2018 Annual Report of Activities for the Board of Trustees of the Academia Europaea

March 29, 2019
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1. Overview

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH), founded in 2013, is the node of Academia Europaea (AE) in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. Its main aim is to promote activities of interest for AE Members in this area and for the scientific community in general, with the end goal of helping consolidate a genuine European area of research, education and innovation.

The AE-BKH office is located within the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) in downtown Barcelona. Its staff is comprised of an Academic Director, Prof. Ricard Guerrero; a Hub Manager, Kimberly Katte; a Web Master and Social Networking Manager, Rubén Duro; and a team of four external collaborators, namely, Carmen Chica, Mercè Berlanga, Mercè Piqueras and Maite Sánchez. The following organisations from Barcelona/Catalonia are AE-BKH’s partners: the Barcelona City Council, the Government of Catalonia (Universities and Research Secretariat) and “la Caixa” Banking Foundation.

The Annual Conference of the AE, which until then had rotated among different European cities of cultural and scientific significance, will from now on be hosted by the BKH.

The AE-BKH also provides administrative support to the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), a group of more than 200 renowned young scholars from all over Europe from the EC. YAE organised its 2018 annual conference in Barcelona with the support of the AE-BKH.

2. Annual programming in 2018

During 2018, the main goal of the AE-BKH was to increase both the quantity and quality of the activities that it organises. In order to reach this goal, the AE-BKH carried out the following activities within the framework of its annual programming in 2018:

**Women’s Week 2018**: The AE-BKH 7th Annual Women’s Week commemorating International Women’s Day, as established by the United Nations in 1977, consisted this year of three events at three different locations: a concert by singer Lidia Pujol, held at the IEC on March 6th; the première of the documentary film, “Symbiotic Earth”, at the Museum of Natural Sciences of Barcelona (MCNB, “Museu Blau”), on March 7th; and an academic session on symbiosis and Lynn Margulis, held at the Athenaeum of Barcelona on March 8th.

**International Day of Light**: The AE-BKH celebrated its first International Day of Light (IDL) on May 16th, as declared by UNESCO as such, starting in 2018. This day marks the anniversary of when Theodore Maiman obtained the first laser light emission from a ruby crystal in California in 1960. With the collaboration of the University of Barcelona, the Technical University of Catalonia and the Catalan Society for Physics, the AE-BKH organised the event, “Light Speaks to Us”, at the IEC on May 16th and 17th. IDL is proposed as a part of the AE-BKH’s annual programming from now on.

**Disputatio of Barcelona 2018**: Since 2013, the AE-BKH has organised the Disputatio of Barcelona, an annual debate between two renowned experts holding different points of view on an issue of social and scientific significance, with a high level of audience participation. With the title, “Cooperation vs. Competition: Two Economists’ Points of View”, the Disputatio in its 6th edition took place on November 28th at the IEC. Participating debaters were Prof. Hervé Moulin of the University of Glasgow, and Prof. Gabrielle Demange of the School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS, Paris). With Prof. Salvador Barberá of the Autonomous University of Barcelona as moderator, the debate centred on social and political aspects of cooperation and competition in capitalism, highlighting areas of agreement and disagreement.
**Concert** “Building Bridges in the Mediterranean Region”: The Syrian-Kurdish Band led by Gani Mirzo performed a concert at the Royal Academy of Medicine of Catalonia on November 29th, which was warmly received by the audience. The concert invited cultures in the Mediterranean region to build bridges of dialogue through their respective musical traditions: Eastern Asian, Iranian, Persian, Kurdish, Armenian, and Western Mediterranean, including North African of Andalusian origin. The event reflects the AE-BKH’s commitment to offering a special concert in its annual programming.

3. **Featured activities in 2018**

Another objective of the AE-BKH is to strengthen its network of contacts with academic and research institutions, in order to consolidate Barcelona as a scientific hub in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. During 2018, two strategic actions were implemented along these lines, with the idea that both will hopefully continue in subsequent years:

**Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize:** In September, the Barcelona City Council and the AE-BKH announced the call for nominations for the first edition of the Hypatia Prize in the category of Science and Technology, which seeks to project Barcelona as a European capital of research and innovation. The main goal of the prize is to spotlight science and humanities and to promote, support and enhance the value of excellent research conducted in Europe and of its impact on society. The international Selection Jury met in November 12th and agreed unanimously to award the prize to Dr. László Lovász, mathematician and President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, for his extensive career in math and his contributions toward social progress (the award ceremony will be held in the *Saló de Cent* of the City council Building with the presence of the Barcelona’ Mayor, Ada Colau in February 2019).

**The 30th Annual Conference of the Academia Europaea: “Building Bridges 2018”**. From November 27th to 30th, the AE-BKH hosted the 30th Annual Conference of the Academia Europaea (AE). IEC was the venue for the AE Board meeting (November 27th) and for the AE Section meetings (November 28th), while plenary sessions were held at CosmoCaixa on November 29th, featuring speakers recognised with honours such as the Balzan Prize and the AE Erasmus Medal and Gold Medal. Also, two sessions were devoted to research networks funded by COST Actions of the EU. Finally, on November 30th, many conference delegates participated in the geological and cultural field trip to Banyoles and Besalú. Given the success of the Building Bridges event, the AE, as previously mentioned, has decided to hold its future conferences in Barcelona.

4. **Other activities during 2018**

The AE-BKH also collaborated on activities organised by other academic organisations in 2018:
- 20th International Conference on the History of Catalan Medicine (Barcelona, 8-10 June)
- Workshop on Open Science (Barcelona, 20 June)
- Conference “Plumbum Litteratum: Lead Inscriptions in Roman Times” (5-7 September)
- 19th Congress of the European Association of Museums of the History of Medicine (Barcelona, 19-22 September)
- Board Meeting of the COSCE (Confederation of the Scientific Societies of Spain) (10 October)
- 11th Fernando González Bernádez Lecture (Madrid, 17 October)

In conclusion, 2018 was a year of spectacular growth for the AE-BKH, both in terms of the quantity and quality of its activities. We consider that these activities have successfully achieved their objectives and have positioned our Hub for continued growth in 2019.

**Ricard Guerrero**, Academic Director

**Kimberly Katte**, Hub Manager
1. OVERVIEW

1.1 The AE- Barcelona Knowledge Hub

In 2012, the Government of Catalonia (Generalitat de Catalunya), the Barcelona City Council (Ajuntament de Barcelona) and the “la Caixa” Banking Foundation (Fundació Bancària “la Caixa”) created the Barcelona Knowledge Hub (from then on, AE-BKH) to promote activities of the AE in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. These three organisations from Barcelona are partners of the AE-BKH, while the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) houses and supports the Hub’s office within its central headquarters located in the old city, holding historical ties with local medical and scientific institutions.

Operational since January 2013, the AE-BKH focuses on the promotion of activities of interest for the Members of AE and for the scientific community in general, with special emphasis on multidisciplinary activities that include transversal aspects of the natural and social sciences and the humanities. The sphere of influence covered by the AE-BKH includes, but not uniquely, the Mediterranean region and southern Europe.

