



allea | All European
Academies

Activities Report

June 2023 – May 2024



Published in Berlin
May 2024

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.

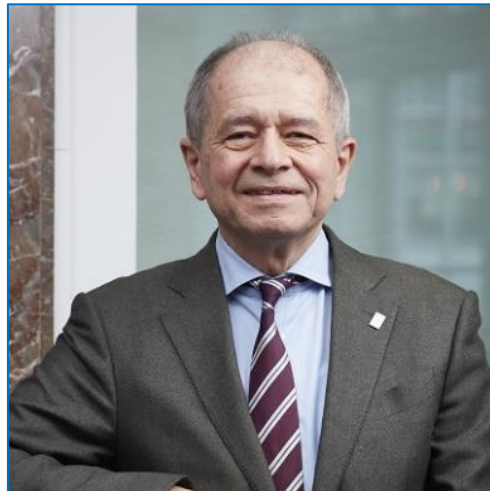
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Foreword	4
2.	Strategy and Governance	6
2.1	ALLEA GENERAL ASSEMBLY	6
2.2	THE ALLEA BOARD AND PRESIDENCY.....	8
2.3	THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES.....	10
3.	Research Policy	12
3.1	RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND ETHICS	12
3.2	EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA.....	13
3.3	REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT	14
3.4	TECHETHOS.....	15
3.5	E-HUMANITIES.....	17
4.	Science Advice for Policy	19
4.1	SCIENCE ADVICE FOR POLICY BY EUROPEAN ACADEMIES (SAPEA)	19
4.2	NEW GENOMIC TECHNIQUES AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.....	23
5.	Science and Society	26
5.1	SCIENCE EDUCATION	26
5.2	MADAME DE STAËL PRIZE.....	26
5.3	SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN SCIENCE	27
6.	Communications	29

1. FOREWORD

Dear reader,

I am happy to share with you our report on ALLEA's highlights and milestones in the past year. This document is both a means to keep member academies and partners *à jour* with our activities, as well as a critical repository of the excellent efforts of our working groups, task forces, and expert committees in service of ALLEA's [strategic priorities](#).



The year 2024 is particularly special – a year of achievement, transformation, and transition.

Achievement because 2024 marks 30 years since ALLEA began its journey with the epochal mission to nurture scientific collaboration between Eastern and Western Europe following the end of the Cold War, empowering European academies to facilitate the circulation of ideas across disciplines and borders.

Today, amid growing geopolitical tensions, the goal to foster open dialogue in science across Europe is no less critical – but is perhaps more fraught with questions, such as “How can we promote research collaboration while preventing the misuse of scientific research and technology?”, “What are the limits to open research collaboration against the backdrop of geopolitical complexities?”, and “Can we bridge borders through scientific cooperation to promote a world of peace and prosperity for all people and cultures?”, among several others.

These important questions will be intensely discussed and debated at the 2024 ALLEA General Assembly in Berlin, particularly during the public symposium, titled, ‘European Research Collaboration in a Shifting Geopolitical Landscape’. I would like to take this moment to thank our German Member Academies – the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities, and the Junge Akademie – for graciously co-hosting the event. I look forward to the intellectually rich and spirited conversations that I am sure will occur at this gathering of distinguished researchers, policymakers, and civil society actors. I am happy and honoured that Professor Fabiola Gianotti, Director-General of CERN and last year’s Madame de Staël Prize laureate, will deliver a keynote address tackling the symposium’s complex theme.

The 2024 General Assembly will also mark the completion of ALLEA’s legal **transformation** from a Dutch to a German legal framework. Now registered as charitable organisation with its seat in Berlin, Germany, we will convene for the first regular annual meeting of All European Academies (ALLEA) e.V. – thereby finalising our legal seat change.

As we embark on this new chapter in our history, I would like to take a moment to highlight just a few accomplishments in the past year, of which you will find many more in the following pages: we published and disseminated the [2023 Revised Edition of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) in June last year. Since then, it has been translated into 14 European languages thanks to the concerted efforts of our Member Academies, and more translations are forthcoming over the next months. The Code increasingly serves as a model for various institutional and national codes of conduct; for instance, its key principles were used as guide for the European Commission's recently published [Living guidelines on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research](#). ALLEA also made significant contributions to the development of the European Research Area in the past year, for example, by consulting in various ways on the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (currently referred to as 'Framework Programme 10'), including by publishing a statement on some [guiding principles](#) to be considered for it.

And finally, 2024 is a year of **transition** as ALLEA's members elect a new ALLEA Board and President for the upcoming term 2024–2027. For me personally, this is indeed a bittersweet moment as it marks the final foreword I pen for the ALLEA Activities Report as President. It has been both a privilege and an honour to serve our Member Academies, and to support ALLEA's mission for six years to foster international and interdisciplinary collaboration in the pursuit of ensuring that science is, and continues to be, a global public good.

As I think of the past years, I would like to thank all the colleagues who have served with me on the Board, and particularly my two Vice-Presidents, Annette Grüters-Kieslich and Luke Drury, for having shared with me the many joys and few headaches of governing our academic network. And I am sure that I speak for all current ALLEA Board Members when I say that we are very confident that we are passing the baton to capable and committed hands. I wish the next Presidency and Board members the very best in all their efforts and ambitions.

I look forward to seeing you in Berlin, whether in person or virtually. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this report showcasing a selection of ALLEA's activities and achievements in the past year. Here's to 30 more years of research collaboration across borders and disciplines, and beyond geopolitical problems! And to close – a useful Latin reminder: *praesens imperfectum perfectum futurum*.

Kind regards,



Antonio Loprieno

ALLEA President

2. STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

2.1 ALLEA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Every year, representatives from more than 50 ALLEA Member Academies, which cover 40 countries in Europe, come together during the General Assembly to address governance, strategy, and policy priorities that are relevant to ALLEA's operations and, more broadly, to future-proof research and academic cooperation in Europe. The General Assembly typically includes an internal business meeting that is restricted to delegates from the Member Academies and a scientific symposium that centres around 'hot topics' at the nexus of science and policy, which is open to the public.

The 2023 ALLEA General Assembly

On 22–23 June 2023, delegates from the ALLEA Member Academies, as well as researchers, policymakers, civil society actors, and members of the public gathered at the [Royal Society](#) in London (UK) for the ALLEA General Assembly, hosted by the UK Member Academies – the [British Academy](#), the [Learned Society of Wales](#), the Royal Society, and the [Royal Society of Edinburgh](#). The General Assembly hosted a scientific symposium, titled, '*Crises and the Importance of Research: How Prepared Can We Be?*', on the first day, which was open to the public; the second day was dedicated to a business meeting during which delegates from the Member Academies voted on several decisions regarding ALLEA's strategic and operational future.

Scientific symposium

Over 260 participants attended the public symposium, both virtually and in person. The event began with opening remarks by Sir Adrian Smith, President of the Royal Society, Professor Antonio Loprieno, President of ALLEA, and Professor Helen Fulton, Vice-President of the Learned Society of Wales, which was followed by several interactive panel discussions.

Session 1: Diversity and Inclusivity in Disaster Responses

The first panel, moderated by Tina Comes, Chair of the SAPEA Working Group on Strategic Crisis Management in the EU, discussed how various crises, including the climate crisis among others, could be addressed in ways that better take into account the most vulnerable and marginalised communities. The panel speakers included [Hannah Cloke](#), [Robin Coningham](#), and [Tom Shakespeare](#).

Session 2: Pandemic Preparedness and Building Resilience

The next panel included [Maarja Kruusmaa](#), [Agnes Nanyonjo](#), and [Mark Walport](#), and was moderated by Rusi Jaspal, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Exchange) at the University of Brighton. They discussed lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic for disaster-preparedness and systems-resilience and debated such questions as "*What are the differentiated roles of actors across different levels of governance, geographical areas, and economic sectors in preparing for future pandemics and assessing the impact of previous pandemics?*" and "*What role did trust in institutions play in impacting people's behaviours and attitudes during the pandemic?*", among others.

Session 3: Data for Emergencies

[Sheila M Bird](#), [Francis P Crawley](#), [Nuria Oliver](#), and [Ronan Lyons](#) debated the critical role for data, including non-traditional sources of data such as mobility data generated by telecom infrastructure and citizen surveys, in disaster response and emergency management. The panel was moderated by Virginia Murray, Head of Global Disaster Risk Reduction at the UK Health Security Agency.

