

## Academia Europaea Annual report for 2021, Synopsis

The full 2021 trustees report has been compiled as Europe has emerged out of the Covid-19 pandemic. As far as has been possible, the activities of the AE (including those managed out of our Regional Knowledge Hubs) have continued via online media and platforms, with some limited return to physical events.

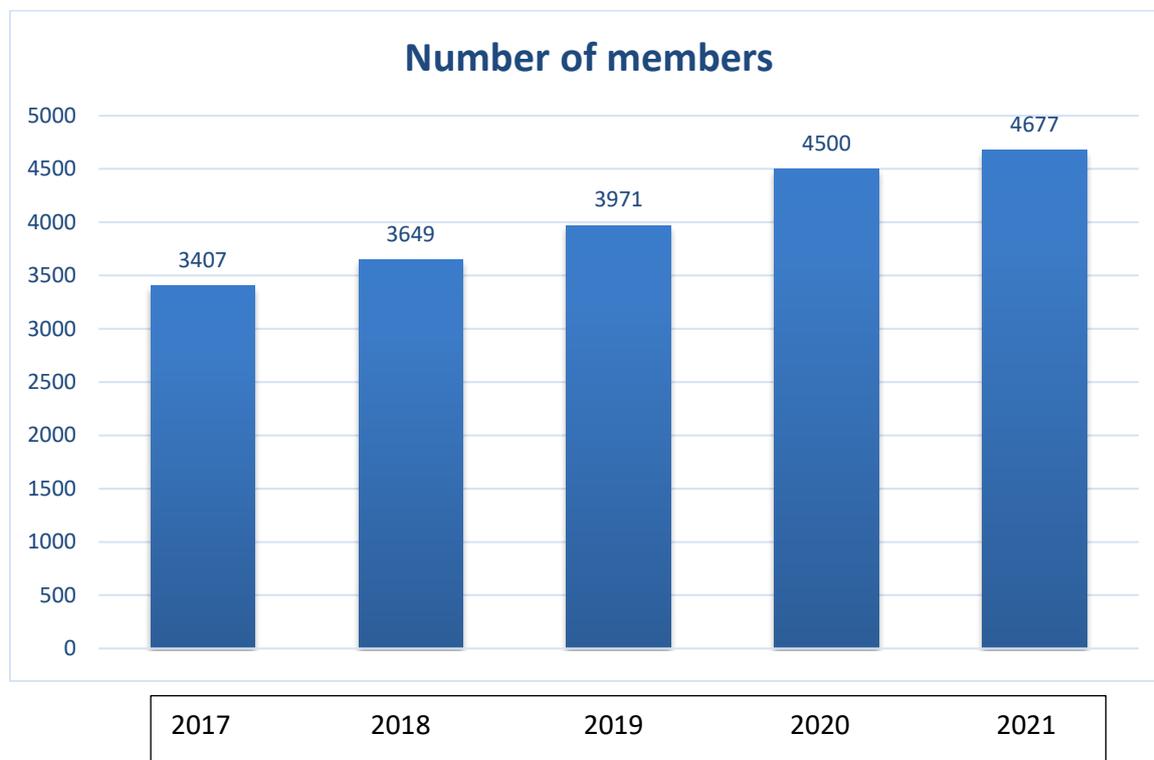
In 2019, the Board of Trustees adopted a five-year strategic plan<sup>1</sup> with following priorities

- To recognise and support the development of individual scholarship and scholars
- To promote excellence and deliver collective expertise and advice
- To create beneficial collaborations and partnerships
- To improve visibility, impact and trust, and
- To broaden the support base.

*scholarship and scholars*

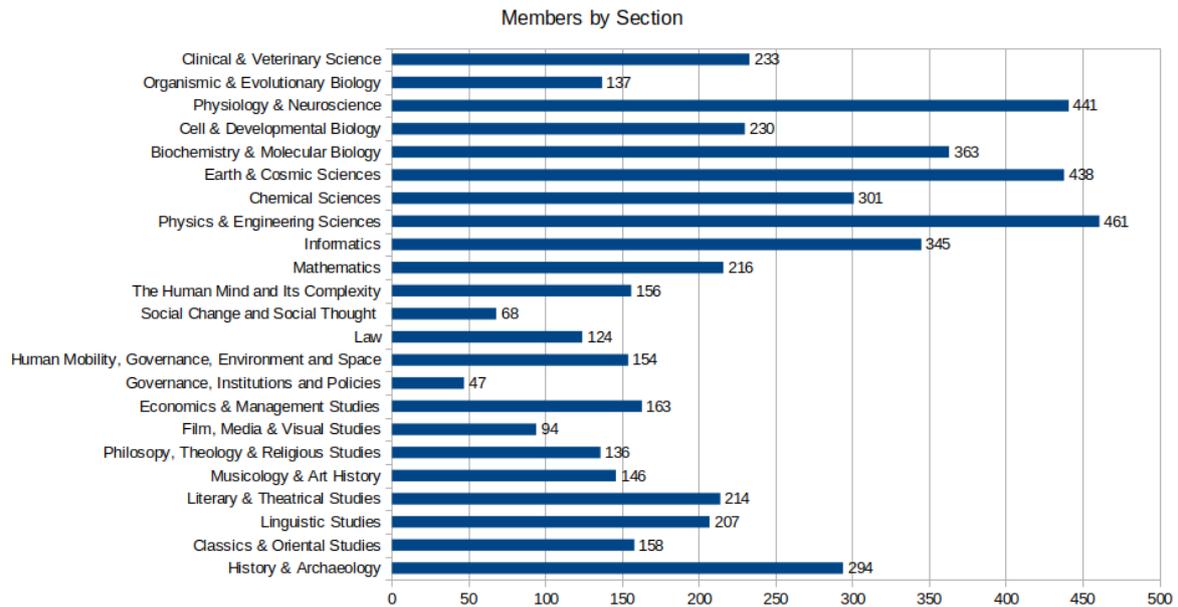
Priority one [*To recognise and support the development of individual* In 2021, the