The AE-BKH office is located on the premises of the IEC, a mid-17th century historical building very conveniently located in the centre of the city of Barcelona. Since August 2014, Prof. Dr. Ricard Guerrero of the UB, Emeritus, and Adjunct Professor of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst is the Academic Director. Until June, Doina Bird managed the Hub, and Griselda Ribas provided administrative support. In September, Kimberly Katte joined the AE-BKH as the new hub manager. As in the past, Rubén Duro continued to manage the website, digital content, social media, and the audiovisual section (i.e., AE-BKH “Barcelona in Action” Video Channel). External collaborators providing support for different activities organised by the Hub were Carmen Chica, Mercè Piquer's, Mercedes Berlanga, and Maite Sánchez. The administrative and technical support provided by the IEC staff to the AE-BKH is excellent and constitutes an essential part of its daily operations.

1.2 The Young Academy of Europe

The Young Academy of Europe (YAE) is a bottom-up initiative of active young and outstanding scholars working in Europe, with outspoken views about science and science policy. Currently with over 200 members, spread over the EU and affiliated countries, the YAE provides input and advice from a younger generation’s perspective – a vital requirement to shape EU-wide science policy for the prospering of science in Europe for future generations. Roughly 75% of YAE Fellows have ERC grants, although this is not a requirement for membership. YAE Fellows represent all three domains of science: Life Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering; and Social Sciences and Humanities.

The YAE is a grassroots organization of active and motivated young scholars, who have managed so far to be (pro-)active and influential without substantial administrative support. The YAE is
transforming itself from a Förderverein into a registered charity, and has arranged administrative and website support from Academia Europaea (AE). This streamlines day-to-day activities, enabling the YAE Board members to focus even more on science policy, policy statements, and following implementation thereof. The aims and activities of the national young academies are mainly focused at the national level while those of the YAE are at the European level, hence these are fully complementary and rein-force each other.

The YAE collaborates closely with organisations including EuroDoc, representing PhD students, and the Marie Curie Alumni Association, representing postdocs; thus, the inclusion of the YAE, representing junior staff members, fits perfectly in the timeframe of scientific careers. Moreover, the YAE collaborates with the Higher Education, Research and Culture in European Societies (Hercules) Group. Finally, the YAE also works closely with the AE, such as in SAPEA projects and joint meetings, and also gratefully acknowledges administrative support from the AE Hubs.

Since 2013, the AE-BKH provides administrative support to the YAE, working closely with its respective Chairs: Lynn Kamerlin, Stockholm (2014–2015); Nicole Grobert, Oxford (2015–2016); Hagit Amirav, Amsterdam (2016–2017); Marcel Swart, Girona (2017-2018), and the current Chair of the YAE, Mangala Srinivas, Radboud (2019–).

A summary of YAE activities in 2018 is included in Annex 1.

### 1.3 The AE-BKH International Advisory Committee (IAC)

During the 26th Annual Meeting of the AE, the Board and the Council of the AE created the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the AE-BKH. Eleven academic members were appointed to the IAC, most of whom are Members of the Academia Europaea (MAE) from Mediterranean countries working in different fields of expertise. The members of the IAC are currently as follows:

Enric Banda, BSC, Barcelona
Pedro García-Barreno, Fellow of the RAE and RAMED, Madrid
M. Dolores Garcia-Ramon, UAB, Bellaterra
Ramon Gomis, IDIBAPS, Barcelona
Sergiu Hart, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Genoveva Martí, ICREA Professor UB, Barcelona
Marc Mayer, Faculty of Philology, UB, Barcelona
Maria Paradiso, University of Sannio, Benevento
Regina Revilla, Merck Sharp & Dohme Spain, Madrid
Rosalia Vargas, Ciência Viva, Lisbon
2. ANNUAL PROGRAMMING IN 2018

2.1 THE AE-BKH WOMEN’S WEEK 2018 (6–8 MARCH)

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY at the BKH-AE**

**Woman, science and culture: a symbiotic connection.**

The AE-BKH conducted its seventh Women's Week, commemorating International Women's Day (IWD), established by the United Nations in 1977 and taking place every 8 March. This year AE-BKH’s WW 2018 was entitled “Woman, science and culture: A symbiotic connection”. It was held at three different locations on three days.

The first day there was a concert on **March 6th** by singer Lidia Pujol entitled "**Polorum Regina. Women as a reference for freedom**", held in the Prat de la Riba Hall of the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC). On **March 7th**, the première of the US television documentary, "**Symbiotic Earth: How Lynn Margulis rocked the boat**", was screened in the Assembly Hall of the Museum of Natural Sciences of Barcelona (MCNB, "Museu Blau"). The film was directed by John Feldman and produced by Susan Davies of Hummingbird-Films, New York. On **March 8th**, a Session on "**Symbiotic Science: The Legacy of Lynn Margulis**" was held in the Verdaguer Hall at the Athenaeum of Barcelona (Ateneu Barcelonès). It was coordinated by Carmen Chica (AE-BKH) and presented by Ricard Faura (Athenaeum of Barcelona).

From 2006 to 2012, the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) commemorated International Women’s Day (IWD) with a Distinguished Lecture. Since 2013, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) within the IEC has hosted the event. Other activities have been added, such as a concert, workshop and visit to a centre of special cultural or scientific relevance in Barcelona. Thus, the activity has been renamed the AE-BKH Women’s Week.

The three days of WW2018 began with a concert by Lidia Pujol’s. She gave a splendid recital titled "**Polorum Regina. Women as a reference for freedom**", on **March 6th**, at the IEC in the Prat de la Riba Hall. Lidia Pujol is one of the most distinguished voices of Catalan in traditional and contemporary music today. She has worked with artists such as Brian Dunning (Nighthoise), Jackson Browne, Dulce Pontes, Kepa Junkera, Lluís Llach and Mayte Martín, among others.

In this performance, musical director Romà Escalas and singer Lidia Pujol reflected on women as a reference of freedom. Lidia’s last song in the concert was called "**Polorum Regina**" (Queen of the Universe), from her album **Iter Luminis** (2017). It is a “virelai”, a common form of medieval verse used often in poetry and music. It is one of the three fixed forms set to the late medieval music in Europe, along with the ballade and the rondeau from the late thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries. From the **Red Book**, codex of the 14th century kept in the Monastery ofMontserrat, the song is a symbol of Women’s identity and the direction of our consciousness that transcends matter, gender and hierarchy, leading us up to Virgin Mary, a dignified role model in the spiritual realm.
The Stella Matutina (Morning Star) was an initiatory magical order dedicated to the dissemination of the traditional teachings of the earlier Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. “The Magnificat” narrates Maria rebelling against injustice that marginalizes the most disadvantaged (women).

Other songs in the set list, created for the occasion of International Women's Day are traditional Catalan and Sephardic songs of daily events, and two from singer Cecilia, Evangelina Sobredo (1948-1976). "I'll stay single" from her second album was censored, as it boldly questioned women’s place in Spanish society. This profound concert was successful in attendance and aesthetically attractive. Lidia Pujol and musicians Pau Figueres (guitar) and Miquel Àngel Cordero (double bass) lifted the audience emotionally.

Programme
1) Avri mi galanica (Sephardic)
2) Because you cry, white doll (Sephardic)
3) I'll stay single / Tightrope walker (Cecilia)
4) Cecilia (Catalan popular)
5) If it were not (Cecilia)
6) The testament of Amelia (Catalan Popular)
7) Nothing at all (Cecilia)
8) Caterina de Lyon (Catalan popular)
9) Alfonsina and the sea (Felix Luna / Ariel Ramírez)
10) Where will they stop (Cecilia)
11) If I Were In Heaven (Emily Bronte / Oscar Roig)
12) Magnificat / Polorum regina (Red Book of Montserrat)

On March 7th, the première of the documentary "Symbiotic Earth: How Lynn Margulis rocked the boat and started a scientific revolution" was screened at Natural Sciences Museum (Museu Blau), Parc del Forum. Pl. Leonardo da Vinci, 4-5. The documentary was directed by John Feldman and produced by Susan Davies at Hummingbird Films.