Session 4: In-Conversation – Perspectives from Ukraine

The symposium concluded with a conversation between two Ukrainian academics, [Aisel Omarova](#) and [Larysa Zasiiekina](#), on how the wider European research community could support Ukrainian scholars during and after the war. The session was co-chaired by Luke Drury, Vice-President of ALLEA, and Simon Goldhill, Foreign Secretary of the British Academy.

A news feature on the symposium with key highlights can be found [here](#). You can also find a report by the BBC on the 2023 ALLEA General Assembly, titled, 'Science in Action, Preparing for Crises', [here](#).

Business meeting

Several important discussions and developments took place at the business meeting on 23 June – a select few are presented below.

ALLEA welcomed two new members into its fold – the [Young Academy of Sweden](#) and the [Young Academy of Scotland](#) – following a unanimous vote on this by Member Academies in the run-up to the General Assembly. Their admission reflects ALLEA's ongoing commitment to foster cooperation with early- and mid-career researchers and intergenerational dialogue, and thereby grow as a more diverse and inclusive organisation.

In a further illustration of this commitment to inclusivity, delegates unanimously adopted a motion by the British Academy to investigate the academies' efforts to improve equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), alongside another motion on their commitment to combatting climate change and transitioning to 'net zero' emissions. In doing so, Member Academies agreed to provide written updates on their EDI and Net Zero approaches, as well as to establish new steering groups to collect the data in order to inform a set of recommendations on best practices and initiatives, which will be presented at the 2024 General Assembly in Berlin.

In a dedicated 'inaugural meeting', delegates also voted to form a new legal entity (registered in Germany) to allow for a change of the legal seat of ALLEA from the Netherlands to Germany (*for more information, see section 2.2*), thereby bringing together its operational and legal seats.

The *2023 Revised Edition of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity* was released at the business meeting to the delegates present, as well as online to the wider research community. The revisions in the new edition are intended to ensure that the document remains fit for purpose and relevant to all disciplines, emerging areas of research, and new research practices (*for more information, see section 3.1*).

Photos and videos of the 2023 ALLEA General Assembly are available in the [Media Room](#).



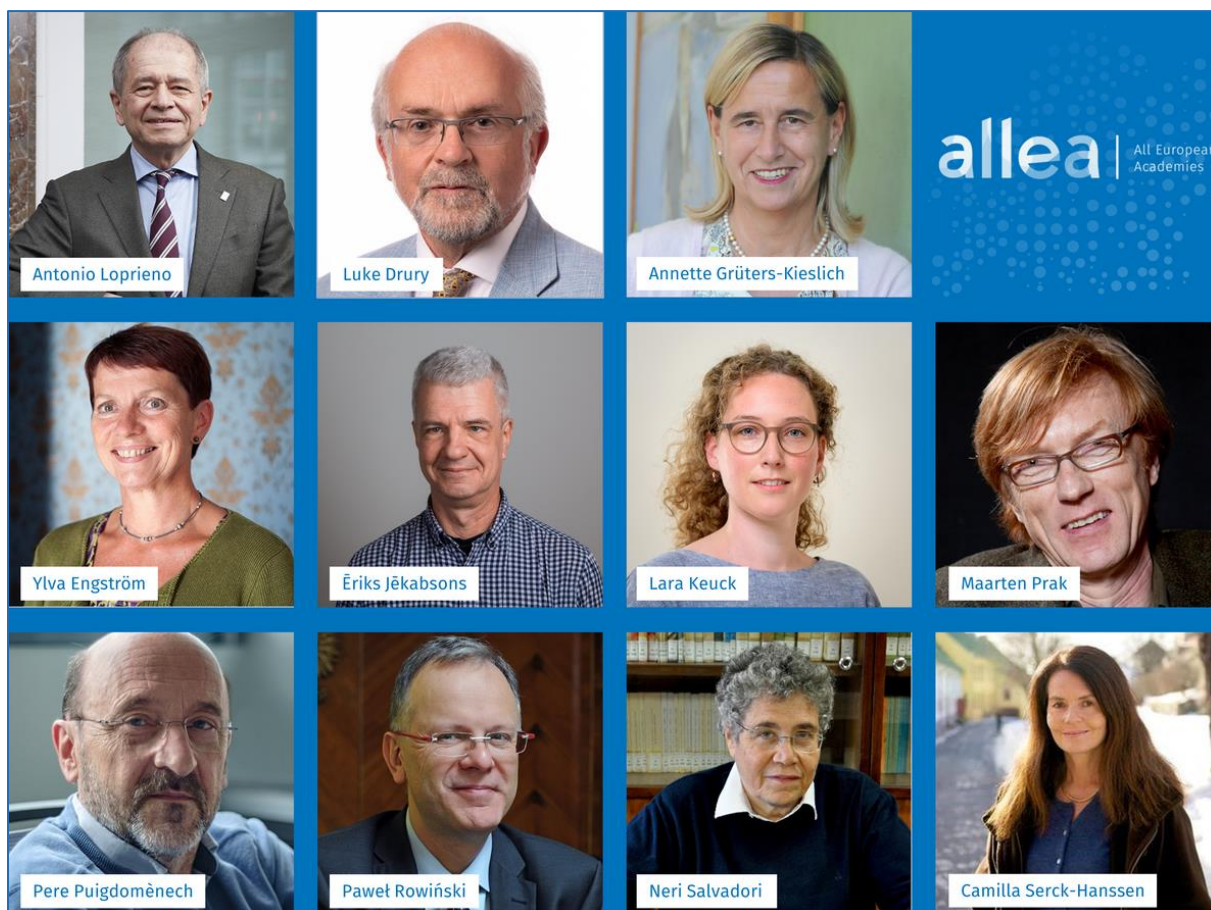
The Upcoming 2024 ALLEA General Assembly

On 22 May 2024, ALLEA's German Member Academies – the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Die Junge Akademie, and the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities – will co-host the General Assembly in Berlin. The event will include the celebration of ALLEA's 30th anniversary and a scientific symposium, titled, 'European Research Collaboration in a Shifting Geopolitical Landscape: How Open Can We Be?'.
You can find the event programme and the registration details [here](#).

2.2 THE ALLEA BOARD AND PRESIDENCY

Following the re-appointments and elections of its members at the General Assemblies 2021 (Presidency) and 2022 (Board), the ALLEA Board serving until the 2024 General Assembly consists of:

- **Antonio Loprieno** (President of ALLEA/Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences)
- **Luke Drury** (Vice-President of ALLEA/Royal Irish Academy)
- **Annette Grüters-Kieslich** (Vice-President of ALLEA/Leopoldina and Union of German Academies of Sciences and Humanities)
- **Ylva Engström** (Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences)
- **Eriks Jekabsons** (Latvian Academy of Sciences)
- **Lara Keuck** (German Young Academy)
- **Maarten Prak** (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences)
- **Pere Puigdomènech** (Royal Academy of Sciences and Arts of Barcelona/Institute of Catalan Studies, Spain)
- **Paweł Rowiński** (Polish Academy of Sciences)
- **Neri Salvadori** (National Academy of Sciences of the Lincei, Italy)
- **Camilla Serck-Hanssen** (Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters)



In the past year, board members held several meetings to discuss the ongoing projects and activities of ALLEA's working groups, task forces, and expert committees. Most of these board meetings were held online in an effort to be more sustainable. In October 2023, the ALLEA Board convened a two-day hybrid strategy meeting at the seat of the ALLEA secretariat in Berlin.

Guiding and Steering ALLEA's Activities

The role of the ALLEA Board continues to be central to the organisation's functions: members of the ALLEA Presidency and Board set the strategic direction for its activities, speak on behalf of the European academies on a range of relevant issues, guide the day-to-day business of ALLEA's working groups, task forces, and partnerships, and represent ALLEA in high-level expert committees at pan-European events and conferences, as well as in global initiatives and projects. Pertinent examples of such activities in the past year include President Antonio Loprieno and Pawel Rowiński's prodigious contributions to the progress of evidence-based science advice provided as active members of the SAPEA Board. Prof Loprieno held the role of SAPEA Chair until the end of 2023.

