Newsletter Issue 2 / 2016



Freedom of Scientific Research

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Dear Reader,

I hope many of you are enjoying the warm weather and hopefully some of you can even relax a little while reading this edition of the ALLEA newsletter. This summer is in fact going to be a rather busy one for ALLEA as we are in full swing to prepare for the upcoming start of the SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) project within the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism, SAM, together with our consortium partners. As always in recent editions, we have a small section prepared for you to keep up to date with the developments in the projects, which I am sure many of you will find interesting.

This issue will particularly focus on ALLEA's 2016 General Assembly, which was held about two months ago in the splendid halls of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. I might add that the symposium The Freedom of Scientific Research in the Face of Political and Societal Demands, which was opened by the President of Austria, Heinz Fischer, was excellently organized and our Austrian colleagues were incredibly forthcoming in their support. During the business meeting the assembly voted to welcome two more member academies into ALLEA. These are the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters and the Learned Society of Wales. We are very much looking forward to working with both academies and appreciate the continued interest in our activities. Additionally, the assembly reaffirmed all Board Members running for re-

election as well as electing three more members into the ALLEA Board. For many years of collegial cooperation and friendship we are also saying a heartfelt thank you to Oivind Andersen, Permanent Secretary of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and President of Union Académique Internationale, who will regrettably no longer serve as an ALLEA Board Member. You can read more about the outcomes of the General Assembly, our new academies and Board members, and indeed also the Award Ceremony for Professor Rémi Brague, this year's ALLEA Mme de Staël Prize for Cultural Values laureate on the following pages.

It is not only the ALLEA Secretariat that is keeping busy over the summer. Our Working Groups are also working hard on a variety of laudable projects. Experts from the ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Science & Ethics recently held a meeting in Berlin where the participants discussed the roadmap for a revision of the ALLEA-ESF European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. The ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights is finalizing a statement on patent related aspects of the CRISPR-Cas technology, a topic which will undoubtedly be with us for the foreseeable future.

I wish you enjoyable reading. Kindly yours,

Günter Stock

ALLEA Board Meeting in Minsk

ALLEA Board meets at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

In its first meeting since the 2016 General Assembly, the ALLEA Board came together in Minsk on 20/21 June, on the kind invitation of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, to discuss ongoing ALLEA business and to lay the groundwork for the impending start of the SAPEA project in autumn.

On the first day of the meeting, the members of the Board were welcomed by the President of the Belarusian Academy, Academician Vladimir Gusakov, who expressed his deep gratitude for ALLEA's interest in the science system of his country and highlighted how membership in ALLEA has led to many fruitful cooperation agreements with other academies across Europe. The NASB has been a member of ALLEA since its foundation in 1994.

The following meeting saw for the first time the participation and accreditation of the newly elected Board Members Hubert Bocken of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for

Science and the Arts, Brigitte Mazohl of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and of Krista Varantola of the Council of Finnish Academies.

The focus of the meeting on the first day was on the implementation of issues which were agreed upon by the ALLEA General Assembly in Vienna as well as other recent, ongoing and future activities of ALLEA and partners.

The second day of the meeting primarily dealt with ALLEA's role in the SAPEA project, in which ALLEA as a consortium partner together with Academia Europaea, EASAC, Euro-CASE and FEAM will be providing science advice to policy makers in the European Commission. As such, possible avenues for ALLEA member academies to get involved in the project were discussed and followed-up from the General Assembly.

Additionally, the Presidency was pleased to report on active working groups, with the Permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights finalizing a statement on CRISPR-Cas

technology, the Permanent Working Group on Science & Ethics working on a revision of the European Code of Conduct of Research Integrity and the Working Group Science Education preparing the third AEMASE conference in Malta.

The meeting was concluded with an exquisite cultural programme organized by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and discussions on ways to foster cooperation between NASB and sister academies in Europe under the umbrella of ALLEA.

The ALLEA Board was accompanied during its visit by NASB Chief Scientific Secretary Alexander Kilchevski and the Head of the Department for International Cooperation, Vladimir Podkopaev.

The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NAS of Belarus, or NASB) is the highest state scientific organization of the Republic of Belarus, which carries out the organization and coordination of fundamental and applied research performed by all subjects of scientific activities, provides fundamental and applied research and developments in the main directions of natural, engineering, social sciences, the humanities and arts with the purpose of obtaining new knowledge about humanity, society, nature artificial objects and increasing the scientific and technical, intellectual and spiritual potential of the Republic of Belarus.