AE elected 361 new members across all disciplinary sections, so continuing the trend to meet the target and reflect the diversity (in terms of age-gender and subject) of the European continent community of scholars. At the end of 2021, total membership stood at 4677. Academic Section committees were renewed throughout the year to reflect the changing nature of the membership.



<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad\\_Main/About\\_us/Mission\\_Statement](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad_Main/About_us/Mission_Statement)

## Members distribution by Academic Section (at the end of 2021)



The AE prime scholarly publication – The European Review, continued to grow and develop a significant impact factor for its classification. Worldwide demand for publication space was reflected in an oversubscription of manuscripts for publication in the in the six issues per volume. Two open access sponsored supplement (with the Wenner Gren Foundations, Stockholm and the AE HERCuLES group<sup>2</sup>) were prepared for publication.



An agreement has been signed to provide members with a new linked journal for the life sciences – ‘Biology Direct’.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Higher Education Research and **C**ULTure in European Society - [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad\\_Main/Activities/HERCuLES](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad_Main/Activities/HERCuLES)

<sup>3</sup> Published by Springer Nature - <https://biologydirect.biomedcentral.com/>

## Recognising Excellence



The **2021 Erasmus Medal**<sup>4</sup> was awarded to **Professor Philippe Aghion**, the internationally noted Economist. The presentation of the medal and the delivery of the 2021 Erasmus Lecture will take place at the annual conference in Barcelona, October 2022. [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad\\_Main/News/News2/Erasmus%20Medal%202021](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad_Main/News/News2/Erasmus%20Medal%202021)

### Priority 2 and 3 [*To promote excellence and deliver collective expertise and advice*] and [*To create beneficial collaborations and partnerships*]

The AE continued to play a major role in the European Commission funded Horizon 2020 project SAPEA<sup>5</sup> [Science Advice for Policy by European Academies]. The Cardiff Regional Knowledge Hub<sup>6</sup> at Cardiff University provided the AE lead on a range of scientific advice topics that fed into the Science Advice Mechanism of the EU. Topics included a review of evidence for European food policy and an evidence review of biodegradability of plastics. A successor project - SAPEA+. Was finalised and will start in Spring 2022. This will be funded out of the Horizon Europe programme of the EU. The Cardiff Hub will continue to take the AE lead, thus increasing the engagement of the AE and our diverse membership. The Young Academy of Europe will be a partner in the SAPEA+ consortium, coordinating a group of Young Academies from a number of European countries.



The AE also continued to play a role in the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC)<sup>7</sup> and the European Alliance for Social Science and Humanities (EASSH)<sup>8</sup>.

During 2021, the AE Hubert Curien New Initiatives Fund, provided support for member, section and Hub focussed activities:

- Class of Social and Related Sciences (Hosted at Wroclaw) event. "Collective Identities, Nations and Social Spheres"
- The Riksbankens Jubileumsfonds (Sweden) supported the History & Archaeology Section event – Hosted at the Wroclaw Hub: "ICONOCLASM : PAST & PRESENT ISSUES" postponed from 2020. The event took place on 4-6 October

During 2021, all of the AE Regional Knowledge Hubs maintained their own programmes of activity. The majority were virtual.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> The Erasmus Medal is the highest award made by the AE. Recipients are selected following a call for nominations and a rigorous peer review process. [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad\\_Main/Activities/Awards\\_and\\_Prizes/Erasmus\\_Medal](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad_Main/Activities/Awards_and_Prizes/Erasmus_Medal)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.sapea.info/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://aecardiffknowledgehub.wales/>