Similar efforts by the ALLEA President and Board to bolster the relationship between science, policy, and society in Europe (and beyond) include Prof Loprieno's [commentary](#) welcoming the European Commission and UK Government's [agreement](#) on the association of the UK to Horizon Europe and Copernicus under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The commentary reiterated ALLEA's position on science as a "global public good" and called for renewed cooperation between the UK and Europe's research communities, underpinned by the "open exchange of thought, expertise, and resources".

This commitment to elevating science above (geo)politics is further exemplified by ALLEA's many efforts to support the continuity of Ukrainian science in the face of ongoing war. The European Fund for Displaced Scientists (EFDS), coordinated by ALLEA and funded by the [Breakthrough Prize Foundation](#), to help Ukrainian researchers and institutions continue their work amidst the complexities of conflict and displacement, came to a successful close at the end of 2023. ALLEA Vice-President, Luke Drury, has been particularly active in ALLEA's push to support Ukrainian science in times of war, including by serving as a member of the 'Ukraine Science Stakeholder Group'. As part of this group, Prof Drury played an instrumental role in organising two conferences, alongside the [International Science Council \(ISC\)](#), on how the European research community can support Ukrainian scholarship, and critically contributed to the publication of the [report](#) on the 2nd ALLEA-ISC Conference on the Ukraine Crisis (*for more information, see section 5.3*).

The ALLEA President and Board have also made several important contributions to promote ALLEA's position as a leading voice on the issues of academic freedom, scientific autonomy, international research collaboration, and science diplomacy. An example of these efforts is ALLEA's active [consultation](#) on a [motion](#) submitted to the European Parliament by MEP Christian Ehler, Rapporteur for the European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), to protect the freedom of scientific research in the EU.

Cooperation with relevant partners and stakeholders has been further intensified, thanks in no small part to the President and Board. These stakeholders/partners include other academy networks of the current SAPEA project iteration (such as [Euro-CASE](#), [FEAM](#), [YASAS](#)), the European young academies, who show ever increasing interest in joining ALLEA, as well as like-minded umbrella organisations representing universities, research funders, or research performing organisations both within Europe and internationally.

ALLEA Becomes ALLEA e.V.

In the past year, the ALLEA Board was intent on advancing the consolidation of ALLEA's legal status, as well as its institutional and operational frameworks. Steered by the Presidency, and supported by the Secretariat, dedicated efforts were made to overcome the duality of maintaining a legal seat in one country (Netherlands) while operating from another (Germany).

Following resolutions passed by the ALLEA Member Academies in 2022 and 2023, the Board implemented all the necessary steps to transfer ALLEA's legal seat from Amsterdam to Berlin and to re-incorporate ALLEA as a German legal entity, registered with the German register of associations

as a charitable organisation (*gemeinnütziger eingetragener Verein*). These steps included the transfer of contracts, assets, and liabilities from the Dutch to the German legal entity, as well as preparing the registration of the association (with the official name *All European Academies (ALLEA) e.V.*) in Germany, and the dissolution and de-registration of the former legal entity in the Netherlands.

Following the approval of the German legal entity’s Statutes during the 2023 ALLEA General Assembly in London, the Board – supported by a dedicated task force and ALLEA staff members – has prepared new *Rules of Procedures* to be presented for adoption by academy delegates at the 2024 General Assembly. Furthermore, the ALLEA Board and Secretariat have made a dedicated effort to update and expand ALLEA’s administrative regulations and adjust its current Standard Operating Procedures to re-align them with the legal and regulatory standards of German charitable organisations.

2.3 THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

ALLEA’s working groups, task forces, and expert committees carry out a vast range of activities that serve one or more of our *Strategic Priorities* (2019–2024). These core objectives are the foundation for ALLEA’s ongoing work to improve the framework conditions for science and research in Europe, to promote international and interdisciplinary cooperation, and to develop science-based solutions for policymaking and society’s evolving challenges and needs.



Select highlights of ALLEA's activities in the past year categorised by the seven priorities are presented below. For a more detailed description of ALLEA's outputs and outcomes in 2023-2024, proceed to sections 3–6.

1 Serving Academies and Facilitating Cooperation

- ALLEA, SAPEA, and the Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS) host [two in-person workshops](#) during the 2024 ALLEA General Assembly to discuss best practices in science advice.
- ALLEA concludes the administration of the [European Fund for Displaced Scientists \(EFDS\)](#).

2 Improving Framework Conditions for Science & Research

- ALLEA participates in [CoARA Boost](#), a Horizon Europe-funded project, to enable the systemic reform of research assessment.
- ALLEA publishes a [statement](#) on guiding principles for the forthcoming 10th European Union (EU) Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10).

3 Providing Independent Scientific Advice to Policymakers and Society

- SAPEA publishes an [Evidence Review Report](#) on moving *Towards Sustainable Food Consumption*.
- ALLEA publishes a [statement](#) on measures to ease the impact of the intellectual property system on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) for crop development.

4 Facilitating Good Research Practice

- ALLEA releases the 2023 Revised Edition of the European [Code of Conduct](#) for Research Integrity in English as well as 14 other European languages, with further translations to be published over the coming months.
- [Statement](#) underscoring the transformative impact of digital practices on humanities scholarship and the significance of recognising these digital scholarly outputs is published.

5 Defending Academic Freedom and Trustworthy Science

- ALLEA supports a [motion for a resolution](#) to protect the freedom of scientific research in the EU.
- ALLEA produces a [statement](#) addressing exploitative and predatory practices in open access scholarly publishing.

6 Strengthening Diversity and Inclusivity

- ALLEA sets up new Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) steering committee to coordinate actions and develop best practices across European academies to improve EDI objectives.
- SAPEA, and the broader Scientific Advice Mechanism, develop their [strategy](#) on diversity and inclusiveness.

7 Thinking and Acting Globally

- ALLEA, together with the Global Young Academy and CoARA, co-organise a hybrid [event](#) to discuss the reform of research assessment at the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) in Washington, DC (USA).
- ALLEA and the International Science Council (ISC) publishes a [report](#) detailing the outcomes of the second conference on the Ukraine crisis, held in March 2023.

3. RESEARCH POLICY

3.1 RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND ETHICS

Research ethics and integrity are critical for the scientific community to carry out its work within accepted, and continually updated, ethical frameworks in order to encourage good research practices that result in high-quality outputs and trustworthy science. ALLEA has long been an active contributor to the fields of research ethics and integrity, primarily via its [Permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics \(PWGSE\)](#), which covers a wide range of both ‘internal’ (within the scientific community) and ‘external’ (relations between science and society) issues.

One example of ALLEA’s strong advocacy efforts in the field of research ethics is its active participation in the [TechEthos project](#) through the PWGSE, chaired by Maura Hiney (Royal Irish Academy), which contributes to enhancing existing legal and ethical frameworks, horizontal coordination with related projects, and ensuring that TechEthos outputs complement and inform the revised edition of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity – Revised Edition 2023

A revision of ALLEA’s flagship publication, the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#), was released at the General Assembly in London in June 2023.



The Drafting Group, consisting of members of the PWGSE and chaired by Prof Krista Varantola (Council of Finnish Academies), updated the Code of Conduct to reflect changes in the values and needs of the research community to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. This update is important so that the Code continues to, as ALLEA President Antonio Loprieno puts it, “provide a common framework, developed by peers, to enhance trust in science among policymakers and the public at large, through improved quality and reliability of research design, conduct, and dissemination”.

As with the previous edition, the current Code of Conduct is being translated into all EU languages with support from ALLEA Member Academies. Fourteen translations have been published thus far, and many more will be released in the coming months.

The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity continues to serve as a model for national and institutional codes of conduct, funding guidelines, training initiatives, and discipline-specific standards. Most recently, the revised edition formed the foundation for guidelines on responsible Open Science, developed by the Horizon Europe-funded Responsible Open Science in Europe (ROSiE) project. You can find the general and discipline-specific guidelines [here](#). Similarly, it has also been quoted in the European Commission’s [Living guidelines on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research](#).

For more information on the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity – Revised Edition 2023](#), visit our dedicated [Code of Conduct webpage](#).

ALLEA Statement on Curbing Predatory Practices in Open Access Scholarly Publishing

In recent years, open access publishing has grown into a global enterprise, giving more people greater access to academic publications. While this is generally viewed as a positive development, it has not been without its own challenges. Some of the challenges identified include limits on researchers’ autonomy on where to publish, increasing commercialisation of academic research, and the proliferation of journals with editorial and publication standards that fall short of those upheld by the research community – so-called ‘predatory’ journals.

