

# Activities Report

May 2019 – April 2020



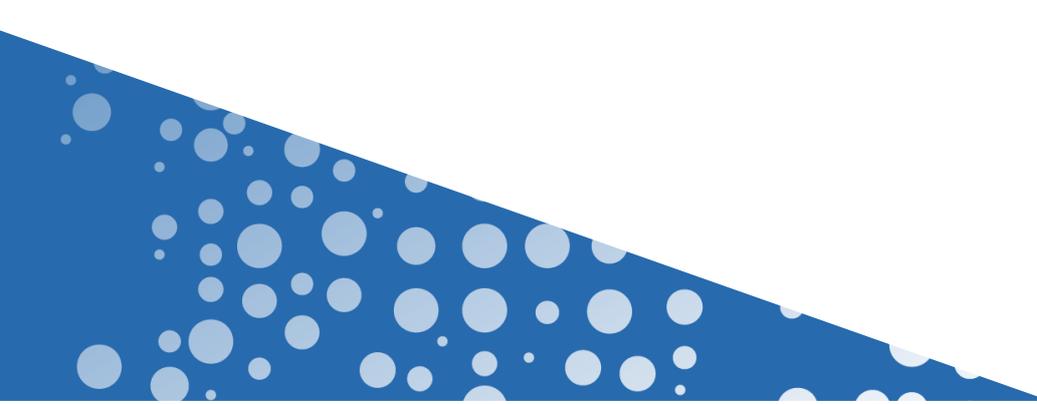
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Cover picture by Eric Schmid: Impressions from ALLEA General Assembly in Bern, Switzerland (May 2019)

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# 1. FOREWORD

Dear reader,

I would like to introduce this ALLEA activities report with a somewhat reminiscent recollection of our last General Assembly in the city of Bern, Switzerland, precisely one year ago.

I vividly recall a memorable, pleasant and truly engaging annual meeting, scientific conference and cultural programme and I invite you to delve into these shared moments again through a visit to our [dedicated website](#) which re-narrates ALLEA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a multimedia fashion. Or, should you be a bit short of time, I recommend you watch [this small video clip](#).



While it would have of course been my preference to address you in person during the envisaged business meeting in London, alas it was not meant to be this year. Nonetheless, I am certain our UK and Irish Member Academies would have been formidable hosts and I am most grateful for their invitation to hold this meeting in London.

It is with pride that I present to you on the following pages the activities of the various ALLEA initiatives. In the past year we have continued our strong work on policy-for-science by publishing a wide range of statements and reports speaking up for researchers and scientists. We have also strengthened our activities in the science-for-policy field, where we have taken the lead in producing an Evidence Review Report of the EU-funded [SAPEA](#) project on a sustainable food system for the EU and have delved into genome editing in plants, together with the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, or on Data Governance, together with the Royal Society.

Likewise, we have expanded our activities on science communications on specifically two fronts. The first is on how scientists themselves can better communicate their findings and the second is on how scientific disinformation can be combatted, which we cover in our new EU-funded [PERITIA](#) project as well as the Fact or Fake project, supported by Compagnia di San Paolo. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is a great challenge to everyone and in this pivotal time, people turn to scientists for advice and guidance. It is therefore all the more important for academies of sciences to inform the public and to fulfil their role towards society. I am immensely pleased to see that many of our academies are actively engaged in responding to COVID-19, a compendium of which you may find on our [website](#).

We have been inspired by the encouragements we received for our plans to increase our collaboration with young researchers. This is something, where we feel we can really contribute to improving the living and working conditions of younger researchers and I was therefore delighted when we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the [Global Young Academy](#) last year. We will continue working on including young researchers in our work as essential parts of ALLEA activities.

The above is merely a short glimpse into the manifold activities of the past year, and you are invited to read more on what we have been up to and what we will be up to in the coming months.

We shall hopefully convene next at the 2021 General Assembly, which will take place between 5-7 May 2021 in Helsinki upon the kind invitation of the Council of Finnish Academies.

Let me close by saying a sincere thank you, the whole ALLEA family, including the Board and our Working Groups, the secretariat and our partners, and – again and not least – our Member Academies for their continuous support and engagement.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Antonio Loprieno'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Antonio Loprieno  
*ALLEA President*

## 2. STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION AND GOVERNANCE

### 2.1. IMPLEMENTING ALLEA'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The social and political environment in which science is carried out is constantly evolving and scientists must adapt to new situations frequently. In response to the resulting challenges and to seize new opportunities, on the occasion of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, ALLEA's General Assembly in May 2019 adopted [strategic priorities for the years 2019-2024](#). These priorities form the foundation of ALLEA's activities in the coming years.

Since the adoption of the strategic priorities, ALLEA has adapted its existing initiatives to align with the strategic priorities and has initiated additional activities, many of which you will find in the report. The implementation of the various priorities is ongoing until 2024 and, depending on urgency and relevance, some priorities may be worked on more prominently in some years. The below list is therefore intended to give you a non-exhaustive glimpse into how ALLEA implemented its strategic objectives in the past 12 months.

#### *Serving Academies and Facilitating Cooperation*

- ALLEA report on [FAIR and Sustainable Data Sharing in the Humanities](#)
- ALLEA statement on [Need for IPR strategies at academic institutions](#)

#### *Improving Framework Conditions for Science and Research*

- ALLEA statement [Delivering Horizon Europe](#)
- ALLEA statement [Towards Implementing The European Open Science Cloud – IPR And Other Strategic Considerations](#)
- ALLEA's upcoming work on re-thinking research assessment and peer-review, together with young researchers.

#### *Providing Independent Scientific Advice to Policymakers and Society*

- ALLEA took the lead on SAPEA Evidence Review Report [Towards a Sustainable Food System for the European Union](#)
- ALLEA and the Royal Society published the joint discussion paper [Flourishing in a Data-enabled Society](#)
- As part of ALLEA's mission to enable Member Academies to inject ideas into the science policy debate, ALLEA worked together with KVAB to organise a symposium on [Genome Editing for Crop Improvement](#)

#### *Facilitating Good Research Practice*

- ALLEA continues championing the work on the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) and regularly publishes translations in European and other languages
- ALLEA is a consortium member in two proposed Horizon 2020 projects on *Ethics of High Impact Technologies* and on the *Ethics of Organoids* respectively

#### *Defending Academic Freedom and Trustworthy Science*

- Since February 2020, the Horizon 2020 funded project [PERITIA](#) (Policy, Expertise and Trust in Action) has commenced with ALLEA as major partner. The project builds on and continues previous ALLEA work on [Truth, Trust and Expertise](#)
- Similarly, supported by the Compagnia di San Paolo, ALLEA has launched the *Fact or Fake* project, which aims at identifying the root causes underpinning science scepticism in the public.

### Strengthening Diversity and Inclusivity

- ALLEA has signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the [Global Young Academy](#), tying the two organisations together more closely on matters of joint interest and enhancing intergenerational exchange in science
- A new volume in [ALLEA's book series](#) "Discourses on Intellectual Europe" showcases the role and contributions of women in European academies and in the science system as a whole (soon to be published)

### Thinking and Acting Globally

- ALLEA's President represented the European academy landscape during the 2019 [International Symposium on the Future of Learned Academies](#), in Philadelphia/US
- Via a dedicated task force, ALLEA will work on global recommendations for Open Science through UNESCO
- ALLEA is a supporter of the proposed 'UNESCO Year of Basic Sciences for Development 2022'



## 2.2. ALLEA BOARD AND PRESIDENCY ACTIVITIES

### 2.2.1. ALLEA Board

The ALLEA Board met regularly between May 2019 and May 2020. While meetings in 2019 were held physically (Berlin, September / Barcelona, December), due to the Coronavirus pandemic the 2020 meetings (March and May) took place virtually.

Major topics of the Board's discussions included inter alia the implementation of ALLEA's strategy (see above), the federation's budget in the years 2019-2021, ALLEA's involvement in EU-funded projects [ENERI](#) (concluded), [SAPEA](#) (on-going) and [PERITIA](#) (new), membership applications, proposals and requests from ALLEA partners and working groups. Board activities further included re-thinking and expanding the scope of ALLEA's Mme de Stael Prize (read more below), supervising the creation and implementation of a new [ALLEA image and website](#), and responding to [infringements of academic freedom](#) to name but a few.

Emphasis was put on the Board-Working Group relations to consolidate interaction and improve workflows and information exchange at various stages, including the endorsement process of publications prepared by working groups. To that end, individual Board members act as liaison persons for each of ALLEA's working groups and take an active part in meetings and deliberations. In other cases, Board members take over special responsibilities for cross-cutting topics (e.g. Open Science and Plan S; see below) or act as champions for activities ALLEA develops together with its partners (e.g. Health Inequalities or Migration and Health; read more below).

The Board's 2020 activities especially focused on the preparation of the ALLEA General Assembly 2020 - envisaged to take place in London but which was then cancelled due to pandemic-related restrictions - including the election of new members and ALLEA's future Board 2020-2022. The final weeks in the run-up to the General Assembly required particular efforts to devise a suitable "by correspondence" model for the General Assembly business meeting.



### 2.2.2. Representation of ALLEA at academy, stakeholder and science-policy events

Another facet of the Board's work is to represent ALLEA at international academy events or other stakeholder gatherings. These visits are important to reinforce the bond between ALLEA and its Member Academies as well as serve to make new connections at the science-policy-society interface. ALLEA Board members have thus been present at a variety of gatherings in the past year, many of which will also be touched upon in the coming pages.

In addition, the ALLEA President took part in an event [organised by the Royal Society of Edinburgh](#) on the impact of Brexit on the UK research system in Edinburgh on 30 May 2019. Shortly after, between 12-14 June 2019, the ALLEA President linked up with other academy presidents from around the world during [the International Symposium on the Future of Learned Societies](#) in Philadelphia, where he, inter alia, led a session on questions around academy membership.