“Symbiotic Earth” explores the life and ideas of Lynn Margulis, a brilliant and radical scientist, whose unconventional theories challenged the male-dominated scientific community. As a young scientist in the 1960s, Margulis was ridiculed when she first proposed that symbiosis was a key driver of evolution, but she persisted. Instead of the mechanistic view that life evolved through random genetic mutations and relentless competition, she presented a symbiotic narrative in which bacteria joined with one another to create animals, plants and all other organisms, which together form a multi-dimensional living entity that covers the Earth. Humans are not the pinnacle of life with the right to exploit nature, but part of this complex cognitive system in which each of our actions has repercussions.
Filmmaker John Feldman travelled globally to meet Margulis’ cutting-edge colleagues and continually asked: What happens when the truth changes? “Symbiotic Earth” examines the world view that has led to climate change and extreme capitalism and offers a new approach to understanding life that encourages a sustainable and symbiotic lifestyle. The film is 2 hours and 25 minutes long and has subtitles in Spanish. It is divided into 10 essays and an epilogue.

Structure of the film:
1. How Lynn Margulis coerced me into making this film
2. How science gave us permission to exploit the Earth
3. Confronting the neo-Darwinian capitalistic zeitgeist
4. Lynn Margulis’ lifelong quest
5. Working together (aka: How did she do it all?)
6. Bacteria run the planet
7. Symbiosis is the way of life
8. The cell (not DNA) controls the organism
9. Evolution through mergers
10. Gaia: A physiological system on the surface of the Earth

Epilogue: Embracing how little we know

Programme:
- Welcome and presentation by John Feldman.
- Screening of film
- Post screening Q & A session
- Reception in the museum’s foyer

“Symbiotic Science. The legacy of Lynn Margulis” took place on March 8th at the Barcelona Athenaeum. The session was coordinated by Carmen Chica and presented by Ricard Faura, Speaker of Science and Technology section, Barcelona Athenaeum.

The Barcelona Athenaeum is an association that is over a hundred and fifty years old. As a centre for intellectual debate, its main objectives are to promote dialogue and intellectual activity. Its headquarters at the former late 18th century Savassona Palace has a cultural agenda open to all citizens with lectures, debates, round tables, concerts, recitals, workshops, film screenings and courses. The Athenaeum also houses the most important private library in Catalonia, with one of the most unique and valuable collections of journals in the country.

The speakers, in an interesting balance of the representation of women in Science and Humanities, were Marta Estrada, a Marine ecologist from the Institute of Sciences of the Sea, CSIC, Barcelona, who gave a lecture entitled “Enjoying a long journey in science”. Magdalena Albero, journalist, historian, writer, professor of Communication at the Autonomous University of Barcelona spoke next. Her speech was entitled “Women; access to knowledge and literature. She reflected on important issues of women in the work force such as the glass ceiling effect and women in literature. Sandra Montón is an archaeologist and ICADE Research Professor at University Pompeu Fabra. She spoke about “The representations of women: past and present” and pointed out interesting subliminal messages that we have been influenced by in society at large that point to the large gap in androcentric history books of the representation and recognition of women’s contribution to society. Dolores Grillo-Bosch, who is a chemist and neuroscientist, and researcher at the
University of Barcelona, discussed her research in neuroscience in a lecture entitled “The symbiosis of chemistry and neuroscience”.

At the end of the session’s presentations, a segment of the film, “Symbiotic Earth”, by John Feldman, Hummingbird Films, New York, was shown.

Programme:

- Marta Estrada. Marine ecologist, Institute of Marine Sciences, CSIC, Barcelona “Enjoying a long journey in science”. 20 minutes
- Magdalena Albero. Journalist, historian, writer. UAB “Women, access to knowledge and literature”. 20 minutes
- Sandra Montón. Archaeologist, ICREA Research Professor, UPF “The representations of women: past and present”. 20 minutes
- Dolores Grillo-Bosch. Chemistry, neurosciences. AGAUR, Barcelona “The symbiosis of chemistry and neuroscience”. 20 minutes


Q & A Session

THE AE-BKH WOMEN’S WEEK, 2013-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 6th</td>
<td><strong>InterSection Workshop: “Two cultures, three cultures, or one only culture?”</strong>&lt;br&gt;Convenor: Nicole Skinner, AE-BKH. With the participation of: Dacha Atienza, Museum of Natural Science of Barcelona, Mercè Berlanga, University of Barcelona, and Genoveva Martí, Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA).</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5th</td>
<td><strong>Distinguished lecture: “Arab Spring, or long desolate Arab Winter?”</strong>&lt;br&gt;By Nadia El-Awadi, Egypt, former president of the World Federation of Science Journalists.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6th</td>
<td><strong>InterSection Workshop: “The Earth is our body. Lynn Margulis and Gaia”.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Convenor: Carmen Chica, editor of the book <em>Once Upon a Time</em>. With the participation of: Isabel Esteve, Marta Estrada, Ricard Guerrero, Juli Peretó, Mercè Piqueras, Anna Omedes, Carme Puche, Joandomènec Ros and Nicole Skinner.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2015

**March 4th**  
**InterSection Workshop: “Women and the academic ladder”**  
Convenor: Lynn Kamerlin. With the participation of: Clara Corbella, Margaret Luppino, Maryam Ghafoori, M. Dolores Garcia-Ramon and Lourdes Beneria.

**March 5th**  
**Short film “In the search of truth. In memory of Lynn Margulis”**. Convenor: Anna Alberni, (ICREA). Comments by the director of the film: Carme Puche.  
**Distinguished Lecture: “Empowerment of women in the academic world”**. By Lynn Kamerlin, University of Uppsala, chair of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE).  
**Music Concert: “Women’s Sephardic Songs”**. By Olga Miracle, soprano, accompanied by Noemí M. Agell and Pere Olivé, string and percussion instruments.

**March 6th**  
**Guided visits:**  
Visit to the Museu Blau, the new Natural Science Museum of Barcelona. Guided by Marta Punseti.  
Visit to the Cercle del Liceu Pinacothèque. Guided by Maria Jiménez de Parga.

### 2016

**March 3rd**  
**Distinguished Lecture: “Women and cultural transmission. The essential role of translation”**. By Mary Ann Newman, Farragut Fund for Catalan Culture in the USA.  
**Documentaries:**  
“Lin in Espain. How she stood our Spanish-Catalan accent.” Several documentaries selected by Rubén Duro, AE-BKH.  
**Music Concert: “Songs from Syria and Kurdistan, a Nation without a State.”** By the Gani Mirzo Band. Musicians: Neila BenBey (singer), Francesc Puig (clarinet), Juan Jose Barreda (flamenco guitar), and Gani Mirzo (ud, buzuk, composer).

**March 4th**  
**InterSection Workshop: “Women, migrations and war”**. Convenor: Mitsi Ito. With the participation of: Mitsi Ito, Maryam Ghafoori, Pere Castaño, Carmen Chica, Salvador Giner.  
**Lecture:** Commemoration of the International Year of Global Understanding. By Silvia Pellicer, University of Zaragoza.  

