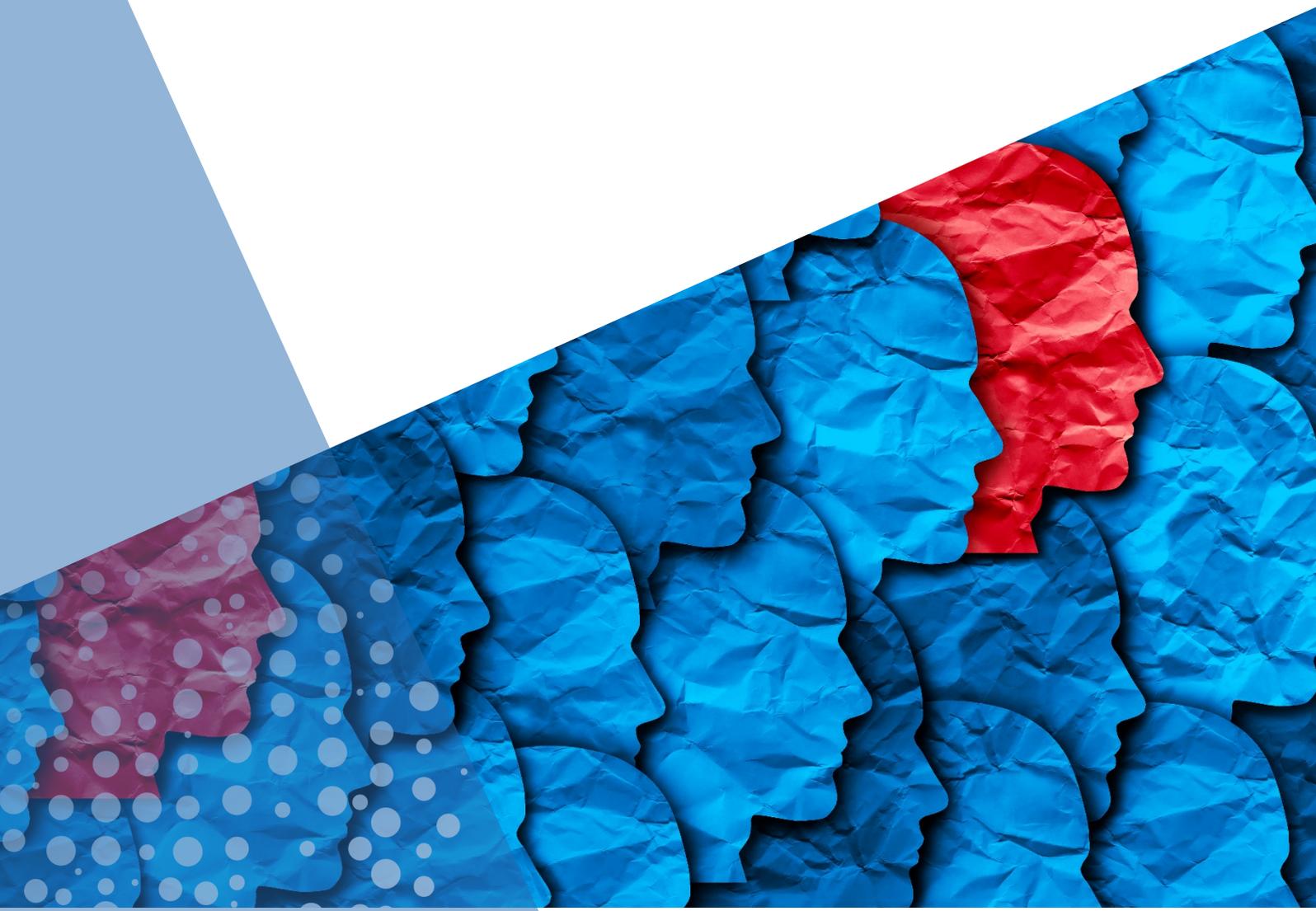




Activities Report

May 2020 – April 2021



Published in Berlin
April 2021

The text of this work is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution license which permits unrestricted use, provided the original author and source are credited.
The license is available at: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>.

Images are not covered by this license.

Cover picture by Shutterstock

Credits for pictures: Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (p. 5), Shutterstock (p. 19, p. 27, p.36), PERITIA (p. 22, p. 23), Johannes Timmermans (p. 35)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	FOREWORD	5
2.	STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE	7
2.1	IMPLEMENTING ALLEA'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	7
2.2	ALLEA BOARD AND NEW MEMBERS	8
2.2.1	ALLEA BOARD	8
2.2.2	NEW ALLEA MEMBERS	9
3.	RESEARCH POLICY	10
3.1	RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND RESEARCH ETHICS / TECHETHOS	10
3.2	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS	10
3.3	E-HUMANITIES	11
3.4	HORIZON EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA)	11
3.5	OPEN SCIENCE	13
4.	SCIENCE ADVICE FOR POLICY	14
4.1	SAPEA – SCIENCE ADVICE FOR POLICY BY EUROPEAN ACADEMIES	14
4.1.1	INTRODUCTION: TOWARDS HORIZON EUROPE FUNDING.....	14
4.1.2	PUBLISHED EVIDENCE REVIEW REPORTS AND IMPACT	14
4.1.3	UPCOMING EVIDENCE REVIEW REPORTS.....	15
4.1.4	SAPEA OUTREACH: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.....	15
4.1.5	SAPEA PODCAST 'SCIENCE FOR POLICY'	16
4.2	GENOME EDITING	17
4.2.1	INTERVIEW WITH DR OANA DIMA.....	17
4.3	HEALTH INEQUALITIES	20
4.4	INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF HEALTH DATA FOR RESEARCH	21
5.	SCIENCE AND SOCIETY	22
5.1	PERITIA – POLICY, EXPERTISE AND TRUST IN ACTION	22
5.1.1	PROJECT OUTLINE	22
5.1.2	ALLEA'S ROLE	24
5.1.3	RECENT ACTIVITIES	24
5.1.4	LATEST RESEARCH.....	26
5.1.5	UPCOMING EVENTS.....	26
5.2	FACT OR FAKE? TACKLING SCIENCE DISINFORMATION	27
5.2.1	PROJECT OUTLINE AND ACTIVITIES.....	27
5.2.2	INTERVIEW WITH PROF STEPHAN LEWANDOWSKY	27
5.3	SCIENCE EDUCATION	31
5.3.1	INTERVIEW WITH DR CLIONA MURPHY	32

5.4	FUTURE OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE	34
5.5	ALLEA BOOK SERIES – DISCOURSES ON INTELLECTUAL EUROPE.....	34
5.6	ALLEA MADAME DE STAËL PRIZE FOR CULTURAL VALUES	35
6.	COMMUNICATIONS.....	36

1. FOREWORD



Times of Science, Times of Resilience

Dear reader,

While our hopes for a post-pandemic world grow, we should be asking “what is next?”. Instead, we find ourselves asking “when is next?”. The uncertainty of the future and the volatility of rapid changes seem to have become the new norms of our times. Yet, if this pandemic year has put something to the test, it is the capacity of the scientific community to step up in a state of emergency. Our ability to pivot our thinking and practices to cope with adversity has gained in agility. Our networks have

become crucial to move science forward. Our collective hope and determination have prevailed. **Science has proven its bold resilience.**

During this past year, ALLEA Member Academies rapidly initiated a myriad of Covid-19 working groups, task forces, data repositories, science advice and communication initiatives, statements, and reports. Their voices have been heard and contributed to the policy responses and public debates of their countries and beyond. It has been an audacious year for all. I can only start this annual report by **congratulating the European academies** on their drive to tackle this pandemic.

In 2020-21, the value and inevitability of international research collaboration, the *raison d’être* of our federation, have once again been underscored. **Open access and data sharing have accelerated Covid-19 research** at unprecedented rates. It took barely a month to disclose the genome sequence of SARS-CoV-2; a task that took five months in the SARS outbreak of 2003. This achievement highlights the immediate benefits of making scientific outputs both immediately available to peers, and accessible and transparent to society at large. In this vein, the ALLEA Open Science Task Force has worked closely with other international organisations like UNESCO in recent months, communicating our position on open science, providing advice to key stakeholders, and fostering collaboration across sectors (page 13).

This last year cannot be understood without looking at the debate **surrounding science disinformation and understanding trust in evidence-based policies**. Through our projects [Fact or Fake](#), [PERITIA](#) and the upcoming conference [Future of Science Communication](#), we are bringing together the best research and experts on the continent to make sense of this infodemic crisis for science (page 22). How can we move towards an open and inclusive scientific system that beats disinformation? How can we (re)build our anchors of trust for science in society?

The responses to these questions may be manifold, but there is one thing we can do for certain: improve the architecture of our European science advice systems. We have been championing this matter for some years now with [SAPEA](#), which, **as part of the European Commission’s Scientific Advice Mechanism**, celebrates its fifth anniversary with preparations for an extension. Among its many accomplishments of 2020, the **Evidence Review Report on Sustainable Food Systems**, led by ALLEA, demonstrated that an ambitious science for policy strategy can benefit European policymakers and society. We worked with the FAO, the European Commission, third-sector actors (and even star chefs!) to make our evidence relevant to all (page 14).

The pandemic has not distracted us from ensuring that science can excel in Europe. We have continued our efforts to advise on the launch of **Horizon Europe**, and **the future of the European Research Area** (page 11). We welcomed the signature of the Bonn Declaration on Freedom of Scientific

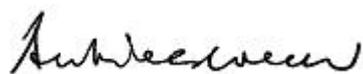
Research, while unfortunately continuing to observe recurring infringements in countries of our membership.

Members of academies, our Board and the ALLEA team are involved in **new international collaborative projects**, such as an initiative on sustainable agriculture and the Horizon 2020 funded *TechEthos* project on ethical frameworks for new technology have started in recent months (page 10). In addition, a new report on International Health Data Transfer in collaboration with FEAM and EASAC was successfully released (page 21).

We have also continued our close collaboration with **early-career researchers**, organising joint events with the Global Young Academy on research assessment and the future of peer review (the latter together with STM publishers), and welcoming the German *Die Junge Akademie* as ALLEA's first "young" Member Academy (page 9).

Finally, our 2021 General Assembly is approaching with an exciting programme and everyone is invited. Hosted by the Council of Finnish Academies, the public symposium "Across Boundaries in Sciences" will include a video address by the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel, and a keynote by the Finnish Minister of Science and Culture Annika Saarikko. I look forward to seeing you all on my screen and hopefully very soon in person. In the meantime, enjoy the reading, keep your spirits up, stay connected and stay safe!

Kind regards,



Antonio Loprieno

ALLEA President

2. STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

2.1 IMPLEMENTING ALLEA'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In 2019, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary and ALLEA's General Assembly, the delegates decided on the organisation's [strategic objectives](#) for the time until 2024. Despite being written in a pre-Covid-19 world, the strategic objectives of ALLEA have remained remarkably resilient and have in many ways even increased in importance.

ALLEA has since further aligned on-going activities with its overall strategy, and has started additional activities, many of which you will find described in dedicated sections on the following pages. In response to the Covid-19-crisis and related travel and meeting restrictions, through hybrid meeting formats, public webinars and other forms of digital interaction ALLEA has shifted parts of its activities into the digital world, thereby offering its academies and other interested organisations and individuals an increased and barrier-free level of participation and engagement.

The below list seeks to provide a small glimpse into examples of how ALLEA has implemented its strategic priorities through a broad range of activities over the past months.