More festive occasions are usually the anniversary celebrations of ALLEA Member Academies. Notably, the [Bulgarian Academy of Sciences celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) between 11-13 October 2019. ALLEA was represented during the festivities by its Vice-President Graham Caie.

## 3. RESEARCH POLICY

Research requires sound framework conditions to excel. European academies play a fundamental role in ensuring them by incentivising and promoting high scientific standards and proper research practice. ALLEA capitalises on its members' expertise to advise European institutions on the priorities and needs of the European Research Area and the EU research frameworks. Our research policy work includes areas such as research integrity and research ethics, intellectual property rights, open science, Horizon Europe and digital infrastructures in the humanities.

### 3.1. RESEARCH INTEGRITY AND RESEARCH ETHICS

Ethics in science requires researchers to pay due attention to the effects of their work on their subject groups, to minimise harmful effects on their research subjects, which besides humans may also include animals and the environment. Therefore, ensuring that research ethics are abided by serves to put science on track to be trustworthy, reproducible and sustainable. Research integrity touches on the ethos of science and is guided by the rules imposed on the research community by itself. As such, research integrity aims at providing a comprehensive framework for scientists to carry out their work within accepted ethical frameworks as well as following good scientific practice. ALLEA has been a long-standing voice in the fields of research ethics and research integrity via its [Permanent Working Group Science and Ethics](#) (PWGSE), which has covered a wide-range of issues relating to ethics and integrity.

Following its last meeting in August 2019, the PWGSE decided to focus their next activities on the various ethical implications of the turn towards Open Science. Based on the workshop *Ethical Aspects of Open Access* and the group's contribution ALLEA's response to Plan S, the group decided to focus their next activity on re-thinking research assessment, with a particular focus on discovering how a reform could both benefit young researchers as well as contribute to increased transparency and trust in scientific processes.

As such, the working group formed a cooperation with the Global Young Academy to host a symposium on *Research assessments that promote scholarly progress and reinforce the contract with society*. The symposium was supposed to take place in Brussels in June, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic had to be postponed. A new date has not yet been set, though it is envisaged that the event will still be held in 2020 to contribute to the ongoing discussions in a timely fashion.

Closely related to the above activity is an envisaged workshop on the future of peer-review in the context of ensuring quality and trustworthiness, which ALLEA, in collaboration with the Royal Irish Academy, will organise together with the Global Young Academy and STM Publishers. The aim is to facilitate cross-sector exchange between participants from various areas of expertise and to represent different "cultural traditions" of research evaluation. The event seeks to create a platform for a truly open debate, and to identify a potential common ground across sectors.

#### 3.1.1. ENERI

For the past three years, ALLEA was involved in the Horizon 2020 funded project ENERI (European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity). As a project, ENERI sought to improve the exchange between experts in research ethics and research integrity across Europe by providing learning material and platforms for exchange for research integrity and ethics practitioners.

While working on this project, ALLEA built valuable relationships with the European networks for research ethics (ENRIO), and for research integrity (EUREC), which are an excellent basis for future joint activities and will be put to good use.



The main outcomes of ENERI are:

### 1) The ENERI E-community

The e-community is a platform for experts in research ethics and research integrity to discuss and share information and documents across Europe. The community is growing and currently hosts fewer than 200 members. The project has now ended but the community, which is hosted on SINAPSE, a service provided by the European Commission, will continue to exist.

It is still possible to become a member of the group. To do so, please send a message to Panagiotis Kavouras ([kavouras@chemeng.ntua.gr](mailto:kavouras@chemeng.ntua.gr)), the administrator of the page.

### 2) The Research Integrity Handbook

The handbook takes stock of different practices concerning the investigation of research misconduct in different parts of the continent. In the absence of harmonized and formalised European legislation, the handbook compiled the best current practices. It is used as a basis for further harmonization on the European level, but also to assist countries with emerging research ethics and integrity structures to quickly establish common standards.

The handbook is available [here](#).

### 3) The ENERI decision tree

The decision tree is a handy tool for researchers as well as members of research ethics and research integrity committees to reflect on ethical issues and challenges before and during research. It is strongly recommended to work with the ENERI decision tree alongside the H2020 Ethics self-assessment and the European Commission's guidelines on ethics and data protection.

The decision tree is accessible here: <http://eneri.eu/decision-tree/>

More information on the project is available here: [www.eneri.eu](http://www.eneri.eu)

#### 3.1.2. European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and further initiatives

To further contribute our experience and expertise, ALLEA is involved as a consortium member in two Horizon 2020 calls in response to *The ethics of high impact technologies* and *The ethics of organoids*, respectively. Both calls will expand on the existing guidelines laid out in the *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity*. Should it be successful, ALLEA will be responsible for evaluating whether a future revision of the *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity* will need to consider specific ethical questions raised in either of the two proposals.

Further translations of the *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity* were completed, with the final versions in Norwegian, Maltese and Catalan published in the last year. Increasingly, ALLEA is also requested to grant permission for translations into non-EU languages. As such, translations into Arabic, Chinese, and Russian are currently in preparation. Find all available translations here: <https://allea.org/code-of-conduct/>

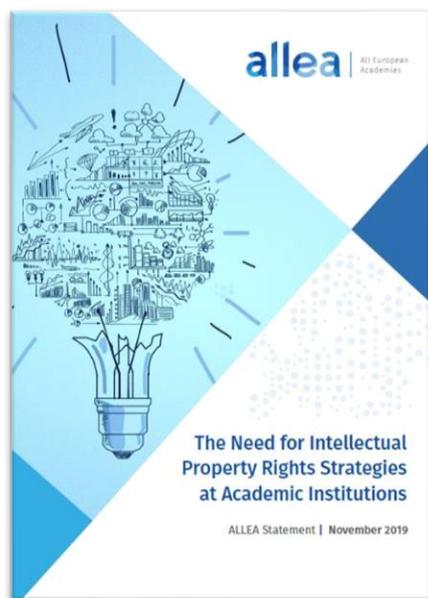
## 3.2. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Intellectual property rights (IPRs) play an important role in the academic activities, in their outreach towards the public and their services to society. Without the appropriate protection of inventions and creations, incentives for researchers to focus on applied research and for scientific institutions to disseminate innovative ideas and practices could be diminished.

ALLEA's Permanent Working Group Intellectual Property Rights (PWGIPR) over the past months has met twice and prepared two statements which have been published by ALLEA in November 2019 and March 2020, respectively. The group also substantially contributed to ALLEA's statement on Plan S (see further below) particularly as regards to legal implications. At its meeting in November 2019, Professor Alain Strowel took over the PWGIPR's chairmanship from long-

standing chair and IPR expert Professor Joseph Straus, who was thanked for his invaluable efforts for ALLEA on behalf of its Board. The group furthermore welcomed new members from Germany, Hungary and Norway amongst its midst. Read more about the PWGIPR: <https://allea.org/intellectual-property-rights/>

### 3.2.1. The Need for Intellectual Property Rights Strategies at Academic Institutions



The [statement](#) published in November 2019 formulates recommendations both to scientific organisations and to European and national legislators. It underlines the increasing relevance of intangible assets, such as computer software or patented technology in today's economy, which requires fundamental rethinking and a cultural change in the management of IP portfolios in scientific organisations, just as it does in companies. The statement urges academic institutions to adopt adequate IPR strategies which ensure that knowledge transfer benefits society, for example in public-private partnerships.

Recommendations to academic institutions include:

- To adopt a holistic approach as regards to their IP strategies, in order to remain attractive as partners in public-private partnerships (PPP) or for third party funding.
- To raise awareness of the importance of IPR for innovation on both the micro- and macroeconomic scale.
- To make available financial and human resources to secure appropriate in-house structures or external mechanisms.

The statement further presented options to European and national legislators on ways to incentivise the translation of publicly funded research results into IP-protected innovative products and processes, including:

- To devise legal frameworks similar to those adopted in the US, China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.
- To introduce a grace period into patent law, and to consider preferential tax treatment for income generated through commercialisation of publicly funded research.
- To better support cooperation between academic institutions in the commercialisation of their research results and to optimise cooperation of existing Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs).

### 3.2.2. Towards implementing the European Open Science Cloud – IPR and other strategic considerations

This [statement](#) from March 2020 on the progress of the European Open Science Cloud highlights EOSC's great potential to accelerate the transition towards open science. The document presents a set of legal instruments and technical considerations which aim to reinforce the sustainability of EOSC and to ensure an encouraging research environment for individual researchers and high-risk research investments in today's global and competitive world.

Deploying EOSC, an open platform of research tools, infrastructures and procedures for data and research sharing across borders and scientific disciplines can significantly foster knowledge exchange and facilitate the faster uptake of scientifically informed policies to tackle major societal challenges like climate change or health threats.

ALLEA was amongst the first endorsers of the EOSC declaration in 2017, and since, has closely monitored deliberations and developments regarding its implementation. The statement points to neglected questions, especially in the area of IPRs, and also advocates that the Rules of Participation (RoP) should further define access conditions in line with the EOSC principles to make the cloud "as open as possible and as closed as necessary".

Key considerations include:

- An overall legal design that ensures reciprocity of access for participating researchers submitting data according to the EOSC RoP and to EOSC compliant users of data stored elsewhere.

- Interoperability with other regional data clouds which also promote interoperability and development of common global standards.
- Staggered security regulations as regards to data and processes, with due consideration of all relevant aspects. Open source should be promoted as a standard to ensure security.
- Data should be stored, unless it is proven impossible, on servers and equipment operated in Europe and subject to EU rules.

