PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE SDGS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES (IAU)

HILLIGJE VAN ’T LAND, PHD, IAU SECRETARY GENERAL
- IAU and HESD
- Cooperation with UNOUC
- Higher Education and Agenda 2030
- Why partnerships with Higher Ed and the IAU cluster as example
The International Association of Universities

• Created in 1950 under the auspices of UNESCO
• An independent international Non-Governmental Organization, based at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, an official partner of UNESCO, Associate Status and ECOSOC accredited,
• Membership: IAU gathers more than 640 Members (Institutions, Organisations, Affiliates and Associates) from over 120 countries (as of July 2020)
• One of four strategic priorities: Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development (HESD)
• Activities for HESD include Surveys: Report for the 2nd IAU Global Survey on HESD; Resources and Publications; Specialized Portal for HESD: www.iau-hesd.net; IAU Global Cluster on HESD
• https://www.iau-aiu.net
Why Partnerships with Higher Education for Agenda 2030?

• Role of Higher Education: Teaching, Research. Institutions transform society, work with communities, inform policy-making

• IAU has been working with UNODC since 2019
  • both work on education and SDGs but different target groups
  • This Partnership increases outreach and brings in new perspectives
  • specifically SDG 4, 16 and 17 can be connecting points for universities with actors in the UN system and beyond
  • Transformation and less work in silos – all the goals are interconnected and can bridge between sectors -> common goals require joint efforts
What transformational partnerships can look like:
The IAU Global Cluster on HESD
IAU Global Cluster on HESD

• Launched in 2018
• **16 Universities** from all world regions lead SDG 1 – 16
• 2-8 **Satellite universities** per subcluster
• **IAU** leads SDG 17: **Partnerships**
  • IAU Member Organisations can join SDG 17
• **1 common Goal**: to bring Sustainable Development in Higher Education and Research forward
IAU Global Cluster on HESD (2)

Overarching goal:
“Accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” - UN SDG Summit 2019

Two concrete objectives:

• to serve as a resource and networking hub for
  • universities already engaged in SDGs locally and seeking partnerships
  • Universities starting to engage with the SDGs and who turn to the Cluster for collaboration and guidance to translate and advance SDGs in local, national and international contexts.

• to serve as a global voice for higher education and sustainable development.
Cross – sectoral Partnerships linked to the IAU Global Cluster on HESD

IAU advocates for HESD at

• the UN, in particular at annual UN High Level Political Forum,
• UNESCO
  • ESD section - ESD for 2030 – The Future of ESD
  • Higher Education division – The Future of Education Initiative; joint High level forum HESD; work with UNESCO Delegations
• Science sector – Project on Ethics
• Culture sector
  ◦ OECD
  ◦ Council of Europe - Framework for Democratic Culture; EHEA Rome Forum on HESD
• IAU International Conferences – upcoming IAU 16th General Conference on *Relevance and Value of universities for the future* – UCD, Dublin, November 2020
• International events and Conferences as a collective voice and with/through its Members
IAU Global Cluster on HESD - Satellites in Subclusters

IAU SD Partners and Network

IAU supports, is involved, and either sits on executive boards or committees for:

Global networks

- Higher Education and Sustainability Initiative (HESI)
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- Sustainability Literacy Test (Sulitest)
- The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)
- L’Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)

Regional dynamics

- International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN)
- International Green Gown Awards
- Students Organizing for Sustainability International (SOS) and other student organisations from around the world

and more, see full list: https://iau-aiu.net/Members
Contact HESD work at IAU:

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