For pictures and a report of the meeting by the National Academy of



Credit: Nati

Recap of the ALLEA General Assembly

ALLEA holds its 17th General Assembly at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna 18/19 April 2016

The President of Austria, Heinz Fischer, opened the 17th ALLEA General Assembly and welcomed the participants of the scientific symposium "The Freedom of Scientific Research in the Face of Political and Societal Demands" which took place at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna on 18 April 2016. At the award ceremony in the evening, Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, awarded the All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values to French philosopher Rémi Braque.

The symposium and award ceremony were followed by the annual meeting of ALLEA on 19 April 2016. In the course of the meeting, again hosted by the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the ALLEA Board was (re-) elected for the term 2016-18 and the delegates of ALLEA member academies voted in favour of admitting new members to the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities.

The 17th ALLEA General Assembly was opened by Heinz Fischer, President of Austria, and Professor Anton Zeilinger, President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences hosting the conference, and Professor Günter Stock, President of ALLEA, with a scientific symposium on The Freedom of Scientific Research in the Face of Political and Societal Demands.

Symposium speakers included ERC President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, physicist Sir Peter Knight, former chair of the Defence Scientific Advisory Council at the UK Ministry of Defence as well as the former President of the

Austrian Supreme Court of Justice, Professor Irmgard Griss, and former German State Minister for Culture and the Media, Professor Julian Nida-Rümelin among others. The symposium discussed the increasing interactions between the scientific, political and societal spheres, their risks and opportunities, from a scientific perspective and aimed to contribute to advancing the discourse about the autonomy of scientific research on the European level.

At the annual meeting on 19 April

two new ALLEA members, the <u>Royal</u> <u>Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters</u> and the <u>Learned Society of Wales from the UK.</u>

Delegates heard reports from the ALLEA Presidency and from chairs and representatives of ALLEA Working Groups. A focus of the meeting laid on ALLEA's involvement in the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) which was discussed in detail. Delegates presented and deliberated on topics currently addressed by their



) Austrian Academy of Sciences/ Pichler

the member academies of ALLEA confirmed all re-nominated current Board members in office and elected three new members for the next term (2016-18). Read more about the new Board members on the next page. With the election, the ALLEA Board for the next two years includes members from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

In addition to the Board elections, the ALLEA delegates voted to welcome

academies across Europe which could well be further elaborated at the European level as a contribution to the science policy advice which academies will provide via their European networks.

More information on the 2016 ALLEA General Assembly, including pictures of the symposium and award ceremony, can be found https://example.com/here/.

Click <u>here</u> to download the full programme for the symposium and award ceremony

New ALLEA Board Members



Professor Hubert Bocken

Professor Hubert Bocken is the President of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts. Educated in law at the Ghent University and the Harvard Law School, Professor Bocken, taught law of obligations and environmental law at the Ghent University where he also served as member of the Board of the University and as Dean and Chair of the Foreign relations committee of the Faculty of Law.



Professor Brigitte Mazohl

Elected to the ALLEA Board in her home institution, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Professor Brigitte Mazohl's work focuses on Austrian history at the institute for history and European ethnology at the University of Innsbruck. In 2013, she was elected to preside over the division of humanities and social sciences at the Austrian Academy of Sciences.



Professor Krista Varantola

Professor Krista Varantola is a member of the Council of Finnish Academies and of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters. She is Professor and Rector Emerita at the University of Tampere in Finland. Her academic field is English linguistics. Prof. Varantola has a long standing interest in research integrity. She chairs the National Advisory Board on Research Integrity in Finland and is a member of the ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Science & Ethics.

New ALLEA Member Academies

ALLEA welcomes Learned Society of Wales and the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters

The Learned Society of Wales (LSW)

is Wales's first national Academy of science and letters. As such it brings together the most successful and promoting excellence in all scholarly disciplines across Wales.

The LSW promotes a culture of

Unlike many other UK learned societies the Fellowship covers a wide range of disciplines - science & technology, arts, humanities, social science, business and public service.



THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL

talented fellows connected with Wales for the shared purpose and common good of advancing and knowledge and innovation through sponsorship and organising of lectures, symposia, and conferences. The establishment of Wales's first national academy of learning was the subject of interest and discussion for several years prior to the launch of the current Society in May 2010. However, the idea was taken forward in a practical way in 2008, when a group of

some twenty independent scholars representing the major academic disciplines came together to address and make good the lack of a learned academy national academy in Wales. This initial group formed themselves into a Shadow Council for what would become the Learned Society of Wales and set about identifying further eminent scholars who, along with the original group, became the Society's Founding Fellows. Sir John Cadogan was elected the Society's Inaugural President in February 2010. In May 2010, with financial support from the University of Wales and the endorsement of the Welsh Government, the Learned Society of Wales was legally established, being incorporated as a company limited by guarantee.

