"HERCulES [Higher Education, Research and Culture in European Societies]

The Expert Group HERCULES (Higher Education, Research and Culture in European Society) was formally established in 2004 by the Board of Trustees of the Academia Europaea with a mission to assist and advise the AE Board of Trustees on issues that are relevant to research and policy in European institutions of higher education and learning, and also to develop activities that relate to aspects and problems of the management, philosophy, and operational activities of those institutions. Even before the group’s formal establishment a number of symposia on these same topics had been organized.

The group consists of approximately 12 members, drawn from a variety of disciplines and nominated for a three-year period. The group has developed into one of the most active and dynamic groups within the Academia, especially through the preparation and organization since 2005 of a series of international symposia that address important and topical issues and problems of higher education. These are summarized below. Moreover, the outcomes of the in depth and critical analyses of these issues during the conferences have resulted in the publication of ‘Proceedings’. Through the dissemination of these Proceedings volumes, we have made a contribution to the further discussion and reflection about the topics in academic circles, and by doing so potentially to the future development and shaping of higher education in Europe.

Occasionally, the conferences have also led to a formal statement about an issue that, after approval by the Board of Trustees, is published as an official standpoint of the Academia Europaea.

Through these activities, the HERCULES Expert Group provides the AE with a powerful vehicle for promoting the international visibility of the Academia Europaea, and an important lever for the positioning of the Academia in the European higher education space.
Current members of the group

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Symposia since 2000

Published proceedings of the Wenner-Gren Foundations international symposia: Online versions of publications from the HERCuLES Wenner-Gren International series can be accessed via https://portlandpress.com/pages/wenner_gren_international_series


2017, May Stockholm, Crossing over to the future: Interdisciplinarity in research and higher education. Published in October 2018, European Review. Vol. 26 S2 Open Access. ISSN 1062-7987
Open Access: https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-review/issue/crossing-over-to-the-future-interdisciplinarity-in-research-and-higher-education/F0FD4D5DB39D9E50F79328D4C333D2DA

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Online versions of publications with regard to the events below can be accessed via https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-review

OPEN ACCESS

2013 November, Rome, Migration and Mobility in Science: Impacts on Cultures and the Profession in Institutions of Higher Education in Europe / European Review, vol 23.s1
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-review/issue/mobility-and-migration-in-science/A4AB80EFD0AF6277373D6AD263388068 OPEN ACCESS
With Tsinghua University, Beijing


With the Volkswagen Stiftung and INCHER (Kassel)


Pre- 2000 events

1996 May, Rotterdam, New challenges for the Academic Profession

1997 September, Cambridge, Interdisciplinarity and the organisation of knowledge in Europe

1999 June, Budapest, The universal importance of fundamental science


1999 November, Uxbridge (UK), with the ESF HiBEER – High bandwidth for European Education and Research