### 2017

**March 1st – 3rd**  

**March 2nd**  
**Distinguished Lecture: “Scientific knowledge as a commons: How to improve the peer review and dissemination of research outputs”**. By Marie Farge, Directrice de Recherche at CNRS and Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris and Member of the Council. Member of Academia Europaea.

### 2018

**March 6th**  
**Concert: “Polorum Regina. Women as a reference for freedom”**. By vocalist Lidia Pujol and her ensemble. Presented by Romà Escalas.

**March 7th**  
**Screening of the documentary “Symbiotic Earth: How Lynn Margulis rocked the boat and started a scientific revolution“** directed by John Feldman and produced by Susan Davies at Hummingbird Films.

**March 8th**  
**InterSection Workshop: “Symbiotic Science. The legacy of Lynn Margulis”**. Coordinated by Carmen Chica and presented by Ricard Faura, Speaker of Science and Technology section, Barcelona Athenaeum. With the participation of: Marta Estrada, Magdalena Albero, Sandra Montón, Dolores Grillo-Bosch. Also featuring an excerpt from the film “Symbiotic Earth” (see above).
2.2 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIGHT (16 MAY)

Commemoration of the first UNESCO International Day of Light (IDL)

**About the IDL, 2015-2017**


The Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) collaborated in hosting and organising, along with Ciência Viva (the National Agency for Scientific and Technological Culture of Portugal), an International Multidisciplinary Symposium entitled “Light, from the Earth to the stars”, which took place in Lisbon on July 2 and 3, 2015 [R. Duro, Contrib Sci 13: 105-108 (2017), in press]. After the success of the activities held in hundreds of scientific societies around the world, in October 2016 UNESCO proposed the future annual celebration of the International Day of Light (IDL). It was agreed that the commemoration would be every May 16, starting in 2018. The date recalls the anniversary of the first laser light emission, obtained by Theodore H. Maiman, using a ruby crystal, at the Hughes Research Laboratories, of Malibu, California, on May 16, 1960.

**The 2018 IDL**

To commemorate the first IDL, the AE-BKH organised a commemorative act on May 16th, in collaboration with the Catalan Society of Physics, the University of Barcelona, the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the Technical University of Catalonia. This consisted of a series of lectures focusing on the physics, biology and technologies of light, held in the Prat de la Riba Hall of the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC). The session was coordinated by Ricard Guerrero, AE-BKH, and by Santiago Vallmitjana, Catalan Physics Society (SCF) and the Spanish Committee for IDL.

**Programme:**

18:30  Presentation.

  Joan Parellada, president of the Catalan Physics Society (SCF, IEC)
  Ma. Àngels García Bach, SCF
  Ricard Guerrero, Academic Director, AE-BKH

18:40  Distinguished lecture: “Light, the great tool for science and technology”

  Ramon Vilaseca, Technical University of Catalonia (UPC)

19:25  Video: “Numbers and humanity”

  Based on the video “Los números y la humanidad”, by Javier Tejada, University of Barcelona (UB)
  Presented by Santiago Vallmitjana, SCF and Spanish Committee for IDL

19:30  Distinguished lecture: “Planet Light. Photosynthesis and the origin of the ecosystem”

  Ricard Guerrero, AE-BKH

20:15  Social mixing and refreshments
2.3 DISPUTATIO OF BARCELONA 2018 (28 NOVEMBER)

An annual activity of the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub

About the Disputationes

In the scholastic system of education of the Middle Ages, the Disputationes offered a formalized method of debate designed to uncover and establish truths in theology and in sciences. Fixed rules governed the process: they demanded dependence on traditional written authorities and the thorough understanding of each argument on each side. The famous Disputatio of Barcelona, called in the summer of 1263 by King James I of Aragon, was the most important and well-known of the inter-faith Disputationes that took place between Christian and Jewish theologians in the late Middle Ages. In 1263, the disputants were Friar Paulus Christianus (Dominican, and a convert rabbi from Judaism) and rabbi Moses ben Nachman (also known as Nachmanides, or Benastruch Sa Porta), from Girona’s community, the most important scholar of Judaism in his time. They discussed theological questions in front of the king and his court, in the presence of the most important men of the prosperous and influent city of Barcelona.

The modern-day Disputatio of Barcelona, 2013–2017

The modern Disputatio of Barcelona has been successfully recovered. In November 2013, the AE-BKH celebrated its inaugural event by commemorating the 750th anniversary of the medieval Disputatio, and organised a modern-day Disputatio on “Social and state-of-the-art Medicine”, featuring philosopher Thomas Pogge (Yale University; leader of the Health Impact Fund) and neuroscientist Mara Dierssen (Centre for Genomic Regulation, UPF, Barcelona; president of the Spanish Society for Neuroscience).

After the success of the first modern-time Disputatio of Barcelona (2013), the AE-BKH organised on November 27, 2014, a second modern-day Disputatio of Barcelona, together with the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM). The topic was “The Mediterranean, bridge of cultures”. The Disputatio of Barcelona 2014 was held at the Saint Pau Historic Site, where the UNU-GCM is located. Two MAE, Maria Paradiso (geographer, Professor of Geography and Planning at the University of Sannio, Italy), and Enric Banda (geophysicist, Director of Science and Environment at the “la Caixa” Foundation, Barcelona), presented many different aspects of the Mediterranean history, culture, opportunities and present difficulties.

On December 9, 2015 the third modern-day Disputatio of Barcelona was held in the Royal Chapel of Sainte Agatha, in the Gothic Quartier. This Disputatio of Barcelona 2015, was also a success. Two scholars, Núria Sebastian (vice-president of the European Research Council), and Ulises Cortés (from the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre), discussed on “Natural vs Artificial Intelligence”.

On November 21, 2016 the fourth modern-day Disputatio of Barcelona, was held at the Palau de la Generalitat, under the presidency of the president of the Government of Catalonia, M. Hon. Carles Puigdemont. It was devoted to the topic: “Natural Life vs. Synthetic Life”. Two scholars, Anna Veiga (Centre for Regenerative Medicine, Barcelona) and Ricard Solé (Complex Systems Lab, PRBB, Barcelona), debated on the new challenges that the current scientific advancements present to human societies. The impressive knowledge both disputantes allowed them to clearly expose their ideas to the audience. An active debate among the public and the speakers helped to better understand several critical questions previously exposed by the disputantes.

On November 23, 2017, the fifth modern-day Disputatio of Barcelona was held at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) in the Prat de la Riba Hall. The Disputatio debated on “Supercomputers: An
instrument for science, technology and the progress of society.” The two disputantes were Mateo Valero, director of the Super Computing Center of Barcelona (BSC), who presented the “science and technology” aspects, and Alison Kennedy, director of the STFC Hartree Centre (Daresbury, Warrington, UK), who presented the “progress of the society” aspects.

We consider that the modern-day Disputationes are a distinctive feature of the AE-BKH and should be continued in the coming years.

The Disputatio of Barcelona 2018

This year, the sixth modern-day Disputatio of Barcelona, entitled “Competition vs. Cooperation: Two economists’ points of view”, was organised by the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of Academia Europaea and held at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) in Barcelona on November 28th. The session was moderated by Prof. Salvador Barberà, Professor Emeritus of Economics at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and featured Prof. Hervé Moulin, Donald J. Robertson Chair in Economics at the University of Glasgow, and Prof. Gabrielle Demange, Director of Studies at the School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris, as invited disputantes (debaters). All three are Members of Academia Europaea, in the Economics, Business & Management Sciences section.