Serving academies and facilitating cooperation

- Introduction of a dedicated [Covid-19 section](#) on its website collecting and presenting academies' work and resources to tackle the pandemic.
- Launch of tripartite project with EASAC and FEAM on [International Transfer of Health Data for Research](#).
- The [Fact or Fake project](#): led by scientific committee comprising experts from various Member Academies, following a call for nominations.

Improving framework conditions for science and research

- [Public statement](#) in response to Horizon Europe budget cuts.
- [Commentary by ALLEA's President](#) on the role of science in the Brexit negotiations.
- Contributions to the European Commission's [ERA stakeholder consultation](#).
- Formation of [Open Science Task Force](#), chaired by Board member Luke Drury and comprising members of various ALLEA working groups.

Providing independent scientific advice to policymakers and society

- Outreach activities on the SAPEA Evidence Review Report on [Sustainable food systems in the EU](#).
- [Science for Policy Podcast](#) created by ALLEA-led SAPEA Communications Office.
- A new set of [activities on genome editing](#) for crop improvement started jointly with Re-Imagine Europe.
- ALLEA report and [webinar](#) on Climate Change Education.

Facilitating good research practice

- [Webinar](#) "Research Assessments that Promote Scholarly Progress and Reinforce the Contract with Society" organised by ALLEA and Global Young Academy.
- [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) available in 24 languages.
- Joint project with Global Young Academy and STM publishers on [The Future of Peer-review](#).

Defending academic freedom and trustworthy science

- Through the [PERITIA project](#), ALLEA continues fostering trustworthy science, including this video on “[Why trust experts](#)”.
- ALLEA’s [Fact or Fake initiative](#) seeks to tackle science disinformation and pseudo-science.
- ALLEA was invited to contribute with informal feedback to the finalisation of the [Bonn declaration on freedom of scientific research](#).

Strengthening diversity and inclusivity

- ALLEA delegates admit [Die Junge Akademie as new member](#), which thereby became the first European young academy in ALLEA’s ranks.
- ALLEA released the book “[Women in European Academies – from Patronae Scientiarum to Path-Breakers](#)”.
- Global Young Academy Fellows join ALLEA working groups as Associate Members.

Thinking and acting globally

- Support of [International Year of Basic Sciences of Sustainable Development \(IYBSSD\)](#)
- Preparation of a large international conference on the [future of science communication](#) together with German partner Wissenschaft im Dialog
- Collaboration with International Science Council to prepare and disseminate a survey on the UNESCO Draft recommendations on Open Science.

2.2 ALLEA BOARD AND NEW MEMBERS

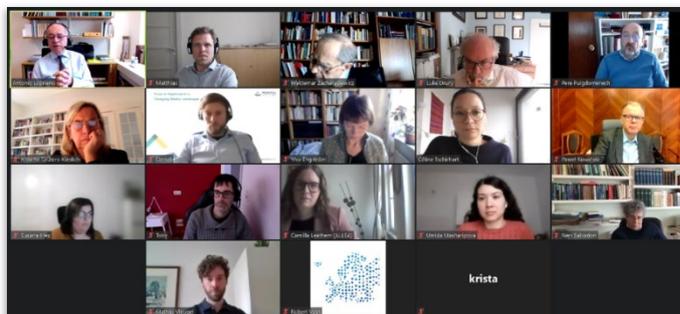
2.2.1 ALLEA Board

At the ALLEA General Assembly 2020, the delegates of ALLEA Member Academies elected a new Board to steer ALLEA’s activities in period 2020-2022.



- Antonio Loprieno, President of ALLEA, Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
- Luke Drury, Royal Irish Academy
- Ylva Engström, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- Annette Grüters-Kieslich, Leopoldina & Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities
- Maarten Prak, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Pere Puigdomènech, Institute of Catalan Studies & Royal Academy of Sciences and Arts of Barcelona
- Paweł Rowiński, Polish Academy of Sciences
- Neri Salvadori, National Academy of the Lincei
- Joanne Scott, British Academy
- Krista Varantola, Vice President of ALLEA, Council of Finnish Academies
- Waldemar Zacharasiewicz, Austrian Academy of Sciences.

The Covid-19 pandemic also affected the working mode of the ALLEA Board. While in the past, Board members could meet in person at the invitation of Member Academies, the Board now had to resort to holding more frequent but shorter online meetings.



ALLEA Board meeting, 17 March 2021

In six meetings between May 2020 and April 2021, the ALLEA Board addressed a plethora of topics, including the appointment of new working group liaisons from within its ranks, regular advice on the launch and projects of new ALLEA projects as well as endorsement of public ALLEA statements and documents prepared by working groups or scientific committees, the implementation of ALLEA's strategy through manifold activities (see above), the federation's budget in the years 2020-2021, ALLEA's role in the EU-funded projects [SAPEA](#), [PERITIA](#), and the recently started [TechEthos](#), initiatives aimed at safeguarding academic freedom, membership applications, among others.

Presidency and Board members represent ALLEA by championing, facilitating or supporting collaborations with ALLEA's working groups or partners on topics such as [Open Science](#), [peer review](#), the [EU's research budget](#), or the [debate around implications of the Brexit on scientific collaboration](#) between the EU and the UK.

Particular emphasis of the Board's 2021 activities was laid on the preparation of the ALLEA General Assembly 2021, including both the [public symposium](#) "Across Boundaries in Sciences", co-hosted virtually by the [Council of Finnish Academies](#), and the internal business meeting of ALLEA delegates.

2.2.2 New ALLEA Members

In 2020, ALLEA delegates welcomed two new members into ALLEA's membership, the Cyprus Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the German young academy, *Die Junge Akademie*. The latter marks the first young academy to join ALLEA as a full member and in line with ALLEA's strategic commitment to strengthen inclusivity and diversity within its membership and the wider academy landscape. In that vein, ALLEA has also invited [Global Young Academy](#) Fellows to contribute to ALLEA working groups as associate members.



Die Junge Akademie

[Learn more](#)



CYPRUS ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES, LETTERS
AND ARTS

[Learn more](#)

3. RESEARCH POLICY

3.1 RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND RESEARCH ETHICS / TECHETHOS

Similarly to everyone else, the Permanent Working Group Science & Ethics (PWGSE) had to adapt to the changed circumstances brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

A symposium on research assessment promoting scholarly progress while reinforcing the contract with society, organised together with the [Global Young Academy](#), was originally supposed to be held at the academy palace in Brussels, but instead took place as a [webinar](#) in November 2020.

The past year also saw the beginning of an update of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, which will be completed by the beginning of 2022. The Code has proven to be an often called upon document within the European research community and the group is working to include new themes which have emerged since the publication in 2017.

Due to the European Code of Conduct's prominent nature within the European discourse on research integrity, ALLEA is regularly invited to join European research grant applications. ALLEA joined a successful application as part of the *TechEthos* consortium. The project aims to develop ethical frameworks for technologies with high socio-economic impact.

Additionally, at their most recent meeting on 4 March the group agreed to produce contributions on the topics of ethical publishing as well as on the responsibility of researchers when advising the public. Both publications are expected to be produced within the next year.

At the end of 2020, the chairpersonship of the group was handed over to Dr Maura Hiney of the Royal Irish Academy who will take over from Professor Göran Hermerén, of the Royal Swedish Academy for Letters, History and Antiquities. Professor Hermerén has served the group as Chair for eight years and stepped down with the highest admiration and gratitude of the ALLEA Board and the ALLEA staff.

3.2 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Over the past months, ALLEA's Permanent Working Group Intellectual Property Rights (PWGIPR) has held digital meetings led by Chair Professor Alain Strowel.

As an agenda point, the group considered relevant issues to feed into ALLEA's contributions to the UNESCO draft recommendations on Open Science. As member of a dedicated transversal task force, the Chair regularly takes part in discussions on further Open Science related aspects on behalf of PWGIPR.

The main findings of the recent [ALLEA statement on IPR strategies at academic institutions](#) were presented and discussed with a legal experts group of the European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO), followed by further exchange on additional topics related to IPR in academia. The exchange showed that there is a considerable level of convergence between the focus of EARTO and ALLEA experts on the topic, e.g., in the areas of open science and IP.

ALLEA's PWGIPR deliberated over the European Commission's roadmap of the Intellectual Property Action Plan, the EU Regulation on Data Governance, as well as over the Digital Services Act, which are considered important pieces of legislation. The group will further monitor possible implications for the scientific landscape in Europe in its future meetings. Read more about the group's activities [here](#).

3.3 E-HUMANITIES

Through a dedicated working group, ALLEA contributes to the debates on open science, data sharing and scholarly publishing from a humanities and social sciences perspective. Read more about the [E-Humanities Working Group here](#).

Last year saw a change in the Chair and strategic direction of the E-Humanities Working Group. [Dr Natalie Harrower](#) of the Royal Irish Academy stepped down as the Chair in May 2020 but remains an active member of the working group and will serve as the group's delegate to ALLEA's Open Science Taskforce. She played a major role in disseminating the WG's report on [Sustainable and Fair Data Sharing in the Humanities](#) (published in February 2020), presenting the report at a series of events throughout 2020, including the [15th Munich Conference on Scholarly Publishing](#) and the [SHAPE-ID Workshop on Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage](#).

Dr Harrower is succeeded by [Dr Maciej Maryl](#), founding director of the Digital Humanities Centre at the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, elected by the working group in September 2020. The new Chair has elaborated a new work plan for the WG focusing on the issue of **novel genres of scholarly and science communication in the humanities**. The WG will examine emerging communication practices in the humanities and propose a set of recommendations for academies, policy makers and funders. Key focus areas will include users and impact, teaching and training, novel communication, and obstacles to scholarly communication.

As of January 2021, the WG has welcomed six new members to complement its new strategic direction:

- Marta Blaszczynska, Polish Academy of Sciences
- Dr Ilaria Bonincontri, The National Academy of the Lincei, Italy
- Dr Szilvia Maróthy, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Professor Jeffrey T. Schnapp, Harvard University, USA
- Dr Ulrike Wuttke, University of Applied Sciences Potsdam, Germany
- Drs. Joris van Zundert, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

As a next step, the WG will decide upon concrete outputs envisaged for the next years, and communication and engagement measures to strengthen the impact of its work.

3.4 HORIZON EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA)

Through a dedicated Horizon Europe Working Group, ALLEA regularly provides input both into developing the EU's framework programmes and into shaping the European Research Area. Read more about the group's activities [here](#).

In recent months, under the leadership of Chair John Bell from the British Academy, members of the WG and the ALLEA Board have been involved in the European Commission's consultations on the future of the European Research Area through participation in dedicated meetings of the ERAC (European Research Area Committee). In August 2020, a summary of [ALLEA's position on the ERA](#) was made publicly available.

Based on WG deliberations in recent meetings, ALLEA provided feedback in a consultation on Horizon Europe's [First Strategic Plan 2021-2024](#) in September 2020.

The WG assessed and analysed preliminary documentation on the European Commission's Horizon Europe draft work programmes and the findings of the 5th SSH monitoring report on projects funded under Horizon 2020.



Horizon Europe Working Group Meeting, 10 March 2021

In September 2020, members of the WG took part in the European Commission’s Research and Innovation Days 2020, and have since discussed and assessed topics key to ALLEA’s future strategic orientation including:

- The importance of creating synergies between EU research & innovation and education policies;
- The need for closer science-society relations by improving public and stakeholder engagement as a two-way process with novel and bold concepts;
- Better communication of scientific results to maintain or establish public trust in scientific processes and evidence-based policies;
- Efforts to raise the public profile and political ownership of the European Research Area;
- Promoting and improving researcher careers and mobility by creating ‘European researchers’ and ‘European careers’;
- Equality remains a crucial aspect in the discussion on the ERA, recently aggravated by the negative impact of Covid-19 on female researchers in particular;
- Efforts to widen participation need to be increased, with the ambition to foster both excellence and inclusivity;
- Brain-drain remains a huge challenge for many countries, and brain and knowledge circulation strategies are urgently needed;
- Truly interdisciplinary cooperation to be showcased by providing concrete examples of how disciplines work together successfully especially between younger researchers.



