The European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC)
Strategy 2022 – 2023
(extension and minor revision of 2017-2021 strategy)

"Science advice for the benefit of Europe"

EASAC and its networks

EASAC is the voice of independent science advice in the European Union, mobilising Europe's leading scientists to guide EU policy for the benefit of society.

EASAC was founded in 2001 and is the network of the 28 national science academies of the EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland and the UK. Additionally, the pan-European academy, Academia Europaea, and ALLEA, the association of all academies in geographic Europe, are also members. With a potential reach of over 10,000 experts covering a wealth of scientific disciplines, EASAC is an instrument for mobilising Europe's best scientific minds on important public policy issues. EASAC has a 20-year track record of producing high quality advisory reports for policy-makers in the European Commission and European Parliament, and the science advisory mechanisms within them.

EASAC is the regional affiliated network for Europe of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), the global network of science, engineering and medical academies, who work together on global science policy issues.

EASAC works closely with Academia Europaea, ALLEA, and the networks of engineering (EuroCASE) and medical (FEAM) academies in Europe through a project consortium, SAPEA, which is an integral but independent part of the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM).

EASAC organises its work through three core programmes - biosciences, energy and environment - each supported by a steering panel of experts nominated by member academies. Collectively, these are the engine of EASAC.

EASAC's core objectives

EASAC's strategy to 2023 is framed around five core objectives:

1. To influence EU policy development and implementation, and national policy within EU Member States (MS) and those of other EASAC members.

2. To inform EU contributions to global policy-making.

3. To provide an independent platform for debate and for convening scientists, policy-makers and publics.

4. To build the science policy capacity of EU academies and scientists, and mobilise the European science community to engage on regional policy agendas.

5. To build a progressive and more resilient national science academies' network.

Objective 1:
Influencing EU policy development and implementation, and national policies
EASAC has developed a solid reputation for producing outstanding reports on wide-ranging issues of policy relevance. EASAC will continue to produce high quality output (e.g. reports, statements, workshops, briefings) and bring expertise and insight into different parts of the policy cycle: from *scoping* the question/new project, to *shaping new policy* and *shaping legislation* by Member States and EU Parliament, to *implementation* and *review* (monitoring/evaluation).

Over the next two years, EASAC will continue to place emphasis on:

- building **stronger links with its core constituencies:**
    o **the European Commission**, especially those institutions most closely related to EASAC's core programmes (such as DG Environment, DG Sante, DG Agriculture and DG Energy);
    o **the EU Parliament** exploiting different avenues for reaching its members (MEPs) e.g. national parliamentarian groups, EU-wide political parties and working groups;
    o **the European Council,** through EASAC's member academies;
    o **the Group of EU Chief Scientific Advisors or High-Level Group**, which is the core part of the SAM;
    o **the newly formed European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change.**
- encouraging **member academies** to engage proactively with their national governments and representatives (e.g. in EU Parliament, on the European Council, in Permanent Representations in Brussels, and city and regional representatives who implement EU policies);
- **timing its reports** to coincide with "hot" topics, EU policy agendas and milestones;
- **more rigorous dissemination and outreach** – including online and, where practicable, hybrid and in-person launch events, virtual and in-person briefings in Brussels and Strasbourg, publishing two-page summaries of reports, targeted marketing, and using conventional and social media channels more creatively;
- **horizon scanning** for future, as yet unanticipated, policy challenges;
- its **cooperation with the SAPEA project**, as a formal but independent arm of the European Commission's Science Advisory Mechanism (SAM);
- **customer focus** - balancing "bottom up" and "top down" work, independently and through its cooperation with SAPEA, including exploring commissioning models;
- **cross-/multi-/interdisciplinary perspectives** –so that interventions are more comprehensive; this could include the co-design and co-delivery of projects across the EASAC steering panels (energy, environment, biosciences) and a more flexible approach to the current three core programmes;
- having a voice on **critical policy-for-science issues**, whether independently, in partnership with other networks, or through SAPEA.

