



## Best wishes for the New Year 2009!

Dear Colleagues,

In this rapidly changing, dynamic world, with an economy in crisis and society facing a multitude of known and probably an even greater number of unknown challenges, ALLEA unites the European National Academies as guardians of independent, cutting-edge scientific inquiry. From elementary particles to the study of the Universe, from Nanomedicine to cognitive science, from the analyses of social and cultural trends to those of climate change, ALLEA member academies bring together leading researchers who pursue the quest for new knowledge with passion and social responsibility. ALLEA aims to harness this enormous intellectual potential to reinforce and continuously rejuvenate the best traditions of learning and research, through the ideas and inspiration of the best minds for the benefit of societies across the continent and beyond.

In 2009, ALLEA and its members will continue to work on a variety of interventions in the field of policy for science, safeguarding good scientific practice in an increasingly competitive research environment. This includes providing advice and guidance in all matters related to research and science-society relations.

The Strategic Plan 2010-2015 that ALLEA will develop with its members in the course of 2009 will serve as backbone. The list of planned activities is already long - the Virtual European Young Academy project, guidance on research integrity structures, co-operation with a wide range of partners in building the European Research Area, integrating regional academy networks, a new framework for comprehensive research evaluation, to name but a few. Yet these new initiatives will need to be implemented, and as we shall discuss with Member Academies the five-year Strategic Plan, with its road-maps and milestones, we shall also reflect on a sustainable financial framework for ALLEA as the European Federation of National Academies of Sciences and Humanities. Close co-operation with and engagement of all Member Academies and partners will be writ large. Member Academies can be assured that ALLEA is now equipped with a small but committed head office, supported by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, to meet the challenges of the new year, with Dr Rüdiger Klein as the new Executive Director and Ms Mirjam Bouter as the new Secretary.

We wish every success to all our Member Academies and partners,

Jüri Engelbrecht  
President

Nicholas Mann  
Vice-President

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## Activities ALLEA Presidency and Steering Committee Members (Sept-Dec 2008)

ALLEA president Jüri Engelbrecht attended the **Academia Europaea business meeting and Conference** under the title „Promoting a Global Science Culture“ which marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launching of the Academia Europaea in 1988 (Liverpool, UK, 18-20 September 2008). Agreement was reached on the necessity for better coordination; an upcoming meeting should discuss how best to create a portfolio of future joint activities (for example: high-level scientific meetings; publications etc.)

Link: [Programme](#)



Jüri Engelbrecht

As Chair of the InterAcademy Panel (IAP) Programme Committee for an initiative on the role of young scientists, the ALLEA president had contributed to prepare a draft programme for a meeting with approximately 200 participants which, in a modified format and with the support of the World Economic Forum, became the **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2008** (Tianjin, China, 25-28 September 2008). Sessions focused on the themes „Managing Science for a Better World“ and „The Role of Frontier Science in Shaping Society“. In this latter session, Engelbrecht's presentation on ALLEA initiatives on science and science policy strategies in smaller countries were well received. In discussions during the meeting, the idea of Young Academies received great acclaim, and the ALLEA project to explore the establishment of a virtual „European Young Academy“ was seen as an interesting experiment to take such typically national initiatives to a level where supranational (here: European) science policy matters can be debated.

Link: [Annual Meeting Report](#)

The ALLEA president attended the conference „**The European Research Council (ERC) for a policy of excellence: the first award winners pave the way**“ (Paris, France, 7 October 2008), organized by the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research at Collège de France within the framework of the French Presidency of the EU. The excellent first cohort of „Starting Grant“ recipients in the basic research scheme of the ERC demonstrates the potential of European research, but also points to the need to better harness the potential of academics in Central and Eastern Europe.