The topic was approached in a multidisciplinary manner and included social and political aspects of cooperation and competition in capitalist economic models, revealing complementary and contrasting facets. As usual, the Disputatio was open to the general public and welcomed questions from the audience, leading to an interactive, dynamic colloquium among those in attendance.
Hervé Moulin is Professor of Economics at the University of Glasgow, holding the Donald J Robertson Chair at the Adam Smith Business School. He graduated in 1971 from the Ecole Normale Superieure in Paris, and received his Ph.D. in mathematics from the Université de Paris in 1975. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society since 1983, of the Royal Society of Edinburgh since 2015, and of the British Academy since 2018. He is currently the President of the Game Theory Society. He has written five books and over 100 peer-reviewed articles. His work has contributed to redefining the field of ‘normative economics’, by borrowing concepts and techniques from social choice, implementation, and game theories. The goal is to invent new mechanisms—or justify existing ones—in a variety of resource allocation and collective decision problems, such as in: voting by successive veto and generalised median voting rules; the fair division of an estate; rationing of over-demanded commodities; the exploitation of a “commons”, i.e., a technology producing a public good, an excludable public good, or private goods; the assignment of tasks between workers; the scheduling of jobs in a queue; and sharing the cost and pricing the traffic of a communication network.

Gabrielle Demange is Directeur de recherches at l’Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) and Full Professor at Paris School of Economics. Her main interests are in social choice theory, game theory and market design (multi-item auctions, voting rules, ranking method, coalition formation and networks) and financial economics (intergenerational risk sharing, security design, intermediation). Her works on two-sided matching games and multi-item auctions with David Gale were among the first in a now large field. Her current research studies ranking methods with application to search engines on the Web and explores network models with a special interest to financial networks. Apart from research articles in top journals, she has written three textbooks in Finance and Game Theory. She is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and member of The Academia Europaea, the CEPR and CESifo networks. She has served as a member of various editorial boards and Scientific Councils.
2.4 CONCERT: BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (29 NOVEMBER)

A spectacular concert of Mediterranean music by the Gani Mirzo Band was organised by the AE-BKH at the Royal Academy of Medicine of Catalonia (RAMC) on Thursday, November 29th, followed by a cocktail reception next door at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC). With the title, “Building Bridges in the Mediterranean Region”, the concert featured songs from Algeria, Armenia and Kurdistan performed by the Gani Mirzo Band.

The programme symbolised the bridges of dialogue and understanding built through music among different cultures in the Mediterranean region. Featuring instruments commonly used on different sides of the Mediterranean Sea, the concert served as an example of the cultural diversity and capacity for mutual understanding that takes places in art, starting with Iranian, Kurdish and Armenian traditions, and ending with Northern African music of Andalusian origin.

As explained by musicologist Romà Escalas during his brief introduction to the concert, musical bridges in the Mediterranean have been built by a common sensitivity and appreciation through contact and exchange taking place for more than 5,000 years. This exchange has easier by sea, more so than by land, which often makes ethnic and cultural barriers difficult to break. Over the 20th century, the contact made between East and West through the Mediterranean Sea was most intense, especially among Arabic, Hispanic and Sephardic cultures, often in spite of political confrontation. For example, in the Andalusian world, which dominated the Iberian Peninsula for 700 years, new instruments and styles were created that reflect a strong influence by Northern Africa and are still found in popular and flamenco music.

Concertgoers, consisting of both delegates attending the Building Bridges 2018 conference (see next section) and also members of the general public, filled Gimbernat Hall at the RAMC. Their endless applause encouraged the band to play multiple encores. The fantastic success of the concert was celebrated afterwards with a hot buffet reception next door at the IEC.

Programme:

1. Miran
2. Sharazade
3. Marfa
4. Sari Gilan (popular Armenian song)
5. Dansa kurda-buleria
6. Sêteli (Kurish dance)
7. Wek Tireke
8. Tristeza por la ausencia
9. Manish mina (popular Algerian song)
10. Me berya te kirya
11. Sherinê
12. Ronî

The Gani Mirzo Band is formed by: Neila BenBey, traditional Algerian vocals; Juan José Barreda, flamenco guitar; Martín Meléndez, violin and cello; Francesc Puig, clarinet; and Gani Mirzo, compositions, lute, oud and bouzouki. With the collaboration of Armenian vocalist Ibrahim Keivo.
3. FEATURED ACTIVITIES DURING 2018

3.1 FIRST EDITION OF THE BARCELONA HYPATIA EUROPEAN SCIENCE PRIZE

In September, after months of negotiations and preparations, the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize was finally launched by the Barcelona City Council in collaboration with the Hub of the Barcelona de l’AE (AE-BKH), within the framework of the “Barcelona City of Science” programme, which seeks to project the city as a European capital of research and innovation. The main goal of the Prize is to spotlight science, as well as to promote, support and enhance the value of excellent research conducted in Europe and of its impact on society. The AE-BKH is responsible for organising and managing the prize call.

The purpose of the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize, featuring a monetary award of 30,000 euros and a distinguished lecture at a prize ceremony held at the Barcelona City Council in the presence of the Mayor, is to recognise an outstanding researcher who has achieved a career of excellence at the highest international level in Europe and has made a significant contribution toward different fields of knowledge, as well as a positive impact on society.

The name of the prize, Hypatia, was chosen in homage to Hypatia of Alexandria (c. 355-415), a woman philosopher and scientist who successfully bridged and disseminated all scholarly disciplines known during her time and who, for this same reason, was assassinated by the forces of ignorance and fanaticism.

Prize terms and conditions had been approved by the AE-BKH and Barcelona City Council in the summer of 2018. Reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of the prize, the use of the words science, scientist, and researcher in these terms and conditions refer to all areas of human knowledge, from experimental sciences and technology to the various social sciences and humanities. It was agreed that the Hypatia Prize would be awarded annually and would follow a triennial cycle, rotating each year among three major areas of knowledge:

- Science and Technology (2018)
- Life and Health Sciences (2019)
- Humanities and Social Sciences (2020)

Finally, it was also decided that the Selection Jury would consist of five members: two designated by Academia Europaea, two by the Barcelona City Council, and one, who will serve as president of the Jury, appointed jointly by Academia Europaea and by the Barcelona City Council. At least two members of the Jury must be women, and at least one of the Prize winners in each three-year period would also be a woman. The Prize may be declared void by the Jury if deemed necessary.

Opening of the call for candidates

In early September, on its website the AE-BKH announced the Call for Nominations for the first edition (2018) of the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize, in the area of Science and Technology, and published the eligibility criteria, nomination procedures and forms on-line.

As announced therein, candidates for the Prize must be nominated by a Member of the Academia Europaea (MAE) (Nominator 1), from any Section, and must have the support of an additional MAE (Nominator 2), also from any Section. Nominator 1 can propose only one Candidate. The two
nominating MAEs must be from different countries. Although nominators must be MAEs, the Candidate does NOT have to be a MAE, nor a native of a European country, but she/he must have developed her/his career mostly in Europe. The deadline set for receiving nominations was set for October 31st at 5:00 p.m.

Press conference

At a press conference held at the Barcelona City Council on Tuesday, September 18th, the launch of the prize was officially presented to the public by: Gerardo Pisarello, Deputy Mayor of Economy and Labour, Digital Technologies and International Relations; Ricard Guerrero, AE-BKH Academic Director; Andreu MasColell, Member of Academia Europaea; and Gemma Tarafa, Commissioner for Health of the Barcelona City Council. Local media shared news of the prize’s launch, in addition to AE.

