



*Academia Europaea* | Barcelona Knowledge Hub

# Report of Activities 2014

# Overview

<i>Academia Europaea</i>	2
Barcelona Knowledge Hub (BKH)	2
International Advisory Committee	3

## BKH'S ACTIVITIES OF 2014

a) International Women's Day, March 5th	4
b) Workshop on "Funding policies and research values", Trieste, May 12th	4
c) 26 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 2014: "Young Europe: realities, dilemmas and opportunities for the new generation", Barcelona, July 16 <sup>th</sup> to 18th	5
d) <i>Disputatio of Barcelona 2014</i> : "The Mediterranean, Bridge of cultures", November 25th	6
e) <i>Academia Europaea InterSection Workshop</i> : "The Mediterranean in the crossroad. Past, present and future", November 26th	8
f) International Advisory Committee (IAC), First Annual Meeting, November 29th	9

## COLLABORATIONS

a) Four lectures on "Neuroscience and...", March-July	10
b) Annual Meeting of the Young Academy of Europe, July 15th	11
c) TOPO-EUROPE Workshop 2014, September 17 <sup>th</sup> to 19th	11
d) International Conference on Education and Empowerment of Women, Autonomous University of Madrid, September 17 <sup>th</sup> to 19th	12
e) The 19th Science Week: Session on "Vaccines, science and society", Parliament of Catalonia, November 17th	12
f) Neuroscience Christmas Symposium, December 17th	12

STRATEGIES FOR 2015	13
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## *Academia Europaea*

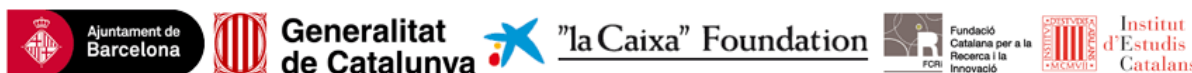
Founded in 1988, the [\*Academia Europaea\*](#) (AE) is an international, nongovernmental, not-for-profit association of individual scientists and scholars from all disciplines, recognised by their peers as experts and leaders in the own subject areas. The AE recognises genuine international excellence and supports the culture of European research through dialogue and collaboration.

The Academy is pan-European, with around 3000 elected members drawn from the whole European continent and also from non-European countries, grouped into 20 Academic Sections.

## **Barcelona Knowledge Hub (BKH)**

In 2012, the Catalan Government (Generalitat de Catalunya), the Barcelona City Council (Ajuntament de Barcelona) and the "la Caixa" Foundation launched the Southern European and Mediterranean Office of the *Academia Europaea*, the Barcelona Knowledge Hub, with the support of the Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca i la Innovació (FCRI) and the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC).

PARTNERS:



Located in the building of the IEC and operational since January 2013, the BKH focuses on the promotion of activities of interest for the members of the Academy and the scientific community in general, with special emphasis on multidisciplinary activities that include the perspective of the social sciences and the humanities.

In July 2014, the organisations above signed a new agreement in order to transfer budget and staff-related duties from the FCRI to the IEC.

Since July 2014, Ricard Guerrero has replaced Genoveva Martí as Academic Director of the BKH. Ariadna Barcelona along with Joaquim Bosch (from January to April), Aldara Cervera (from May to December), and Núria Radó (from October to December, covering Ms. Barcelona's temporary leave) have been the office personnel in 2014.

# International Advisory Committee

During the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (held in Barcelona on July 16-18), the Board and Council of the AE nominated proposed an International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the BKH. Eleven academics, most of them members of the *Academia Europaea*, from Mediterranean countries and with different fields of expertise were chosen. The members of the IAC are the following:

**Enric Banda**, "la Caixa" Foundation (Barcelona)

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**J. Mariano Gago**, Portugal's Laboratory for Particle Physics (Lisbon, Portugal)

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**Pedro García-Barreno**, Royal Academy of the Language, Royal Academy of Medicine (Madrid)

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**Genoveva Martí**, University of Western Ontario (London, ON, Canada)

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**Marc Mayer**, University of Barcelona

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**Maria Paradiso**, University of Sannio (Benevento, Italy)

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**Regina Revilla**, Merck Sharp & Dohme Spain (Madrid)

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The first annual meeting of the IAC was held in the Institute for Catalan Studies on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

# BKH'S ACTIVITIES OF 2014

## [a] International Women's Day

**Date & Time:** 5 March 2014, 18:00 h.

**Venue:** Sala Pere i Joan Coromines, Institute for Catalan Studies, Barcelona

**Co-organised with:** Institute for Catalan Studies

The BKH joined the celebration of the International Women's Day organising a colloquium with the participation of Nadia El-Awady, Science Journalist and former President of the World Federation of Science Journalists, who talked about the "Arab Spring or Long Desolate Arab Winter?". Nadia El-Awady stood on the frontlines of the Egyptian Revolution from January 25 to February 11, 2011. Three years on, she

reflects on the current situation in Egypt, how it has affected her, her family, and those around her. Her presentation was followed by a discussion with the audience.