Link: [French Presidency EU 2008](#)

ALLEA vice-president Nicholas Mann was an invited speaker at the **1st European Conference for Collaborative Humanities Research**

(Strasbourg, France, 8-9 October 2008). The conference brought together the major, public, supranational research funders in the Humanities: the Euro-



Nicholas Mann

pean Commission's Framework Programme, including projects funded by the European Research Council, the European Science Foundation (ESF), COST, and HERA. Closing a session in which non-European speakers from South-Africa, Asia, and North America commented on the European panoramas presented, Nicholas Mann emphasized the need for a more profound analysis of the patterns of transnational collaborative research in the Humanities: academies had long been promoting the exchange and joint production of knowledge, also in the Humanities [*vide* the activities of Union Académique Internationale], and it would be important to better understand the added value of more intense and more regular cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary collaboration as it was now being promoted by the sponsors of the conference. Contacts re-established with the American Council of Learned Societies, with the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and others, will allow ALLEA to play a role in future discussions on international collaborative research, as Humanities and Social Sciences funders move towards considering their fields as eligible for „Big Science“.

The ALLEA president spoke about „Academy and Society“ at the international conference „**Role of National Science Academies in the 21st Century**“ organized by the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts and partners in Podgorica, Montenegro, 9-12 October 2008, with ca. 60 participants representing some 20 National Academies and several international institutions. The proceedings of this meeting will be published. Pavel Kratochvil, member of the ALLEA Standing Committee „Science and Ethics“ chaired a session on Ethics. The conference focused on some of the challenges academies are facing, notably in South-Eastern Europe, in their dual role as learned societies and research performing organizations. Participants also commented on the many bi- and multilateral ties which link academies. If these intense and multiple contacts can be seen as an asset, it can also be argued that a forum for better coordination between these many efforts is needed. ALLEA will take steps, in the course of 2009, to pursue this debate.

On 6 November 2008 ALLEA president Jüri Engelbrecht participated in Brussels in the **2nd Advisory Board meeting of NETWATCH**, an FP7 project coordinated by the European Commission Joint Research Centre's Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (Sevilla). Following the launch event in Brussels on 13-14 March 2008, this project analyses, in its a preparatory phase, the development

paths and successes of the ERA-NET scheme, notably the issue of transnational cooperation with other national programmes. In the operational phase (2009-2011) it will build up the [NETWATCH Platform](#) in order to (1) provide up-to-date information and analysis on how transnational RDT programmes contribute to fostering the ERA; (2) to offer examples of best practice and a Mutual Learning Platform to programme stakeholders. This will be done with a view to engaging programme managers and policy makers in the R&D field in a dialogue on the benefits and practice of Joint Programming.

The ALLEA Office will consult Member Academies on their participation and experiences in ERA-Net activities in order to identify academy-specific issues that may need to be raised in the run-up to Joint Programming efforts likely to receive a further boost under the European Commission's Framework Programme 8.



Pieter Drenth

ALLEA Honorary President Pieter Drenth and Pavel Kratochvil, member of the ALLEA Standing Committee on Science and Ethics, spoke at the workshop **“From principles to practice: how do European Research Organisations implement research integrity guidelines?”**. The workshop had been organized by the Spanish *Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas* (CSIC) as part of the European Science Foundation's MO Fora in Madrid on 17-18 November 2008. Drenth had been involved previously in the OECD's Global Science Forum activity on “Facilitating Research Misconduct Investigations” and spoke on the role of academies in the promotion of scientific integrity, while Kratochvil's presentation was entitled “Ethics of authorship”. The workshop aimed at (1) presenting case studies and identifying some best practice; (2) presenting initiatives that foster international collaborations in promoting research integrity (ICSU; GSF; ALLEA; EUA et al.); (3) discussing needs and activities for a coordinated approach to research integrity in Europe.

ALLEA was identified as one of the major partners in raising awareness at national levels, and developing shared templates for the establishment of national, and eventually European, research integrity structures. ALLEA, with its Standing Committee Science and Ethics, will invite the Ethics Committees of all its Member Academies to debate the matter in a joint workshop later in 2009. The aim is to reach a common

position by summer 2009 and to have concrete results in time for the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity to be held in Singapore in mid-2010.