Selection Jury and Resolution

On Monday, November 12th, the Selection Jury met in Barcelona to assess the twenty-three nominations received during the months of September and October.

For this first edition of the Hypatia Prize, corresponding to the area of Science and Technology, the five members comprising the Selection Jury were: Dr. Sierd Cloetingh, Jury President and also President of Academia Europaea; Dr. Ricard Guerrero, Jury Secretary; and Dr. Anna Omedes, Dr. Maria Josefa Yzuel, and Dr. Ignasi Casanova, Jury Members. Also in attendance, having a voice but not a vote, was Kimberly Katte, Manager of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea.

Having considered the 23 candidates nominated in response to the call and taking into account the evaluation criteria defined in section 6.2 of the prize regulations, terms and conditions, the members of the Selection Jury unanimously agreed to propose, as winner of the 2018 Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize in the field of Science and Technology, Dr. Lászlo Lovász, mathematician and President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, for his extensive career and research conducted at the highest international level, which has had an impact on different areas of knowledge and has generated an important social return on investment for Hungarian society.

Publication of the resolution of the Jury, with the approval of the Mayor of Barcelona, took place on November 27, 2018. After this time, the proposed winner was notified. The AE-BKH also contacted nominating MAEs whose candidates were not chosen, to inform them accordingly.

Finally, in late 2018, after the proposed winner communicated his acceptance of the prize, the Barcelona City Council announced that a prize ceremony, presided by the Mayor, Ada Colau, would be held at Barcelona City Council’s Main Hall (Saló de Cent) in early February 2019, during which the winner would be invited to deliver a distinguished lecture on his research career.
3.2 THE 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ACADemia EUROPAEA: “BUILDING BRIDGES 2018” (28-30 NOVEMBER)

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH) was pleased to host the 30th Annual Conference of the Academia Europaea (AE) and 7th of the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), “Building Bridges 2018”, held on the 28th and 29th of November 2018.

The first day of the AE conference, November 28th, took place at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) and consisted of Section/Class Workshops, a meeting of AE Hubs, the Annual Business Meeting and the Welcome to New Members. The YAE, for its part, held its meeting at the nearby Residència d’Investigadors.

The second day, November 29th, took place at CosmoCaixa, in collaboration with La Caixa Banking Foundation, and featured leading scholars from Europe and beyond, in fields ranging from science and technology to the humanities and social sciences, as well as on the current challenges of research and academia as a whole. Speakers included leaders from both AE and YAE and also members who have been recognised with prestigious honours for their work, such as the Balzan Prize, the AE Erasmus Medal and Gold Medal, and the Annual YAE Prize. Furthermore, two sessions explored interdisciplinary research networks in chemistry and earth sciences, respectively, which were funded by COST Actions, an EU programme.

During their stay, Building Bridges conference delegates were also invited to attend the Disputatio of Barcelona 2018 debate on November 28th, as well as the concert of Mediterranean music by the Gani Mirzo Band at the Royal Academy of Medicine of Catalonia on November 29th, followed by a farewell cocktail reception at the IEC.

Finally, dozens of delegates participated in the traditional Post-Conference Field Trip on Friday, November 30th, which featured a boat ride on Banyoles Lake, a visit to the nearby lava flows, a traditional Catalan meal and wine and olive oil tasting, a tug-of-war tournament, and a tour of the Medieval and Jewish Quarters of Besalú.

Overall, nearly 210 attended Building Bridges 2018. The AE-BKH was pleased by the high quality of the presentations and of the social activities organised. A post-conference survey confirmed that an overwhelming majority of participants expressed that they were ‘satisfied’ with the organisa-
tion and management of the conference, regarding six different items: duration; registration process; hotels; venues; concert and buffet dinner; and field trip.

Following the conference, photos were uploaded onto the gallery located on the AE-BKH http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/) and Building Bridges (http://www.buildingbridges-acadeuro.org/) websites.

Given the success of Building Bridges 2018, it was decided that the following year’s annual conference, Building Bridges 2019, would again be held in Barcelona. The AE-BKH is already making preparations for this event, with the hope that it will be even more successful than the previous edition.

Programme:

**November 27 (Tuesday)**

**Pre-congress meetings.** (For the Boards of the AE and the YAE)

*Afternoon*, at the Institute for Catalan Studies
- Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the AE
- Meeting of the Board of the Young Academy of Europe

*Evening*, at the City Hall (pl. Sant Jaume)
- Reception of the Board of Trustees of the AE and the Board of the YAE by the Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau. (*Confirmation pending*)

**November 28 (Wednesday)**

**BUILDING BRIDGES 2018. ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE ACADEMIA EUROPAEA AND THE YOUNG ACADEMY OF EUROPE AND DISPUTATIO OF BARCELONA**

**Pre-congress meetings**
At the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC, c/Carme 47) and the National Council for Research (CSIC) Residence (c/Hospital 64)

*Morning* (at the IEC)
- **09.00 h-18.00 h.** Documents delivery
- **10.00 h -14.00 h.** Meetings of the four Section Classes of AE. At the IEC
  - General coordinator: **Alexander Fidora** (ICREA-UAB)
  - Coordinators of each Session: **Vladimir Biti, Björn Wittrock, Donald Dingwell, Alexei Verkh rects**
- **09.00 h-16.00 h.** Meetings of the YAE. At the CSIC Residence

*Afternoon* (at the IEC):

1st part
- **15.00 h-18.00 h** (for members of the AE, and from 16.30 h on also members of the YAE)
  - General Assembly of the AE
  - Delivering of Diplomas to the new Members of the AE and the YAE

2nd part
- **19.00 h-21.00 h** (open to the general public):
November 29 (Thursday)

BUILDING BRIDGES 2018 (at CosmoCaixa)

For the participants in the Congress and previously registered people from Barcelona.

Morning:

09.00 h. Buses to CosmoCaixa

- Documents delivery (cont.)

10.00 h-13.00 h

- Welcome to CosmoCaixa
  - Angel Font, Corporate Director of Research and Strategy, “la Caixa” Banking Foundation
- Official opening of the Annual Congress of the AE and the YAE:
  - Sierd Cloetingh, President of AE, President of COST Action
  - Ricard Guerrero, Academic Director of the Barcelona Hub
  - Marcel Swart, Chair of the YAE

- The 2018 AE-Heinz-Nixdorf ERASMUS Medal and Laudatio:
  - Hans Clevers, “Stem cell-based organoids in personalised medicine”
  - Jos van der Meer, Laudator

- Balzan Lecture #1: Carlo Ginzburg, “Disciplines, Serendipity, case studies”

- Balzan Lecture #2: Michaël Gillon, “Life under another Sun: from science-fiction to science”

- COST Lecture #1: Marcel Swart, “Spinning from north to south: a collaborative COST approach in transition-metal chemistry”

13.00 h-14.15 h. Lunch

Afternoon:

14.30 h-15.00 h

- AE Gold Medal Presentation and talk by Joerg Hacker, president of Leopoldina

15.00 h-17.45 h

- COST Lecture #2: Angelo Camerlenghi, “Uncovering the Mediterranean salt giant (MEDSALT)—a COST Action as an incubator of cross-disciplinary research in Earth Sciences”

- YAE Prize and Laudatio: Gabi Lombardo, “Encouraging a strong SSH scientific community to serve society’s wellbeing”

- YAE Session Talk #1: Sarah de Rijcke, “Metrics and science”

- YAE Session Talk #2: Anna Marmadoro, “Time after change”

- Closure and Welcome Reception for new Members

18.00 h. Buses to RAMC-IEC
November 30 (Friday). Post-congress field trip

A tradition at the AE Congresses; limited to 50 people
All day; from 8.00 h until 19.00 h

Excursion on geology and history to the karstic area of Banyoles and the medieval quarters of Besalú and its Jewish Call

- Bus to Banyoles (36 participants)

- Karstic area of Banyoles Lake (the Estany). Excursion in ecological boat around the lake

- The high geological, limnological and ethnographic interest of the lake and its area

- Volcanic lava flows of Castellfollit de la Roca

- Typical Catalan lunch (with tasting of oils and wines)

- The “tug-of-war” game contest among (brave) participants.