Objective 2:
Informing EU contribution to global policy-making

The global influence and leadership of the EU should not be overlooked. The EU has enhanced observer status at the United Nations (UN), allowing EU representatives to present EU agreed common positions, to make interventions, present proposals and circulate EU communications as official documents at the UN General Assembly. The EU is also party to around 50 international UN agreements as the only non-state participant. It is a full participant on the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organisation, and many UN summits, including Rio and Kyoto summits on climate change.

Further, as a regional network of IAP, EASAC has access to other interacademy networks around the world, as a conduit for shaping and promulgating important policy messages.

Over the next two years, EASAC will:

- report on and disseminate widely the IAP interregional synthesis report on Climate Change and Health;
- continue to provide **regional leadership for IAP**'s interregional project on sustainable agriculture, its new project on global policy-making and the Sustainable Development Goals, and other IAP projects relevant to global policy-making;
- **influence EU policy for UN policy frameworks,** where practicable;
- encourage its member academies to **engage with their respective national delegations** to UN policy frameworks;
- cooperate with other IAP Regional Networks on issues of mutual interest.

Objective 3:
Providing an independent platform for dialogue and debate

The 21st century is the Information Age, where intelligence is sourced from many different places (including the internet and social media) and information is increasingly large and complex. EASAC has a role to play in providing independent, intelligent and objective syntheses of complex information/data. Open policy-making is also gaining increasing traction, engaging a broader range of stakeholders (for example through social media, crowd sourcing and collaborative policy processes), and opening up policy-making to new voices, ideas and techniques. Further, the global COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly changed working practices and the way that research is delivered, communicated and used. EASAC will need to respond and adapt to this demand.

Over the two years, EASAC will:

- develop its capability and competence in hosting impactful virtual and hybrid meetings;
- strengthen its **Brussels presence**, as in-person working returns, to maintain and develop links with the Commission and Parliament;
- seek **innovative partnerships** with European media agencies, journalists and/or intermediaries i.e. organisations who engage the public;
- include an **online open consultation** element (open calls for evidence) to all major projects to help scope and inform them, so that issues of public concern can be addressed;
- explore policy options by looking at their **intended and unintended consequences**;

- increase use of **social media, webinars and online communication tools** as a routine part of outreach and dissemination.

Objective 4:
Building science policy capacity and mobilising the European science community
An implicit part of EASAC's role is to build the capacity ("empower") its member academies to work confidently and competently at national and regional levels. It can also encourage other members of the European research community, institutional and individual, to engage on science policy issues through partnership and outreach.

Over the next two years, EASAC will:

- encourage its **member academies to convene different constituencies** to discuss EU and national policy, sharing and promoting best practice across members;
- continue to submit **articles and report summaries in peer-reviewed scientific journals**, and in national, international, scientific and mainstream press;
- continue to strengthen relations with the **Global Young Academy (GYA) and National Young Academies** in Europe;
- where mutually beneficial, **work with other relevant institutions / agencies**, such as European national research institutes with offices in Brussels, to promulgate important science policy messages and engage a wider science community;
- strive to create events, such as **science policy "learning collaboratives"** where member academies – and others where there is interest - can share good practice and work through real case studies together.

Objective 5:
Building a progressive and more resilient academies' network
With ever complex, highly politicised and fast evolving policy challenges, increasingly crowded and competitive science policy landscapes, and more voices positioning themselves to be heard, EASAC must mitigate reputational, strategic, operational and financial risks. It must respond to different opportunities, risks and expectations from the user community and from its (current and prospective) partners. The EASAC Secretariat will be hosted in a new academy or consortium of academies from 2023. A smooth transition will be the focus of this objective for the immediate future.

Over the next two years, EASAC will:

- secure a new host academy(ies) for the Secretariat and effect a smooth transition;
- continue to anticipate and mitigate risks associated with this transition, as well as other core business; **draw on the work of individual member academies** and encourage them to take on more responsibility for EASAC's work;
- demonstrate **transparency, consistency and quality assurance** in its processes and procedures;
- design and implement a **mechanism for evaluating impact** and clearer monitoring and evaluation processes;
- develop a **fundraising strategy** to diversify its funding sources, including exploring new funding sources at national and European levels.