On 1 December 2008 ALLEA president Jüri Engelbrecht was invited to the **conference marking the 90th Anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine** (NANU) in Kiev. Congratulations also went to the President of NANU, Academician B. Paton who celebrated his 90th birthday; he has been NANU's President for 46 years. While congratulatory talks by the nation's president, prime minister and many invitees, notably from NIS Commonwealth countries, were well received, it emerged during the conference that NANU shares with many of its ALLEA sister academies a dual role and function in society, namely as a learned society and as a research performing organisation.

The ALLEA president attended on 6 December 2008 the **Annual General Assembly of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences in Munich** (DE). The Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften is represented in ALLEA by the „Union of German Academies“. Founded in 1759, the academy will celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2009. It is home to, among others, the Leibniz Computing Centre (one of the largest high performance computing centres in Germany), the excellent Walther Meissner Institute for Low Temperature Research, and a number of activities with strong international dimensions (Thesaurus Linguae Latinae, Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum etc.). The academy will convene a conference on „Wissenschaft und Politik. Historische Grundlagen, theoretische Probleme und aktuelle Fragen“ which may also include European dimensions (Munich, 14-16 October 2009). Discussions during the meeting identified the need for ALLEA to explore in some detail the role of regional academies in European context.

Link: [Conference page](#)

## ALLEA Business Meetings

The Estonian Academy of Sciences hosted the **ALLEA Steering Committee meeting** (Tallinn, 16-17 October 2008). Steering Committee members from Estonia, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom were present. The meeting discussed the follow-up to the ALLEA General Assembly and preparations for the ALLEA Strategic Plan 2010-2015, notably a better structuring of partnerships with other inter-academy consortia and the next steps in the project “Towards a European Young Academy “ (working title). Following up on an initiative to assist Higher Education in Palestine presented during the recent meeting of the Standing Committee “Science & Ethics”, the Steering Committee agreed it was necessary to engage more substantially with academies in neighbouring countries. A Member Academy would be approached to host a planning meeting for a better coordination between specific activities (in Palestine) and broader approaches to scientific exchange and cooperation with the Islamic World. The Committee also discussed the proposal of a revised work-plan for the Working Group “Evaluating for Science”, and an invitation extended to the standing



Estonian Academy of Sciences

Committee **"Intellectual Property Rights"** to co-organize a conference at the upcoming World Science Forum 2009.

**Meetings between Presidency and ALLEA Secretariat** have taken place regularly, either at the KNAW Headquarters in Amsterdam (17 September; 5 November; 12 December) or during other meetings abroad.

**ALLEA Standing Committees** held their meetings in the first half of 2008, preceding the reporting period of this issue. The Standing Committee **"Science and Ethics"** met, upon invitation of the Turkish Academy of Sciences, in Istanbul, on 23-24 May 2008. The proceedings of this meeting are being published. The Standing Committee **"Intellectual Property Rights"** met under the Chairmanship of Sir Roger Elliott in Amsterdam on 25 January 2008. Among other things, the Committee recommended that the ERC statement on "Open Access" be given support. The two Standing Committees are taking an interest in recent developments to better coordinate efforts to ensure research integrity both in Europe and worldwide. The ALLEA General Assembly, Madrid 16-18 April 2008, established a **Working Group "Evaluating for Science"**.

#### Upcoming ALLEA business meetings

##### 26-27 March 2009

Standing Committee "Science and Ethics", Berlin

##### 30 March 2009

2<sup>nd</sup> ESF-ALLEA High-level meeting, British Academy, London

##### 31 March 2009

ALLEA Steering Committee meeting, British Academy, London

**TBD:** Meeting of ALLEA members ethics committee representatives on research integrity

Later in the year:

##### 16-17 November 2009

Extraordinary ALLEA General Strategy Meeting, KNAW, Amsterdam

Meetings dates for the Standing Committee "Intellectual Property Rights", of the Working Group "Evaluating for Science" and of the ALLEA Task Forces had not been set yet at the time of publication.