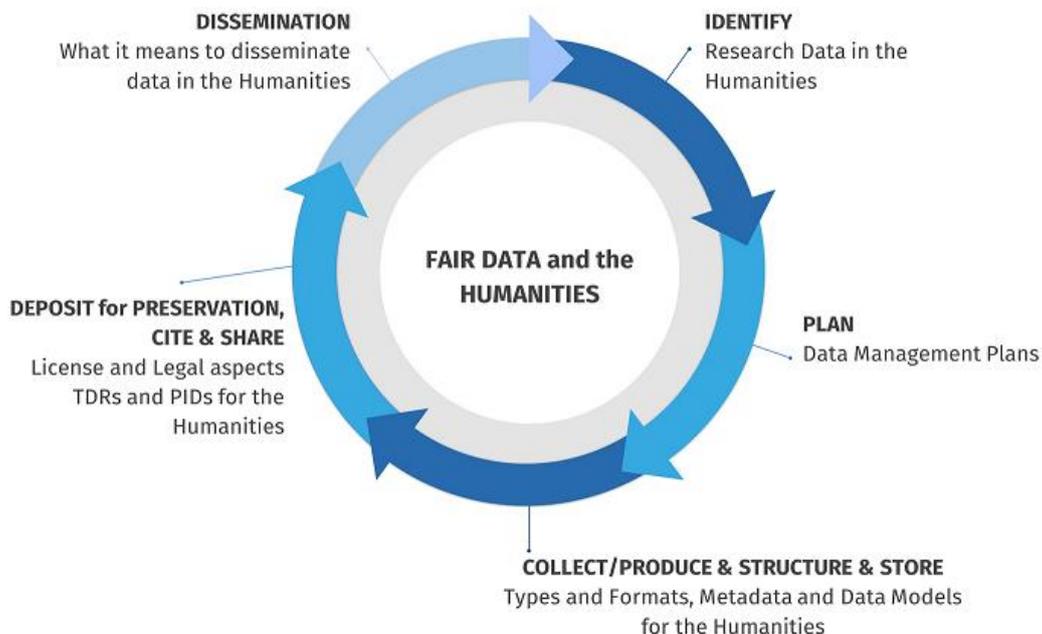
### 3.3. E-HUMANITIES

As longstanding producers and repositories of large and important corpora of scientific work, in the humanities and beyond, European academies are among the institutions impacted as well as driving the transformation towards the digitisation of research data and outcomes.

To respond in truly European fashion, ALLEA maintains a dedicated working group on E-Humanities, chaired by Dr Natalie Harrower of the Royal Irish Academy. The group is charged with identifying and raising awareness for priorities and concerns of the Digital Humanities, and contributing to the Open Science and Open Access agenda from a Humanities and Social Sciences perspective, and building consensus for common standards and best practices in E-Humanities scholarship and digitisation. Read more about the [E-Humanities working group](#).

In February 2020, ALLEA launched a report on *Fair and Accessible Data Sharing in the Humanities*, prepared by the ALLEA Working Group E-Humanities. The report is a continuation of the working group’s earlier activities, particularly the 2015 ALLEA report on *Going Digital: Creating Change in the Humanities*.

The document, which received input of more than 200 stakeholders during an open stakeholder consultation, presents a number of key recommendations for the different stages of the data lifecycle. As such, it is intended to serve the scientific community and not be restricted to humanities researchers per se, as a guiding document to ensure that research projects comply with and turn into practice the *FAIR Principles* (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reproducible) during every stage of research management.



Following the data management lifecycle, the report is structured in five stages: (1) identify, (2) plan, (3) collect/produce, structure & store, (4) deposit for preservation, cite & share, and (5) disseminate. For each phase, a set of practical recommendations and further reading are presented. The authors consider the differences among data sharing cultures across disciplines in the humanities but also encourage pathways towards interdisciplinary data practices.

The [report](#) was officially launched to the public in February during the 15<sup>th</sup> International Digital Curation Conference, with the most relevant recipients participating in the event.

### 3.4. HORIZON EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA)

The world's biggest challenges, like climate change, social inequalities, data governance among others, are global challenges, and thus cannot be solved at the national level alone. Europe is in a unique position to facilitate open and excellent cross-border research funding, complementing national funding schemes, to tackle these challenges together. The European Commission is moving rapidly towards the finalisation of the next EU Framework Programme, which will define the future of the largest research funding system in the world.

Through a dedicated Working Group chaired by Professor John Bell of the British Academy, ALLEA provides significant input into developing the EU's framework programmes and into shaping the European Research Area (ERA) as a whole. Read more: <https://allea.org/horizon-europe/>

Members of the WG convened during the European Commission's Research and Innovation Days on 24-26 September 2019, and actively engaged in its programme. Subsequently, a statement was prepared taking into account discussions of the European Commission's consultation and the key topics discussed during the event.

#### 3.4.1. Delivering Horizon Europe

ALLEA submitted a [statement](#) to the European Commission in October calling for a strong and well-resourced framework programme guided by principles of excellence, fairness and openness, and made concrete suggestions on their implementation in the current draft of the Commission's Strategic Plan on Horizon Europe.

In order to achieve better conditions for research and innovation in the EU in the coming decades, and to position European research successfully in a competitive global environment, the statement underlined the importance of taking into account the following points in the implementation process of Horizon Europe:

- Focus on funding excellence and 'blue sky thinking' through successful instruments like the European Research Council (ERC);
- Continue and intensify support for research mobility through programmes like Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) or ERASMUS;
- Arrange for fair and equal distribution of funds on the different clusters of Pillar 2 "Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness" in Horizon Europe;
- Follow a broad understanding of innovation which goes beyond technological innovation and hence supports interdisciplinarity, and which recognizes the value of humanities and social sciences in a less technocratic and instrumental way;
- Establish an independent, critical and continuous assessment of "Missions" in Horizon Europe;
- Continue "Institutional Partnerships" from Horizon 2020;
- Ensure Horizon Europe is 'open to the world' and allows for broad participation of Associated Countries.

In addition to the statement, ALLEA through its WG furthermore assisted in providing nominations for the European Innovation Council's mission boards.



### 3.4.2. The Future of the ERA

ALLEA actively contributed to the work of the European Research Area Committee (ERAC), a strategic policy advisory committee that advises the EU Council, Commission and member states on the full spectrum of research and innovation issues in the framework of ERA governance. ALLEA Board members attended stakeholder workshops in 2019 and 2020 outlining ALLEA's position on the matter. Furthermore, the working group chair submitted contributions in writing. Meanwhile, the [ERAC Opinion on the future of the ERA](#) was published, setting the scene for a further consolidation of the ERA, which is expected to be amongst the prioritised topics of the upcoming German EU Council Presidency. ALLEA is in close contact with the organisers to explore possible avenues for cooperation and further contributions by the European academies.

## 3.5. OPEN SCIENCE

As a truly cross-cutting issue, open science touches on virtually all aspects of the scientific process and on all disciplines alike. ALLEA welcomes European efforts to enable a more streamlined and direct access to scientific publications. During the past year, as well as in the months to come, ALLEA will continue to work with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the creation and implementation of open science principles and actions, such as EOSC or Plan S, are applicable and fair to the research community while also safeguarding questions of ownership and intellectual property rights.

ALLEA has been involved in the policy development and public debates of Plan S. Its initiators, the cOAlition S, an international consortium of research funding organisations, published a revision of its principles and implementation guidelines, taking onboard the feedback received by ALLEA and other stakeholder organisations. The update extended the envisaged starting date by one year until 2021.

As part of this on-going discussion, ALLEA Board Member Luke Drury gave voice to European academies on different public stages. In the international symposium "[The Future of Research: Assessing the impact of Plan S](#)", organised by Academia Europea Cardiff Knowledge Hub and KU Leuven Libraries, Professor Drury underlined some of the key points introduced by the ALLEA statement on Plan S. He was also a conference speaker at the [2019 Open Science Fair](#) in Porto, where he provided some insights on the current status of the project.

In addition to the above mentioned activities on research assessment, by the Permanent Working Group Science & Ethics together with the GYA, and the future of peer review, ALLEA is also in the early stages of setting up a task force to be able to more readily respond to Open Science related questions. The task force will recruit its members from existing ALLEA working groups, soliciting additional expertise from ALLEA Member Academies where necessary.

In terms of concrete tasks, the task force will work with the GYA on the establishment of the European Commission's Open Access publishing platform as well as to provide input to the ongoing UNESCO global consultation on Open Science.

## 4. SCIENCE ADVICE FOR POLICY

The uncertainty and exponential risks of today's interwoven global world place scientific knowledge at the centre of critical public debates. Scientists and scholars are asked to address urgent and evolving questions concerning pressing societal topics where sound scientific assessment is needed, from the complexity of human societies and behaviours to the impact of the digital transformation.

Academies, as centres of excellence and interdisciplinary knowledge, have broad and extensive experience in this realm in national and regional contexts and provide the unique ability to tackle issues with the input of scholars and scientists from all academic disciplines. To extrapolate this repository of knowledge, ALLEA works with its members to identify emerging challenges to which science and research can contribute at the European and international level. ALLEA particularly engages in the [European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism \(SAM\)](#) via the [SAPEA](#) (Science Advice for Policy European Academies) consortium to address high-priority issues relevant for EU legislation and policy.

### 4.1. SAPEA

#### 4.1.1. Introduction

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, 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 programme.

The SAPEA project is now in its fourth year. A cost-neutral extension has been granted to the project, it will therefore now run until December 2021. There is currently no indication that the Scientific Advice Mechanism will not continue in its current form. The SAPEA Consortium has already started developing a proposal for a Horizon Europe grant.

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, by coordinating the production of evidence review reports, or by organisation expert workshops. ALLEA furthermore leads on all SAPEA communication activities.

#### 4.1.2. Published Evidence Review Reports

Since May 2019, SAPEA has published three Evidence Review Reports (ERR) to provide scientific advice to the Advisors and the College of European Commissioners.

Published in June 2019, the SAPEA ERR on [Transforming the Future of Ageing](#) is a bottom-up topic, proposed and coordinated by the Federation of European Academies of Medicine. It reviews the best evidence on how public policies might help EU countries to achieve inclusive, fair and sustainable health and social care in the future. The topic generated great interest from national Academies and at national levels. The Advisors have chosen not to write a Scientific Opinion on this topic, and instead have directly handed over the ERR to the Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel with a cover [letter](#) signed by them.