After championing the activities of the working group for many years, in 2021, John Bell (picture on the left) hands over the Chairpersonship of the working group to Kerstin Sahlin of the [Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences](#).

The outgoing Chair and the [British Academy](#) support staff were praised and thanked for their long-standing engagement and efforts on behalf of ALLEA. At the WG's most recent meeting in March 2021, the incoming Chair presented a first set of ideas on possible future directions for the group's activities, including ALLEA's position on major strategic issues of importance to accomplish the ERA.



3.5 OPEN SCIENCE

Not least driven by an increased need to quickly share data and research findings during the Covid-19 pandemic, open science continues its rise to the forefront of European research policy. This year – inter alia – saw the formation of [the European Open Science Cloud](#) as a legal entity, the creation of [Open Research Europe](#) - an open repository and peer-review platform co-developed by our partner organisation Global Young Academy, as well as the first draft UNESCO Recommendations on Open Science.

ALLEA has long been a proponent of enabling quick and efficient exchange of scientific findings while also providing as many people as possible with access to research outputs. Through its working groups, ALLEA has commented on several matters in the open science sphere, including on publishing, protection of intellectual property, as well as ethical aspects. To ensure that ALLEA's position on open science is harmonised across its working groups, the task force open science was established last year, consisting of members of ALLEA working groups and chaired by ALLEA Board member Professor Luke Drury.

The role of the task force is thus to provide a platform for exchange for the different viewpoints on open science within ALLEA as well as to provide a harmonised ALLEA position on open science to outside consultation.

As such, the task force has responded to the European Commission's invitation and was one of the first organisations to endorse the EC manifesto [Maximising the Accessibility of Covid-19 Results](#), which has since been signed by more than 2000 organisations across Europe.

Throughout the year, the task force closely monitored and responded to relevant stakeholder consultations on the [UNESCO Recommendations on Open Science](#). ALLEA provided feedback on the draft recommendations at the end of 2020 and worked together with the International Science Council to devise and disseminate a survey for the international research community gathering their feedback on the recommendations. The task force will continue to monitor the development and implications of the recommendations on open science and will, where needed, provide the consolidated view of ALLEA on the matter.

4. SCIENCE ADVICE FOR POLICY

4.1 SAPEA – SCIENCE ADVICE FOR POLICY BY EUROPEAN ACADEMIES

4.1.1 Introduction: Towards Horizon Europe Funding

The European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) provides independent and transparent scientific advice to the European Commission, working with a [European Commission Group of Chief Scientific Advisors](#) (the Advisors) and the European Academies ([SAPEA](#)).



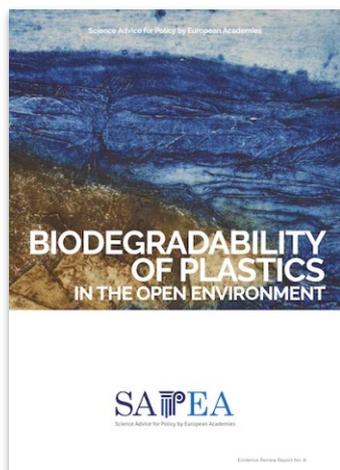
SAPEA comprises the five European Academy Networks: Academia Europaea (AE), ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE and FEAM – representing over 100 Academies in over 40 European countries, and spanning the disciplines of engineering, humanities, medicine, science, and social sciences. The SAPEA project is funded through a grant from the EU's Horizon 2020 framework programme.

As one of the five networks of academies taking part in the SAPEA Consortium, ALLEA provides scientific advice by involving experts nominated by its Member Academies, coordinating the production of evidence review reports, or organising expert workshops. ALLEA furthermore leads all of SAPEA communication activities.

Though the SAPEA project is now in its fifth and final year, SAPEA will continue its activities under the [Horizon Europe](#) framework programme. The Horizon Europe call for identified beneficiaries is currently being finalised, and SAPEA's application in preparation. Under Horizon Europe, SAPEA will add a sixth Academy Network to the consortium: YASAS (the Young Academies Science Advice Structure), a new association of young academies in Europe.

4.1.2 Published Evidence Review Reports and Impact

In April 2020, at the onset of the Europe-wide lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Evidence Review Report (ERR) [A Sustainable Food System for the EU](#) was published. This work was coordinated by ALLEA (see also [ALLEA's last activities report](#), p.14). For the first time during the SAPEA project, all outreach activities were carried out online. A successful [webinar series](#) was organised, co-hosted by high-profile partners (e.g. the UN's Committee on Food Security) and exploring different aspects of Europe's food system. Attendance at these webinars was very good, with an international audience from a wide range of backgrounds. The ERR and the Advisors' Scientific Opinion (SO) had policy impact not only by influencing the EC's Farm to Fork Strategy, but also by being quoted in a wide range of science policy reports or open letters from CSOs that are active in this area. Key findings from the SAPEA Evidence Review Report were presented at a [public hearing in the European Parliament](#) by working group member Marianne Penker.



In December 2020, SAPEA published a further Evidence Review Report, this time on [Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment](#). This topic was a request from European Commissioners Karmenu Vella (Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries) and Carlos Moedas (Research, Innovation and Science), to support the preparation of a framework that sets out harmonised rules on defining and labelling compostable and biodegradable plastics and identifying conditions where use of biodegradable plastics is beneficial based on life cycle assessments. The work was coordinated by AE. ALLEA supported AE mainly by forwarding Member Academies' nominations for this work. The SAPEA ERR informed the Advisors' recommendations in their [Scientific Opinion](#), which was also published in December 2020. Since publication, the two documents were presented and discussed at a conference of European research ministers. A series of webinars on the topic will also be co-hosted by European Academies. Key

messages from the report, in the form of [short video snippets](#) captured by working group members themselves, are used to disseminate the work on social media.

4.1.3 Upcoming Evidence Review Reports

An Evidence Review Report on [A Systemic Approach to the Energy Transition in Europe](#) will be published in summer 2021. This is a bottom-up topic developed and coordinated by Euro-CASE and informs a Scientific Opinion of the Advisors. The main question that will be addressed is: *How can the European Commission contribute to the preparation for, and acceleration and facilitation of the energy transition in Europe given the present state of knowledge on the possible transition pathways?* ALLEA supported Euro-CASE mainly by forwarding Member Academies' nominations for this work.

The Group of Chief Scientific Advisors, in collaboration with the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies ([EGE](#)), are planning to develop a Scientific Opinion with the working title '*Strategic crisis management in the EU: Improving EU crisis prevention, preparedness, response and resilience*'. They intend to deliver their advice by spring 2022. To inform their Opinion, they have asked SAPEA to produce an Evidence Review Report (ERR). ALLEA is acting as the lead network on the topic.

Finally, upon their own initiative, FEAM is leading on the bottom-up topic '*Transforming the future of cancer screening with new technologies*'. The topic has received significant interest, particularly from the Chair of the Cancer Mission Board at the EC. Discussions are currently ongoing between the Advisors, the College of Commissioners and FEAM, but it is likely the topic will start in the near future. The topic is also referred to in the recent [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) (p.15).

4.1.4 SAPEA Outreach: Public Engagement Activities

ALLEA leads all SAPEA communication activities.

The Covid-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the way nearly every organisation communicates; SAPEA is no exception and was relatively quick to adapt to the 'new normal'. Switching to an online format gave rise to some advantages and disadvantages compared to regular, in-person events. On the one hand, SAPEA noted significantly higher participation in SAPEA events, access to higher-profile speakers and organising partners, broader geographical reach, broader range of policy audiences, high degree of audience engagement, and longer shelf-life for events through good quality recordings. On the other hand, there were challenges in making the switch to online events, notably the temporary decrease of involvement of Academies in communications activities. This was partly

due to the strain put on Academies during the first big wave of the pandemic, as work was being shifted to homes, and of course the focus on Covid-related topics. In the future, online events are likely to remain a key part of SAPEA outreach, and SAPEA will work harder to engage academics as partners for online events.

Partly due to new communication strategies in Covid-times, SAPEA's online presence significantly grew over the past year. By mid-March 2021, SAPEA had more than 2100 followers on [Twitter](#), an increase of more than 80% over the past 12 months. Twitter has now become one of SAPEA's primary channels for communicating with a wide range of audiences and continuing to develop awareness of its existence and role among important stakeholders. Furthermore, since spring 2020, the Communications Office has begun to develop a small SAPEA presence on [LinkedIn](#), as for some topics a large part of the target audiences can best be reached using this professional social network. SAPEA also started its own [YouTube channel](#), which is mainly used to host video recording of events and SAPEA's new podcast (see 4.1.5.). There were around 4300 views of SAPEA content directly on the site by mid-March 2021. Finally, SAPEA has a regular monthly newsletter which has evolved into an important way to raise awareness of EU science advice activities among an audience of highly engaged subscribers.

Additionally, the following online events also took place over the course of last year:

- The webinar [Science advice: what works in a crisis?](#)
- Participation in the Berlin Science Week, with an online press conference for European journalists covering science communication, and a [YouTube live stream with Rolf Heuer](#), the then current Chair of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors
- A webinar to support the [outreach of the Advisors' Opinion on Climate Change and Health](#)
- A webinar co-organised by the Royal Irish Academy and FEAM on [Policy implications of Transforming the Future of Ageing](#).

4.1.5 SAPEA Podcast 'Science for Policy'

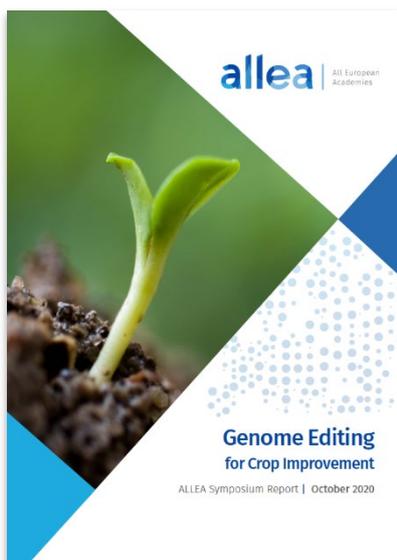
SAPEA launched a pilot [podcast](#) in September 2020 called 'Science for Policy', featuring informal interviews with prominent guests on subjects related to the intersection of science and policy. To our knowledge, this is the world's only active podcast (and therefore also the world's number one podcast!) that focuses on *science advice for policy*. One episode is published every fortnight. At the time of writing, SAPEA has published 17 episodes, with a theoretical maximum of 1307 subscribers from a range of countries. More listeners are added with each episode. In the future, more attention can be paid to featuring more guests from Central and Eastern European countries, featuring more guests from beyond Europe, and featuring more policymakers.

The screenshot shows the SAPEA website's podcast page. At the top, there are navigation links: ABOUT US, TOPICS, NEWS, EVENTS, PUBLICATIONS, and PODCAST. Below these are four subscription buttons: 'Subscribe on Apple Podcasts', 'Subscribe on Google Podcasts', 'Subscribe on Spotify', and 'Listen on YouTube'. The main content area features a featured episode with a video player thumbnail for 'Podcast on shadow science advice' featuring Professor Roger Pielke Jr. To the right, there is a 'Recent episodes' list with 17 entries, each including a plus sign icon and the guest's name and title. The list includes guests such as Roger Pielke Jr., Tracy Brown, Frederick Fendler and Stephan Kusler, Pieter Duijzenberg, Paul Nurse, Miriam Franklin, Florian Süssenguth, Dr Erin MacDonald, Professor Antonio Logriano, Professor Cathrine Holst, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Dr Cary Funk, and Dr Clarissa Rios Rojas.