In the course of 2009, ALLEA hopes to have formal **working meetings and exchanges with Member Academies**. A first such meeting already took place on 26 November between ALLEA president Jüri Engelbrecht and Rüdiger Klein (incoming executive director ALLEA) with Gunnar Öquist (RSAS, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences) and Gunnel Engwall (KVHAA - Royal Swedish Academy for History, Letters and Antiquities). Discussions focused on perspectives for the ALLEA Strategic Plan 2010-2015 and on preparations for the ALLEA General Assembly meeting to be hosted by Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in 2010 in Stockholm.

#### ALLEA and its partners

In the strategic plan 2010-2015, ALLEA will define where in the concert of inter-academy organizations it will provide specific added value to its members. To that effect, a series of meetings, exchanges and consultations will take place, not only with member academies and with partner organizations starting October 2008. The following overview gives some insights into ongoing discussions and highlights some of the perspectives for collaboration explored so far.

The first **EASAC desk officers meeting** convened at the invitation of KNAW on 25 November 2008 in Amsterdam was an occasion to exchange views on issues of common interest and to prepare the following EASAC Council meeting. The ALLEA executive director was present as a guest. Participants from 10 countries discussed issues related to the function of EASAC - EASAC's main business is described as providing authoritative reports and assessments on scientific topics relevant to European policy needs - , its financial and strategic plan and the role EASAC's work plays in the academies of EASAC members. They also said that it would be desirable to have a more efficient exchange of information, coordination of activities and distribution of tasks between ALLEA and EASAC central offices. The two secretariats welcomed this request.

The **EASAC Council meeting** in Stockholm (15-16 December 2008) witnessed discussions on EASAC's strategy paper and heard reports from the - currently - three EASAC portfolios (environment, energy, biosciences) and previews of new projects. The Chair reported on the development of EASAC's links with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and the recognition of EASAC as significant source of advice on science for policy in the European Union. Tracey Elliott (Royal Society) presented a report on the G8 academies statements. For their two latest statements on the transition to low carbon societies and global health, the G8 academies were joined also by the national academies of Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa. The Council also decided that, following the model of the Environment Steering Panel, a Steering Panel would be set up to advise the Energy Portfolio.

ALLEA is observer on the **European Science Foundation Governing Council**. The latest meeting

attended by the president was held in Vienna, Austria, on 8-9 October 2008. Both parties agreed on the preparation of a report based on the results of the 1st ESF-ALLEA High-level meeting on 7 March 2008, on jointly working on project "Towards a European Young Academy" and on preparing a 2nd High-level meeting for 30 March 2009 (to be hosted by British Academy, London). This second meeting is expected to discuss in greater detail future forms of cooperation on specific projects and on science policy issues. Jüri Engelbrecht also attended the **ESF General Assembly and Conference** in Stockholm, 26-28 November 2008. From discussions during the GA it emerged that ESF sees an important role for ALLEA in the quality assurance for its science foresight activities ("Forward Look"). ALLEA efforts to better articulate its interactions with its various partners (incl. global partners such as ICSU and OECD) will help to sharpen the profile of the specific Europe-wide activities.



Freedom, Responsibility and Universality of Science



ALLEA and ESF jointly published a Call for an Early Career Researchers Forum "**From Learned Societies to Knowledge-Based Society: Towards a European Young Academy?**" to be convened, on a competitive basis, in Vienna on 8-10 June 2009. Questions to be reflected on include, but are not limited to: (1) how to improve environments to enhance scholarship across areas of specialization; (2) which formats are useful for non-topic related / cross-disciplinary scientific networking that might encourage new developments in their own disciplines; (3) how to safeguard a full portfolio of disciplinary and cultural knowledge in academic research environments; (4) what new forms are there for instilling a passion for a career in research in younger generations; (5) what is the nexus between societal relevance of science and personal responsibility?

Link: [Call for an Early Career Researchers Forum](#)

## European Science Policy Meetings

The first semester of 2009 will see the Czech Presidency of the European Union. Consequently, a number of important science-policy events will take place in Prague and other cities in the Czech Republic.