In conjunction with International Open Access Week 2023, ALLEA issued a statement by the PWGSE, with Prof László Fésüs (Hungarian Academy of Sciences) as principal author, entitled, *ALLEA Statement on Curbing Predatory Practices in Open Access Scholarly Publishing*. The statement aims to advise Member Academies, and the broader research community, on why and how to collectively act on weakening the hold of ‘predatory’ journals over open access publishing, in order to prevent the exploitation of researchers and the waste of research funding, as well as to uphold the integrity of the research enterprise. Key recommendations include raising awareness of the complex issues of predatory practices, disincentivising participation in such journals, helping researchers identify quality open access journals, reforming research assessment practices, as well as moving towards non-profit publishing models.

Read the full statement [here](#).

3.2 EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

The European Research Area (ERA) is a plan for a single, borderless market for research, innovation, and technology across the European Union (EU). While efforts to establish the ERA date back to 2000, there has been a surge in efforts regarding this agenda since 2020 with the introduction of a new [Pact for Research and Innovation \(R&I\) in Europe](#) and an [ERA Policy Agenda](#) (whose implementation is coordinated by the [ERA Forum for Transition](#)).

ALLEA contributes to this vision of creating a cohesive research ecosystem across Europe through its [Working Group on the ERA](#), which actively participates in the ERA Forum for Transition and its many subgroups, as well as the recently launched [ERA Policy Platform](#), which provides comprehensive and up-to-date information and resources on current ERA objectives, policies, and accomplishments.

Brief summaries of the working group’s recent discussions can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Outlining a Vision for a Robust and Effective ‘Framework Programme 10’

The ALLEA Working Group on the ERA, on behalf of the European academies, is contributing in various ways to the development of the forthcoming 10th EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Currently referred to as ‘Framework Programme 10’ or ‘FP10’, the programme will succeed Horizon Europe and run from 2028 to 2034.

In September 2023, the Working Group on the ERA participated in a stakeholder consultation conducted under the umbrella of the [European Research and Innovation Area Committee’s \(ERAC\) Ad-hoc Task Force on ‘Guidance for the next Framework Programme for R&I’](#). ALLEA submitted its position statement on guiding principles for FP10, which included, among others, an emphasis on global action, ‘Widening’ participation, the protection of academic freedom and research integrity, and addressing ongoing inequalities by calling for the support of currently under-represented researchers (including early- to mid-career researchers and researchers from EU15 countries) through more effective funding schemes.

Building on this, the working group drafted a statement detailing guiding principles for FP10, with input from the PWGSE and the [ALLEA Open Science Task Force](#), which was released in December 2023. Some key recommendations in the statement include:

- Greater investment in R&I, including a ring-fenced and reliable budget of €200bn for FP10
- Reinforcement of fundamental and basic research
- A strong commitment to promoting and protecting academic freedom, research integrity, and Open Science
- Expansion of existing ‘Widening’ instruments to strengthen the positive outcomes of networking and prevent ‘brain drain’
- A stronger focus on inclusion by integrating policies that promote gender balance and reflect talent diversity

Read the full statement [here](#).

3.3 REFORMING RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

Appropriate and continually updated research assessment practices are integral to both quality science outputs as well as a fair and equitable research system. ALLEA has repeatedly emphasised that current approaches are overly reliant on quantitative metrics, such as the Journal Impact Factor (JIF), Article Influence Score (AIS), and h-index, and thereby fuel an unhealthy ‘publish or perish’ culture that has demonstrable negative effects on the quality of scholarly outputs, the diversity of our research communities, and the trustworthiness of our research system.

ALLEA therefore supports the development and exchange of new criteria, procedures, and tools for recognising and rewarding scientific excellence based on principles of quality, integrity, diversity, and openness, and the overall transition to research assessment practices that are based on qualitative peer review (supplemented by appropriate quantitative indicators).

In pursuit of these goals, ALLEA has [signed the European Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment](#) and joined the associated coalition (CoARA). You can read the full ALLEA Statement on reforming research assessment published in October 2022 [here](#).

ALLEA approaches its activities on research assessment via various working groups and task forces, including the PWGSE, the Working Groups on the ERA and E-Humanities, and the Open Science Task Force, as well as through collaborations with partner organisations.

For a full overview of ALLEA’s activities on Research Assessment, see the dedicated [webpage](#).

CoARA Boost – Enabling Systemic Reform of Research Assessment

In October 2023, [CoARA Boost](#), a Horizon Europe-funded project, was rolled out to operationally support the systematic and comprehensive reform of research assessment in alignment with the principles and objectives outlined in CoARA’s mission. The project, which runs for three years and has a budget of five million euros, is coordinated by the [European Science Foundation \(ESF\)](#), with ALLEA and a broad partner network of research stakeholder organisations collaborating closely in pursuit of research assessment reform.

The key objectives of CoARA Boost include:

- Strengthen the operational capacity of CoARA, particularly through information-exchange, awareness raising, and knowledge-sharing
- Help implement institutional changes for reforming research assessment and achieving the [10 commitments](#)
- Assist working groups in developing new models of research assessment
- Widen CoARA membership, particularly beyond Europe

Project Partners:

- Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca (ANVUR)
- All European Academies (ALLEA)
- Careers Research and Advisory Centre (CRAC)
- Centre National de la Recherche Centre (CNRS)
- European Science Foundation (ESF)
- Hungarian Research Network (HUN-REN HQ)
- Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA)
- Science Europe
- Young European Research Universities Network (YERUN)

Source: [CoARA Boost](#)

In December 2023, CoARA Boost kicked off with a meeting of the partners in Brussels to discuss the specifics and practicalities of the collaboration, as well as upcoming efforts to increase the visibility of CoARA and its membership. Within the CoARA Boost project, ALLEA coordinates several working groups that support the implementation of CoARA’s objectives. In addition, ALLEA takes the lead in broadening CoARA’s outreach, particularly in under-represented European regions and countries, and in expanding its membership (in Europe and beyond)

ALLEA-GYA-CoARA event in Washington, DC

On 6 May 2024, ALLEA, together with the [Global Young Academy \(GYA\)](#) and CoARA, as part of CoARA Boost, held a hybrid event, titled, ‘*Reforming Research Assessment to Foster an Open and Socially Responsive Research Culture*’, at the [National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine \(NASEM\)](#) in Washington, DC (USA). Experts in the fields of research assessment, research integrity, and Open Science discussed how to reshape research culture to promote openness, inclusivity, and equity, among other important issues. Find more information on the speakers, see [here](#).

3.4 TECHETHOS

Technology has increasingly become intertwined with all spheres of life in the modern world, from communication to education, work, health, transportation, climate, politics, and security. It is therefore imperative to consider the ethical implications of new and emerging technologies, which range from concerns about privacy breaches to manipulation, fairness, and the exacerbation of power gaps and exploitation, as early as possible.



The Horizon 2020-funded [TechEthos](#) project, led by the [Austrian Institute of Technology \(AIT\)](#), was launched in 2020 to address the important ethical questions associated with emerging technologies and facilitate ‘ethics by design’, i.e., incorporating ethical and societal values into the design and development of technology from the very beginning of the process. ALLEA has been contributing to TechEthos through the PWGSE.

The project came to an official close at the end of 2023, during which time, the following milestones, among others, were achieved¹ in terms of its outreach to the wider community in Europe:

- Eight publications, three of which were in peer-reviewed journals
- 30 events with over 1000 participants in total
- Eight policy briefs
- Five webinars
- A series of citizen events involving about 450 participants

For a more detailed analysis of TechEthos’ communication and dissemination efforts, read the full report [here](#).

It should be noted that despite the conclusion of TechEthos, stakeholders in the consortium are continuing the important work of exploring the myriad issues at the intersection of technology and ethics.

TechEthos Holds Final Policy Event in Brussels

In November 2023, TechEthos held its final policy event in Brussels, bringing together over 100 EU policymakers, researchers, and industry professionals to exchange ideas about the role of ethics in the digital transformation and green transition, and thereby address some of the challenges expected of our technological future. The event, which signalled the conclusion of the three-year project, included discussions about ongoing ethical issues, such as safety concerns surrounding generative AI, as well as current and future EU policy debates such as the proposed [AI Act](#), the implementation of the [Digital Services Act](#) and [Digital Markets Act](#), the [European Green Deal](#), and the European Commission’s proposal for a [Carbon Removal Certification Framework](#).