4.2 GENOME EDITING

New technologies for agricultural breeding, such as the application of CRISPR-Cas9, provide exciting opportunities for researchers in the field, while also reopening a decades-old discussion on Europe's regulatory system regarding genetically modified crops.

In response to a ruling on the matter by the European Court of Justice in 2018, which placed genome-edited crops under the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) legislation, the scientific community has passionately debated the future of these new breeding techniques.



Together with the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Arts and Sciences, ALLEA held a symposium on *Genome Editing for Crop Improvement* in November 2019. A report of the symposium is available in [English](#) and [Dutch](#). One of the main takeaways was that there continues to be a need for interdisciplinary exchange to ensure that European GMO legislation is both in step with the advancements in science and considers broader societal themes around acceptance of technological innovation as well as legal and ethical norms.

To continue ALLEA's engagement in agricultural applications for genome editing, ALLEA joined a project by [Re-Imagine Europa](#) and together with [EU-SAGE](#) to form a Taskforce on [sustainable agriculture and innovation](#). The group, chaired by former Commissioner Carlos Moedas, seeks to develop a policy and narrative framework which would allow innovation to support sustainable and resilient agricultural practices in Europe.

The taskforce convened an [expert workshop on 16 and 17 February 2021](#) to discuss models, share narratives and priorities for sustainable agriculture, as well as discussions around appropriate regulatory frameworks. A report is forthcoming in late spring.

4.2.1 Interview with Dr Oana Dima: Five Questions About Genome Editing for Crop Improvement

Dr Oana Dima, one of the lead authors of the ALLEA Report "[Genome Editing for Crop Improvement](#)", responds to five key questions about the science behind new plant breeding techniques, from its applications to the impact of the current policy and legal impasse.

Question: The introduction of CRISPR-Cas in plant breeding is opening up new approaches for crop improvement. Where do you think it is most effectively employed?

Oana Dima: Europe harbours leading research centres, providing cutting-edge technologies to drive scientific innovation. In less than 10 years, we experienced a breakthrough in biotechnology with the development of genome editing by top researchers. Currently, genome editing with CRISPR-Cas is used by almost every biotechnology research group in the world in their daily research and the number of scientific reports published by research institutes is increasing exponentially. Earlier this month (October 2020) Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the development of the CRISPR-Cas method for genome editing. This illustrates how fundamental



research with a touch of creativity can lead to new, exciting applications to help society and our planet. The highest recognition is crucial for further development and application of genome editing not only in medicine but also in agriculture and food production, which must become more sustainable in a world facing an increasing world population, climate change, and environmental degradation.

Q.: How did the ruling of the Court of Justice of the EU of 2018, placing genome-edited plant breeding under the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Directive, impact on the scientific and technological development of these techniques in Europe?

O.D.: ALLEA (All European Academies) in collaboration with the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten, KVAB), organised a symposium about plant genome editing that took place in Brussels in November 2019.

The ALLEA-KVAB symposium followed up on the concerns and criticisms voiced by large parts of the scientific community in response to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) decision of 25 July 2018, interpreted by the European authorities that organisms produced by mutagenesis techniques, such as genome editing with CRISPR, should be considered as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) within the meaning of the GMO Directive 2001/18.

The scientific community has voiced concerns that substantially restricting the possibility of utilising genome editing by applying the GMO legislation will have considerable negative consequences for agriculture, society and the economy. More specifically, the development of beneficial crop varieties in a faster and much more directed way thanks to genome editing is halted in Europe, while the rest of the world embraces the technology.

In response to the ECJ judgment, the EU-SAGE (European Sustainable Agriculture through Genome Editing) network was launched. The network gathers scientists from 133 European research institutes and associations, 21 different Member States, the UK and Norway and aims to provide information about genome editing and to promote the development of European and EU Member state policies that enable the use of genome editing for sustainable agriculture and food production. Scientists representing the EU-SAGE network are convinced that Europe needs to support innovative plant breeding through genome editing and strongly argue that enabling genome editing in future policies should be based on the best possible scientific knowledge and experience.

Q.: Safety is a major concern of the public when it comes to agricultural food production, and subsequently the use of genome-editing. Where do we stand on the safety of genome-edited plants? How likely is that this evidence may change in the future?

O.D.: The ALLEA-KVAB symposium aimed at providing an overview of the scientific evidence with respect to safety of genome-edited crops and their possible potential to provide solutions to current and future agricultural problems.

The use of a particular technology should not determine whether or not a certain crop is safe, but the introduced characteristics should determine its safety. With the use of genome editing, plant breeding becomes much more knowledge based. Plant breeding thereby transitions from a sometimes blind or random approach to a much more targeted and precise approach. Genome editing reduces the amount of uncertainties, which contributes to safety. Genome-edited crops with DNA changes that can as well spontaneously occur in nature or result from other breeding methods are considered to be generally as safe as crops with the same DNA changes obtained through conventional methods. In my opinion, a genome-edited crop with a specific change in the DNA is as safe as a conventional crop containing the same DNA change.

From a scientific point of view, it is important to highlight that scientists aim to further improve the predictability of genome editing, although this can be wrongly interpreted and perceived by the public as unsafe. There is a limited chance that genome editing results in unintended DNA changes. However, scientists are continuously working on improvements of genome editing to raise the specificity of the technology to a very high level. Even in the case of an unintended DNA change as a result of genome editing, this change can be removed through crossing or selection, which is a standard practice in the plant breeding process for the improvement of any crop.



Q.: The report calls for an open, honest dialogue with all stakeholders, including the public, in the decision-making processes for introducing genome-edited products into the market. Do you have examples in mind of how the dialogue with public could take place?

O.D.: In regard to the ongoing discussion on genome editing, it is important to clarify what aspect of the technology is being discussed. When decisions are taken based on claims different from scientific evidence, then it should be clearly communicated for transparency reasons. For this purpose, it is important to disentangle the facts and the values, although it can be difficult. In order to change parts of the public's negative perceptions of food produced from genome-edited crops, it is necessary to increase the global understanding of the complexity of the food production systems. A large part of the public is generally not aware of the role of technological innovations in agriculture to contribute to economic and social wellbeing and that progress in agriculture will help us to better cope with climate adversities.

A romanticised vision of agriculture is present in many European countries as a result of a distorted understanding of the agricultural system. The agricultural system is a fundamentally man-made and artificial system, not a natural ecosystem and as such does not follow the laws of natural evolution but those of man-made selection. The agricultural environment changes much faster than a natural environment would and the cultivated varieties must continually adapt to new growth conditions and new threats. This makes it necessary to continuously select new varieties. To make consumers aware, it is important to communicate the role of technological innovations in agriculture through evocative narratives instead of explaining the technicalities and possibilities of the technology itself. For example, genome editing has the potential to protect regional food traditions and to favour diversification.

Q.: What is your vision for the future of this technology? Where will we be in a few years from a technological point of view, where could we realistically see its application, and how will the public discourse evolve?

O.D.: The recently published Green Deal of the European Commission stated, within the context of the ‘Farm to Fork’ strategy, that the EU needs to develop innovative ways to reduce dependency on pesticides and fertilizers and reverse biodiversity loss while at the same time provide society with sufficient, nutritious, sustainable and affordable food.

Setting the targets is not enough, we also need tools to help achieve these targets. All possible approaches, including innovative plant breeding technologies, are required to address these challenges and to achieve the ambitious goals of the Farm to Fork strategy. The most recent addition to the toolbox to develop new crop varieties is precision breeding with genome editing. This technology has far-reaching applications such as increasing the diversity of crops, the reduction of pesticides, the further development of healthy food, and many more.

The European Union is missing out on innovative plant breeding through genome editing because the lack of fit-for-purpose legislation and if left unchanged, it will have dramatic consequences for Europe. Crop improvement through genome editing has enormous potential to help achieve the SDGs of the United Nations and the Green Deal of the EU, to feed the world of tomorrow, and aid in overcoming the perils on food production of climate change and environmental degradation. We are at a breaking point in Europe, which will determine how we will be able to transform our agricultural systems to build a greener future.

4.3 HEALTH INEQUALITIES

As the current pandemic goes on, the meetings of this [tripartite project](#) of ALLEA, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and the Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM) have successfully transitioned into an online format.

The [second expert workshop](#), which was initially planned to be hosted by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina in Berlin, took place online on 2 December. Dedicated to exploring causality of socioeconomic inequalities in health, over 50 participants analysed and debated new approaches to assessing causality in an interdisciplinary dialogue. As such, novel findings in genetics suggest a stronger role of genetic predisposition in ‘confounding’ as opposed to the causal effect of the indicators such as socioeconomic position and physical and mental wellbeing. This and other related perspectives were introduced and discussed by leading European experts in the field, who were joined by their North American counterparts despite the early hour across the pond.

Whether and, if so, to what extent available empirical and analytical methods can help evaluate the impact of policies and interventions on socioeconomic inequalities in health was addressed in the concluding [third expert workshop](#) of the project held virtually on 2 March. This time, the attendees shifted their focus onto the methodological development based on the evidence from case studies of real-world evaluations of interventions to reduce health inequalities. In engaging rounds of discussions, experts sought to outline conceptual perspectives of the causes of health inequalities, e.g., material, psychosocial, behavioural, political economy and life course, and the theoretical insights from policy interventions.

Having executed all three workshops, the Scientific Committee, chaired by Professor Johan Mackenbach (member of KNAW), will now start its main work on compiling a final report, which will also assemble the outcomes of the expert workshops and cater to the wide network of stakeholders including scientific as well as policy communities.

4.4 INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF HEALTH DATA FOR RESEARCH

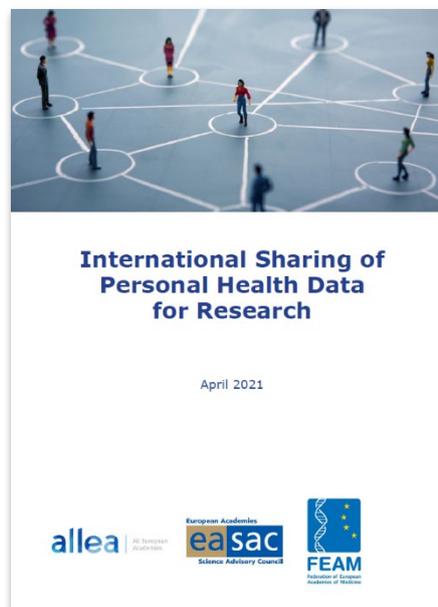
Together with [EASAC](#) and [FEAM](#), ALLEA has published a report that calls on EU policymakers and legislators for increased commitment to overcome barriers in sharing pseudonymised health data with researchers outside the EU and European Economic Area (EEA). The report “**International Sharing of Personal Health Data for Research**” was [published online](#) on 8 April 2021 and marks the first time a [tripartite collaboration](#) between the networks has produced a joint report.

EU/EEA citizens strongly benefit from international sharing of pseudonymised health data by allowing researchers to make best use of limited resources and to ensure that research conducted elsewhere is also relevant for patients in Europe. However, it has become apparent that implementation of the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has contributed to barriers in sharing health data with researchers outside the EU/EEA. In the report, the three networks call on EU policymakers and legislators for a commitment to overcome the barriers in sharing pseudonymised health data with researchers outside the EU/EEA, including the ones from the public sector, preferably under Article 46 of the GDPR.