In July 2019, the SAPEA ERR on [Making Sense of Science for policy under conditions of complexity and uncertainty](#) was published, informing the corresponding [Scientific Opinion](#) of the Commission’s Advisors. The topic was coordinated by Academia Europaea. The report highlights the fact that many of the world’s most pressing problems are also complex, and the scientific knowledge around these areas can often be uncertain or contested. The report therefore aims to provide best practice on advising policymakers with scientific evidence.

ALLEA provided substantial support in both these topics.

Finally, the most recent SAPEA ERR on [A Sustainable Food System for the European Union](#) was published on 9 April 2020. This topic was an initiative from the European Commission’s Advisors and was led by ALLEA. As requested by the Advisors, the report lays out the science on how the necessary transition to a more sustainable food system can happen in an inclusive, just and timely way, particularly from a social sciences perspective. This report fills an existing gap in science advice: while there exists a large body of evidence on *what* needs to be done to attain a more sustainable food system, so far social and political sciences had not yet been sufficiently consulted on *how* to achieve this transition. The ERR was also informed by a [systematic review of the European policy ecosystem](#), coordinated by Academia Europaea.

The report informs the Advisors’ Scientific Opinion entitled [Towards a Sustainable Food System - Moving from food as a commodity to food as more of a common good](#), and both documents have informed the Commission’s forthcoming *Farm to Fork strategy for Sustainable Food (F2F)*. Support from Academies was essential, for the identification of first-class experts, as well as for the organisation of meetings and workshops over the course of the project. As early as now, the ERR and Scientific Opinion have already achieved some political impact, as drafts were used to inform the F2F strategy.



#### 4.1.3. Upcoming Evidence Review Reports

Two ERRs are expected within the next 12 months.

An ERR on the [Biodegradability of Plastics in the Open Environment](#) was requested by DG MARE. Academia Europaea is leading on the topic. The Commission wishes to access the first good draft by the beginning of summer 2020, to inform their policymaking. The main question to be answered is: *From a scientific point-of-view and an end-of-life perspective, and applying to plastics that biodegrade either in the terrestrial, riverine or marine environments, and considering the waste hierarchy and circular economy approach: What are the criteria and corresponding applications of such plastics that are beneficial to the environment, compared with non-biodegradable plastics?* The working group have started their work, which will most likely all be done online. It is composed of 11 experts, including 4 nominations from ALLEA member academies, and is chaired by Professor Ann-Christine Albertsson (Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences).

An ERR on [A systemic approach to the energy transition in Europe](#) will soon be kicking off. The topic is an initiative by Euro-CASE, who will be leading it. The [Scoping Paper](#) has been informed by SAPEA experts including ALLEA and by a workshop co-organised by the SAM Unit. The main question to be addressed is: *What can the European Commission contribute to prepare, accelerate, and facilitate the energy transition in Europe given the present state of knowledge on the possible transition pathways and with respect to constraints from technologies and primary energy sources?* A call for nominations for the working group has been sent to the Academies in early May.

#### 4.1.4. Bottom-up proposal: Towards a sustainable and concerted data governance approach in Europe



Following their joint activities on [Flourishing in a Data Enabled Society](#) (see 4.2), ALLEA and the Royal Society proposed Data Governance as a bottom-up topic for SAPEA and prepared the Scoping Paper "Towards a sustainable and concerted data governance approach in Europe". The paper reflects the discussions and recommendations of more than 40 participants at a scoping workshop held on 6 June 2019 in Berlin at the [Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society](#), which had kindly offered support in organising the workshop. Workshop participants covered a wide range of experts from European academies, European as well as national governmental organisations, corporate as well as civil society representatives, including the Chair of the Commission's Advisors, Rolf-Dieter Heuer.

The Scoping Paper has been produced in constant exchange with the SAM Unit and with the help of 16 selected experts that had been involved in one of the preceding workshops. It was presented and discussed at the [Advisors' 20th meeting](#) in December 2019. In the meeting, it was suggested the topic could be further scoped. It was also acknowledged that a next logical step should be to approach the responsible DGs, especially in view of the recently released [European Data Strategy](#). ALLEA continues its regular exchanges with the SAM Unit on the topic.

#### 4.1.5. SAPEA outreach and public engagement activities

ALLEA leads on all communications-related activities of the SAPEA project. The communications team is based at ALLEA's offices in Brussels and Berlin. These communications focus on three key areas: (1) disseminating the science evidence that SAPEA and its member networks provide to the Advisors and the European Commission; (2) communicating about the work of the Science Advice Mechanism and how European policy is informed by scientific evidence; (3) contributing to and stimulating debates about the value of scientific evidence in policymaking in general.

Our public engagement activities consist not only of academic events which we often co-host with academies and networks, but also presenting our work at public events such as science fairs and trade conferences; liaising with journalists and stakeholders; and maintaining an active social media presence with a growing list of followers from all sectors of society.

#### The Future of Ageing

The report was promoted via a Twitter campaign and events organised together with national academies and other partners. Several national media covered the topic (full list of media coverage and events on [the website](#)).

#### Making Sense of Science

The report was promoted via a Twitter campaign and events organised together with national academies and other partners. Several national media covered the topic (full list of media coverage and events on [the website](#)).

In March 2020, SAPEA published a [video](#) featuring the "Making sense of science for policy under conditions of complexity and uncertainty" report. The video was developed by a professional filmmaker and in cooperation with the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors.

## A Sustainable Food System for the EU

Despite the very challenging conditions for its publication, the report has attracted good media and stakeholders' attention. Usual outreach activities unfortunately cannot take place and alternative engagement activities are being elaborated. For example, in order to promote this topic, ALLEA recorded, edited and published its [first on-line video interview](#) with Peter Jackson, the chair of the working group. The extracts of the interview are included below. In the meantime, the media coverage and policy impact are being recorded [on the website](#).

### Non-topical outreach activities

On 13 November 2019, SAPEA communications team organised a major event on "The future of science advice in Europe". This one-day event in Helsinki brought together some 200 leading practitioners and scholars from around Europe to provide expert input as Finland developed its next-generation science advice capabilities, and to send a clear message to the new European Commission about the role of science in policymaking. The symposium received a very positive feedback from the participants and partners. The details of the event and video recordings are published on the [SAPEA website](#).

From the start of the coronavirus pandemic, SAPEA noticed a 240% increase of web-traffic compared to the same period last year. We cannot know how many of those are connected to the coronavirus context, however the [SAPEA coronavirus news page](#) has had 2880 hits between the 18 March (its launch) and the 20 April. After the homepage, it was the busiest page in terms of hits per day between its launch and the launch of the report "A Sustainable Food System for the European Union".

SAPEA also published a webpage with practical tips on [science communications during lockdown](#), which was appreciated, used and shared amongst the Commission's services by the Cabinet of Commissioner Mariya Gabriel.

#### **[4.1.6. Interview with Peter Jackson, Chair of the SAPEA working group "A Sustainable Food System for the EU"](#)**

*Peter Jackson is a Professor of Human Geography at the University of Sheffield in the UK and co-Director of the Institute for Sustainable Food. He is member of the British Academy and acted as the chair of the SAPEA working group who wrote the report entitled "A Sustainable Food System for the EU". In this interview (conducted by ALLEA staff member Agnieszka Pietruczuk), he explains why and how the current food system should transition to a more sustainable one, and provides some insights on the process that led to such conclusions in the report.*

**Q: The SAPEA report says that a shift to a sustainable food system in Europe is necessary. Could you tell us why?**

PJ: Yes, thank you. The current food system is widely acknowledged to be unsustainable, and that's because of a number of reasons. The food system is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for more than a third of total global greenhouse gas emissions. It's also a major contributor to soil depletion, to soil quality impoverishment, and a range of other ecological consequences, including the loss of biodiversity.

For all these reasons we think the food system is unsustainable. It's also unsustainable in terms of food waste: as much of a third of the food we produce is lost to human consumption at various points along the supply chain. And lastly, in terms of food security, there's been an alarming increase in the number of people needing access to emergency forms of food aid, such as food banks. So across all those criteria, it's fair to say that the current food system is unsustainable.



**Q: And how can we make this shift towards sustainability happen? What does evidence say about it?**

PJ: Conventional approach to solving food system challenges is framed in terms of sustainable intensification. And that means using agri-tech and other scientific interventions to grow more food using less land and fewer inputs. Others disagree with that approach, and suggest we need to focus on agroecology, or organic farming, or to support a return to more local and seasonal food supplies. We clearly also need a concerted approach to reduction of food loss and food waste, but others would also say we need to explore alternative forms of protein, or a move to more plant-based diets.

So there are a whole range of solutions being advocated, and our report tries to weigh up the scientific evidence for one or more of those approaches. Generally though, we support a system-wide and radical change to the current food system, exploring all those options.

**Q: The SAPEA report that you worked on presents key messages for policymakers, which are then used by the Scientific Advisors to develop recommendations for the European Commission. But this time, we wanted to ask about your personal opinion as an expert: what would be the most important step towards a sustainable food system in Europe?**

PJ: It's actually hard to separate a personal opinion from the conclusions we came to in the report as a whole. But our main approach has been to suggest that no single actor, or single action, holds the key to transitioning to a more just and sustainable food system.

We argue in the report that we need to combine so-called hard and soft measures. So the hard measures would include taxation and legislation, and the softer measures would include consumer education, health campaigns and behaviour change approaches.

But we suggest that the evidence leads us to the conclusion that combination of hard and soft measures is likely to be more effective than single measures taken on their own.

**Q: SAPEA is known for bringing together scientists from all disciplines and across Europe. What was it like to work in such a group? Was there anything that surprised you in this way of working?**

PJ: It was actually a pleasure to work with members of the Working Group. We worked very well together and were able to combine a whole series of different disciplinary approaches, including psychology and sociology, geography, economics, and some natural science.