### 24-25 February 2009

**EUFORDIA** (European Forum on research and development impact assessment). EUFORDIA is organized jointly by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Technology Centre of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in the framework of the Czech EU presidency and will provide a discussion platform to the EU member states for assessment of national and European impacts of Framework programmes.

Link: [Eufordia](#)

### 24-25 March 2009

Conference "**Strengthening the ERA through Research Infrastructures**", followed by an ESFRI meeting **Role of the Basic Research in the Process of the Structuring ERA**

### 16-18 April 2009

Conference "**Role of the Basic Research in the Process of the Structuring ERA**", organized by The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic The European Future Technologies Conference.

### 21-23 April 2009

"Science beyond Fiction" **The European Future Technologies Conference**". FET09 is a new European forum dedicated to frontier research in future and emerging information technologies. Leading scientists, policy-makers, industry representatives and science journalists will convene over three days to discuss today's frontier science, tomorrow's technologies and the impact of both on tomorrow's society. The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic is one of the co-organisers.

Link: [Science beyond Fiction](#)

### 27-29 April 2009

The Conference "**Research in Europe without Barriers**" („Building ERA through cooperation with all talented young researchers“), is mainly dedicated to the mobility of researchers. The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic is involved in organising the conference and ALLEA will be represented.

### 7-8 May 2009

"**Research Connection 2009**" is a major networking event mainly dedicated to EU research activities and aimed at the better integration of "new" EU member states into Framework Programme activities.

Link: [Research Connection 2009](#)

### 13-15 May 2009

Meeting of the Helsinki Group and Czech Presidency event on "**Women in Science**".

### 26-27 May 2009 (Brussels)

The conference "**Sustainable Development: a challenge for European research**" is intended to initiate a structured dialogue on how to reform European research to best respond to sustainable development challenges. It will also investigate ways of improving the science-policy link and the relationship between science and society.

Link: [Conference Sustainable Development](#)

**27-29 May 2009**

Meeting of the **Steering Platform on Research for Western Balkans Countries**.

**2-5 June 2009**

**Euronanoforum 2009** will focus on "Nanotechnology for sustainable economy". The conference will address several acute issues underlying the sustainable development of European society and industry, such as the need for reduction in carbon emissions and fossil fuels dependence, a substantial increase in energy and material efficiency, pollution control, clean water management and a sustainable quality of life for the European citizen, through application of nanotechnology.

Link: [Euronanoforum 2009](#)

**11-13 June 2009**

The **Future of the Internet** Conference aims to review the strategic orientations and trends governing the future societal and economic developments of on-line Internet and Mobile societies and to present interesting ideas and projects in this area.

Link: [Future of the Internet](#)

The European Commission's "**European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009**" – launched with the slogan "Imagine. Create. Innovate" by the Commission's Directorate for Education and Culture may be initiating activities of relevance for the upcoming ALLEA General Assembly Conference. The EYCI has the objective of raising awareness of the importance of creativity and innovation for personal, social and economic development, disseminating good practice, stimulating education and research, and promoting policy debate and development. The Year will be officially launched in Prague on 7 January 2009 with a conference on innovation and creativity to be held in the premises of the Czech Senate, in the presence of several Commissioners and members of Czech government.

Link: [Creativity and Innovation](#)

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## Other relevant conferences

**12-13 February 2009**

The Interacademy Panel on International Issues (IAP) will hold a workshop "**Strengthening academies through best practices in fellowship appointment procedures and the expert panel assessment process**", which will take place at the IAP secretariat in Trieste (Italy) on 12-13 February 2009. The workshop will provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and to develop best practices on the assessments and processes used to elect fellows to national academies. All IAP Member Academies are invited to participate.

In view of the emerging lead-theme of the ALLEA General Assembly 2010 ("Learning"), the following may be considered important conferences in the first half of 2009:

**31 March-2 April 2009**

UNESCO World Conference on **Education for sustainable development** (« S'engager dans la



seconde moitié de la Décennie »), Bonn (DE). The conference is organized jointly by UNESCO, the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, and by the German UNESCO Commission.