The interdisciplinary Working Group, comprised by members from across Europe and co-chaired by George Griffin (UK) and Volker ter Meulen (Germany), convened twice by video conference. Additional evidence was gathered in a [virtual workshop](#) organized by FEAM. The resulting joint report was peer-reviewed by independent academy-nominated experts and shared for endorsement by all Member Academies of the three networks. The report has been disseminated to relevant scientists, journalists, and policymakers at the European level, as well as other relevant stakeholder organisations in the field. Other outreach activities, including an interview for the ALLEA digital salon and a webinar, are currently being prepared.

Key takeaways from the report:

- Health research is crucial for all: it benefits individual patients, population health, development of health-care systems, and social cohesion and stability.
- Sharing pseudonymised personal health data for public sector research is essential to make effective use of limited resources.
- Data must be shared safely and efficiently, taking account of privacy concerns: this is part of the conduct of responsible science and addressing these opportunities should be part of wider initiatives to build trust in research and researchers and to take account of patient views.
- Legal challenges have resulted in impediments to data sharing with researchers outside the EU/EEA, affecting both the direct transfer of data to non-EU/EEA countries and remote access to data at its original location.
- There must be increased commitment by the European Commission to urgently overcome these barriers in sharing data. Preferably, a simple and consistent operational solution would be found under Article 46 of the GDPR, whilst protecting the privacy of personal data from EU/EEA citizens.



5. SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

5.1 PERITIA – POLICY, EXPERTISE AND TRUST IN ACTION

5.1.1 Project Outline

[PERITIA \(Policy, Expertise and Trust\)](#) is an EU-funded project investigating public trust in expertise. In a world increasingly relying on knowledge, trust in trustworthy expertise is essential to achieve progress and well-being. We need experts to help policymakers and citizens take the correct decisions in important matters like public health or climate change.

As many in Europe and throughout the world, ALLEA is worried about a populist backlash against the notion of “expertise”. With the help of an international multi-disciplinary team, PERITIA seeks to help citizens and policymakers learn to trust trustworthy expertise. By doing so, the project aims to enhance trust in a better democratic governance for the future of Europe.

Initiated and coordinated by Professor Maria Baghramian (Royal Irish Academy; University College Dublin), PERITIA involves 11 partner institutions from 9 countries. It started in February 2020 and is projected to end after 3 years in February 2023. It brings together philosophers, social and natural scientists, policy experts, ethicists, psychologists, media specialists and civil society organisations to conduct a comprehensive multi-disciplinary investigation of trust in policy informed by expert opinion and scientific advice. The initiative is a follow-up of the [ALLEA Truth, Trust and Expertise Working Group](#) and the Irish research project [When Experts Disagree \(WEXD\)](#).

The multi-disciplinary investigation of trust in expert-based policy advice is carried out in three – theoretical, empirical, and ameliorative – phases with the goal of illuminating a topic that has been the subject of much political commentary and media debate in recent years. The project’s main goal is to test the role played by emotions and values in the process of placing or refusing trust in expertise and expert advice. It uses climate science and public health as empirical test cases and has a strong focus on public engagement in its concluding phase, featuring an essay competition for young people and citizen assemblies across five European countries.



Phase 1 Theoretical

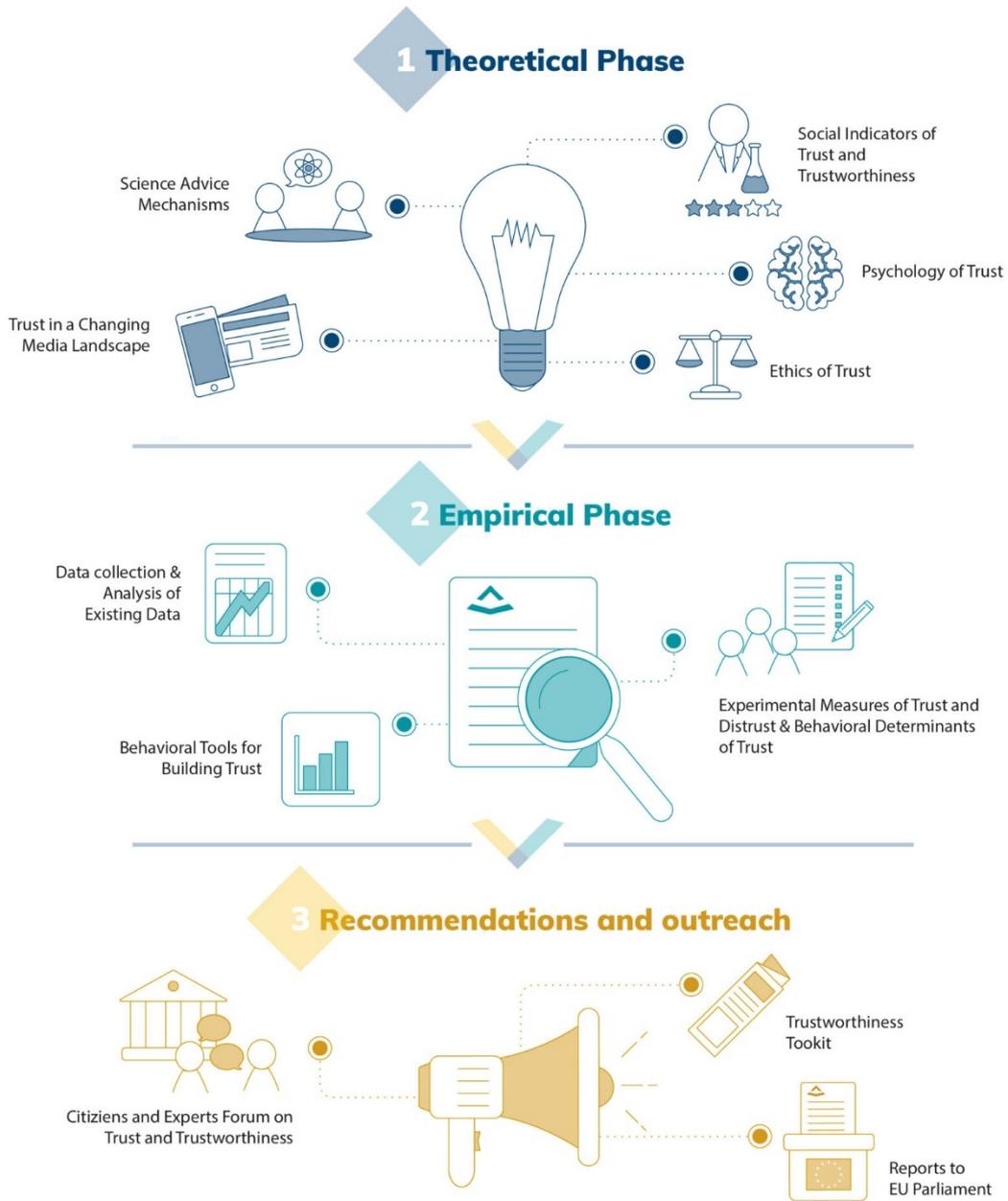
- Trust and the Conditions for Successful Policy Advice Mechanisms
- Trust in a Changing Media Landscape
- The Ethics of Trust
- Scientific Reputation and Trust
- The Psychology of Trust

Phase 2: Empirical

- Data Collection through Surveys and Analysis of Existing Data on Trust: Ireland, UK, Norway, Germany, Poland, Italy, France
- Experimental Measures of Trust
- Behavioural Determinants of Trust and Distrust

Phase 3: Recommendations and outreach

- Behavioural Tools for Building Trust
- Citizen Fora
- Essay Competition “European Youth on Trust”
- Policy Recommendations and Dialogue with Policy Makers



5.1.2 ALLEA's Role

ALLEA is a major partner in the project consortium with crucial contributions to make. Through a Scientific Policy Officer and a Communications and Media Relations Officer, ALLEA ensures the project's high quality, coherence, and effective communication. It does so by strengthening transnational, transdisciplinary and intergenerational exchange through internal and external communication, and public engagement, forming the project's Communications and Public Engagement Office (CPEO).

Among others, ALLEA's main activities include:

- a. Project Communication (website, podcasts, videos, social media, promotion material, publications, dissemination, etc.)
- b. Establishing and maintaining a successful visual and corporate identity
- c. Coordinating the work of the advisory Board
- d. Organisation of conferences, workshops, webinars
- e. Coordination and editing of publications (conference reports, policy briefs, white papers, journal articles etc)
- f. Outreach and Public Engagement activities (essay competition, citizen assemblies etc)

PERITIA aligns with several other ALLEA activities such as the project [“Fact or Fake? Tackling Science Disinformation”](#) supported by Compagnia di San Paolo, or the [SAPEA report “Making Sense of Science”](#). ALLEA therefore works closely together with its Member Academies throughout the project. For instance, the Polish Academy of Sciences is a consortium partner for the organisation of a citizen forum in the second half of 2022, and a major share of Advisory Board members and Work Package leaders are Fellows of ALLEA Member Academies. Public events held at Member Academies will further highlight their importance for European research collaboration.

5.1.3 Recent Activities

PERITIA is a pan-European initiative and active in various fields. The following is a broad overview of its main activities. A more detailed account can be obtained from the [project website](#).

Trust in Expertise in a Changing Media Landscape



On 18-19 March 2021, ALLEA collaborated with Prof José van Dijck (Utrecht University, former KNAW President and Member of the ALLEA Truth, Trust & Expertise Working Group) in organising the virtual

scientific conference [Trust in Expertise in a Changing Media Landscape](#). This multidisciplinary conference brought together outstanding researchers from all over the world to discuss how best to assess, establish and maintain the credibility and trustworthiness of expertise in a rapidly changing media environment. In more than 40 presentations based on pre-selected papers, scholars presented their latest findings and engaged in lively discussions on questions of trust and trustworthiness, expertise, science and technology, policy, and the media.

In addition to internal panel sessions exclusively for conference participants, the conference featured five keynotes and a roundtable discussion for the interested public. More than 300 attendees in total followed the keynotes by Dr Donya Alinejad (PERITIA), Prof Onora O’Neill (British Academy & Royal Society), Prof Christoph Neuberger (Free University Berlin, Weizenbaum Institute), Prof Natali Helberger (University of Amsterdam), and Prof Michael Latzer (University of Zurich), as well as a Roundtable Discussion including Prof Judith Simon (University of Hamburg), Prof Alison Powell (London School of Economics), Prof Jo Pierson (Free University Brussels), and Prof Stefan Larsson (Lund University). Recordings of the keynotes and roundtable discussion can be viewed on the [conference website](#).

Who to trust on Covid-19? & Creating a Climate of Trust

How can scientists and science communicators (re-)establish trust in trustworthy science in a changing media environment? In order to discuss this central question of its project, PERITIA hosted two webinars on 3 November 2020, as part of the [Berlin Science Week](#), and on 10 March 2021, as part of the [SCI:COM](#) conference. In two moderated panel discussions under the titles “Who to Trust on Covid-19?” and “Creating a Climate of Trust in Science”, PERITIA experts discussed the different strategies used to tackle Covid-19 and their impact on trust in science communication with an international audience. The recordings of both events are available on [PERITIA’s YouTube Channel](#). Speakers include project leader Prof Maria Baghramian (Royal Irish Academy), Prof José van Dijck (KNAW), Prof Bobby Duffy (King’s College London), and ALLEA Board Member Prof Luke Drury.

Why Trust Experts?