- Visit to the Medieval quarter and Jewish quarter (“Call”) of Besalú.

- Bus to Barcelona
4. OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING 2018

(Organisation of Activities and Collaborations in chronological order)

4.1 COLLABORATION ON THE 20TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE HISTORY OF CATALAN MEDICINE (8-10 JUNE)

Featuring two keynote lectures, three round tables, twenty poster presentations and more than sixty oral communications, the 20th International Conference on the History of Catalan Medicine, organised by the University of Vic-University of Central Catalonia in collaboration with the AE-BKH, was held in Vic from June 8th-10th. Many aspects of historical interest of the evolution of medicine in Catalonia were presented by local experts.

4.2 CO-ORGANISATION OF WORKSHOP ON OPEN SCIENCE (20 JUNE)

On June 20th, the AE-BKH co-organised a one-day Workshop on Open Science with the company Scientific Knowledge Services, with the Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER) and UCL Press as partners, at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC). Open to the academic community, the sessions focused on the topics of FAIR data and open access, the concept of citizen science, and the role of open science in triggering cultural change, with special attention given to the role of libraries. AE-BKH Academic Director Ricard Guerrero contributed with a presentation entitled, “Initiatives of the AE-Barcelona Knowledge Hub on behalf of Open Science. The first five years (2013-2017)”. Finally, attitudes and agendas across different European countries were compared.

4.3 COLLABORATION ON THE CONFERENCE, “PLUMBUM LITTERATUM. LEAD INSCRIPTIONS IN ROMAN TIMES” (5-7 SEPTEMBER)

The VIII Instrumenta Inscripta Conference, co-organised by Marc Mayer, Member of Academia Europaea, in collaboration with the AE-BKH, took place at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) in Barcelona from September 5th to the 7th and presented novel findings in the area of instrumentum inscriptum, or inscriptions on commonly-used receptacles from classical antiquity.

This particular branch of Greek and Latin epigraphy provides insight into aspects of everyday life that are not reflected in stone or bronze inscriptions but rather in the inscriptions on, for example, ceramic receptacles, such as vases, amphorae, etc. The conference featured thirty-four oral communications and fourteen posters by leading international experts on lead inscriptions from Roman times.

With the title, ‘Beyond the museum walls: Medical Collections and Medical Museums in the 21st Century’, the 19th European Association of Museums of the History of Medical Sciences biennial Congress took place in Barcelona from September 19th to the 22nd and was jointly hosted by the Medical History Museum in Catalonia, the Catalan Society for the History of Science and Technology (IEC), the Spanish Research Council (IMF), the Royal Academy of Medicine in Catalonia and the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Hospital site, in collaboration with the AE-BKH.

EAMHMS – Congress 2018 – Barcelona
– Beyond the Museum Walls. Medical Collections and Medical Museums in the 21st Century –

4.5 CO-ORGANISATION OF THE BOARD MEETING OF COSCE (CONFEDERATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES OF SPAIN) IN BARCELONA (10 OCTOBER)

The Board Meeting of the Confederation of Scientific Societies of Spain (COSCE) was hosted by the AE-BKH on October 10th at the. A federation of 82 Spanish scientific societies, and 45,000 members, COSCE contributes to the scientific and technological development of Spain, acting as a single voice both in society and before public agencies by promoting the role of science and contributing to its dissemination as a necessary and essential ingredient of culture.

During this meeting, Board members discussed important collaborative agreements with organisations including the Areces Foundation, the Federation of Spanish Medical and Scientific Associations (FACME) -in particular, for the development of the “Science Meets Business” initiative- and the Network of Overseas Associations of Spanish Researchers and Scientists (RAICEX). They also advanced work on ongoing projects, such as the DECIDES project, a series of debates on science and socioeconomic development in the Spanish information society, and the ACIERTAS project, an educational initiative aimed at primary and secondary school teachers that promotes scientific learning through probing. Administrative matters, including relations with the Spanish Ministry of Science, were also addressed.
4.6 CO-ORGANISATION OF THE 11TH FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ BERNÁLDEZ LECTURE (17 OCTOBER)

Prof. José Manuel Naredo delivered the prestigious 11th Fernando González Bernáldez Lecture at the historic Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid, with the title, “La economía en evolución y la evolución de un economista” (“An economy in evolution and the evolution of an economist”). This activity, organised by the Fernando González Bernáldez InterUniversity Foundation for Natural Spaces in collaboration with the Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub (AE-BKH), EUROPARC-España and three local universities, fulfils the foundation’s mission of maintaining the legacy of Spanish ecologist Fernando González Bernáldez. The Fernando González Bernáldez Foundation is devoted to promoting and disseminating scientific research in the fields of ecology, biodiversity and nature conservation.

During his lecture, Prof. José Manuel Naredo, a leading economist at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and a recipient of Spain’s National Environmental Award and of the GeoCritica International Award, offered a review of his extraordinary career and insight into his environmentally-driven economic theories, which have often been subject to criticism by certain political, commercial and academic establishments, or simply ignored. He was presented by Prof. Óscar Carpintero of the University de Valladolid. The lecture, held at the historic Residencia de Estudiantes (Residence for Researchers) of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in Madrid, a hub of scientific and cultural exchange that in 2015 was awarded the European Union’s European Heritage Label. It was well-received by both scholars and members of the general public in attendance.

Prof. José Manuel Naredo and Prof. Ricard Guerrero, in front of the Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid, on the occasion of the 11th Fernando González Bernáldez Lecture
5. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: YOUNG ACADEMY OF EUROPE – HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

As explained at the beginning of this report, the Young Academy of Europe (YAE), a bottom-up initiative of active young and outstanding scholars working in Europe, provides input and advice for science policy from a younger generation’s perspective, for the prospering of science in Europe for future generations.

Activities in 2018

The YAE collaborates with European National Young Academies (ENYAs) and the Global Young Academy (GYA), and meets annually with them, as took place in Amsterdam in March 2018. The YAE has also co-organised events together with ENYAs such as the German Young Academy (October 2018), and it has held recent discussions of the YAE Chair with the Royal Society (June 2017, January 2018) and with the British Academy and the GYA regarding the founding of a British Young Academy.

In 2018, the YAE took on the role as portal to the ENYAs and GYA for new SAPEA topics and calls for experts to serve on SAPEA Working Groups by Academia Europaea (AE). These calls were sent to all ENYAs and to GYA, and subsequent nominations transferred to AE. The AE informed all nominees (and nominators) of the selection outcome individually. Furthermore, in subsequent mailings about new calls, anonymised reports were included to the ENYAs and GYA.