The morning session opened with a keynote by Laura Weidinger, Senior Research Scientist at [DeepMind](#), who advocated for early and comprehensive consideration of the ethical implications of AI, particularly generative AI, which go beyond fact-checking accuracy and estimate the societal impact and potential side-effects of large-scale deployment. This was followed by an interactive panel discussion exploring the multifaceted challenges of Digital Extended Reality (XR) and Natural Language Processing (NLP).

The afternoon session kicked off with Behnam Taebi, Professor of Energy and Climate Ethics at [Delft University of Technology](#), sharing about the ethical issues and controversies surrounding climate engineering techniques, such as Solar Radiation Management (SRM) and Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR). His address was followed by a panel discussion on the ethical, social, and regulatory challenges related to these climate engineering technologies.

The event concluded with Maura Hiney, Chair of the ALLEA PWGSE, positioning the TechEthos project within the broader context of the latest iteration of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. This was followed by Coordinator of TechEthos, Eva Buchinger (AIT), Laurence Brooks ([University of Sheffield](#)), and Renate Klar ([EUREC – European Network of Research Ethics Committees](#))

¹ These numbers were reached as of November 2023.

discussing the history of the TechEthos project and the continued future of this work on the ethics of emerging technologies beyond its lifetime.

Read detailed summaries and key takeaways of the final policy event [here](#) and [here](#). To delve deeper into the discussions, you can also download the [slides](#) or watch the recordings ([part one](#) and [part two](#)) of the event.

Select TechEthos Outputs from 2023–2024

The development of an ethics framework for emerging technologies

The core issue when it comes to considering the ethical implications of emerging technologies is the uncertainties and unintended consequences of large-scale integration of the new technology into society, which can never be fully known at the start. However, it is preferable, and even necessary, to develop an ethical framework that can be used as early as possible in the technology's development phase. In June 2023, TechEthos published a report that detailed a new comprehensive ethical framework known as 'TechEthos Anticipatory ethics Matrix' (TEAeM), which built on existing frameworks to help researchers and policymakers assess the ethical implications of emerging technologies and mitigate potential risks. In addition, the report included guidelines on how to improve existing ethical frameworks.

You can find more information on TEAeM [here](#).

Publication of policy briefs

Four policy briefs were published in the past year. These briefs identified and evaluated the ethical challenges for the emerging technologies under study in the project and made several recommendations to both developers and EU policymakers on how to address them effectively.

Ethical governance of Solar Radiation Modification (SRM)

In October 2023, TechEthos published a report targeted at EU policymakers and stakeholders in the research community, national governments, and international organisations on how to enable responsible, just, and sustainable SRM research. Key recommendations include:

- Adopt a leadership position internationally by establishing universally accepted definitions of SRM research, SRM field testing, and SRM deployment in alignment with EU values.
- Ensure transparency and accountability in SRM research by encouraging the institution of politically legitimate, permanent representative bodies to oversee SRM research programmes.
- Ensure that SRM research programmes are always part of a range of climate change measures.
- Include normative values such as global justice when assessing the consequences of SRM and SRM research.
- Encourage public engagement in SRM research.

Read the full policy brief [here](#).

Ethical governance of Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)

CDR refers to the climate engineering technique of removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and storing it. In October 2023, TechEthos published a brief that elucidated the regulatory challenges associated with CDR and makes recommendations to EU policymakers and climate science stakeholders that support the ethical, rights-based, and sustainable development of the technology. Key recommendations include:

- Ensure that CDR governance and implementation takes into account potential consequences for human life, security, well-being, prosperity, as well as biodiversity and the environment.
- Costs associated with CDR techniques should be assigned proportional to member countries' contribution to climate change and their ability to pay.
- Anticipate the moral hazard effect by giving priority to emissions reduction methods over CDR.

Read the full policy brief [here](#).

Ethical governance of neurotechnologies

TechEthos published a policy brief in October 2023 targeted at EU policymakers and stakeholders involved with neurotechnologies, medical devices, dual use items, privacy and data security, algorithmic and machine learning systems, describing the ethical issues associated with neurotechnologies with recommendations on how to address them. Recommendations include:

- Safeguard the autonomy and dignity of people by protecting them from non-consensual manipulation, ensuring the legal recognition of neurorights within the EU human rights frameworks, and by clarifying the conditions that must be satisfied for valid consent.
- Promote interoperability across devices, platforms, and data, and include this property within legal and regulatory frameworks. This would protect vulnerable users' access to continuity of service and prevent commercial exploitation.
- Consider the environmental impact of neurotechnologies and their associated data storage.

Read the full policy brief [here](#).

Ethical governance of AI

In November 2023, a report focusing on the ethical questions associated with XR and NLP within the wider field of General Purpose AI was published. Co-authored by CEA's Laurynas Adomaitis and Alexei Grinbaum, the report offers recommendations to EU policymakers on how to govern AI systems by going beyond values and principles to establishing norms and standards of practice. Key messages in the report include, among others:

- Promote transparency: Ensure that users are aware that they are interacting with an AI entity/virtual environment through regular signposting and by determining the users' understanding of this information.
- Address/prevent harmful manipulation, such as deception or emotional nudging.
- Safeguard human dignity: Protect people from their likeness being used without informed consent or posthumously, particularly with regards to generative AI.
- Evaluate the environmental impacts of XR and generative AI.
- Address privacy and security issues.

Read the full policy brief [here](#).

3.5 E-HUMANITIES

Given that European academies constitute a vast and diverse knowledge base that is trusted, non-partisan, and long-term, they have an important role to play in current debates surrounding the establishment of sustainable digital infrastructures and project-funded artefacts, the achievement of durable digital preservation, and the social responsibility for the conservation of our digital cultural heritage, as well as research practices in the digital humanities.

The ALLEA [Working Group E-Humanities](#) contributes to this work by identifying and raising awareness for the priorities and concerns of the digital humanities, promoting the Open Science agenda from a humanities and social sciences perspective, and building consensus on common standards and best practices in e-humanities scholarship and digitisation.

ALLEA Releases Report on Recognising and Assessing Digital Outputs in the Humanities

In November 2023, the ALLEA Working Group E-Humanities published a report calling for the recognition, inclusion, and appropriate assessment of novel digital outputs in the humanities as valid scholarly work. As Maciej Maryl, Chair of the working group, put it, *"Although the digital age offers a plethora of formats that seem better equipped to communicate diverse scholarly findings, our research assessment systems still heavily favour traditional outputs like journal articles and books. In our report, we provide examples of good practices for emerging and innovative digital outputs, as well as a framework for researchers and institutions of how to evaluate them."*



The report proceeds in two sections with the opening section discussing the cross-cutting issues that are relevant to digital practices in the humanities, such as linking studies with underlying data, current authorship attribution schemes, and the challenges with reviewing and evaluating innovative outputs. The second section uses case studies to provide recommendations on how to evaluate specific outputs, including code, blogs, podcasts, as well as databases and datasets, among others. The report underscores how the catalogue of good research practices in the humanities has grown exponentially, and highlights that this necessitates the evolution and adaptation of the research assessment system, calling for greater recognition of interdisciplinary work, novel research methodologies and innovative scholarly outputs that go beyond traditional

academic formats such as books or journal articles. It is a natural continuation of the previous report released by the working group, titled, *Sustainable and FAIR Data Sharing in the Humanities*.

The report incorporates feedback from researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders, which was received as part of an [open consultation](#) process that took place between June and July 2023. Over the course of these two months, 28 readers left 78 comments and suggested over 200 edits in document. It was launched at the 10th anniversary of the [Digital Humanities Centre](#), which is part of the [Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of Literary Research](#), in Warsaw, Poland by Dr Maryl.

You can read the full report [here](#).

Digital Salon Interview with Maciej Maryl — Embracing ‘Digital Innovation: Perspectives on Advancing Humanities Scholarship’

In April 2024, ALLEA Digital Salon interviewed Maciej Maryl, Chair of the ALLEA Working Group E-Humanities, and one of the principal authors of the report, titled, *Recognising Digital Scholarly Outputs in the Humanities*.

Dr Maryl shared about his first foray into the field of digital humanities, the significance of appropriately integrating digital technology and the humanities, and the evolution of research assessment practices in the humanities, among other interesting insights.

You can find the Digital Salon interview [here](#).