Full programme of the event available [here](#).

## [b] Workshop on Funding policies and research values

**Date:** 12 May 2014

**Venue:** University of Trieste, Italy

**Co-organised with:** University of Trieste with the support of the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Sweden)

The workshop *Funding policies and research values: strategies and needs, risks and prospects* was held in Trieste. Genoveva Martí, Academic Director of the Barcelona Hub, presented the institutional history and the cultural policies of the *Academia Europaea* and its Hubs in Barcelona and Wrocław. The convenor and organiser was Cinzia Ferrini, member of the AE and the Department of Humanities.

**Co-organiser:** University of Trieste



**[c] 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 2014: “Young Europe: realities, dilemmas and opportunities for the new generation”**

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	16–18 July 2014
<b>Venue:</b>	CosmoCaixa, Barcelona, Institute for Catalan Studies, Barcelona
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.ae2014barcelona.com/">http://www.ae2014barcelona.com/</a>

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub hosted the 26th Annual Conference of the *Academia Europaea*. The three-day event, entitled “Young Europe: realities, dilemmas and opportunities for the new generation”, explored the key medical, social and environmental challenges that Europe will have to address in the coming years. The Conference featured 20 speakers who engaged with the audience in fruitful discussions and scientific interaction.

The event was finished off with a Gala Dinner at the Hotel Avenida Palace and a field trip to the salt mountain of Cardona.

All participants were required to register online or onsite and pay a fee to attend to the Conference (ranged from 175 € to 300 €). There were 175 people registered and the number of attendees varied depending on the day and activity.



A website for the event was created (<http://www.ae2014barcelona.com/>) and different dissemination actions were taken. Invitations were sent to AE Members through newsletters and emails, as well as to the representatives of the partner institutions, Vice-Chancellors and Deputy Vice-Chancellors of the Catalan universities, and local people interested in the AE activities and registered in our database (over one hundred). The conference was publicised on the Barcelona Knowledge Hub and AE websites, and also via our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Partner institutions such as the Generalitat de Catalunya and the FCRI helped out disseminating through their own communication channels. The Department of Communication of the Institute for Catalan Studies organised a press conference with the participation of the three keynote speakers of the Conference, and it had remarkable impact on national and local media.

A three-minute video about the *Academia Europaea* and its 26th Annual Conference starring Genoveva Martí, Academic Director of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub, was produced. All the conferences were recorded.

Further information and full programme of the event are available [here](#).





## [d] *Disputatio of Barcelona 2014: “The Mediterranean, Bridge of cultures”*

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	27 November 2014
<b>Venue:</b>	Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, Barcelona
<b>Co-organised with:</b>	United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM)
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.barcelonadisputatio.com/">http://www.barcelonadisputatio.com/</a>

The BKH organised, together with the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM), a modern-day *Disputatio* with the participation of Maria Paradiso, Member of the AE and Full Professor of Geography and Planning at the University of Sannio, Italy, and Enric Banda, Director of Science and Environment at the “la Caixa” Foundation and Member of the AE, who presented two views on the topic “The Mediterranean, Bridge of Cultures”.

Dissemination actions included creating a website for the event, announcement on the Barcelona Knowledge Hub and *Academia Europaea* websites, social network engagement, and sending out invitations to AE Members, representatives of the partner institutions, Vice-Chancellors and Deputy Vice-Chancellors of the Catalan universities, and to people registered in our database. The Communication Office of the UNU-GCM was responsible for the media relations and press conference for the event.

Two videos were produced, one of the whole event and a short version with the highlights of the event. Both are available on the website: <http://www.barcelonadisputatio.com/videos/>

**Co-organiser:** United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM)



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-GCM**

Institute on Globalization,  
Culture and Mobility



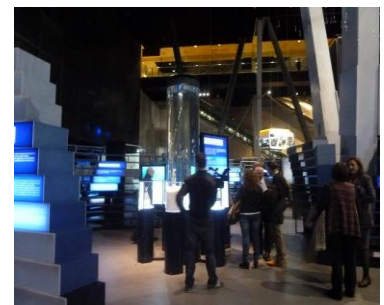


**[e] *Academia Europaea* InterSection Workshop: “The Mediterranean in the crossroad. Past, present and future”**

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	Friday, 28 November 2014 9.30h - 21.30h
<b>Venue:</b>	Institute for Catalan Studies (Coromines Room), Barcelona CosmoCaixa (Agora Room), Barcelona
<b>Co-organised with:</b>	Institute for Catalan Studies
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.barcelonadisputatio.com/isw2014/">http://www.barcelonadisputatio.com/isw2014/</a>

Within the framework of the *Disputatio 2014*, the BKH organised the first Intersection Workshop of the *Academia Europaea* entitled “The Mediterranean in the crossroad. Past, present and future”.