Experts are everywhere since the Covid-19 pandemic started, but why should we trust them? And why not? How does trust in experts work? How can we learn to trust trustworthy experts? ALLEA took the lead in answering these questions by producing the animated video [“Why Trust Experts?”](#). The video and its accompanying website invite everyone to reflect on the role of expertise in our daily lives. PERITIA’s aim is to explain why trust in expertise matters, how trust in science relates to trust in media, and why trust in trustworthy expertise is important for democracies.



Understanding Covid-19

The Covid-19 outbreak has become a real-time test for the role of experts in governance. Scientists and experts are in the spotlight with daily debates. Excellent, timely and independent science advice should be at the core of government actions to tackle this health emergency. Policymakers and experts are working together to make use of the best evidence and knowledge available. All this requires communicating scientific knowledge and uncertainty under extraordinary circumstances.

In this context, understanding trust in expertise becomes essential. PERITIA team members and partners are collaborating to help the public and policymakers with their knowledge and research. A [continuously updated page](#) has been created by the CPEO collecting their most relevant contributions.

5.1.4 Latest Research

Being a Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Action, PERITIA continuously produces cutting edge research on questions of Policy, Expertise, and Trust. Here is a collection of some major peer reviewed publications published during the last year:

- José van Dijck, Donya Alinejad (2020) [Social Media and Trust in Scientific Expertise: Debating the Covid-19 Pandemic in The Netherlands](#), *Social Media + Society*, 6:4.
- Maria Baghramian, Danielle Petherbridge & Rowland Stout (2020) [Vulnerability and Trust: Special Issue](#), *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, 28:5.
- Maria Baghramian & Michel Croce (forthcoming) [Experts, Public Policy and the Question of Trust](#). In: Michael Hannon & Jeroen De Ridder (eds.), [Routledge Handbook of Political Epistemology](#). London, UK: Routledge.
- Cathrine Holst & Hallvard Moe (2020) [Deliberative Systems Theory and Citizens' Use of Online Media: Testing a Critical Theory of Democracy on a High Achiever](#), *Political Studies*, 69:1, 129-146.

5.1.5 Upcoming Events

The online public lecture series '[\(Un\)-Truths: Trust in an Age of Disinformation](#)' is led by UCD/AUA and supported by ALLEA, hosting international speakers. The first 5 lectures will take place every two weeks from 6 April to 1 June 2021, starting with Prof Naomi Oreskes (Harvard) on "Trust in Science", and continuing with lectures from Prof Quassim Cassam (Warwick), Prof Micheal Lynch (Connecticut), Prof Heather Douglas (Michigan State), and Prof Dan Sperber (Institut Jean Nicod, Paris).

[Un]Truths
Trust in an Age of Disinformation

#PERITIAlectures
4 PM Dublin | 5 PM Berlin
via Zoom

Heather Douglas
Trustworthy Science
Advice 18 May

Michael Lynch
The Democratic
Value of Truth
4 May

Naomi Oreskes
Trust in Science
6 April

Quassim Cassam
Misunderstanding
Conspiracy Theories
20 April

Dan Sperber
Trust vs. Argument
1 June

5.2 FACT OR FAKE? TACKLING SCIENCE DISINFORMATION

5.2.1 Project Outline and Activities

In August 2020, ALLEA launched a new project called [“Fact or Fake”](#), aimed at providing new insights, recommendations, and tools for tackling science disinformation. It promotes exchange and networking among research, policy, science communication, and media communities on practices and approaches to identify, understand and ultimately counter science disinformation.

The project feeds on the work of a scientific committee composed of a multidisciplinary group of selected experts from various European Academies and Universities. Led by its Chair, Prof Dan Larhammar, President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the group met several times to prepare the central workshop on 25 September 2020. Featuring additional external experts on specific topics, the discussions at the workshop focussed on topics such as Knowledge Resistance, Trust, Sense-Making, (Automated) Fact Checking, Platformisation, Inoculation, Attention Economy, Science Communication, Vaccination/Covid-19, and (Climate) Science Denial.

The results of this workshop will be published presented in ALLEA’s Discussion Paper series. The Paper identifies and discusses the root causes leading to science-averse attitudes in European countries, particularly focusing on disinformation campaigns on Covid-19, climate change, and vaccinations. It addresses both the recipients and the creators of science disinformation, examining the problem through a multi-disciplinary lens. It develops strategies to address the loss of confidence and trust in scientific evidence and provides guidance to scientists, science communicators, and policymakers at the national and European level to navigate the issue of science disinformation in appropriate ways.

The project is supported by Compagnia di San Paolo and builds on ALLEA-related activities such as the [ALLEA Working Group Truth, Trust and Expertise](#), and the Horizon 2020 project [PERITIA](#). It has been represented by SC member Alison Powell (London School of Economics) at a Roundtable Discussion on [“Governing Trust in European Platform Societies”](#) at the [PERITIA conference Trust in Expertise in a Changing Media Landscape](#), organised by ALLEA and Utrecht University in March 2021 (see above). Additionally, Prof Dan Larhammar (Royal Swedish Academy) and Prof Jane Suiter (Royal Irish Academy), members of the Scientific Committee, will present and discuss the project’s results in a panel discussion at the [ALLEA General Assembly 2021](#).

5.2.2 “Inoculating people against being manipulated will be crucial” - Interview with Prof Stephan Lewandowsky



What are the main approaches to win the fight against misinformation? And how do the fact-checking methods applied by social media platforms affect the actual spread of conspiracy myths? Stephan Lewandowsky, professor of cognitive science at the University of Bristol and Member of the ALLEA scientific committee [Fact or Fake?](#), offers insights into current research on trust in science and why it is essential to foster deliberative communication formats.

Question: Prof Lewandowsky, conspiracy myths and misinformation are not really a new thing. However, they are currently making headlines again. Are we really experiencing a rise in misinformation during the pandemic?

S. L.: I don't know of an evidence-based answer to this question as I do not have data on the quantity of misinformation and conspiracy myths. What we do know is that people's trust in science and research has increased in response to the corona pandemic. On that we do have data from different European countries like Germany or the U.K. as well as the US. In Germany for example the science barometer by Wissenschaft im Dialog (Science in Dialogue) showed a dramatic increase in trust to over 70 per cent in April. That has been accompanied by a vastly smaller number of people who have gone the other way and have been swept up in the toxic brew of Covid denialism and anti-vaccination movements. I think these are the developments we have, based on the data.



We also see that the media is paying a lot of attention to conspiracy myths and misinformation and while it is important to do so, at the same time, by talking about it a lot, you are enhancing the prevalence of misinformation as well. So that is something to watch.

Q.: Why are pandemics a good breeding ground for conspiracy myths?

S. L.: Pandemics are always a trigger for conspiracy myths and that has been true throughout history. People are frightened, their sense of control over their lives is disrupted and whenever that happens, people are drawn towards conspiracies. Psychologically, people seek comfort in the assumption that evil people are responsible for bad things that are happening because there is potential for the world to be better. If you have an enemy that is responsible for bad things, you can pretend that things would be better if they were not there. Accepting that a virus is responsible is something that is out of control. That is frightening and that is why these times are breeding times for conspiracy myths.

Q.: In Germany we are currently seeing protests against measures the government has taken. In how far are they due to uncertainty when introducing measures, especially with regards to the introduction of masks?

S. L.: Most Germans actually think that the government is doing a good job with the measures. So once again we should not pay too much attention to the minority of protesters. Corresponding to that we see a decline in support for the AfD because they do not offer any solutions for the problems at hand. I think we have to be careful not to exaggerate the uncertainties that existed. Social distancing for example was never doubted as an effective measure against the pandemic and even though there was uncertainty about masks, a lot of scientific advice was actually quite consistent. Of course it would have been nice, if the science on masks had been available more quickly but I do not think uncertainty was a trigger for conspiracy myths in this case.

Q.: If trust is rising, why should we still care about fighting conspiracy myths?

S. L.: The mere exposure to conspiracy myths can potentially reduce people's trust in official institutions and is inducing people to become disengaged with politics. So the mere exposure has adverse consequences and that's not talking about the people who believe in them. Secondly, we have data showing that the people who believe in conspiracy myths are less likely to comply with social distancing measures. So there is an association between not doing what you are supposed to do and believing in conspiracy myths. We do not know if there is a causal relationship but we know there is an association. The final thing is that ultimately conspiracy theorists are more prone to violence than others and are more likely to endorse violence as a means to resolve conflicts. So there are a number of reasons why we should be concerned about them and why we need to tackle the problem at hand.

Q.: What are the main approaches to win the fight against misinformation?

S. L.: First of all we do know that it is better to inoculate people before they are exposed to conspiracy myths than to fight them after they are spread. Ideally what could have been done right in the beginning of the pandemic would have been to communicate up front not only what we know about the virus but also what might happen during the pandemic with regards to conspiracy myths developing. There is evidence that shows that telling people how they will be misled is actually beneficial to building up resistance. On a societal level the moment to do so has passed, but we can still do it with new disinformation that may come along.

The second thing is, that you can correct things and you can get through to people who are spreading conspiratorial narratives and it has been shown that not all people are completely resistant to correction. Sometimes the narratives are just used as a rhetorical device and for that group of people corrections can work and are a good device. For hard core conspiracy theorists where the myths have become part of their identity, that is not the case and talking them out of them is very difficult.

Q.: What can scientists themselves do to combat fake news?

S. L.: A lot. Scientists are among the most trusted people in most societies including Germany. If they communicate well and explain things online and offline, they can be an asset in the fight against misinformation. The same is true for physicians who are very influential and can play a large role. I think by now most scientists – especially younger ones – are very capable of communicating well and know how to use social media well.

Q.: Some of the social media platforms like Facebook or Twitter have started introducing fact checking. What is your opinion on those?

S. L.: I do not think there is a single magical silver bullet to the problem. We instead need to add up different measures and put them together to solve the issue. Labeling – if done correctly – can be very effective. What Twitter is doing is OKish but not good enough. What Facebook has done with Covid misinformation has been much better because they put an opaque banner on them that hid the headline so that you could not see it at first glance. That is much more effective than the little button twitter put underneath the information. To be effective you have to introduce friction that prevents access to the information that is critical. Not totally of course because that is censorship, but sufficiently so that it causes friction. The Facebook manipulation cut sharing of misinformation by 95 per cent which is very good and that shows that labeling can work, if it is done right.

But even before you get there what really needs to be done and needs to be discussed are the algorithms of the platform. Nothing you see on Facebook or Twitter is there accidentally but is put there by the algorithms. Those algorithms are often guiding users to extremist content and even though the platforms knew that they did not do anything against it because they were afraid that it would cut into their revenue. We therefore have to take a close look at the information diet that is created to us and we have to make them accountable for their activities. This is not about censorship but about mandating information and about holding platforms accountable. Algorithms should not draw attention to outrage and myths and that is something we have to tackle and deal with.

Q.: How likely do you think it is that this will happen sooner than later?

S. L.: In the United States we are probably not going to get there any time soon. In Europe chances are much higher. The European Union will be taking action and I have written an in depth report for them and hopefully they will use some of those ideas when it comes to introducing regulations.

Q.: What would a good online discourse look like?

S. L.: Dialogue can be successful and positive in formats that focus on deliberation, on sharing data and on moderated debates in which people can participate. That is something we are not finding online at the moment but we know it works from deliberative assemblies like those in Ireland which debated topics like abortion and gay marriage. Topics with the potential to tear a country apart but that did not happen because they were led successfully. There is evidence that this can work online as well if you design spaces in which this can work. The moment you create those spaces and make them work you move away from the terribly polluted spaces that we are currently having.