*Maciej Maryl, Founding
Director, Digital
Humanities Centre*

4. SCIENCE ADVICE FOR POLICY

4.1 SCIENCE ADVICE FOR POLICY BY EUROPEAN ACADEMIES (SAPEA)

Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) is part of the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM), along with the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors (GCSA) and the SAM Secretariat. The three units of SAM work together to provide independent evidence and policy recommendations to the European institutions by request of the College of Commissioners. SAPEA, which is a consortium of five European Academy Networks, brings together outstanding expertise from the natural sciences, engineering and technology, medical, health, agricultural and social sciences, and the humanities, in order to independently study, review, and synthesise scientific evidence to inform the policy recommendations of the GCSA.

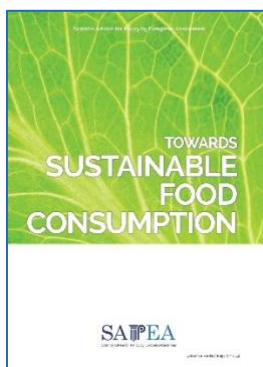


The five European Academy Networks in SAPEA, which combine the expertise of over 100 academies, young academies, and learned societies in more than 40 countries across Europe, are:

- [Academia Europaea \(AE\)](#)
- [ALLEA](#)
- [The European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering \(Euro-CASE\)](#)
- [Federation of European Academies of Medicine \(FEAM\)](#)
- [Young Academies Science Advice Structure \(YASAS\)](#)

As one of 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, lending support in any other science advice activity in which the consortium is involved, and providing support for various cross-cutting activities. ALLEA also leads SAPEA's work package on communications, dissemination, and public engagement.

Scientific Advice on 'Towards Sustainable Food Consumption'



Making our food system more sustainable, healthy, and equitable is key to Europe's transition to a climate-neutral and thriving future, which is why the [Farm-to-Fork Strategy](#) lies at the heart of the Green Deal. To inform the development of the Strategy, the SAM delivered scientific advice on a [sustainable food system](#) in 2020. Following up on this advice, in order to inform the 2023 revision of the Farm-to-Fork Strategy and the [legislative framework for sustainable food systems \(FSFS\)](#), the Commissioners for Health and Food Safety and for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth asked the GCSA to deliver science policy advice on a more specific area of the food system: food consumption. A SAPEA Working Group, chaired by [Erik Mathijs](#), Professor of Bioeconomy at KU Leuven, produced an Evidence Review Report (ERR), titled, *Towards Sustainable Food Consumption*, to serve

as an evidence base for the GCSA's [policy recommendations](#). In June 2023, both documents were handed over to Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice-President of the von der Leyen Commission, in Brussels.

Key findings from the ERR

The ERR unpacked the scientific evidence to identify key levers and actions that could make food consumption sustainable and healthy. The report built on the premise that making sustainable diets the norm goes beyond simply providing consumers with more information due to the complex

decision-making process when it comes to choosing food. It will, according to the report, “require a mix of incentives, information and binding policies governing all aspects of food production and distribution”.

As Working Group Chair, Erik Mathijs, described the crux of the issue, “Policies should address the whole food environment, anywhere where food is obtained, eaten, and discussed, such as shops, restaurants, homes, schools, and workplaces, and increasingly also digital media.” The ERR identified five key action areas:

- **Pricing** – Incentivising healthy and sustainable food through direct fiscal food policies (and disincentivising less sustainable/unhealthy choices) can be effective in changing behaviour, and therefore, in reducing environmental impacts and improving health outcomes.
- **Availability and visibility** – Regulating the prominent placement of healthy/sustainable foods (or making unhealthy/less sustainable choices less visible) could contribute to healthy, sustainable diets becoming more popular.
- **Food composition** – Mandatory, as opposed to voluntary, alteration of the salt, fat, and sugar content of foods, as well as adding more plant-based alternatives, could have a sizeable effect on sustainable food consumption.
- **Information environment** – The effectiveness of labelling foods in changing food consumption behaviours has shown to be limited. However, decreasing exposure to the marketing of unhealthy/unsustainable foods by regulating advertising, or including warning labels, could be more impactful in altering food consumption behaviours.
- **Social environment** – Peer-to-peer and social influence could be utilised to encourage sustainable food consumption.

For more information on the ERR and the GCSA’s Scientific Opinion on sustainable food consumption, visit the dedicated [webpage](#).

Outreach and impact

ALLEA was the lead academy network for this topic. By organising or participating in close to 20 events to-date, SAPEA promoted several insights from the advice on sustainable food consumption, such as tools to overcome barriers preventing consumers to adopt sustainable diets, the role of informal and alternative food chains in Europe in enabling the transition to more sustainable diets, the relationship between food environments and food security, how to increase the equitability and resilience of food systems, the political economy of meat system transformation, and the actual costs of unhealthy/unsustainable foods to society, among others. These outreach efforts were targeted at a diverse audience including staff of the European Commission’s Directorates-General, European Parliament committees, the European Committee of the Regions, Academies, universities and research institutes, NGOs, agrifood industry, food retailers, parents and consumers, among others. A select few of these outreach events are highlighted below.

KlimaLecture #9: Climate Protection and the Future of Nutrition in Europe

In October 2023, the SAM and Die Junge Akademie jointly organised an online lecture, titled, [Climate Protection and the Future of Nutrition in Europe](#) on the interrelationship between climate protection and sustainable food systems. Questions such as “How should the burdens of the nutritional transformation be distributed to enable global food security?”, “Which political measures promote climate-friendly nutrition?”, and “What is the role of science in advising policy decisions on sustainability in the EU?” were discussed in this public event, which took place as part of Die Junge Akademie’s KlimaLecture series.

Towards sustainable food consumption in Europe: the role of informal food chains

In December 2023, the SAM and the [Czech Academy of Sciences](#) jointly organised this online event to discuss the role of informal and alternative food chains and networks in facilitating the shift to sustainable food consumption. It was inspired by the SAM advice on sustainable food consumption, and was premised on the ERR’s finding that the food environment is critical in shaping food choices, the latter being influenced by factors including food availability, habits and routines, as well as emotions.

A live recording of the event can be found [here](#).

Food Systems – Der Weg zu einem nachhaltigen, zukunftsfähigen Ernährungssystem

In January 2024, this [conference](#), organised by the Deutsche Akademie der Technikwissenschaften Wissenschaftlicher Referent Technologien (acatech), aimed to discuss the development of sustainable and resilient food systems with a focus on Europe, but without neglecting the global context. The true costs of food to the environment and society, future scenarios for food systems, and how to future-proof them were some themes discussed at the event, which took place in German.

How to make sustainable diets the norm?

The science advice on sustainable food consumption was presented and discussed at this [hybrid event](#) organised by the SAM, the European Board for Conservation and Development, and the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development. The event was hosted by MEP Juozas Olekas and moderated by Régine Roncucci, EU Affairs Manager at the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, and also included a panel discussion on how to make sustainable diets prevalent in Europe.

5th Global Food Security Conference

In April 2024, representatives from SAM, including the GCSA and the SAPEA Working Group, presented the advice in a prominent conference, titled, the '[5th Global Food Security Conference – Towards equitable, sustainable and resilient food systems](#)', which brought together stakeholders in science, business, and policy to discuss important themes such as enhancing the sustainability and resilience of food systems, the true cost of producing food, ensuring equity and fairness across food systems, novel food sources and technologies, and the future of farms, farming, and farmers, among others. The conference was held in person in Brussels.

Social media campaign

SAPEA ran a successful social media influencer campaign that engaged four prominent wellness influencers, who produced content for TikTok and Instagram, achieving a combined reach of 370,000 individuals. This influencer campaign ran in parallel to members of the SAPEA Working Group on Sustainable Food Consumption posting about the topic on LinkedIn.

Scientific Advice on the Successful and Timely Uptake of Artificial Intelligence in Science in the EU

In July 2023, the SAM was [called on](#) by the European Commission to provide advice addressing the following question:

- How can the European Commission accelerate the responsible uptake of artificial intelligence (AI) in science in order to boost the EU's innovation and prosperity, strengthen the EU's position in science, and ultimately, contribute to Europe's societal challenges?