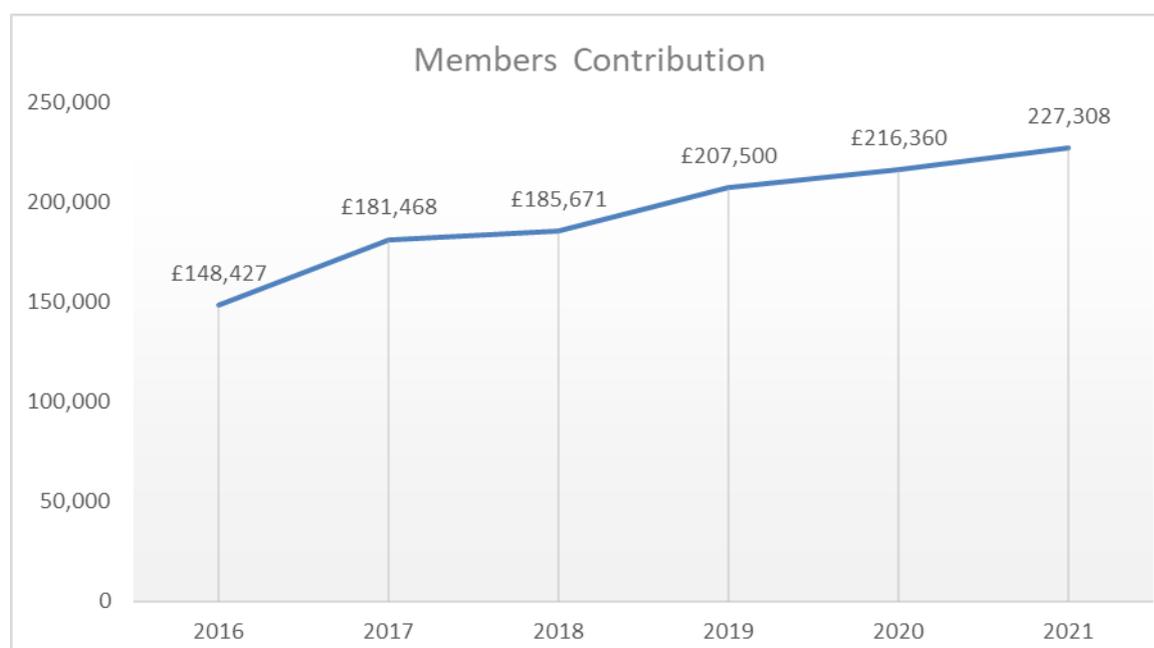
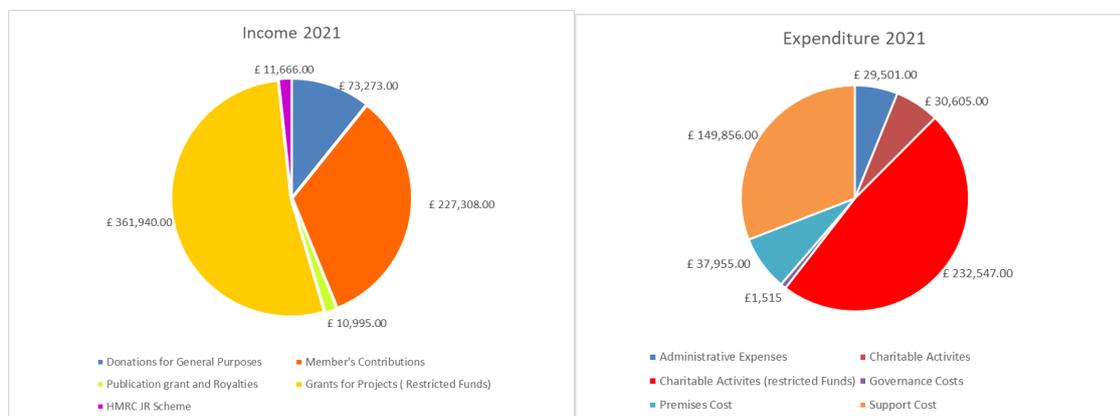
<sup>7</sup> <https://easac.eu/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://eassh.eu/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad\\_Main/About\\_us/Knowledge\\_Hubs\\_and\\_Offices](https://www.ae-info.org/ae/Acad_Main/About_us/Knowledge_Hubs_and_Offices)

## Priority 5 [*Broaden the support base*]

The continuing COVID-19 restrictions, and reduced activity expenditures, meant that the AE was able to continue to build reserves and maintain a healthy financial position during 2021. Although the strategic priority of ‘broadening the base of our support’ was again delayed and will be dependent upon a return to more physical activity in 2022.



## Other priorities

The continuing variabilities in national response to the COVID restrictions in the year meant that a number of our planned developments were still held in abeyance. Thus, delivery of our strategic targets for these items has been delayed. The Trustees intend to run a pilot for a major new initiative -The Academia Europaea College of Excellence scheme (+ AE Professors scheme) from the start of 2022. Some further progress was made towards normalisation, with dedicated Class meetings focussed on new members held virtually, as a part of an overall hybrid annual conference that took place in October 2021 in Barcelona.

Readers can find the full 2021 trustees (activity) report and the individual Hub annual reports at [www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org). The individual Regional Knowledge Hub reports are also posted on their own websites. The full 2021 independently examined accounts and financial statements are at [www.ae-info.org](http://www.ae-info.org). These reports have been filed with the relevant authorities in the UK (Companies House and the Charity Commission for England and Wales).

Executive Secretary

London

06 October 2022