So the lessons on the whole were very positive, in terms of collaboration across disciplinary boundaries. Where there were differences, they were mostly resolved through mutual understanding and cooperative learning. So for example some would advocate quantitative others more qualitative approaches, or some might take a more individualistic, psychological approach, whereas others would think more sociologically about the need for addressing collective behaviour and a more social practice approach. But on the whole, we came to a consensus view, the report is signed by all of us collectively, and it was a good lesson I think in terms of the need for interdisciplinary approaches to food system challenges.

**Q: And Advisors to the European Commission have explicitly asked for the social sciences perspective in this report. Why is that? What makes this perspective so important in this project?**

PJ: The scoping paper to which we responded refers to a social science deficit in current approaches to the food system. And by that it argued that across the sciences in general there was a good degree of agreement on what was needed, in terms of dietary change for example, or in terms of more sustainable agricultural production.

But what was lacking was a sense of what works in terms of different policies, and that's where social science perhaps can contribute most. So, through the systematic review process that underpinned our report, we were able to identify scientific work which had evaluated the effectiveness of different kinds of policies. That then provides an evidence-based approach to what works.

We also used the systematic review process to identify a series of case-studies, of best practice, of things that might work at the local scale or within a single nation, but which might be scaled-up, or rolled out across Europe more generally.

## 4.2. FLOURISHING IN A DATA ENABLED SOCIETY

This scientific topic was originally presented by the Royal Society at ALLEA's 2017 General Assembly, within its Horizon-scanning session. The proposal was based on work done by the Royal Society together with the British Academy on [Data Management and Use: Governance in the 21st Century](#). Following the presentation and considering the very high interest from numerous ALLEA academies, ALLEA and the Royal Society jointly organised [a two-day workshop](#) entitled Flourishing in a Data Enabled Society, which took place on 1-2 November 2018 in the UK. This interdisciplinary workshop convened experts from academies across Europe and from different sectors to reflect on how society can best seize the opportunities and cope with the major challenges brought on by new uses of data.

In June 2019, ALLEA and the Royal Society published the [Discussion Paper Flourishing in a Data-Enabled Society](#). Based on the joint workshop in November 2018, the paper is intended to inform researchers, policymakers and wider audiences alike, and calls for a coordinated European approach across disciplines and sectors to ensure data and digital technologies support human flourishing – or in other words to ensure data serves humanity. It concludes that such a concerted European approach should put societal values at the heart of data use, establish data governance and regulation, and understand opportunities for Europe.

Following this successful cooperation, the Royal Society and ALLEA jointly concluded that providing scientific policy advice on data governance to the European Commission is timely and relevant, and that this topic could be taken up to the SAPEA Consortium (see 4.1).

## 4.3. GENOME EDITING

Based on a joint initiative by ALLEA and the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB), an [international symposium on genome editing for crop improvement](#) was held at the Academy Palace in Brussels in November 2019.

Attended by around 120 participants from across Europe, the symposium provided an overview of the scientific evidence with respect to the safety of genome edited crops and the possible impacts of the technology for providing solutions to current and future problems in agriculture. The symposium further addressed the economic consequences of the recent Court of Justice of the European Union ruling as it is likely to affect international trade of food and feed.

In addition, it discussed issues related to the detection of the use of genome editing techniques for crop improvement and examined whether mechanisms are in place which guarantee the safety of novel crop traits, irrespective of the way they are produced.

Based on the discussions of the day, a workshop report is being compiled which will both summarise the presentations of the day as well as to make some first suggestions for a potential reform of the current EU GMO legislation. The report is currently being finalised and will be published in the summer in both English and as a KVAB publication in Dutch. ALLEA will disseminate the report widely to relevant policymakers at the European level as well as to other stakeholder organisations involved in the field.

It is intended to continue the work on genome editing of plants beyond the above symposium and accompanying report. To this effect, ALLEA is currently co-creating a project proposal, together with our partner *Re-Imagine Europa*, to attain funding for a second phase of the project from the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*.



#### 4.4. HEALTH INEQUALITIES

As part of its science-policy work, ALLEA has been strongly involved in the further uptake of the [Health Inequalities project](#) conducted in close collaboration with its member, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), and the Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM).

Much has happened since the [symposium](#) took place in May 2018, which kick-started the debate on the much-needed consensus among disciplines involved in the health inequalities research. The Scientific Committee that oversees this initiative was expanded and saw additional members of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Institute for Catalan Studies, the Royal Society of Edinburgh join and support the work of this Committee. Along with its existing members, the Committee put forward a roadmap for further implementation of the project focusing on expert exchange that will help better understand the driving force behind social inequalities in health.

In an internal partner meeting held in September and the Committee meeting set up in December 2019, it was agreed that three expert workshops dedicated to mediation and moderation, causality and socioeconomic inequalities and the effectiveness of policy interventions in mitigating health inequalities would be held.

Based on the previous work of the Committee, the [first workshop](#) discussed existing evidence on the role of mediators and moderators in explaining socioeconomic inequalities in health, with due consideration of methodological issues. Hosted by the National Academy of Medicine in Paris in January 2020, the meeting convened researchers from Europe and North America that actively debated on the analysis of mediators and moderators, each arguing from the standpoint of the academic domain they represent.

To further facilitate an in-depth expert exchange, two further workshops are scheduled to take place once the public health situation permits. In the meantime, the Committee regularly meets online as it prepares for the drafting of a comprehensive report aimed at researchers, policymakers on EU and national levels and additional stakeholders interested and involved in reducing health inequalities.

#### 4.5. MIGRATION AND HEALTH

Drawing on previous successful partnership with FEAM (see 4.1. and 4.4), ALLEA and FEAM organised a [conference](#) titled *Migration, Health and Medicine* – a topic that has been highly prioritised on the European agenda since the recent influx of migrants was registered in 2015. The meeting took place in Brussels in November 2019 and was hosted by the Royal Belgian Academy of Medicine in collaboration with the French Academy of Medicine.

Speakers that guided the discussions throughout the day presented the results of their research and reported first-hand on their experience dealing with migrants and the issues immigrants are faced with in accessing healthcare in receiving countries. Representatives of the European Commission, the World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe, NGOs and universities cast light on the myths that surround the topic of migrant health. They also called for the need of more scientifically validated data and frequent updates on migrant health to be produced and reflected in evidenced-based policies. These and further deliberations were put together in the conference [report](#).

This report provided substantial input for drafting the joint [ALLEA-FEAM statement on Migration and Health](#) that extracted 9 key recommendations aimed at helping to steer the debate and calling for a multi-stakeholder and inclusive collaboration in addressing migration and health challenges. In view of the current COVID-19 pandemic, health of migrants and refugees in overcrowded camps and detention centres poses a high risk of drastically spreading the infection with no vaccine available to date. As such, the statement is designed to inform policy decisions and combat stigmata related to migrant



health while calling on Member States to act early on in order to curb the economic impact of a delayed response to the provision of at least basic and emergency healthcare to irregular or undocumented migrants.

Following up on this important topic, 22 January 2020 marked another [conference](#) on *Social Inequalities in Health* organised by ALLEA and FEAM in close collaboration with the National Academy of Medicine of France in Paris. Attended by around 200 participants, this time the debate covered social disparities among different vulnerable population groups including migrants. Set up in English and French with simultaneous interpretation, panellists and the audience shared their concerns on the growing need for action on a national as well as European level as to reduce the inequality gaps in populations.

Both conferences were attended by Professor Graham Caie, Vice-President of ALLEA, who has been key in facilitating these activities on behalf of the ALLEA Board.

#### 4.6. INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF HEALTH DATA FOR RESEARCH

Not least since the European response to the COVID-19 pandemic has shown significant differences between European health care systems as regards not only treatment, but also sharing and publishing data on the progress of the disease in respective countries. The topic of sharing health data across borders has thus significantly risen in significance as a means to combating transnational health emergencies, but also improve the available data sets for clinical studies.

ALLEA, together with its partners EASAC and FEAM, is currently initiating a project aiming to compare different pathways to ensuring sufficient transfer of health data, under due consideration of privacy, legal, and ethical considerations, outside of the European Economic Area, as well as looking to inform the forthcoming evaluation of the GDPR.

A working group is being formed at the moment and it is envisaged that the group will produce their outputs by the end of the year 2020. More information on the group can be found [here](#).

## 5. SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

Strengthening the role of science in society is at the core of ALLEA's priorities. Our culture, our political and economic systems and even people's daily lives are continuously affected by scientific and scholarly work. At the same time, science itself is subject to social and cultural changes. This reciprocal connection requires that science engages with different societal groups and with the general public and it puts scientific values, processes and thinking at the core of the wider public debate.

To stimulate this dialogue and understanding, ALLEA encourages reflections on trust in science, science communications and the promotion of science education through its working groups and expert committees. ALLEA organises public events to engage the wider public in scientific debates and honours the work of intellectuals and scholars who contribute to an understanding of European integration and its values.

### 5.1. PERITIA

#### 5.1.1. Project Outline & Recent Activities



Initiated and coordinated by Professor Maria Baghramian (Royal Irish Academy; University College Dublin), [PERITIA \(Policy, Expertise and Trust in Action\)](#) is an EU funded project that started in February 2020, bringing 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 \(WEXD\)](#).

Through its transdisciplinary [project design](#) carried out in three - theoretical, empirical and ameliorative – phases, the project addresses a question that has been subject to much political and academic debate in recent years: How to establish trust in trustworthy (scientific) expertise. In interconnected work packages, researchers from 11 [partner institutions](#) in 9 European countries will review the role of science in policy decision-making and the conditions under which people should trust and rely on expert opinion that shapes public opinion.

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 that informs public policies. In a coordinated multidisciplinary action, PERITIA also tries to use its theoretical and empirical findings to develop tools for establishing trustworthiness and trust between the public, experts, and policy makers. It will therefore actively involve society through various public engagement activities such as an essay competition for young people and citizen fora in five different countries following the example of the [Irish Citizens' Assembly](#).