To collect and review the scientific evidence to underpin the GCSA's policy recommendations, SAPEA assembled an interdisciplinary working group of experts², co-chaired by [Anna Fabijańska](#), Professor at Lodz University of Technology, and [Andrea Emilio Rizzoli](#), Professor, Istituto Dalle Molle di studi sull'Intelligenza Artificiale. The working group gathered and reviewed the latest evidence on the subject between October 2023 and January 2024 to produce the 13th SAPEA ERR, which was delivered in April 2024, along with the Scientific Opinion of the GCSA. The ERR limited its scope to the impact of AI on scientific research, particularly on the scientific process, scientists, and policy design, rather than on its implications for society as a whole. This scientific advice was coordinated by Euro-CASE as the lead academy network.

² All experts for this working group, including the chairs, Anna Fabijańska and Andrea Emilio Rizzoli, were nominated by the ALLEA Member Academies, including the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Polish Young Academy, and the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences.

The report identified five broad challenges to the responsible and timely uptake of AI in science for EU policymakers:

- The resource inequality between public and private sector research in AI
- Scientific validity and epistemic integrity
- Opacity
- Bias and ethical concerns
- Threats to safety, security, sustainability, and democracy

The ERR includes the following policy proposals, among others:

- Creating a publicly funded state-of-the-art research facility for AI
- Fostering research and development of best practices, benchmarks, and guidelines for the use of AI in science focused on ensuring epistemic integrity, validity and open publication aligned with the law and ethics
- Increasing the capacity and capabilities of AI researchers, as well as providing them with attractive career trajectories to enable recruitment and retention within public institutions

To-date, four events have been held to raise awareness of the advice on AI uptake in science, with several more planned in the coming months.

For more information on the ERR and the GCSA's Scientific Opinion on the timely uptake of AI in science, visit the dedicated [webpage](#).

Promoting Best Practices in Science Advice

In addition to SAPEA's issue-specific science advice activities, the consortium has been committed to developing, disseminating, and exchanging best practices in science advice.

One avenue by which SAPEA pursues this objective is through its popular [Science for Policy podcast](#), which attracts both established and early-career researchers to talk about their work to an audience of more than 1,000 regular listeners. More than 20 episodes have been published in the past year.

SAPEA has also organised a series of events for diverse stakeholders to facilitate the conversation on effective science advice. A select few are highlighted below.

Webinar on the keys to high-quality science advice

In September 2023, SAPEA held a webinar, bringing together over 70 experts to reflect on and discuss the key elements to providing high-quality and effective science advice. It included a discussion of the latest methodologies, the definition(s) of 'evidence' and 'research excellence, and the key role for knowledge brokers.

You can watch a recording of the webinar [here](#).

Science for Policy in Europe (S4P) Conference

In October 2023, SAPEA co-organised the Science for Policy in Europe (S4P) Conference in Brussels with the European Commission, bringing together important stakeholders in the Science-Policy space to answer questions such as:

- What are the trends, challenges, and opportunities for the future of evidence-based policymaking?
- How can we build stronger science-for-policy institutions, networks, and ecosystems in Europe?
- How can we develop the competencies and skills for effective science-for-policy mechanisms?
- How can we improve the governance of science for policy?

The two-day event included a variety of interactive formats and was well-attended. ALLEA President Antonio Loprieno participated in a panel discussion on setting up effective and successful advisory bodies, which discussed the process of setting these up, their common features, and the specific elements required for an advisory body to be fit for purpose, the role of principles and guidelines, and the lessons learnt from recent years when many governments were called to create advisory bodies on very short notice.

You can watch recordings of the conference [here](#).

Webinar on rethinking academies' collaboration with stakeholders: success stories

In April 2024, SAPEA organised a webinar to discuss the best practices, lessons learned, and benefits of interactions and partnerships between academies and a diversity of stakeholders, including civil society and industry. The relevance of such partnerships to the effective translation of science into action was robustly debated.

You can watch a recording of the webinar [here](#).

Increasing the Participation of Early- and Mid-Career Researchers in High-Level Science and Policy Advice to the EU

SAPEA is developing a strategy to improve the involvement of early- and mid-career researchers, as well as building a network of these researchers across Europe. To inform this strategy, SAPEA has developed a questionnaire, which was published in February 2024, to solicit input from early- and mid-career researchers on the challenges they face when engaging in science-for-policy work. The questionnaire also aimed to identify opportunities available for these researchers to engage in the science-for-policy ecosystem in the EU. A report of the findings from the survey will be published in the second half of 2024, and will contribute to SAPEA's efforts to shape a more diverse and inclusive science-policy landscape in the EU.

You can find the questionnaire [here](#).

4.2 NEW GENOMIC TECHNIQUES AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

[New Genomic Techniques \(NGTs\)](#), such as genome editing using CRISPR-Cas, continue to be a highly polarised subject with important consequences for the future of Europe's food systems. NGTs have the potential to contribute to Europe's sustainability and food security objectives, but legislative uncertainties and intellectual property (IP) issues, as well as divisive rhetoric, remain key obstacles to their adoption.

The past year saw an important development in the status of NGTs in the EU with the European Parliament [adopting](#) the European Commission's [position](#) for negotiation with Member States starting in February 2024. The proposal for new regulations on plants and products derived from NGTs includes the following recommendations, among others:

- Dividing NGT plants into Category 1 and 2 to be regulated differently; NGT 1 plants, should be considered equivalent to conventional plants and not be subject to [GMO regulations](#), whereas NGT 2 plants should be more strictly regulated.
- Neither NGT 1 nor NGT 2 plants should be included in organic farming practices.
- All NGT 1 plant reproductive material should be registered in a dedicated database to ensure transparency for farmers and consumers.

Against this political backdrop, ALLEA has been actively providing science advice on these hotly contested issues using the latest evidence and taking into account societally and ethically accepted frameworks.

Bridging the Divide: Depolarising the Conversation on Sustainable Agriculture

The increasingly polarised nature of the debates around food and food systems, particularly agriculture systems, has been well [documented](#), and is playing out on the streets, in policy circles, and the media; the recent farmer protests across Europe, the EU's roll-back of environmentally friendly regulations on emissions targets and pesticide-use, and ongoing public demonstrations by climate activists are some highly visible expressions of the polarised discourse.

These polarised debates are also taking place within a wider context of rampant [mis- and disinformation](#), which are increasingly being highlighted as risks to human development, societal

cohesion, and progress. Building sustainable food systems in Europe is an existential challenge – one that is made harder to overcome when conversations around potential solutions and policy reforms devolve into false dichotomies, such as “us versus them” or “right versus wrong” narratives.

In January 2024, ALLEA, as part of the [Task Force on Sustainable Food Systems and Innovation](#) led by Brussels-based think-tank [Re-Imagine Europa](#), organised an invite-only workshop in Lisbon to explore ways to improve the quality of these debates and depolarise the narratives on NGTs and sustainable agriculture. The goal was to engage multidisciplinary, and ideologically diverse, stakeholders in the natural and social sciences, as well as policymakers, industry, and civil society representatives, to explore the latest research and insights on effective communication strategies that could be applied to the highly debated and controversial topic of sustainable agriculture and the role of NGTs. The workshop included presentations by experts as well as an interactive TableTop exercise that immersed participants in a crisis simulation and required them to play pre-designed roles to discuss a contentious (fictitious) topic in a constructive way. The participants were divided into three groups and required to apply RIE’s [R.E.F.R.A.M.E Methodology](#), which was elaborated on in the recently published [Depolarisation Manual](#), to conduct their discussions.

A news feature of the workshop with key highlights from the speaker presentations is available [here](#). You can also watch the full [live recording](#).



In the second half of 2024, ALLEA and RIE will continue the work pioneered in Lisbon in a three-part workshop series exploring the different facets and methodologies of depolarisation as it relates to sustainable food systems.

ALLEA Statement on Measures to Ease the Impact of the IP System on New Genomic Techniques for Crop Development

In February 2024, ALLEA released a statement exploring the impact of the current IP system on the potential adoption of NGTs, detailing the concerns of European farmers and breeders, for example, around issues of possible monopolisation of traits via the patent system, legal disputes and lack of clarity, and the possible accidental infringement of patents. The statement proposed a range of short-, medium-, and long-term solutions to overcome potential challenges posed by the current IP system and thereby facilitate its optimisation for the benefit of all stakeholders.

ALLEA President Antonio Loprieno commented on the release of the statement, saying, “*With the increasing pressures on our food systems arising from climate change and geopolitical developments,*

collaboration among diverse stakeholders is paramount to securing the availability of sufficient and high-quality food. The proposed measures aim at supporting future European food systems that are more sustainable and serve the needs of our society.”