Seven multidisciplinary talks about the Mediterranean shaped the workshop. French geologist and member of the section Earth and Cosmic Sciences Jean-Pierre Brun talked about the origin of the Mediterranean and the Messinian crisis. Social scientist trained in urban and environmental planning Isabelle Anguelovski gave a lecture about the urban and environmental planning in the Mediterranean, taking Barcelona as a model. The



academic director of the BKH, Ricard Guerrero, talked about the early life and late culture of the Mediterranean's deltas and the scientific photographer Rubén Duro showed in film secret submerged "treasures" of the Mediterranean.

In the afternoon, Alessandro Tessari gave a conference entitled "Ramon Llull, the first proto-European", and Marc Mayer, Member of the Classics & Oriental studies' section, talked about the demography of the first Mediterranean global network, the Roman Empire. The closing lecture was given by the sociologist member of the Social sciences' section Salvador Giner, Emeritus Professor at the University of Barcelona, who outlined the problems and opportunities of the Mediterranean in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The full programme of the event is available [here](#).

The event was followed by a guided visit to the exhibition "The Mediterranean as you've never seen it before" at CosmoCaixa Science Museum and a choral concert by Cor de Música, from Castelldefels, which sang Medieval and Mediterranean songs.

The dissemination of the event was done through invitation to people registered in our database (more than 200 people), a newsletter to all members of the *Academia Europaea* and Twitter.

All the conferences were recorded (4 DVDs) and a video of the CosmoCaixa event has been produced.

**Co-organiser:** Institut d'Estudis Catalans



## [f] International Advisory Committee (IAC) First Annual Meeting

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	Saturday, 29 November 2014 9.30h - 16.30h
<b>Venue:</b>	Institute for Catalan Studies (Puig i Cadafalch Room), Barcelona <i>Círculo del Liceo</i> , Barcelona

Agenda of the First Annual Meeting of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub:

- 1) Implementation of the BKH & 2013-2014 year Summary
- 2) Programme of activities for 2015
- 3) Young Academy of Europe: Collaboration and Activities
- 4) Next meetings of the IAC
- 5) Possible activity: the new Library of Alexandria

The meeting was followed by a lunch in the distinguished *Cercle del Liceu*, and members of the International Advisory Committee could visit the art gallery.

A detailed summary of the meeting was sent to all members of the IAC. The next meeting of the IAC will be in December 2015.

## COLLABORATIONS

### [a] Neuroscience and...

**Date:** March – July 2014

**Venue:** Institute for Catalan Studies, Barcelona

The BKH together with the IEC, the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG) and the Institute of Culture of Barcelona sponsored a cycle of four lectures with the title “Neuroscience and...”. The first debate, “Neuroscience and Economics”, took place on March 13. Economists Antonio Cabrales (University College London) and Rosemarie Nagel (ICREA-UPF) and biologist Arcadi Navarro (ICREA-UPF) opened the session with a short presentation, followed by an exchange with the audience.

“Neuroscience and Education” was the title of the second lecture, held on May 15. Speakers were Ismael Palacín, director of the Jaume Bofill Foundation; David Bueno, Department of Genetics at the University of Barcelona; and Ignacio Morgado, Institute of Neurosciences of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. On June 26, the talk was dedicated to “Neuroscience and Politics”. On 3 July, the cycle was closed with the final lecture, “Neuroscience and the Law”.

«Neuroscience and...» had the additional support of LOGOS-Logic, Language and Cognition Research Group, the Spanish Society for Neuroscience (SENC), the Spanish Society for Neurology (SEN) the Brain Awareness Week (BAW) and the Catalan Society for Biology (SCB).

The BKH signed an agreement with the CRG and contributed with 1200 € to the overall budget. Additional actions including participating in the design of a leaflet and dissemination through the website and other channels were done.

A series of videos (“Neuroscience and education” and “Neuroscience and economics”) were uploaded to the BKH’s YouTube channel.

## **[b] Annual Meeting of the Young Academy**

**Date:** 15 July 2014

**Venue:** Coromines Room, Institute for Catalan Studies

The BKH served as a local contact point for providers and logistics on the third Annual Meeting of the YAE, organised in conjunction with the AE's Annual Conference and held at the Institute for Catalan Studies, where the hub is located.