The PERITIA consortium receives funding from the [EU's Horizon 2020 programme](#) for a total duration of three years. This began on 1 February 2020 and was officially launched with a [public inaugural symposium](#) on 2 March in Dublin with talks from José van Dijck (KNAW), David Farrell (RIC) and other renowned scholars on different aspects of trust in a changing world. [A playlist of video recordings](#) of the talks is available online. The public symposium was followed by an internal project meeting on 3 March, including ALLEA staff, where project partners introduced themselves and their contributions to the project, had the chance to get to know each other personally, were instructed on the specificities of a H2020 research project, and agreed on the timeline and dates of publications as well as meetings throughout the project.

### 5.1.2. ALLEA's role in the project

ALLEA is a major partner in the project consortium with crucial contributions to make. Through a Scientific Policy Officer and a Media and Communications 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) Facilitating communication between the various partner institutions;
- b) Coordinating the work of the [Advisory Board](#);
- c) Supporting the partners with the coordination of conferences, workshops and publications;
- d) Establishing and maintaining a successful visual and corporate identity;
- e) Overseeing and coordinating internal and external communication, outreach and public engagement activities;
- f) Engaging with citizens and young people in Europe through citizen fora and an essay competition.

PERITIA aligns with several other ALLEA activities such as the project "Fact or Fake? Tackling Scientific Disinformation in a Changing Landscape of Communications" supported by Compagnia di San Paolo, or the [SAPEA report "Making Sense of Science"](#). ALLEA will therefore work 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. PERITIA's contributions to 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 of 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 investigates the conditions under which people trust experts and their expertise used for policymaking. Its 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 and thereby joining the [European Commission's collective efforts to tackle the virus](#).

### 5.1.4. Main Upcoming Events

<b>1-2 October 2020</b>	Workshop: Social Indicators of Trust at Institut Jean Nicod / CNRS in Paris, France. <i>See the Call for Papers <a href="#">here</a></i>
<b>18-19 March 2021</b>	Conference: Trust in Expertise in a Changing Media Landscape at BBAW in Berlin, Germany. <i>See the Call for Papers <a href="#">here</a></i>
<b>September 2021</b>	Conference: Ethics of Trust at the American University in Yerevan, Armenia.
<b>March 2022</b>	Workshop: Behavioural Determinants of Trust at Vita-Salute San Raffaele University in Milan, Italy.
<b>May 2022 (tbc)</b>	Workshop: Measures of Trust at King's College in London, United Kingdom.
<b>October 2022</b>	Final Project Conference at University College in Dublin, Ireland.
<b>January 2023</b>	Public Event presenting the project results at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium (tbc).

You can visit the [project website](#) for more information on latest news, project design, partner institutions, publications, work package leaders, team members, and more, subscribe to the [project newsletter](#), send an email to [peritia@allea.org](mailto:peritia@allea.org), or engage with PERITIA's social media channels on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

### 5.1.5. Interview with PERITIA Project Coordinator Maria Baghramian



*Maria Baghramian, Professor of American Philosophy at the University College Dublin and member of the Royal Irish Academy is Project Leader and Coordinator of PERITIA. In this interview (conducted by ALLEA staff member Polen Türkmen), she presents the rationale behind the project and argues for a re-examination of the role of experts in democratic governance.*

**Q:** As a principal investigator of the Irish project “When Experts Disagree” and as a core member of the ALLEA Working Group Truth, Trust and Expertise (TTE) you have already investigated questions regarding trust in science and expertise quite extensively. What are the main unanswered questions from these experiences which motivated you to initiate PERITIA?

**MB:** The research project ‘When Experts Disagree’ (WEXD, 2015-2017), funded by the Irish Research Council’s New Horizons scheme, was an attempt to come to terms with the complexities of peer expert disagreement.

However, with the Brexit vote and Donald Trump’s election, both happening within a few months of the launch of WEXD, the nature as well as the socio-political importance of the questions we were asking began to change. The question confronting us all, and not just our research project, is not how to deal with difficult cases of peer expert disagreements but, more crucially, how to deal with a populist backlash against experts who have become identified with elitism and intellectual arrogance.

The ALLEA Working Group Truth, Trust and Expertise, which began its work in 2017 under philosopher Onora O’Neill’s guidance, produced three working papers on questions of trust in science and the impact of the new media and modes of communication on trust. But the group had a strong sense that it was only scratching the surface of some difficult and urgent questions and that a great deal of work was still to be done.

[...]

**Q:** PERITIA will be conducted in three main phases. What are these phases and how will they reach out to and benefit the target groups?

**MB:** The first phase of the project, as I mentioned, will build on the theoretical work of the two previous projects and its findings should be useful to all those interested in achieving a deeper understanding of the philosophical, social, and psychological underpinnings of public trust and trustworthiness. The second phase will be an empirical test on the theoretical findings of the project. This stage will be developed through surveys conducted across seven countries participating in the project as well as data collected through experiments conducted in economics labs in Dublin and Milan. The data from this phase will shed light on both the trends and the specific individual factors contributing to relations of trust and mistrust in experts. Finally, in Phase 3, the citizens’ fora hosted in five countries will provide an opportunity for direct engagements between the public, climate scientists, policymakers on environmental matters. The data we collect in this phase should help us gain a better qualitative understanding of public trust, but it should also be of use to those directly involved in policymaking. [...]

**Q:** Many would argue that we are living in a ‘post-truth’ world, where scepticism towards expert opinion and political institutions is rising. However, problems like ‘fake news’ and propaganda have long been an integral part of social history. How are today’s challenges facing trust in institutions, particularly science and scientific expertise, different to those in the past? How are digital transformations changing the nature of belief, public opinion and political communication?

**MB:** The rhetoric of populism is one of the common denominators binding various dimensions of what rightly has been described as a crisis of democracy. The expression of scepticism about experts and their opinions is a feature of populist politics but is not backed by surveys regarding levels of trust in science. The latest IPSOS survey of levels of trust in various

professions shows that scientists (at 60%) are the most trusted group of professionals, followed closely by medical doctors (56%), and teachers (52%). Only 11% of those surveyed find scientists untrustworthy. Similar results have been shown by other surveys.

So, it is interesting to ask why there is such a widespread perception that there is a lack of trust in science. One reason is that lack of trust in some specific areas of scientific advice like vaccination is a case in point. Since 2010, the uptake of measles-containing vaccines such as MMR has decreased in 12 EU member states: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. There is little doubt that the echo chambers produced by social media, in particular the algorithms used by Facebook, have had an immense impact on spreading the false data about linkages between vaccines and various illnesses. This is where we clearly see the impact of digital media on the old phenomenon of disinformation and propaganda for political and monetary gains.

These 'localised' breakdowns of trust are also taken as indicators of a general crisis of trust, in part because of the very public expressions of scepticism about science and expertise by populist political figures and their followers and thus the narrative of the untrustworthiness of the experts is perpetuated and generalised. One of the main focuses of our project is on the role of social media on building or diminishing the reputation of opinion makers in science and in policy decisions. We will be holding a workshop and a conference on these topics and we hope that the publication of their findings will help to address this pressing issue.

[...]

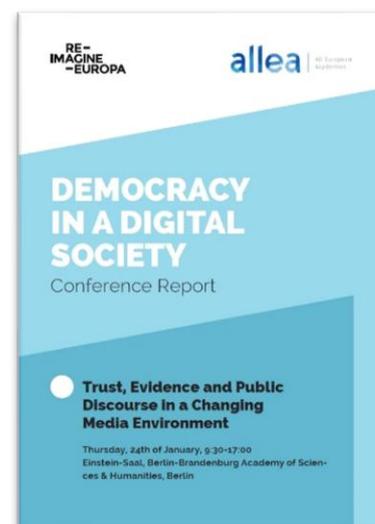
Read the full interview [here](#).

## 5.2. TRUTH, TRUST AND EXPERTISE

### 5.2.1. Democracy in a Digital Society Conference Report

Public trust in evidence-based social institutions is a central pillar of a democracy. In recent times, however, both a dismissal of journalism and scientific facts, and a stronger scepticism in political institutions are apparently growing across Europe. This worrisome trend has been frequently related to, among other factors, a changing digital communications landscape. The impact of digitalisation may require new responses and mechanisms to sustain common ground and common sense in our public discourse.

Compiling the key takeaways of the conference '[Democracy in a Digital Society: Trust, Evidence and Public Discourse in a Changing Media Environment](#)' hosted by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Berlin on 24 January 2019, and thereby concluding the activities of the [ALLEA Working Group Truth, Trust and Expertise](#), the [conference report](#) has been published by ALLEA and [Re-Imagine Europa](#) in late 2019. The report examines the changing digital communications environment and its effects on Europe's value-system and democracy. In a context where citizens struggle to distinguish facts from fabricated claims online, scientists, policymakers and media face similar dilemmas. The digital revolution is disrupting the norms and mechanisms of the public debate in which they participate and of the public trust that they need to operate.



The forum brought together academic knowledge, media expertise and policy experience in a series of multi-stakeholder panels and workshops. The report collects the insights of these discussions, including contributions from the now European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel and the President of [Re-Imagine Europa](#) and former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

### 5.2.2. Fact or Fake? Tackling Scientific Disinformation in a Changing Landscape of Communications

At the core of European academies' priorities is the promotion of the values of science and research, as well as the benefits of including scientific reasoning in public discourse. To comprehend the challenges ahead in a wider context of major social, political and cultural transformations, ALLEA seeks to provide a transnational platform for [perspectives on the nature of and relationship between truth, trust and expertise in the field of science](#). In the past year, after the conclusion of the ALLEA Working Group Truth, Trust and Expertise, ALLEA continued and extended its activities on this topic through initiatives not limited to the PERITIA project (see 5.1).

"Fact or Fake? Tackling scientific disinformation in a changing landscape of communications" is a new project in partnership with [Compagnia di San Paolo](#). The project seeks to provide new insights, recommendations and tools in the specific case of scientific disinformation. It is envisaged to develop smart and robust strategies across scientific disciplines, and in collaboration with other sectors as appropriate, through the revision and synthesis of existing research, policy developments and practices to tackle scientific disinformation with a particular focus on public perception of vaccine safety and climate change, as well as a potential comparative study on the disinformation around the COVID-19 pandemic, in Europe. The project seeks to identify and discuss root causes leading to science-averse attitudes in the publics of different European countries and regions. Target audiences include researchers and research institutions, science communications practitioners and journalists, as well as policymakers at the national and European levels.