The aim of the Society is to establish itself both as a recognised representative of the world of Welsh learning internationally and as a source of authoritative, scholarly and critical comment and advice on policy issues affecting Wales. Since its foundation in 2010, the guiding imperative for the Society has been 3 core Missions:

- 1. to celebrate, recognise, preserve, protect and encourage excellence in all of the scholarly disciplines, and in the professions, industry and commerce, the arts and public service;
- 2. to promote the advancement of learning and scholarship and the dissemination and application of the results of academic enquiry and research; and
- 3. to act as a source of independent and expert scholarly advice and comment on matters affecting the wellbeing of Wales and its people and to advance public discussion and interaction on matters of national and international importance

The Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters was founded in Trondheim in 1760, and it is the oldest Norwegian scientific institution. It is a non-governmental, nationwide body that embraces all scientific

The Academy has 582 Norwegian and 155 foreign members. The members are divided into two classes – Natural Sciences and Humanities. Each of the two classes has its own board. A seat becomes vacant on the death of the



ottor

disciplines. The Society is organised in an Academy and a Foundation with one common Board. The Academy serves as a traditional academy with prominent scientists as members, and



organising meetings for its members. The Foundation supports scientific projects and scientific publications. The Society's main objective is to promote and disseminate science. The Society publishes the journal Skrifter (Transactions), which was founded in 1761. The Society has enjoyed royal protection since 1767.

holder or when a member hasreached the age of 70. Members over 70 years of age keep all their rights and are still full members. Only members of the Academy are entitled to propose candidates for membership, which is based solely on the candidates' scientific achievements. The Society in "Fylkesmannsboligen", resides prominently located at Nidelven in downtown Trondheim. The regular meetings of the Academy take place in the Festive Hall of Cathedral School in Trondheim, a tradition that goes back to the late 1700s.

Mme de Staël Prize awarded to Prof. Rémi Brague

Commissoner Johannes Hahn hands over ALLEA Prize to French philosopher

Professor Rémi Brague was honoured with the 2016 All European Academies Mme de Staël for Cultural Values for his scholarly contributions to medieval philosophy and his work on European cultural roots.

University in Munich. Professor Brague's work provides an invaluable wealth of analysis on the interplay between Judaism, Christianity and Islam as they progressed through history.

"Rémi Brague uses his extensive historical, philosophical and theological expertise to study the question what makes Europe a distinct cultural entity", stated Professor Günter Stock. **ALLEA** President and chairman of the prize jury, in his speech to the ceremony's international audience at the Austrian Academy of Sciences

The All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values is co-sponsored by Stiftung Mercator and is awarded to eminent scholars whose work represents a significant contribution to the cultural and intellectual values of Europe and to the idea of European integration. More information can be found here.



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In a festive ceremony, during the ALLEA General Assembly in Vienna, European Commissioner Johannes Hahn, former Austrian Federal Minister for Science and Research, handed over the ALLEA prize to French philosopher Rémi Brague, expressing: "The prize gives humanities a true European framework and helps establishing a distinct European cultural identity! warmly congratulate today's laureate Rémi Brague for his distint contribution and ALLEA for the tireless effort on working for a better Europe"

The laureate is professor emeritus of Arabic and medieval philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris and holds the Romano Guardini chair of philosophy (emeritus) at the Ludwig Maximilian



Austrian Academy of Sciences/ Pichler

European Academy Networks submit SAPEA proposal

ALLEA and its consortium partners submit proposal for EU-funded SAPEA project

On 17 May, the consortium of European Academy Networks (Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE and FEAM) submitted their project proposal for the SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) project to the European Commission.

The project which will provide science advice to policy, in the context of the European Commission's new Scientific Advice Mechanism, SAM, is intended to run over four years and is aiming to actively involve respective member academies in the science policymaking process on the European level through their European networks

Evaluation of the project proposal will take place over summer and the project is anticipated to officially launch in autumn of this year.

In the meantime, the academy networks are keeping busy with preparing the necessary infrastructure and resources required to carry out the project effectively right from the start.

A first interesting date to note down is the 2nd International Conference on Science Advice to Government (INGSA) hosted by the European Commission on 29/30 September in Brussels. The conference will feature a large number of high ranking speakers, among them representatives from European Institutions and the SAM Unit such as the European Commissioner for Research, Technology and Innovation, Carlos Moedas. Fellows of ALLEA member academies will also be present in the various talks and workshops, including Dame Helen Wallace of the British Academy who will take part in a panel debate on solution-oriented scientific advice.

