

## Antonio Loprieno becomes the new President of ALLEA, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities

*The President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences and former rector of the University of Basel takes over the Presidency of ALLEA for the term 2018-2021 during the General Assembly at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.*

*Sofia, 17 May 2018.* Professor Antonio Loprieno assumed the Presidency of the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, ALLEA (All European Academies), today at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. He takes office for the term 2018-2021 following his election in 2017 and succeeds Professor Günter Stock (2012-2018).

Antonio Loprieno, President of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences and former Rector of the University of Basel, was unanimously elected by the delegates of ALLEA Member Academies during the 18th General Assembly in Budapest on 4 September 2017. In today's meeting, the hand-over of the Presidency took place, as well as the election of the ALLEA Board for the term 2018-2020.

In his acceptance speech, Loprieno underlined the importance of academies as interdisciplinary and independent centres of scientific excellence serving the public above politics and national entities.

*"I look forward to working closely with academies across Europe to give science the prominence it deserves. In times of fiercely contested facts in the public debate, the role of academies is ever more indispensable as non-partisan institutions designed to help science and research flourish in our knowledge societies."*

Antonio Loprieno studied Egyptology, linguistics and Semitic studies at the University of Turin in Italy. In the 1980s, he taught at various European universities, including the University of Göttingen in Germany and the University of Perugia in Italy. From 1989 to 2000, he was Professor of Egyptology at the University of California Los Angeles. He served first as Professor at the University of Basel from 2000–2006 and then as Rector (2006-2015). Among other positions, he was President of the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS) from 2008–2015, and holds the Presidency of the Austrian Science Board (Österreichischer Wissenschaftsrat).

### From Trusting Science to Shaping Science Advice

The European academies' General Assembly included a two-day international scientific conference. This year's



discussions revolved around the challenges posed to science in its role as a trusted source of evidence and expertise, as well as new experiences and examples of science advice to policy-making across Europe.

On 16 May, during the symposium titled "Science in Times of Challenged Trust and Expertise", renowned scholars and an international audience discussed the underlying causes and consequences of the alleged loss of trust, as well as questions on how scientific evidence can and should be acquired and communicated across academic disciplines and traditions. On 17 May, scientists and policy-makers debated recent examples of science advice from academies to policy as part of the science-policy symposium Shaping European Science Advice: Insights and Experiences, organised by the European Academy Networks' project SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies).

### **Andrea Pető, 2018 All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize laureate**

The event also included the award ceremony of the All European Academies Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values. Professor Andrea Pető (Central European University) was awarded the 2018 prize for her wide-ranging scholarly work on gender studies and European contemporary history. The award was handed over by the European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Mariya Gabriel, during a festive ceremony at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The laureate delivered a lecture entitled "Parallel stories in European history".



*From left to right, Alberto Quadrio Curzio (President of the National Academy of Lincei), Mariya Gabriel (European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society), Luisa Passerini (European University Institute), Andrea Pető (2018 ALLEA Prize Laureate, Central European University), Günter Stock (President of ALLEA) and Julian Revalski (President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences).*

### **About ALLEA**

ALLEA, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, was founded in 1994 and currently brings together 59 Academies in more than 40 countries from the Council of Europe region. Member Academies operate as learned societies, think tanks and research performing organisations. They are self-governing communities of leaders of scholarly enquiry across all fields of the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. ALLEA therefore provides access to an unparalleled human resource of intellectual excellence, experience and expertise.

Learn more at: [www.allea.org](http://www.allea.org)

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