Link: [World Conference](#)

**4-9 April 2009**

ALLEA and NASAC (the Network of African Science Academies) had signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at closer cooperation. The first **Europe-Africa Frontier Research Conference** under the title "**Infectious diseases: from basic to translational research**" will be held in Cape Town (South Africa) in as part of the ESF Research Conference Series which is sponsored by a consortium of European Academies (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Society, the British Academy, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and the French Academy of Sciences). This conference will pay particular attention to tuberculosis, malaria and more neglected diseases such as Buruli ulcer, leishmaniasis, schistosomiasis and filariasis, along with emerging viral diseases. The conference will concentrate on basic sciences in order to promote research and cooperation in an area that is often regarded as of minor importance and therefore risks not attracting adequate funding in developing countries.

**6-8 July 2009**

**UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education** (to be convened in Paris, FR) under the title "The New Dynamics of Higher Education" the conference will bring together key stakeholders to forge a new commitment to the development of higher education. The Conference will take stock of the changes in higher education and research since the last World Conference in 1998, address the dynamics shaping the strategic agenda for the development of higher education, and identify concrete actions to meet national development objectives and individual aspirations. A series of preparatory regional conferences will address specific regional concerns, expectations and proposals to bring to the 2009 World Conference.

Link: [Conference page](#)

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## Upcoming conferences of ALLEA Member Academies

In this section ALLEA invites its Member Academies to bring to the attention of their sister academies events and activities of mutual interest that fall, broadly speaking, within the science policy remit of ALLEA. Announcements of Assembly Conferences are also welcome. Events co-organised by Academies as part of the programme of their country's Presidency of the European Union are not listed in this section. In the future, we hope to include a section also on relevant publications, be they reports or published volumes of relevant events.

### National Academy of Sciences of Belarus

22-24 January 2009

Celebratory Conference "**Science for the Innovative Development of the State**" to mark the 80th Anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk.

Academy website: [www.ac.by](http://www.ac.by)

### Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei

26-27 March 2009

**Annual Meeting of the G8 + 5 Academies** (Brazil, China, India, Mexico, South Africa): key topics: 1) New technologies for the production and conservation of energy; 2) International migration flows.

### Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

23 April 2009

Conference "**Wissenschaftskommunikation – Chance und Grenzen**" (Swiss Exchange, Convention Point), Zürich.

Info: [Conference agenda](#)

### Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS)

8 May, 2009

International Conference "**Public Trust in Science and Industry - Supported Research and Education: Benefits and Pitfalls**", Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering PAS, Warsaw, Poland, addressing problems concerning science financing (from public and industry funds) and conflicts of interest between scientific/academic and industry worlds. The conference will present current opinions of leading international experts from Europe and USA. Website Academy: [www.pan.pl](http://www.pan.pl) / [www.english.pan.pl](http://www.english.pan.pl)

### Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU)

15 May 2009

Seminar on "**European Research Area – Policy and Implementation**". The event is a follow-up to the recent PAU opinion on the Green Paper "European Research Area: New Perspectives" prepared upon request of the ALLEA president. The seminar is organised together with PAU's Commission for European Matters and the Institute for European Studies of the Jagiellonian University, Krakow.

Link: [ERA Seminar](#)

### Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)

22-24 April 2009

**12th working meeting of the Central and Eastern European Network (CEEN)**, Smolenice Castle, Slovak Republic, organized by the Slovak Academy of

Sciences (SAS) and European Academy of Sciences and Arts (EASA)

### Royal Spanish Academy of Sciences

4-5 June 2008

EASAC Council Meeting

## Fellowships offered by ALLEA Member Academies

### Royal Society of Edinburgh

Co-funded by Marie Curie Actions and with the support of the Scottish Government, a limited number of **Research Fellowships** (to commence on 1 October 2009) will provide outstanding scientists, who should have the potential to become leaders in their field, with the opportunity to build an independent research career. E-mail: [resfells@royalsoced.org.uk](mailto:resfells@royalsoced.org.uk) Closing date: 30 March 2009.