The High Level Group of Scientific Advisers within the SAM Unit will use the conference to come together for their fourth meeting to revisit the topics of cybersecurity and the reduction of light-vehicle CO2 emissions.

Should you wish to attend the conference please find more information about registering here.









Permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights involved in patent-related aspects of CRISPR-Cas technology

In July 2016, ALLEA will issue a statement, prepared by the ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Intellectual Property Rights, on Patent-Related Aspects of CRISPR-Cas Technology, which investigates the current state of European patent law legislation in regards to CRISPR-Cas technology and comes to the conclusion that the current legislative framework is sufficient for the foreseeable future.

This ALLEA statement is at the cutting edge of genome research legislation, ensuring that this promising technology is not only ground-breaking in life sciences but also sound and free of patent and ethical issues on the legislative side.

After careful consideration of all possible implications CRISPR-Cas technology could have, the Permanent Working Group comes to the conclusions that the existing "EU patent law provides the necessary incentives for further development and use across all fields of life sciences" and that there will be no patents granted which could "offend human dignity and/or integrity". As such the rules set out by the European Patent Court are flexible enough to cover research and development and use of CRISPR-Cas technology "does not require any reforms in the patent law field" at this point. Furthermore, existing

legislation encourages and reflects the respectful application of CRISPR-Cas research by the academic community.

The statement will be circulated among the relevant European and national institutions to further ALLEA's efforts to contribute to policy for science advice. The full statement will be available on our website www.allea.org soon.

In addition to the above statement, members of the Working Group also responded to a call for public consultation by the European Commission on the role of publishers in the copyright value chain and on the 'panorama exception'

The consultation aimed at gathering views on the impact the granting of EU neighbouring right to publishers might have on the publishing sector, on citizens and creative industries

and as to whether the need for intervention is different in the press as compared to other publishing sectors

The consultation ran until mid-June and it is expected that the Commission will publish a short summary of the consultation results within a month of the end of the consultation. A more comprehensive report is due to follow thereafter.

Third edition of AEMASE Conference planned for 2017

Among the manifold activities aimed at improving STEM education, the <u>ALLEA Working Group on Science Education</u> is currently working on the preparation of the third <u>AEMASE</u> Conference, which is intended to take place in the second half of 2017.

The ALLEA Working Group on Science Education, chaired by Professor Giancarlo Vecchio, has over the last years put great effort in promoting the cooperation between academies in the AEM (African, European and Mediterranean) region.

Amongst the activities of the informal **AEMASE** network (African-European-Mediterranean Academies for Science Education), which aims to improve science education in schools in the AEM area, it has organized two intercontinental conferences during the past years: the AEMASE I Conference, hosted by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Rome in 2014, and the AEMASE Conference, held in the premises of the Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal in Dakar in 2015.

During both conferences, participants from various continents shared their experiences best practices developed in their countries to reform science education focusing on the novel pedagogical approach IBSE (Inquiry-Based Science Education). On the occasion of the AEMASE II Conference delegates of European and African academies signed the Dakar Declaration calling for a sound cooperation among Academies, Ministries of Education, the African Union, the European Commission, UNESCO and foundations for the renewal of science education at the intercontinental African-European level.

For the AEMASE III conference, the Maltese Government has been approached with a request to host the event on the Mediterranean island. A preliminary response signalled a keen interest. Subsequent discussions on a final agreement and concrete arrangements for date and venue of the conference are currently underway.

The conference will again provide a unique opportunity to bring together an international audience scientists and researchers, science education experts and teachers trainers, policy-makers and politicians, representatives of funding agencies and foundations. It will continue to be an outstanding platform to discuss the challenges for the future of science education, to stress the importance and benefits resulting from its reform in Africa and Europe and to promote AEMASE projects in the field of teachers' professional development.

A Scientific Committee for the conference is currently being formed, co-chaired by Odile Macchi, member of the Académie des Sciences in France, and Norbert Hounkonnou, President of the Benin National Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, and including a number of further representatives from African and European academies, renowned scientists from Malta as well as the Presidents of the academy networks ALLEA and NASAC (Network of African Science Academies).

Union of the German Academies hosts kick-off workshop for AGATE project

On 13 June 2016, around 30 experts from European science academies, infrastructures in the fields of Digital Humanities and Social Sciences, and related infrastructures met at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW), to discuss the "Chances and Challenges of a European Internet Gateway for the Social Sciences and Humanities".

The Union of the German Academies Sciences and **Humanities** currently coordinates the project "Elaboration of a Concept for a European Academies Internet Gateway for the Social Sciences and Humanities (AGATE)", conducted in close collaboration with ALLEA. The workshop's objective was to share experiences and know-how, identify common chances and challenges of the proposed AGATE, and to pinpoint synergies and possibilities for future collaboration (click here for the workshop programme).