The project is set up in two phases. The first project phase (March 2020 – March 2021) will build on and connect with past, on-going and upcoming ALLEA activities relevant to the topic of science disinformation including the ALLEA WG Truth, Trust and Expertise, science communications activities carried out in cooperation with national and European associations, the ALLEA-Re-Imagine Europa work on "Democracy in a Digital Society", as well as on-going climate change education initiatives by ALLEA's Science Education WG.

The main activities of the first phase include a cross-sectoral workshop, the production and publication of a discussion paper, and the preparation of the second project phase (tbc). Results of the first phase will be presented during a PERITIA conference in Berlin in March 2021, as well as at the ALLEA General Assembly in Helsinki in May 2021.

Academies have been invited to nominate experts for the project which will be guided by a cross-disciplinary and pan-European scientific committee. The ALLEA secretariat will take over the organisational, administrative and communications tasks.

## 5.3. SCIENCE EDUCATION

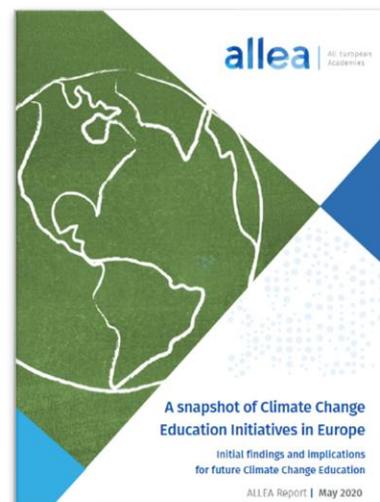
Education policies across Europe highlight the importance of the role that science education plays in ensuring citizens have the requisite knowledge and skills to enable them to become *'informed critical consumers of scientific knowledge'*, according to the OECD. Today, society faces numerous global challenges, from climate change and pollution to malnourishment and hunger. Science is embedded in these challenges and science education has a crucial role in ensuring our students -future decision makers- have the necessary knowledge and skills to make sense of and address them.

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: <https://allea.org/science-education/>

A survey was prepared to gain an in-depth overview of existing climate education initiatives currently being implemented across Europe. The data collected between July – September 2019 has been analysed to identify common trends, gaps, strengths and weaknesses in relation to the content and pedagogical approaches to climate education in formal and non-formal education settings throughout Europe.

Recommendations based on the survey findings, complemented by the educational research literature and by the expertise of the sub-group that was convened to conduct this work, will be presented in a dedicated ALLEA report expected at the end of May 2020.

It will provide a snapshot and some initial insights into Climate Change Education initiatives in Europe and will call for a more in-depth examination of a wider range of such initiatives to ascertain a more thorough account of the status of climate change education resources. The recommendations outline actions that are needed to achieve the necessary changes. Since these actions will require significant financial support, the report also recommends that a funding framework should be established to support research and the development of effective approaches for teaching and learning about Climate Change Education.



### ***In Memoriam: Professor Giancarlo Vecchio***

*Long-standing member and past chair of ALLEA's Science Education Working Group, Professor Giancarlo Vecchio, deceased on 1 October 2019 in Naples. Professor Vecchio, representing the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, has contributed to the WG's activities over many years, and was highly recognised by his colleagues as an engaged and knowledgeable promoter of science education whose experience and expertise was second to none. His efforts and engagement for science education in general, and for the work of ALLEA in this field in particular, give true testimony to his dedication towards the next generation, who he felt should benefit from science and research in the best possible way. Professor Vecchio will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with his family and loved ones.*

## 5.4. EUROPE ON TEST

[Europe on Test: Narratives of Union and Disunion](#) is a series of conferences under the patronage of ALLEA and hosted by selected Academies of Sciences and Humanities in various European cities. It seeks to address recent political developments and other aspects of relevance that may pose a challenge for the future of Europe as a community.

### 5.4.1. The Onus of the Past and the Necessities of the Future



On 11 October 2019, ALLEA and the Polish Academy of Sciences convened the conference ['Europe on Test: The Onus of the Past – and the Necessities of the Future'](#) at the Staszic Palace in Warsaw. Local as well as international scholars and experts discussed how different collective memories in European societies impact today's politics in Europe and explored which role concepts such as 'European Identity' and 'European Solidarity' can play in overcoming historical tensions as well as current and future challenges.

Different conceptions of Europe and democracy have evolved in Western and Central Europe. This division evolved in line with collective memories

in societies of 'old' and 'new' EU member states. In most cases, historical framings persist in current political narratives and thus also in conceptions of democracy. In the case of Central European countries such as Poland the concept of national sovereignty is closely linked to the arrival of democracy and the integration into the EU, whereas Western countries predominantly focus on the rule of law and the protection of individual rights, based on collective memories of the end of the Second World War.

The conference explored how such collective memories of nations evolve and how they affect processes such as European integration and recent political developments such as a move towards so-called 'illiberal democracy', thereby showing that both narratives of 'European union and disunion' can easily be exploited by political leaders in order to mobilise their electorates.

"The era of ideologies has been replaced by an era of identities. This is accompanied by a transformation of our modes of communication that tends to favour emotional and easily transmittable messages on complex issues over a rational and deliberative debate."

*ALLEA President Antonio Loprieno in his opening address to the conference*

The opening session included a lecture by Professor Anton Pelinka from Austria and a panel discussion on the role of history and collective memories of the past in the making of European polity, whilst the second panel, starting with a lecture by Professor Krzysztof Pomian from Poland, discussed European identity as a potential key to overcoming historical tensions. Professor Claus Offe from Germany opened the third session, which focused on European interests as a shared responsibility. The event concluded with a talk by Virginie Guiraudon from France and a subsequent panel discussion on how to achieve European solidarity by meeting the challenges of today and shaping the future of Europe.

#### 5.4.2. The Role of Academies in Sustaining European Knowledge Societies in Times of Crisis

The conference [The Role of Academies in Sustaining European Knowledge Societies in Time of Crisis](#) took place at the Accademia delle Scienze in Turin on 7-8 November 2019.

"Our contemporary knowledge is social knowledge, not individual. Which means that our Academies need to embrace the social dimension of knowledge and science activity. That means embracing science communications and open access."

*ALLEA President Antonio Loprieno in his presentation*

The event focused on discussing the function of Academies today, both in general and with particular reference to the European crisis. The full programme and videos of the lectures that took place during the event are available on the [website of the Academy of Sciences of Turin](#). Following the event, Antonio Loprieno was interviewed by Italy's national public broadcasting company *Radiotelevisione italiana* (RAI). The interview in Italian is available [online](#).

## 5.5. ALLEA BOOK SERIES – DISCOURSES ON INTELLECTUAL EUROPE

### 5.5.1. About the series

The *ALLEA book series Discourses on Intellectual Europe* seeks to explore the question of an intrinsic or quintessential European identity, its roots, and how European scientists and scholars can actively contribute to the discourse that will shape Europe's future. Particularly in times of crisis and rising scepticism towards the idea of European integration, this series represents an effort from the scientific community in tackling the growing lack of commitment and trust towards Europe as a cultural and intellectual region. Due to their long-standing tradition of preserving, securing and making available the cultural heritage of Europe, academies of sciences and humanities are in a special position to show and promote Europe's intellectual and cultural richness.

Initiated in 2015, the series has published two volumes: *The Boundaries of Europe* and *The Role of Music in European Integration*. You can find further information on the published volumes [here](#).

#### 5.5.2. Women in European Academies: from *Patronae Scientiarum* to pathbreakers

ALLEA is preparing the launch of the third volume of the series. With the great support of European academies, the book is expected to be released in October 2020.

The volume's title is *Women in European Academies: from Patronae Scientiarum to pathbreakers*. The book identifies a series of historical female personalities who played determining roles in the history of European academies and in shaping the development of modern science in Europe. These persevering personas either had a key influence in the establishment of academies ("founding mothers") or were pioneers in the academy world, contributing to the progress of science with breakthrough advancements ("path-breakers"). In both cases, their lives and struggles exemplify systemic patterns of their contemporary science systems and the barriers that female scientists faced.

The book is conceptualised as a transversal series of biographical portraits based on the personalities' historical and scientific significance, with a focus on their role in (or relation to) European academies, ensuring both a geographical and disciplinary balance. 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 (Chair of Einstein Foundation, Berlin; past ALLEA President). The series editor is Professor Antonio Loprieno, President of ALLEA.

# 6. ALLEA MADAME DE STAËL PRIZE FOR CULTURAL VALUES

## 6.1. ABOUT THE ALLEA PRIZE

Every year, ALLEA awards its Madame de Staël [Prize](#) for Cultural Values to an eminent scholar and intellectual whose work represents a significant contribution to the cultural values of Europe and to the idea of European integration, thereby promoting and strengthening an understanding of Europe as multifaceted, intellectual, open and vibrant. This way, the Prize also seeks to underline the importance and value of outstanding scientific and intellectual activities for the advancement of the European project and our common values.

In a time when the cultural diversity of Europe seems to be increasingly threatened by scepticism, extremism and instability, this Prize serves to remind us of this deep-rooted and revered characteristic of Europe.

The Madame de Staël Prize relates to the project New Narrative for Europe, initiated by the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, which invited artists, intellectuals and scientists to contribute to a reflection on the European story. In 2014, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso [handed over](#) the inaugural Prize to Professor Luisa Passerini (Italy), who was honoured for her research on forms of European identity. Laureates of following years include Dame Helen Wallace (UK), Remi Brague (France), Andrea Pető (Hungary), Koen Lenaerts (Belgium), and Mariana Mazzucato (Italy/US).