Link: [Fellowships](#)

The **International Exchange Programmes**, funded by the Scottish Government, enables scholars and researchers to come to Scotland or to visit overseas from their Scottish academic base for a short period of time with a view to establishing ongoing research collaborations between Scotland and countries with which the RSE has a formal agreement. E-mail: [international@royalsoced.org.uk](mailto:international@royalsoced.org.uk). Closing dates: 31 January 2009, 30 April 2009, 31 July 2009, 30 November 2009.

Link: [International Exchange Programme](#)

The RSE/BP Trust **Research Fellowships** (to commence on 1 October 2009) provide outstanding scientists, who should have the potential to become leaders in their chosen field, with the opportunity to build an independent research career. Eligible fields: Mechanical Engineering, Information Technology, Chemical Engineering, Geological Sciences, Control engineering, Chemistry (non-biological), Solid State Sciences. Closing date: 30 January 2009.

Link: [Research Fellowships](#)

RSE/Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland. **Personal research fellowships** (to commence on 1 October 2009) provide outstanding scientists, who should have the potential to become leaders in their field, with the opportunity to build an independent research career. Eligibility: independent research on the causes and effects of the ageing process including the medical, psychological, sociological or economic consequences of old age with the purpose of improving the quality of life. Closing date: 6 March 2009.

Link: [Personal research fellowships](#)

## Obituaries

Academician Professor Aleksandr Fursenko, the renowned historian and member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, former member of the ALLEA Steering Committee, passed away in 2008.

## News from the ALLEA Secretariat

ALLEA will be assisted, in its transition towards a new Strategic Plan 2010-2015, by new staff, as former director Dr Johannes Schroots retired and secretary Maarten Langemeijer M.A. moved to a new job with the municipality of Amsterdam.

The new executive director is Dr Rüdiger Klein, formerly Senior Scientific Officer for Research and Foresight and Deputy Head Humanities at European Science Foundation (ESF). He is supported by Ms Mirjam Bouter M.A.

The ALLEA office is further logistically supported by the KNAW Bureau. Costs for the President and Vice-President are born by the respective Member Academies (Estonian Academy of Sciences and British Academy).

## ALLEA Publications

ALLEA expects to publish, early in 2009, the proceedings of the working meeting of its Standing Committee for Science and Ethics, Istanbul 23-24 May 2008 (editor: Ayşe Erzan). Also in early 2009, the short report of the ESF-ALLEA High-level meeting in 2008 can be expected. The 1st half of 2009 will also see the publication of the ALLEA Biennial Yearbook 2008.

ALLEA is currently restructuring its website which in future will host more information from Member Academies, as well as restricted-access working pages for Committees, Working Groups etc. ALLEA will then also be able to feature on its web-pages publications of its Member Academies.



KNAW building

## About ALLEA

Founded in 1994, ALLEA is the Federation of 53 Academies of Sciences and Humanities in 40 European countries. ALLEA's Member Academies are self-governing communities of scientists and scholars. Allea seeks to

- promote the exchange of information and experience between Academies
- offer European science and society advice from its Member Academies, and
- strives for excellence in science and scholarship, high ethical standards and independence from political, commercial and ideological interests.

### Presidency

Jüri Engelbrecht (President)  
Nicholas Mann (Vice-President)

### Steering Committee

Jüri Engelbrecht, Nicholas Mann, Yucel Kanpolat, Salustiano del Campo Urbano, Guy Laval, Ed Noort, Peter Schuster, Marie Therese Flanagan, Gunnar Öquist, Stefan Luby, Volker ter Meulen (observer)

### Standing Committee Science & Ethics

Chair: Ludger Honnefelder

### Standing Committee Intellectual Property Rights

Chair: Sir Roger Elliott

### ALLEA Working Groups (current)

Evaluating for Science

### ALLEA Working Groups (completed)

Science Cooperation  
Science and the Media  
Privacy in the Information Society

### ALLEA Secretariat

Rüdiger Klein (Executive Director)  
Mirjam Bouter (Secretary)

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