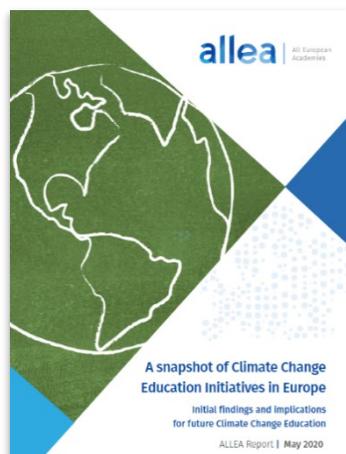
Q.: One topic people are currently worried about is vaccinations and trust in vaccines. Are you worried that this will be a huge breeding ground for conspiracy myths?

S. L.: It depends on the country you are talking about. I am worried about the situation in the U.K. because the government has not exactly a good track record in managing the pandemic and thus it is very likely to be problematic. In Germany I think it is much more likely to work well. Countries like Germany, New Zealand or Australia with well-functioning governments acting in the interest of the people will be able to deal with the situation well. What is crucial is to make the vaccine easily available and to make uptake easy. I don't think we will be facing insurmountable problems especially if you make it mandatory to be vaccinated to be able to take part in certain activities we will be fine. Once again, inoculating people against being manipulated will be crucial and we should be planning those campaigns right about now.

Stephan Lewandowsky is professor of Cognitive Science at the University of Bristol. His research examines people's memory, decision making, and knowledge structures, with a particular emphasis on how people update their memories if information they believed turns out to be false. This has led him to examine the persistence of misinformation and spread of "fake news" in society, including conspiracy theories.

This interview was first published on [wissenschaftskommunikation.de](https://www.wissenschaftskommunikation.de) and ALLEA's [Digital Salon](#).

5.3 SCIENCE EDUCATION



The ALLEA Science Education Working Group is committed to supporting the further progression of science education throughout Europe to ensure students develop the necessary knowledge, skills and motivation to participate as active citizens and to pursue careers in science. Since June 2019, the group is chaired by Dr Cliona Murphy of the Royal Irish Academy. Recent activities of the WG have focused on the topic Climate Change Education. [Read more about the Working Group here.](#)

In 2020, the Working Group published the initial results of the survey on climate education initiatives in Europe. The aim of this survey was to gain an in-depth overview of existing climate education initiatives currently being implemented across Europe. You can find the report [here.](#)

The resulting data were analysed to identify common trends, gaps, and strengths and weaknesses in relation to the content and pedagogical approaches to climate education in formal and non-formal education settings throughout Europe. The results of this analysis will be used to develop evidence-based recommendations for policy and practice for progressing climate education in Europe.

Working Group Chair Cliona Murphy presented the findings from the report at the [UN Climate Change Conference](#) (COP 25) in Madrid to an international expert audience. ALLEA and the Royal Irish Academy organised a [public webinar](#) in November entitled “Can Climate Change Education save the planet? European perspectives” to address the role and importance of climate change education within both the European and the Irish context. ALLEA speakers Cliona Murphy and Paweł Rowiński (ALLEA Board liaison) were joined by the acting Head of the Climate and Planetary Boundaries Unit in Directorate “Healthy Planet” of the European Commission Philippe Tulkens, and by the experts Pierre Léna, Emeritus Professor at the Université Paris-Diderot, Agata Gozdzik, Head of the Science Communication and Education Unit (Polish Academy of Sciences), and Michael John O’Mahony, Director of Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland.

Following on from the publication of the Climate Change Education Report, ALLEA was invited to join an international consortium that applied for funding under the Horizon 2020 Green Deal call. The aim of this project is to develop, test and embed a multidisciplinary competency framework for climate action that is based on current scientific knowledge a science education research to formal education systems throughout Europe. Members of the Science Education Working Group and ALLEA executive staff played a significant role in the writing this proposal.

Further activities of the working group, alongside regular on-line meetings, included an [expert workshop](#) in January on Current challenges for international large-scale studies of achievement (ILSA), chaired by WG Member Maksym Halchenko of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine. The meeting addressed the role of ILSAs as well as current and emerging challenges related to these studies. A dedicated introduction to PISA (Programme for International Assessment) was presented and participants discussed examples of assessment discrepancies when applied to heterogenous countries where school systems are very different. This webinar was recorded and is [now available to the wider public on the ALLEA website.](#)

5.3.1 Interview with Dr Cliona Murphy: Why should mitigation, adaptation and climate justice be at the heart of education?

ALLEA recently published a new report: “*A snapshot of Climate Change Education Initiatives in Europe: Initial findings and implications for future Climate Change Education*”. The document has been prepared by ALLEA’s Science Education Working Group and contains recommendations based on an on-line survey of existing initiatives complemented by educational research literature and the expertise of the scholars who conducted this work. We speak with Cliona Murphy, the chair of the working group who wrote the report. The preliminary findings were recently presented at the United Nations Climate Change conference COP25 in Madrid.

How did it come about that you started investigating existing climate change education initiatives across Europe?

Cliona Murphy: The climate crisis increases and demands urgent actions. At the same time, the Paris agreement from 2015 imposes obligations towards climate change education on the member states of the European Union. These two aspects sparked discussions amongst the Science Education Working Group about educational resources that are available in different European countries to support teaching and learning about climate change.



From our discussions it became apparent that while there appeared to be many climate change education resources and initiatives being throughout Europe, there wasn’t any available source detailing these initiatives; their overall aims, content, focus and pedagogical approaches etc. We believed that research that would collect information about the different initiatives would be useful in identifying high quality resources that could be disseminated throughout Europe. We also thought that this work might identify gaps in the resources and initiatives and that these gaps could be addressed in the development of future climate change education resources. That’s how we decided to develop and carry out the survey.

The ALLEA report states that Climate Change Education should focus more on mitigation, adaptation, and climate justice. Could you explain why those three elements should have a more prominent place in education, and how this could be implemented?

C. M.: Yes. In the survey we found that a very high percentage of the initiatives focussed on the causes of climate change and the science behind climate change, which of course are essential in understanding climate change. However, we noticed that considerably lower percentages of the initiatives focussed on mitigation and adaptation, which are instrumental if we are to overcome the challenges posed by the climate crisis. Knowledge about climate change is of course essential, but not sufficient in addressing climate change challenges if it is not coupled with knowledge of how to mitigate and adapt to these challenges.

In terms of ‘climate justice’, it is really important that our young people understand that mitigation is not only crucial for future generations but is also essential for current disadvantaged populations on whom climate change is having the biggest impact. Thus we questioned, for example, in the context of mitigation in developed countries, to what extent young people are being supported in their understanding about the role society today has to play in acting not only on their own interests but in the interest of others.

Knowledge about climate change is of course essential, but not sufficient in addressing climate change challenges if it is not coupled with knowledge of how to mitigate and adapt to these challenges.

That being said, we need to be very careful when teaching our young people about climate change that we don't make them anxious and create a feeling of helplessness. It is important that climate change education resources and programmes adopt solution-oriented approaches that focus on collective actions as a means to decrease eco-anxiety while fostering a sense of agency amongst our young people.

What are the ALLEA Science Education Working Group's plans for the future? Will this topic be further investigated or are you moving on to new subjects?

C. M.: The working group are very passionate about climate change education and very much see this scoping-survey as a first step in progressing climate change education throughout Europe. Our goal is to support effective teaching and learning about climate change that would result in our young people throughout Europe developing the requisite: content knowledge; scientific, critical thinking and problem-solving skills; and, attitudes towards mitigating climate change.

Our survey provides a snapshot, an initial insight, into some of the initiatives currently being rolled out in Europe. However, it's only a first step. A more representative large-scale survey of climate change education initiatives is warranted to obtain a more thorough account of these initiatives. As a next step, we would like to conduct a larger scale more representative European survey to identify commonalities, gaps, and best practices in climate change education. The findings from this larger-scale survey could ultimately lead to the development of a set of criteria or a framework that would inform the development of future initiatives.

Our goal is to support effective teaching and learning about climate change that would result in our young people throughout Europe developing the requisite: content knowledge; scientific, critical thinking and problem-solving skills; and, attitudes towards mitigating climate change.

Our survey revealed that while there appears to be a good range of education resources for teachers, in comparison there appears to be fewer professional development courses to support teachers in effectively teaching about climate change. As teachers have a vital role in climate change education, they need to be supported so they develop the confidence and competence to effectively teach about climate change. To this extent the working group would like to ensure that high-quality professional development programmes are developed and made widely available for teachers.

As a third step it would make sense to gather research that would assess; the quality of climate change education professional programmes; the extent to which teachers are implementing professional development methodologies in their classrooms; and, most importantly the impact on their students' understanding of and attitudes towards climate change.

The working group is also interested in a number of other areas in science education, but is currently focusing on issues around Education for Sustainable Development, International Large-Scale Studies of Achievement, STEM / STEAM Education, and Nature of Science Pedagogy.

5.4 FUTURE OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE

In line with ALLEA’s missions to promote public trust in science and scientific reasoning in public discourse, encourage debates in relation to truth, trust and expertise, and to actively counter science misinformation where necessary, ALLEA is organising the European conference “[Future of Science Communication - Research and Practice](#)” on 24-25 June 2021 in Berlin, in collaboration with Wissenschaft im Dialog, the organisation for science communication in Germany.



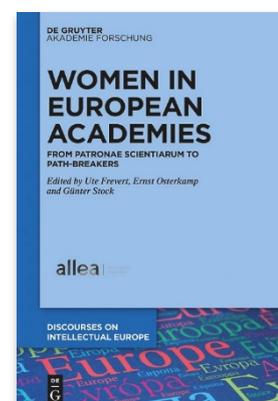
Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research within the scope of Germany’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the two-day conference has the aim of bringing together actors from research and practice of science communication. Its goal is to sensitise the various stakeholders from science, science communication and politics to the respective challenges and to provide an impetus for stronger networking and transfer between the ‘science of science communication’ and European practitioner communities.

The conference team is equally made up of ALLEA and WiD employees and was formed at the end of 2020. Prior to the final team composition, WiD had already secured funding through their own organisation and the Ministry, with a rather extensive project proposal. This included a variety of topics which were narrowed down to the following six: trust in science, crisis communications, politics & science, open science, target groups, and science & society.

The quantitative goals for the project include around 150 attendees, an advisory Board of around 10 members, a live stream of the main curated programme and the publication of a final report after the completion of the conference. The conference participants will be composed of actors from European research and practice of science communication, as is the advisory council, speakers, panellists, and those hosting other sessions. The curated programme is designed to include three keynotes, six panels, six workshops, a poster session, a matching session, and additional events such as an evening programme.