The Prize forms part of a larger set of ALLEA activities aiming not only to promote the intellectual and cultural richness of Europe, but also to support and acknowledge scholarly contributions that benefit these most valuable of Europe's assets.

## 6.2. LOOKING BACK AT 2019

In May 2019, ALLEA celebrated the [sixth edition](#) of the Prize, on the occasion of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the university of Bern and hosted by the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. The 2019 laureate was economist Mariana Mazzucato, Professor of Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London (UCL), and Founder and Director of the UCL Institute for Innovation & Public Purpose (IIPP).

During the award ceremony, Professor Mazzucato delivered a lecture titled "From Market Fixing to Market Co-creation: a Mission Oriented Approach." Switzerland's Federal Councilor for Economy, Education and Research Guy Parmelin opened the ceremony, followed by an introduction to the Madame de Staël Prize provided by Francesco Profumo, President of the Compagnia di San Paolo, which has supported the Prize since 2017. The laudatory speech was given by Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, former President of the European Research Council.

Pictures and videos of the 2019 award ceremony can be found [here](#).



### 6.3. CONSOLIDATING THE MADAME DE STAËL PRIZE

At the outset of this initiative in 2014, and due to the link of the project to the European Commission's 'New Narratives for Europe initiative', it has since been supported by Presidents and Members of the European Commission, who have participated in the award ceremonies and demonstrated the relevance of this Prize. With each edition, the Prize has attracted ever more attention of the European policy and scientific communities as well as the media and public.

Given the consolidation process of the Prize brand and the growing reputation, in late 2019 and early 2020, ALLEA thoroughly assessed how the Prize could be made "fit for purpose" both for the future and also in terms of how the partners could maximise its potential. The President of ALLEA and dedicated staff carried out an internal evaluation of the project in order to prepare a new phase starting in 2020. The evaluation was conducted in close cooperation between ALLEA President, Board, Jury and Secretariat, and in consultation with the Compagnia di San Paolo. Key findings of the evaluation suggested the need for a revised concept, a new set of criteria and actions to continue guaranteeing the award's impact. The findings have been set into practice in the 2020 edition and include, among others, that:

- The Prize should continue recognising researchers or intellectuals whose work represents a significant contribution to European common values.
- While laureates might still be likely to come from the social sciences and humanities background, there should be no formal restriction of other disciplines being eligible, and the nature of the laureate's research may well be of interdisciplinary nature.
- Nominations can include individuals whose career paths may not be strictly academic, but whose work exhibits a strong and demonstrable contribution to the advancement of Europe.

### 6.4. 2020 PRIZE EDITION

With [this year's edition](#), the Prize Jury paid tribute to the Dutch cultural historian Joep Leerssen, whose work has been quintessential in studying the emergence and the development of European national movements and stereotypes. A comparatist by formation, Leerssen has devoted his career to analysing how Europe's multinationality has been experienced in history, tracing Europe's identity as an evolving multi-party discourse of perceptions and representations.

Joep Leerssen is currently Professor of European Studies at the University of Amsterdam, additionally holding a part-time research professorship at the University of Maastricht. In course of his professional career, he has held visiting appointments at Harvard, Cambridge, Göttingen, and the ENS (Paris), among others. He is a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Summarising the deliberations of the Madame de Staël Prize Jury, ALLEA President and Chairman of the Jury, Antonio Loprieno stated:

*"Joep Leerssen is one of the world's most remarkable figures in the critical analysis of ethnic and cultural stereotyping and in the comparative history of European nationalisms. In times when various forms of national rhetoric seem to play a prominent role in public discourse, we need the orientation provided by comparative cultural research in order to navigate the challenges faced by modern European societies. We are delighted to award the 2020 Madame de Staël Prize to one such renowned scholar and pay tribute to Professor Leerssen's remarkable scientific opus."*

The 2020 Prize worth €10,000 is awarded by ALLEA jointly with the foundation Compagnia di San Paolo as major supporter.



## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

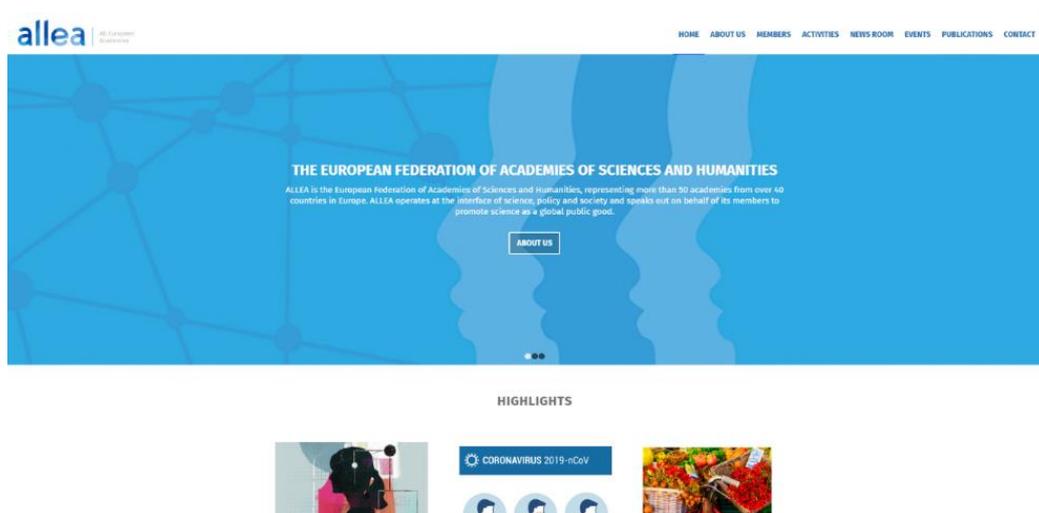
The year 2019 marked the 25th anniversary of ALLEA. As such, ALLEA decided that this milestone would be an opportunity to revitalise its corporate image and relaunch its online presence. In July 2019, a brand-new corporate image was launched to reflect ALLEA's evolution, values, and vision for the future as outlined in its [Strategic Priorities 2019-2024](#).



This refreshed look included a new logo and a more attractive visual identity, which were applied to all communications formats, including the organisation's [flyer](#), [newsletter](#), [social media](#), branding, and a versatile set of [publications](#) materials. An important part of this project was the creation of a new interactive and engaging [website](#). This platform was designed to make ALLEA's contents more user-friendly, informative, and accessible to its members and visitors. Overall, this year, ALLEA reinforced its online presence via its website and social media and increased its newsletter subscribers' base and press coverage.

### Website

ALLEA's website is a central tool to communicate ALLEA's work and messages to its members, the research community, policymakers, and the interested public. Since the launch of the new website in July 2019, more than 80,000 views were registered on this new platform. A new site structure has been designed to help visitors navigate ALLEA's activities in an intuitive and effective way. Operating areas were reorganised under the three top categories [Research Policy](#), [Science Advice](#) and [Science & Society](#). The Member Academies [page](#) was redesigned to improve searchability and accessibility. Since its release, the members' page had over 2,600 views. Other popular sections include the digital corner dedicated to [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) and its 19 translations, which continues to be the most visited page of the platform with over 7,000 views since July 2019.



As a reaction to the COVID-19 pandemics, ALLEA set up a dedicated section on the website: [www.allea.org/coronavirus](http://www.allea.org/coronavirus). The webpage aims to facilitate exchange of information on existing initiatives related to the coronavirus and gather information on the initiatives taken by ALLEA's members, as well as other reliable sources. During the first month of its existence almost 700 views were registered.

## Twitter

All ALLEA communications activities are supported by Twitter campaigns to stress the key messages of the reports, statements, and other communications. The campaigns are targeted to relevant groups of stakeholders, which are identified by mapping exercises for each topic.

ALLEA public events are similarly supported on Twitter. Twitter is being used to promote the conferences and seminars to the relevant audiences, as well as to digitally engage with the participants and those who cannot physically attend on the day of the events. ALLEA, together with co-organisers, develops dedicated hashtags for the public events as appropriate.

The number of followers of ALLEA account is growing steadily. On 21 April 2020, ALLEA was followed by 2,256 accounts, equivalent to an increase of 463 new followers since April 2019.

## Events

A mobile application for ALLEA public events was developed on a platform [Goodbarber.com](http://Goodbarber.com). The application allows the delivery of information regarding the programmes, speakers and logistics, as well as pictures from the conferences etc. to the participants in a digital form. However, due to cancellation of all physical events in the near future, the application has currently been suspended.

## Newsletter

ALLEA's newsletter is provided digitally to all subscribers, reporting about recent of the ongoing activities. Since May 2019, 5 newsletter issues have been published. All of them are also available on the [ALLEA website](http://ALLEA website). On the 21 April 2020, ALLEA had 797 newsletter subscribers.

## Press coverage

ALLEA is increasingly featured in interviews, articles, and citations, offering effective ways to disseminate the organisation's strategic messages and values. ALLEA publications and activities were covered by general media outlets across Europe, including The Guardian, The Irish Times, Vrij Nederland, El Confidencial, as well as magazines specialised in research or research policy such as Science, Nature, Times Higher Education, Research Europe, or Science Business. Among other topics, journalists paid special attention to ALLEA's positions in debates over [academic freedom](#), [Brexit](#), [open science](#), and [trust in expertise](#).

The image shows a screenshot of a news article from The Guardian. At the top, there is a dark blue banner with the text 'Support The Guardian' and 'Available for everyone, funded by readers'. Below this are two yellow buttons: 'Contribute' and 'Subscribe'. The navigation bar includes 'News', 'Opinion', 'Sport', 'Culture', 'Lifestyle', and 'More'. The article is categorized under 'Hungary' and has a warning that 'This article is more than 10 months old'. The headline is 'Hungary eyes science research as latest target for state control'. A sub-headline reads 'Academy will be managed by nationalist government in unprecedented move'. The author is 'Shaun Walker in Budapest' and the date is 'Thu 13 Jun 2019 05:00 BST'. There are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Email, and a view count of 412. The article features a photograph of Albert Einstein with the word 'EINSTEIN' overlaid in large red letters.





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