



AMSTERDAM UNIVERSITY PRESS

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## First meeting of European University Presses held at Frankfurt Book Fair

Forty academic presses from twelve European countries came together in Frankfurt to discuss foundation of the Association of European University Presses. The meeting was organised by Amsterdam University Press and attended by over sixty publishers.

In his address to the gathered presses, Peter Givler, Executive Director of the Association of American University Presses, outlined the benefits of such an association for its members, drawing on his long experience in the US.

Alma Swan, a scholarly communications consultant and co-founder of Key Perspectives, spoke about Open Access trends in the humanities, including an overview of current business models for OA journals and examples of new forms of digital scholarship.

In addition, there were short statements on national collaboration of university presses from Ros Webb (Nottingham University Press, UK), Regine Tobias (KIT Scientific Publishing, Germany) and Patrizia Cotoneschi (Firenze University Press, Italy).

The meeting focused on the following activities that the association could organise for its members:

- setting up a website (including an annual directory, newsletters and discussion lists)
- increasing visibility (through joint stands at book fairs and shared catalogues)
- sharing knowledge (through training programmes and workshops)
- supporting new presses (establishing professional standards and exchanging internship programmes)
- collaborating on publishing projects (such as co-publications and translations)

A committee of representatives from the various countries and existing national associations will prepare the ground for setting up the association, as well as organise its first timetable and activities.

Eelco Ferwerda of Amsterdam University Press, who chaired the meeting, concluded: 'We are very happy with the turn up at the meeting. There is a genuine interest in starting the association and collaborating at the European level, and we've already received a number of offers to support the initial effort setting up the association in the first year. We are looking forward to working with university presses across Europe in order to improve our visibility, share knowledge and strengthen our common mission to support scholarly communication.'

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If you would like more information about the Association of European University Presses, please contact Eelco Ferwerda or Saskia de Vries, [info@aup.nl](mailto:info@aup.nl), +31(0) 20 420 00 50



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