues - the funding framework in Horizon 2020 for research infrastructures and different forms of European projects, such as the opportunities that the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) can provide.

The session on “Administrative Data” dealt with the legal framework and the problems often raised by the fuzziness of data sets available. The importance of internationally comparative programmes with a long term funding to generate knowledge about birth cohorts, ageing and other social indicators was stressed in the



More than 70 SSH researchers, policy makers and infrastructure coordinators in the audience

session on “Longitudinal Sciences and Bio-Social Sciences”.

The above mentioned session on “Digital Humanities” provided a multifaceted outlook on future challenges of the humanities. It included topics like the need for an increased visibility and impact of the humanities by making use of the newly emerging technologies and infrastructures, as was pointed out by Professor Milena Zic-Fuchs, Chair of Science Review Group for the Humanities of the ESF and member of the ALLEA Working Group on SSH. Moreover, new forms of publishing and digital access to primary sources, research results and articles through publicly accessible internet platforms opening new opportunities for scientific publishing were presented.

The final session on “New Forms of Data for Research in Humanities and Social Sciences” outlined new fields of research using data gained from Social Networks such as Twitter or Facebook. Further presentations gave examples of new forms of European cooperation in digitally driven SSH projects.

In his closing remarks ALLEA President



ALLEA President Günter Stock holding the closing words



Session Chairs (from left): Gert G. Wagner, Ranjana Sarkar, Jaques Dubucs, Peter Elias, John Hobcraft, Sandra Collins, Adrian Duşa

Günter Stock highlighted the role of the SSH-research community regarding Horizon 2020 and encouraged the participants to stay vigilant and at the same time embrace their responsibility to harmonise data standards and engage in increased international cooperation and coordination in order to foster SSH research throughout Europe.

The conference was accompanied by vital discussions with the audience which included numerous representatives from ALLEA member academies. Bringing together social science and humanities researchers for discussions on this important issue was deemed a necessary and useful step and a positive momentum in addressing future challenges of research infrastructure management. By this, it became obvious that different domains do face different challenges but also share many of the same problems and concerns so that much could be learned from each other.

The conference was integrated in the BMBF funded Project “Survey and

Analysis of Basic Research in SSH” (SASSH) that is currently conducted by ALLEA and the [Union of the German Academies](#) and intends to map the numerous ongoing SSH research projects and activities of the European academies, with the long term objective to harmonise existing standards, tools and instruments applied in those undertakings.

The [ALLEA 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.

All presentation can be found on the [conference website](#). A conference publication is scheduled to be released in spring 2014 and will be available on the ALLEA website for download.

Working Group Science Education

Academia-Industry Alliance – joint efforts in Science Education: Royal Irish Academy and ALLEA convene open session in Dublin

The Royal Irish Academy (RIA)-ALLEA Joint Efforts in Science Education Forum took place on 20 November, 2013. The forum brought together industry and education partners to discuss existing and identify future potential collaborative efforts to enhance maths, science and technology education and student experiences in Ireland, with reference to existing and emerging European initiatives in this space.

Excellent and world class science will play an instrumental role in the creation of jobs, identification of future technologies and opportunities and wider societal well-being. To this end, Europe – and Ireland – requires a highly skilled workforce in maths, science and technology fields and a high level of general scientific competence across society. The Forum explored the shared mission of teachers, educators and industry in achieving these wider goals, recognising that no one sector can address these issues by themselves. All participants were invited to outline their perspective on the current opportunities and challenges facing science education and how industry and education can work together to support a stronger science education experience.

The event was preceded by the launch of the Irish Minister of State for Research and Innovation Seán Sherlock's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Review Group in Academy House. The Academy is currently in the process of drafting a submission to the STEM advisory group based on issues that were identified at the



Academy-ALLEA forum on Science Education.

A report summarising the main conclusions and discussion points, along with a summary of the speakers' presentations is available [here](#).

Leading this initiative are Professor Peter Mitchell, MRIA, ALLEA working group on Science Education and Professor Eugene Kennedy, MRIA, Science Secretary.

The open session on Academia-Industry Alliances also relates to previous activities of the [ALLEA Working Group Science Education](#) and follows up on 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](#)". In the report, the Working Group details 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. Building alliances with the business world is seen as an important step towards these objectives.

The [Royal Irish Academy](#) (Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann) was founded in 1785 and is Ireland's academy for the sciences, humanities and social sciences. The Academy provides expert advice, manages research projects, publishes books and journals and sustains a library. Election to membership of the Academy is the highest academic honour in Ireland and the Academy has currently approximately 460 members.



click on the cover for download

The **next issue** of the ALLEA newsletter will predominantly report from the General Assembly at the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in Oslo on 24/25 April 2014. ALLEA's annual meeting will include a scientific symposium on

Enabling early career researchers - Needs for training of a new generation

and a celebratory session on the occasion of the **20th anniversary of ALLEA** (24 April 2014, open to public). On the second day the delegations of the ALLEA member academies assemble for the internal business meeting, followed by a cultural programme.

Regularly updated information about the General Assembly 2014 can be found on the [ALLEA Website](http://www.allea.org).

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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

Publication Date: 5 February 2014

Authoring and editing: Matthias Johannsen,
Aline Kahler-Al Dahabi and Dominik Adrian
Layout: Dominik Adrian
Further authors in this issue: Susanne
Hauer, Albrecht Riethmüller
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It is with deep sorrow and regret that we have learned from the decease of
the President of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Academician

Professor Jože Trontelj.

Since many years Professor Trontelj contributed with his expertise and
experience to the ALLEA activities as a representative in the General
Assembly and as a member of the Permanent Working Group on Science
and Ethics. Professor Trontelj will be dearly missed by all of us.

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