

PRESS RELEASE

**Business  
Region Bergen**

## Academia Europaea

### The Academy of Europe to establish a hub in Bergen

**This new knowledge hub, which will be formally established on 30 May 2014, will provide the national academies of science and letters in Norway with a European partner in Bergen. The focus of Academia Europaea's hub in Bergen will be resources and expertise relating to the 'Northern seas' – Europe's northern dimension.**

Strandgaten 6  
NO-5013 Bergen  
Norway

+47 56 90 11 50  
post@brb.no  
[www.regionbergen.no](http://www.regionbergen.no)

Organisation no: 992159790 MVA Bank  
giro: 3624.24.55880

The University of Bergen, the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH), the City of Bergen and Hordaland County Authority are behind the establishment of the new knowledge hub *Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub Region Bergen*. Academia Europaea will focus in particular on knowledge relating to energy, seafood, maritime transport, international relations and resource issues in ocean areas in Northern Europe, including the Arctic. The region has thereby been assigned a European task that can also prove useful in relation to the Bergen region's priority industries in future.

#### What is Academia Europaea?

Academia Europaea is a joint European academy of humanities, letters and sciences, whose goal is to influence the development of society in Europe in close cooperation with European political institutions. The Academy, which was founded in 1988, has 3,000 members and its head office is in London. Academia Europaea is a politically independent organisation of outstanding individual scholars and scientists, both men and women, who are experts in the humanities, social sciences, natural science and technology. Academia Europaea has been a prime mover behind the establishment of important EU bodies, such as the *European Research Council*.

*Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub Region Bergen* is based on a Nordic model with European affiliation, and relations have already been established with Bergen's twin towns – Århus and Gothenburg – which will be key partners. The universities in these two cities have a good tradition of linking up with businesses that represent the priority industries in their respective regions, such as Maersk in Århus and Volvo and Ericsson in Gothenburg. Funds have been built up around these institutions that form the basis for investment in long-term research. *Knowledge Hub Region Bergen* will provide opportunities for collaboration through projects to which these institutions will also contribute.

'Through Academia Europaea's network, Norwegian scientists will have access to a broad range of international researchers at a very high academic level, with whom it could otherwise have been difficult to come into contact. The establishment of

*Knowledge Hub Region Bergen* is a win-win situation for all parties. We hope that this can help to increase the pace of innovation at the University of Bergen and the Norwegian School of Economics. The hub in Bergen will be part of a large international research and science community, and we believe it is important to support it,' says Ole Hope, CEO of Business Region Bergen, which is the facilitator for *Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub Region Bergen* on behalf of the City of Bergen, Hordaland County Authority and the region as a whole.

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### **London, Barcelona, Wroclaw and now also the Bergen region**

After the establishment of the hub in Bergen, Academia Europaea will have four organisations that cover different parts of Europe. Its headquarters are in London, Eastern Europe is covered by *Knowledge Hub Wroclaw* in Poland, Southern Europe by *Knowledge Hub Barcelona* in Spain, and the northern part of Europe will now be covered by *Knowledge Hub Region Bergen*.

*Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub Region Bergen* will establish forums and seminars and it will be a new European hub for research, knowledge and interdisciplinarity that will benefit decision-makers at all levels.

Professor Jan S Vaagen of the Department of Physics and Technology at the University of Bergen will serve as the academic director of *Knowledge Hub Region Bergen*. He is one of 50 Norwegian members, 20 of whom work in Bergen.

### **To obtain further information, please contact:**

**Dag Rune Olsen**, rektor Universitetet i Bergen, mobil: 930 85 881

**Ole Hope**, administrerende direktør i Business Region Bergen, mobil: 479 80 100

**Frøystein Gjesdal**, rektor Norges Handelshøyskole, mobil: 413 32 610