The statement was prepared by the recently formed [ALLEA Task Force](#), which consists of some of Europe’s leading experts on the intersection of IP rights and NGTs, and is jointly chaired by ALLEA Board Member Pere Puigdomènech (Institute of Catalan Studies & Royal Academy of Sciences and Arts of Barcelona) and Heinz Müller (Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences). When devising the statement, the Task Force consulted a variety of stakeholders for their diverse perspectives, including patent holders, small breeders, farmers, and researchers.

Read the full statement [here](#).

Webinar on the impact of the IP system on NGTs

Following the release of the statement, titled, *ALLEA Statement on Measures to Ease the Impact of the IP System on New Genomic Techniques for Crop Development*, a webinar was held in March 2024 to discuss the range of possible measures that can be taken to navigate the different IP challenges, in order to strike a balance between stimulating innovation and promoting access to technologies and plant varieties. The webinar was well-attended and included the exchange of diverse perspectives from a range of stakeholders, including breeders, farmers, researchers, and policymakers.

Participants debated the practical issues with implementing the measures outlined in the ALLEA Statement, discussed the lessons that could be learned from regulating other technologies, and highlighted the need for a nuanced approach backed by a rigorous impact assessment of the proposed measures.

A news feature of the webinar can be found [here](#). You can also watch the recording [here](#).

5. SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

5.1 SCIENCE EDUCATION

Science is integral to, and embedded within, every facet of the modern world. Science education, therefore, is not just important for those who choose to pursue careers in the sciences, but critical for all citizens – to better facilitate our active and informed participation in society. In the past thirty years, the focus of science education throughout Europe has gradually moved from an emphasis on teaching and assessing science content towards the development of students’ and citizens’ scientific literacy. The [ALLEA Working Group Science Education](#) pursues several avenues to promote the progress of science education throughout Europe to ensure the development of the necessary knowledge, skills, and motivation of students to pursue careers in science and participate as active and informed citizens.

ALLEA Statement on Early Learning Opportunities for Shaping a Scientifically Literate Society

In March 2024, in conjunction with World Science Education Day, ALLEA published a statement calling for relevant authorities to strengthen the role, and broaden the scope, of science education curricula, at the primary and post-primary level to equip young learners with the requisite knowledge, skills, and values to become informed, critical, responsible, and ethically conscious participants in a scientifically literate society. The statement argues that the current level of interconnectedness between technology and society, which is only expected to increase, necessitates the early cultivation and nurture of scientifically literate citizens. It suggests that integrating concepts on research ethics and the ‘Nature of Science’ (NOS) into science education curricula, in addition to disciplinary content knowledge, is more important than ever for a healthy, innovative, and thriving Europe.

The statement was prepared by the ALLEA Working Group Science Education, with Dr Cliona Murphy (Working Group chair), Mathijs Vleugel and Maria Ronald (ALLEA Secretariat) as principal authors. Additional insights were obtained from the [Permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics \(PWGSE\)](#) and external expert, Dr Eve Poole.

Read the full statement [here](#).

5.2 MADAME DE STAËL PRIZE

The Madame de Staël Prize is awarded to eminent scholars for their significant contributions to strengthening the cultural values of Europe and the idea of European integration, and for promoting an understanding of Europe as multifaceted, intellectual, open, and vibrant.



The 2023 Madame de Staël Prize was awarded to particle physicist and Director-General of CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, Fabiola Gianotti in recognition of her remarkable scientific achievements and her exemplary leadership of the illustrious organisation. The selection committee determined that Dr Gianotti’s efforts in pursuing CERN’s mission of bringing European nations together and her commitment to fostering an environment in which research could flourish beyond borders were both laudable in their own right, as well as in alignment with ALLEA’s own mission of facilitating scientific collaboration across borders and disciplines.

5.3 SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN SCIENCE

In the immediate aftermath of Russia’s illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the European academic community has rallied together in different ways to support Ukrainian researchers and scholarship in Ukraine. In line with our values and mission, including defending academic freedom and promoting scientific collaboration across disciplines and borders in service of the ‘greater good’, ALLEA aims to vigorously and consistently support both those displaced from Ukraine, as well as those individuals and institutions resolutely continuing their work within the country as the war rages on around them. To this end, we have collaborated with several like-minded organisations to develop initiatives that enable the continuity of Ukrainian scholarship. Some of these projects are highlighted below.

EFDS Comes to an Official Close

In March 2022, less than a month after the war in Ukraine began, ALLEA partnered with the Breakthrough Prize Foundation to set up the European Fund for Displaced Scientists (EFDS), endowed with USD 1.5 million, in order to support the resilience of individuals and institutions affected by the war in Ukraine. The EFDS was one of the very first support initiatives launched by the academic and research community in Europe to protect Ukrainian scholarship at this difficult time. The programme consisted of two funding lines.

Funding Line 1 provided grants to academic institutions within the Council of Europe region to host displaced scholars from Ukraine. The aim was to provide immediate assistance to scholars in the continuation of their research in a safe environment. **Funding Line 2** provided funds to Ukrainian universities, academies, and research institutes impacted by the war to help them maintain and/or reinstate their scientific operations and research collaborations. It also aimed to support the reintegration process of researchers upon their return to Ukraine. EFDS came to an official close in December 2023. A snapshot of the fund’s impact is presented below.



For more information on EFDS, visit the dedicated [webpage](#).

Report on 2nd ALLEA-ISC Conference on Ukraine Published



In August 2023, ALLEA and the International Science Council (ISC) jointly published a [report](#) on the second conference on the Ukraine crisis they co-hosted, titled, '*One Year of War in Ukraine: Exploring the Impact on the Science Sector and Supporting Initiatives*'. ALLEA Vice-President, Luke Drury, significantly contributed to shaping both the conference and the report.

Held in March 2023, one year after the start of the full-scale assault on Ukraine, the conference, and corresponding report, sought to engage with the insights and recommendations that emerged from the previous conference held in [June 2022](#), particularly in the geopolitical context of worsening conditions in the country. The aim was also to place these insights within the broader context of how and why the international science system and research community can show solidarity in times of crisis. The report highlighted the impact and responses to date, including a review of the recommendations put forward in the June 2022 conference.

You can read the full report [here](#).

6. COMMUNICATIONS

ALLEA's communications team continues to work in close partnership with the working groups, task forces, project leads, scientific policy officers, and partner organisations to design, disseminate, and amplify key messages important to ALLEA's mission and strategic priorities.

ALLEA and SAPEA Organise Meeting of Academy Communications Professionals

In October 2023, ALLEA and SAPEA co-organised the first annual meeting of communications professionals working in academies across Europe. The two-day workshop, hosted by the [Polish Academy of Sciences](#) in Warsaw, was attended by over 42 participants from some 30 academies and networks. Participants vigorously discussed the challenges, experiences, and best practices of communicating academies' activities with diverse stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, and the public.

ALLEA Suspends Activities on X/Twitter

ALLEA decided to cease its activities on X, formerly known as Twitter, starting January 2024. The decision was made following recent developments in X's policies that ran counter to ALLEA's commitment to academic freedom and science as a global public good.

ALLEA continues to actively communicate on [LinkedIn](#) and [Mastodon](#), as well as through its [newsletters](#), thereby remaining dedicated to fostering collaboration, dialogue, and the dissemination of knowledge within the academic and scientific community.

ALLEA in the News

ALLEA's activities drew attention from the media, thereby enabling us to reach a wide public audience across Europe, and even globally. A selection of news about ALLEA and its various initiatives are highlighted below.

- [European research integrity code given greater focus on culture](#)
- [The new European Code of Scientific Ethics also affects AI \(in Hungarian\)](#)
- [Preparing for crises](#)
- [Healthy, sustainable food: European experts recommend strong measures \(in French\)](#)
- [Academies call for academic freedom in EU research funding](#)
- [Academies back move to protect freedom of EU science](#)
- [Academies group urges action against predatory publishing](#)
- [Humanities assessment 'must evolve for digital age'](#)
- [European Academies join call for €200B FP10 budget](#)
- [Paving the way to a scientifically literate society must begin in primary school](#)



Contact Us

All European Academies (ALLEA) e.V.

Jägerstr. 22/23
10117 Berlin
Germany

+49 (0)30-20 60 66 500

SECRETARIAT@ALLEA.ORG

www.allea.org