During the meeting, views on the current realities and opportunities for scientists in Europe were discussed from a younger perspective in several talks by YAE members. The scientific sessions consisted of stimulating discussion surrounding eight short presentations linking the three YAE domains (physics and engineering, the life sciences and the social sciences and the humanities). Researchers exchanged views and presented their recent work. They addressed various societal challenges in the areas of health, responses to the economic crisis and arising climate-change parameters. Thus, YAE members presented novel insights into light-activated hearing devices, the formation of citizens' collectives and the accumulation of methane in lakes. Simone Turchetti (University of Manchester) delivered a lecture entitled "Deeply concerned with the environment? Revisiting the history of environmental science and politics" and Nataša Pržulj (Imperial College London) talked about the hidden language of complex networks.

A plenary debate was also held, in which scientists from many European countries evaluated the role of young academies in Europe. The audience agreed with the concerns of the young scientists, that it remains a challenge to shape a coherent science policy for Europe, to secure the sustainable support needed to achieve a scientific impact and to formulate a perspective for the next generation of scientific leaders.

## **[c] TOPO-EUROPE Workshop 2014**

**Date:** 17–19 September 2014

**Venue:** CosmoCaixa, Barcelona

This 3-day conference entitled "Interplay between surface, lithospheric, and mantle processes" focused on the links between topographic evolution, crustal and lithospheric mantle structures, and geodynamic processes occurring at various depth- and time-scales. The conference was multidisciplinary, including participants from areas such as geodynamics, tectonics, seismology, sedimentology, geomorphology, and oceanography.

The BKH collaborated covering the catering expenses of an evening reception that took place in IEC's courtyard. The total amount payed was 1.966,80 €.



#### [d] International Conference on Education and Empowerment of Women

**Date:** 17–19 September 2014

**Venue:** Autonomous University of Madrid, Campus of Cantoblanco, Madrid

The Autonomous University of Madrid hosted a three-day seminar of Education and Empowerment of Women. The Seminar was organised by the National Research Institute for Science Policy (NRISP) of Iran and the Autonomous University of Madrid, with the support of the Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education of Iran and the Barcelona Knowledge Hub.

Ricard Guerrero, Academic Director of the BKH gave the lecture “The role of *Academia Europaea* in promoting women in the sciences and the humanities at the highest levels”.

#### [e] The 19th Science Week: Session on “Vaccines, science and society”, Parliament of Catalonia, November 17th

**Date:** 17 November 2014, 9.30h-14h

**Venue:** Parliament of Catalonia, Barcelona

The BKH collaborated in the organization of the 19<sup>th</sup> Science Week in Catalonia, which was inaugurated in the Parliament of Catalonia with the Conference “Can we eradicate the infection by HIV in infected people? The role of a therapeutic vaccine”, by Dr. Bonaventura Clotet, director of the AIDS Research Institute and head of the HIV Unit of the Hospital Trias i Pujol. The opening ceremony was followed by a conference entitled “Vaccines, science and society”, which analysed the present and future and the social significance of vaccination from a scientific, political and informative point of view and with the participation of researchers, medical professionals, journalists, and members of various parliamentary groups of the Parliament of Catalonia.

#### [f] Neuroscience Christmas Symposium

**Date:** 17 December 2014, 11:00 h

**Venue:** Marie Curie Room at Parc de Recerca Biomèdica de Barcelona

The BKH collaborated in the dissemination of the Systems Neuroscience Christmas Mini Symposium “Push the limits of your brain”, organised by the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG), the Cellular and Systems Neurobiology lab, directed by Mara Dierssen, Member of the *Academia Europaea*, and the Neurosciences Research Program - Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute (IMIM), directed by Rafael de la Torre.

# STRATEGIES FOR 2015

The International Advisory Committee of the BKH determined the following objectives for 2015:

- 1) **To identify specific topics of interest and focus on them with a view to organise activities, according to the dual mission of the BKH.**  
The dual mission of the BKH is: (1) to promote multidisciplinary activities with a focus on social sciences and humanities and (2) to be the hub of the Mediterranean.
- 2) **To define a strategic map of sources of funding connected to these topics of interest in order to fund the activities proposed**  
Examples: European Research Council and Foundations (Qatar Foundation, Peres Center for Peace, Benetton Foundation, Open Society Foundation).
- 3) **To define a strategic map of organisations for collaboration connected to these topics of interest in order to fund the activities proposed**  
Examples: [European Institute of the Mediterranean](#), [United Nations University – Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility](#), [Union for the Mediterranean](#), Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, [UNESCO](#) for the Mediterranean, CIBS, and National Academies.
- 4) **To elaborate a Newsletter of the BKH with the activities organised and future plans in order to involve people and improve communication**
- 5) **To work with the Young Academy of Europe (YAE)**
- 6) **To take an active role in brokering nominations in Mediterranean and southern Europe**

*Barcelona Knowledge Hub, January 2015*