Major events in 2018

- Former YAE Chair, Nicole Grobert, joined Group of Chief Scientific Advisors to the EC.
- Restructuring of the Board, regular online calls and 2x yearly face-to-face meetings.
- “Brexit? Stay connected, join the YAE” campaign.
- Letter to UK and EU politicians for arguments against Brexit.
- ENYA and GYA meeting in Amsterdam (03/2018).
- Meeting with Royal Society for Young Researchers in UK (01/2018).
- Portal to ENYAs and GYA for SAPEA topics.
- Administrative support from AE Hubs set-u.p
- Statement on FP9 by YAE.
- Statement on FP9 with HERA and ALLEA.
- Statement on FP9 with Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE).
ANNEX 2: SOCIAL NETWORKING: WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

During 2018, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH) remained very active in promoting and sharing news of its various activities using several different communications tools, mostly on-line. As in the past, scientific communications specialist Rubén Duro continued to serve the Hub as webmaster and manager of digital content, social media, and audiovisual communications. Highlights from 2018 in these areas include:

Updates on the website

A new page entitled “Building Bridges” was added to the AE-BKH website: http://barcelona.acadeuro.org/ The contents of this new page relate to the Building Bridges conference, and the page is linked to the new website specifically devoted to that conference.

Another new page entitled “Hypatia Prize” was also added to the AE-BKH website. The contents of this new page pertain to the Barcelona Hypatia European Science Prize organised by the AE-BKH and the Barcelona City Council.

In addition, new photo galleries were added to the “Barcelona in Action” page (see below) with a selection of photos related to the different activities organised by the AE-BKH during the year 2018.

New website managed

Separate from the AE-BKH website, a new website was created specifically for the AE conference (“Building Bridges”): http://www.buildingbridges-acadeuro.org. It is simultaneously managed by the outsourced company Manners (professional conference organiser) and the AE-BKH team.

AE-BKH “Barcelona in Action” video channel

The AE-BKH “Barcelona in Action” video channel, running on the YouTube and Vimeo platforms, features videos about the activities organised by the AE-BKH, as well as videos from other institutions related to the Academia Europaea.

During 2018, two new videos were added to the channel, for a total of 23 videos, most of them on the Vimeo platform, which received 181 views in the first 10 days.

Latest videos on the AE-BKH “Barcelona in Action” channel

The video International Day of Light 2018 (AE-BKH) Summary, (20:44), is an abstract of the distinguished lectures given by Prof. Ramon Vilaseca (Catalan Physics Society) and Prof. Ricard Guerrero (Academia Europaea-Barcelona Knowledge Hub) at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) on 16 May, during the commemoration of the UNESCO International Day of Light 2018.

The video AE-Women’s Week 2018, (06:10), is an abstract of the three events organised by the AE-BKH during Women’s Week 2018 on March 6th, 7th and 8th, at the Institute for Catalan Studies, the MHNB (Museu Blau) and the Barcelona Athenaeum, respectively.
WEBSITES MANAGED BY THE AE-BKH TEAM

The AE-BKH office communicates information about its various activities through the barcelonaa.cadeuro.org and buildingbridges-acadeuro.org websites.

AE-BKH Website

The total number of visitors to the AE-BKH website during 2018 was 21,139, and the number of page views during the same period was 122,014. During the 4th quarter of 2018, the number of visitors to the AE-BKH website was 6,188, and the number of page views was 35,302.
Building Bridges Website

The Building Bridges website was created in July 2018 to offer communicate information regarding the Building Bridges 2018 conference (programme, venues, etc.) and to manage registration, so it was active only for six months during the year.

The total number of visitors to the Building Bridges website during 2018 was 1,320, and the number of page views during the same period was 5,786. During the 4th quarter of 2018, the number of visitors to the Building Bridges website was 986 and the number of page views was 3,966.

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS MANAGED BY THE AE-BKH TEAM

The AE-BKH office also communicates information about its various activities through social media accounts on the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms.
FACEBOOK

The AE-BKH manages two Facebook profiles: the first (https://www.facebook.com/ae.bkh/) is devoted to general hub activities, while the second (https://www.facebook.com/DisputatioBarcelona/) is devoted exclusively to the Disputatio of Barcelona, one of the main annual activities.

AE-BKH Profile

During 2018, the AE-BKH Facebook profile gained 32 followers, reaching a total of 215. Over the year, the AE-BKH created 32 posts using its Facebook profile, most of them related to the activities of the hub, both past and future. Also during this period, the AE-BKH created 2 events using its Facebook profile that reached 131 people and generated 25 responses. Without a directed follow-up with individuals, it is difficult to know how many of these 25 people actually attended the event.

Disputatio of Barcelona (DoB) Profile

During 2018, the DoB Facebook profile reached a total of 43 followers. Over the course of the year, the AE-BKH posted 4 posts on its DoB Facebook profile, all of which were related to the Disputatio of Barcelona. This FB profile is inactive during most of the year, taking into account that the Disputatio of Barcelona is held once a year during the month of November.

The AE-BKH considers that maintaining and managing these two Facebook profiles is worthwhile, as followers can then share and comment on the posted information using their own personal Facebook profiles, thereby improving the visibility of the information among new networks of personal contacts.
TWITTER

During 2018, through its Twitter account, the AE-BKH posted 26 original tweets (retweets not included), most of them with photographs to make them more attractive.

The results of this activity on Twitter were impressive: 35,987 responses to tweets, 3,247 visits to the AE-BKH account, and 59 mentions on Twitter. All of these features helped the AE-BKH to gain visibility and improved access to people with a potential interest in our activities.

It is interesting to observe that November and March are the most active months of the year for our Twitter account, corresponding respectively to the two main annual activities of the AE-BKH: Women’s Week (March) and the Disputatio of Barcelona (November).

INSTAGRAM

The Instagram account of the AE-BKH has been less active than the other social media networks during 2018, as many of its academic activities were less suited to the visual/photographic intensity of Instagram, which, over time, had resulted in a smaller number of posts and followers. To improve the positioning of the AE-BKH on Instagram is one of the goals for 2019.

AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

Finally, in addition to the “Barcelona in Action” video channel mentioned earlier, where the AE-BKH shares videos of its activities, on October 16, 2018, the AE-BKH was featured on the Spanish TV programme “La aventura del saber” (Spanish Radio and Television Corporation, channel 2).

This Spanish-language video explains how the AE-BKH promotes the consolidation of a genuine European area of innovation, research, and education, adopting a multidisciplinary perspective that encompasses the arts and sciences and disseminating knowledge not just among the academic community but also the general public. The programme helped increase awareness among Spanish audiences of the important task carried out by the AE-BKH to disseminate scientific knowledge generated by Members of AE and the academic community at large. Available on-line at http://www.rtve.es/alacarta/videos/la-aventura-del-saber/aventura-del-saber-academia-europeae/4793457/
ANNEX 3: PARTNERS OF THE AE-BKH

In 2012, the Government of Catalonia, the Barcelona City Council and the “la Caixa” Banking Foundation decided to become partners of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub of the Academia Europaea (AE-BKH), which was launched the following year.

Since then, the aforementioned institutions have acted as the main sponsors and promoters of the AE-BKH, in order to consolidate Barcelona as a hub of science and innovation in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. Their continued support also helps provide the AE-BKH with the stability needed to undertake new activities and to plan for future growth and expansion. The AE-BKH wishes to express its heartfelt gratitude to its partners.

For more information:

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