5.5 ALLEA BOOK SERIES – DISCOURSES ON INTELLECTUAL EUROPE

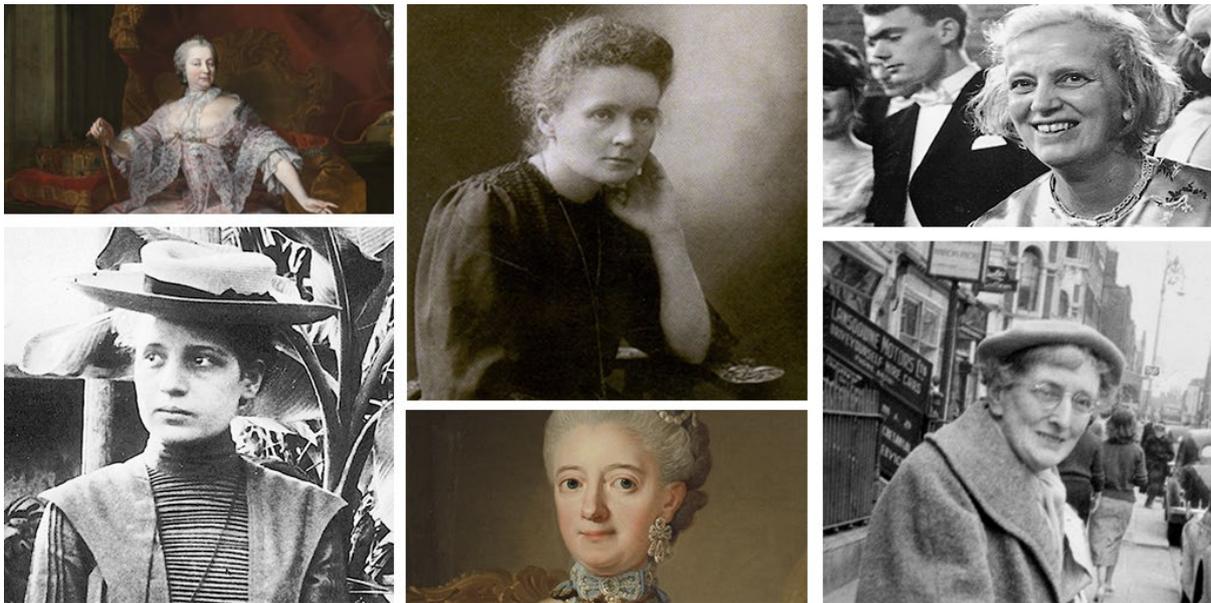
ALLEA completed a new chapter of its book series ‘Discourses on Intellectual Europe’. The third volume [Women in European Academies: From Patronae Scientiarum to Pathbreakers](#) was released in December 2020. The volume examines the lives and achievements of women who played determining roles in the history of European academies and in the development of modern science in Europe. These persevering personalities either had a key influence in the establishment of academies (“Patronae Scientiarum”) or were pioneering scientists who made major contributions to the progress of science (“path-breakers”). In both cases, their stories provide unique testimonies on the scientific institutions of their time and the systemic barriers female scientists were facing.



The co-editors of the volume are Professor Ute Frevert (Co-Director at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development), Professor Ernst Osterkamp (President of the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung) and Professor Günter Stock (former ALLEA President). In the foreword, they underline the myths that this book challenges:

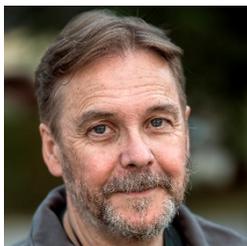
“One might easily get the impression (...) that behind the scientific and scholarly achievements of the exclusively male members of these academies – membership was the sole preserve of men for several centuries – there was in all these cases a *patrona scientiarum*: the hand of a woman, conceptually guiding the membership and their research programmes from on high. Yet are these not, in reality, mere founding myths formulated on the basis of the interests and wishes of our own time, and assigning to these queens and empresses a substantially greater interest in the academies and a higher share in their scientific programme than they ever in fact delivered?”

The contributions are written in the native language of the authors and translated to English where necessary. The book is the third volume of the [ALLEA book series Discourses on Intellectual Europe](#), which includes two additional volumes: “The Boundaries of Europe” and “The Role of Music in European Integration”, both in open access. The book was an endeavour supported by Member Academies who nominated authors from across Europe.



5.6 ALLEA MADAME DE STAËL PRIZE FOR CULTURAL VALUES

A dedicated [online event](#) featured Joep Leerssen, the 2020 laureate of the Madame de Staël Prize for Cultural Values, and his remarkable research on cultural history and European nationalism. The webinar titled “*It’s complicated...*” *Europe facing cultural memories and nationalist sentiments* took place on 5 November 2020, and was one of the highlights of the 2020 [Berlin Science Week](#).



In a dialogue with Laura Hood of The Conversation UK, Leerssen took his audience on an intellectual journey drawing parallels between political romanticism and national identities as consumer spectacle. The attendees, who had the chance to join the online event from anywhere in the world and from the comfort of their homes, engaged in a lively discussion on how “feelgood nationalism” was still an important part of the modern consumer culture and in how far the emerging populist agendas were to be identified as the legacy of the romantic nationalism in Europe.

The webinar was recorded and can be accessed [here](#).

6. COMMUNICATIONS

The ongoing public health crisis has changed how organisations interact with their communities, especially online. Accordingly, since the beginning of the pandemic, ALLEA was required to rapidly adapt its overall communications strategy to these new circumstances. Three main priorities were identified: (1) ensuring a smooth transition towards digital meetings and exchanges within the Secretariat, working groups, projects, and membership, (2) intensifying our online presence and outreach to external audiences, and (3) refocusing our messaging in line with the emerging debates surrounding the unprecedented pandemic.

As a result, physical events were cancelled and redesigned into digital formats. Online exchanges with partners and members were facilitated to foster collaboration under the new circumstances. Publications releases were rescheduled to timely target stakeholders given the changing media and policy cycles. Social media messaging was adjusted in tone and content to the new conversations and questions the pandemic posed, connecting ALLEA's values, projects and work with the ongoing health policy and science developments. Getting a pulse on its audiences' interests and minimizing the hurdles of physical distance became crucial to ALLEA's communications work.



Among the various actions, it is worth underling a dedicated [Covid-19 webpage](#) which presented the pandemic-related projects, work, and actions of ALLEA Member Academies. ALLEA's projects also turned their attention towards the pandemic challenges which led to several events and blog posts related to the health crisis on food, trust in expertise and disinformation.

Despite the disruption of the pandemic, the digital turn has helped ALLEA to enlarge its online audience and reach out to a more diversified range of stakeholders that otherwise would have been more difficult to identify.

Publications

ALLEA regularly publishes statements, reports and workshop summaries within its working groups, scientific committees, and projects. These publications are a central feature of ALLEA's strategy to deliver science advice to policymakers and society in general, and to help the scientific community with best practices and guidelines for improving its research performance.

Collaboration with its Member Academies and partners to contribute to other publications is another priority of ALLEA. Its flagship EU-funded projects have provided relevant academic and policy-

oriented literature. For instance, PERITIA delivers peer-reviewed research published on journals as articles and special issues while SAPEA presents Evidence Review Reports to the European Commission.

Since May 2020, ALLEA published a total of 4 publications: [Genome Editing for Crop Improvement](#), [Women in European Academies](#), [International Health Data Transfer](#), and a summary report of the workshop series “[The future of peer review in scholarly communications](#)”. SAPEA released the Evidence Review Report “[Biodegradability of plastics in the open environment](#)” and PERITIA published five major academic contributions, including the special issue “Vulnerability and Trust”, edited by Maria Baghramian, Danielle Petherbridge, Rowland Stout.

In addition, two publications of its Member Academies covered ALLEA-led conferences. The Polish Academy of Sciences published the book “[Europe on test: the onus of the past](#)” (2020) based on the contributions of the 2019 event held in Warsaw. The Academy of Sciences of Turin released “The Role of Academies in Sustaining European Knowledge Societies in Times of Crisis” (2020), edited by Massimo Mori and compiling the speeches of the conference held in Turin the year before.



Social media

Twitter is the main social media channel used by ALLEA to present its positions, publications, and events, and interact with stakeholders on relevant policy debates. Over the past year, the ALLEA account summed 2,754 followers until March 2021, a 22 % increase from April 2020. ALLEA has also launched a new social media profile on [LinkedIn](#) with the goal to widen its professional networking and to connect its activities to close partners. In addition, ALLEA is supporting the building of a network of academy communications professionals led by SAPEA.



Events

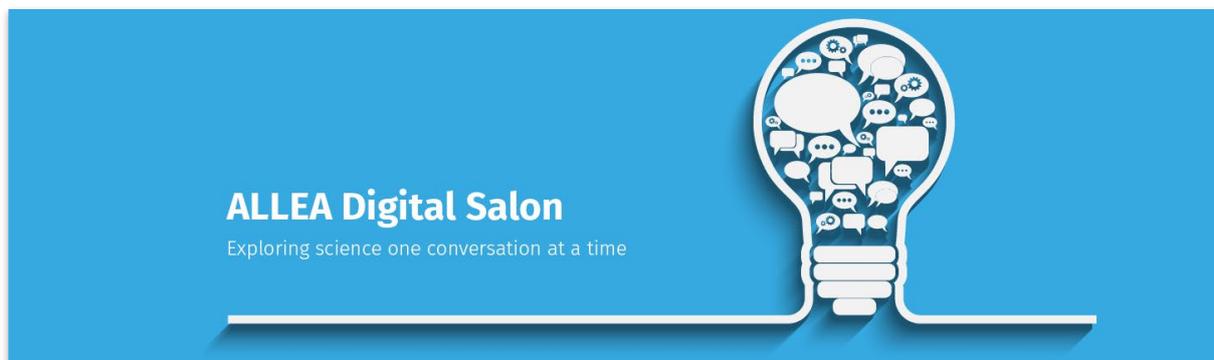
ALLEA followed the trend of organising online events and joined with several events through its various projects and working groups. As reported on the SAPEA and PERITIA sections, several webinars were organised on trust in science, food sustainability system and Covid-19. In addition, ALLEA organised or co-organised the following online events:

- [Can Climate Change Education save the planet? European perspectives](#) (with RIA)
- [The Future of Peer Review](#) (with GYA and STM)
- [Expert Workshop: ‘Evaluating Policies and Interventions to Reduce Health Inequalities: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue’](#) (with FEAM, KNAW and ACCMMED)
- [Workshop: Current Challenges for International Large-Scale Studies of Achievement](#)
- [Disinformation and the manipulation of reality](#) (with Re-Imagine Europa)
- [Causality and socioeconomic inequalities in health: an interdisciplinary dialogue – Expert Workshop](#) (with KNAW, FEAM and Leopoldina)
- [Research assessments that promote scholarly progress and reinforce the contract with society](#) (with GYA)
- [“It’s complicated...” Europe facing cultural memories and nationalist sentiments](#)

Newsletter

Another important medium for ALLEA communications is its newsletter, which regularly reports on ALLEA’s ongoing activities digitally to near to 900 subscribers, an increase of 8 % from April 2020. Since the last General Assembly, a total of five issues have been released covering a wide range of activities.

- [Issue #27: February 2021 | Scientific Conference: ‘Trust In Expertise In A Changing Media Landscape’](#)
- [Issue #26: December 2020 | New ALLEA Book “Women in European Academies”](#)
- [Issue #25: October 2020 | Academies’ report reviews evidence on genome editing for crop improvement](#)
- [Issue #24: September 2020 | Fact or Fake? Tackling Science Disinformation](#)
- [Issue #23: June 2020 | ALLEA welcomes new member academies](#)



Website and Digital Salon

ALLEA’s website was relaunched in 2019 and developed through 2020 and 2021 to showcase ALLEA’s main activities and to communicate its milestones and messages to its members, the research community, policymakers, and the interested public. Since its launch, the website accumulated a total of 178,608 views, an increase of 88 % since April 2019.

As part of its communications goal to reach new audiences, ALLEA launched in 2020 the ALLEA Digital Salon, a blog compiling original interviews, analyses, and commentary about the areas of its work: Research Policy, Science Advice, and Science & Society. Since its beginning, this new format allowed to provide new contents to its newsletter and social media and is being used as a non-scientific medium to popularize scientific findings and debates within ALLEA's activities.



Contact Us

ALLEA

JÄGERSTR. 22/23
10117 BERLIN
GERMANY

+49-30-3259873-72

SECRETARIAT@ALLEA.ORG

WWW.ALLEA.ORG

[@ALLEA_ACADEMIES](https://www.instagram.com/ALLEA_ACADEMIES)