The workshop opened with a session dedicated to the "Status Quo of digital

Research Practices and Publications at the European Academies today". Several representatives of European academies gave insights into the challenges the digitisation process is posing to their academies' SSHprojects, available solutions and desiderata. There was agreement that the long-term perspective and relevance of this research output particular requirements creates regarding the sustainability of digital research methods and publication practices. Against this background, the AGATE initiative is considered a welcome opportunity to exchange knowledge and highlight best practices amongst the European academies to develop a joint digital agenda that ensures the leading position of the academies' SSH research during the digital turn.

In the afternoon session four experts discussed fundamental aspects of the proposed AGATE with the workshop participants, amongst them representatives of the

European Infrastructures DARIAH, CLARIAH(NL)/CLARIN, Europeana, and OpenAire. The participants agreed that AGATE has to be more than a technical solution. Its relevance lies equally in the support of digital research practices and network-building amongst the academies. Therefore, the second workshop which will take place on 16 January 2017 at the BBAW, will focus on practical information concerning digital research and publication practices, such as standards and good practices, legal issues, and other relevant topics. It will be aimed at researchers, ICT and digital library experts, and other interested parties from European Academies. Suggestions can be conveyed either to the scientific coordinator of the project, Dr Ulrike Wuttke (wuttke@ akademienunion-berlin.de), directly to the ALLEA Berlin office (secretariat@allea.org).

With thanks to the Union of German Academies for providing this text



Participants from left to right: Ulrike Wuttke, Laurent Romary, Istvan Monok, and Beat Immenhauser

Permanent Working Group on Science & Ethics revises the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

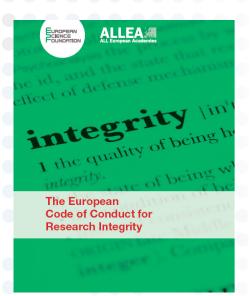
On 10 June 2016, a subgroup of the ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics met in the premises of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Berlin to discuss the revision of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. The meeting was joined by representatives from the Ethics and Research Integrity Sector at the European Commission and from the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO).

Following a request by the European Commission, the ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics, chaired by Professor Göran Hermerén, has taken on the responsibility of updating the "European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity". For this endeavor, a subgroup was formed, comprising experts from Belgium, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland. The group is chaired by Dr Maura Hiney from the Royal Irish Academy, who also chairs Science Europe's Working Group on Research Integrity.

First published in 2011, in cooperation with the European Science Foundation (ESF), the first edition of this document addressed the principles of research integrity, good research practices and potential forms of misconduct in scientific and scholarly research. The Code was well received and is widely used within the research community across Europe.

Recently, the European Commission expressed a keen interest in an updated version of the Code which is intended to become the standard

reference document for EU-funded research projects. Since the first publication, new developments such as self-plagiarism, reproducibility of research results and challenges arising in the context of Open Science, among others, have evolved and will be taken into account in the revision of the Code.



At the meeting, ALLEA President Professor Günter Stock welcomed the members of the subgroup and the attending guests and highlighted the value and importance of ALLEA's Permanent Working Group Science and Ethics' work in general and the efforts in updating the Code in particular. He considered it an exceptional opportunity for ALLEA to continue framing the conditions for science and scholarship in Europe, thereby demonstrating the capacities and strength of the academies in Europe in providing policy-for-science advice to policy-makers through their European network ALLEA.

In this first meeting, the participants shared their vision on the nature and objectives of the Code in light of the challenges arising from new developments in the research enterprise as well as in society. They identified the main issues to be revised and updated in the document and agreed on the procedures and timeline of the revision process.

The participants shared the understanding of the Code as an empowering document for scientists and scholars, which should be universally applicable and should aim to promote a culture of integrity and good research practice.

Relevant stakeholders and experts outside the academies will be involved in the revision through a two-stage consultation process. The detailed discussions with Mr Isidoros Karatzas from the European Commission and Dr Torkild Vinther from ENRIO represented a first step in this direction. Further relevant external stakeholder organisations have been invited to signpost issues that they feel should be considered in an updated Code of Conduct. In a second stage, stakeholders will be encouraged to comment on an advanced draft of the document.

A revised version of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity is envisaged to be finalised in early 2017.

Job Vacancies

For the SAPEA proect
ALLEA is seeking a <u>Head</u>
of <u>Communications</u> and a
Scientific Policy Officer.

LEGAL INFORMATION

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General Assembly Documentation

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Member Academies

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