



**Fostering  
sustainable  
development:  
the Role of higher  
education.  
Plans, progress  
and values**

**Webinar  
15 December 2020  
14.30 - 16.00 CET**

# Agenda

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# 1. Instructions to participate in the webinar

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In order to join the zoom meeting, we kindly ask you to manually download the zoom app (link for your convenience <https://zoom.us/download>).

The web browser client will download automatically when you join your first zoom meeting, but in order to avoid technical problems, we kindly ask you to do it in advance.

There are 3 ways to join the Zoom meeting:

1. From the Zoom app on your desktop
2. Through the link via your email invitation
3. From the Zoom website

Once you have signed in with your username and password, you will have to write  
the meeting ID: 816 6232 8553  
the password: 059141

Please, keep your audio and video off.

You will first go to the waiting room where you will be authorized to enter into the virtual meeting room.

**IMPORTANT:** Your username (that appears under your picture at the access) should be the same you used to register to the webinar, so that we can recognize you. Thank you.

In case you would like to submit questions, please, write them on the Chat.

# 2. Introduction

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Welcome to the MCO & IAU joint webinar *Fostering sustainable development: the Role of higher education - plans, progress and values*

This is the second of four MCO webinars which will take place before the next MCO Anniversary *University values and responsibilities: responding to the challenges of the future* which will be held in Bologna, Italy on 16-17 June 2021 and will also be on-line.

During the Anniversary, the new Magna Charta MCU2020 will be launched and universities will have the opportunity to sign it.

Details about the MCU2020 and how to sign it are below.

Invitations to register for up-coming webinars and the anniversary will be sent by email.

# 3. Introduction to webinar 2

## *Fostering sustainable development: the Role of higher education - plans, progress and values*

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Universities play a leading role in fostering more sustainable societies and in particular engaging with the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) set in the context of the UN Agenda 2030: Transforming our World. What does that mean in practice for universities and how might they review, modify and improve their efforts towards this goal?

This joint webinar will discuss how Higher Education contributes to sustainable development at the institutional level and in synergy with society at large. The panel will discuss leadership perspectives and values and will present concrete examples on how universities approach this broad agenda at the institutional level while advocating for it at national and international level as well.

The new Magna Charta Universitatum (MCU 2020) calls for the strengthening of the role of universities in the preservation of the planet and promoting health, prosperity, and enlightenment around the world. The session will present the new MCU and discuss possible implementation. IAU will share initiatives and plans developed in the context of the IAU Strategic Priority Area of work Higher Education for Research and Sustainable Development (HESD). The Rector of Gothenburg University will give an insight into leadership decisions relating to strategic engagement with sustainability and the goals and will highlight aspects of their work as IAU Cluster Lead for SDG 8: 'Decent Work and Economic Growth'.

# 4. Programme

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14.00 Opening access to participants at Zoom

14.30 Introduction by the moderator

*David Lock, Secretary General of the MCO*

14.40 The roles of IAU and Universities in building more sustainable societies

*by Hilligje van't Land, Secretary General of IAU, International University Association*

14.55 A case study; SDG 8 'decent work and economic growth

*by Eva Wiberg, Rector, Gothenburg University, Sweden*

15.10 The Magna Charta Universitatum 2020: values for achieving sustainability,

*by Sijbolt Noorda, President of the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory*

15.25 Q&A

16.00 End of the webinar

# 5. Speakers' bios

Dr. Hilligje van't Land serves the global higher education community as Secretary General of the International Association of Universities (IAU) - global NGO with UNESCO Associate Status.

For the past two decades, she has fostered the key role of higher education in societal transformation. She supervises the overall programme activities of the IAU, develops the Association's strategic plans and oversees the everyday work of the secretariat.

She positioned the IAU as partner in UNESCO work on Education for sustainable development and in the UNESCO Futures of Education initiative, and higher education as a key stakeholder for the UN Agenda 2030 – Transforming our world.

Hilligje van't Land strongly believes in the importance of international cooperation and intercultural understanding and has developed multilateral projects related higher education and beyond.

She represents IAU in various working groups and expert committees including at the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the UN.

Hilligje van't Land holds a PhD in comparative francophone literature, speaks six languages and published on higher education issues of relevance locally and globally.

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Hilligje  
van't Land

# 5. Speakers' bios

Eva Wiberg, born Östenberg, Professor in Italian, and since 1 July 2017 the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gothenburg. Before coming to the University of Gothenburg, Eva Wiberg had several management positions at Lund University, such as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dean of the Languages and Literature Division, and Head of Department of the Centre for Languages and Literature.

Eva Wiberg has an international background. Except from a short stay in Princeton N.Y. in the USA in 1969, she has since childhood lived over 22 years in Italy. She graduated with a German Abitur from the Deutsche Schule Rom in 1978, and she studied languages at Università la Sapienza in Rome, Italy in the 1980's. She has a PhD from Lund University in Romance Languages, especially Italian, from 1997 and held a Post Doc in Pavia 1999-2000.

Eva Wiberg's research concerns second language acquisition and bilingualism, with a focus on Italian. The research field is mainly within tense and aspect and discourse analysis, as well as text complexity. Eva Wiberg has also been involved in studies concerning general Italian tense and aspect. She has a long-term experience of teaching and supervising at Master and PhD level.

Eva Wiberg is member in several national and international networks, and has been active in the European network LERU and the global network Universitas 21, for which she was the Executive Director during 2015-2016. During 2010-2011 she was National Bologna Expert, appointed by the Swedish Government.

Eva Wiberg has also been an active member of the World Conference of University Rectors and is member of Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich. She is currently chair of an Ethics advisory board within The Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF).

Eva Wiberg is also a Dame of Stella della Solidarietà Italiana (Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity) for her outstanding contribution to the development of Italian in Sweden and at Lund University in particular.

She speaks Swedish, Italian, English, German and French.

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Eva  
Wiberg

# 5. Speakers' bios

Sijbolt Noorda is the Chair of the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory. He is president emeritus of the University of Amsterdam, past president of the Association of Dutch Research Universities and a former board member of the European University Association. Presently he chairs the board of Codarts (Rotterdam University of the Arts), as well as the board of International Baccalaureate, the board of Muziekgebouw aan het IJ (Contemporary Music Hall, Amsterdam) and the board of De Groene Amsterdammer (independent weekly). Furthermore he is a member of the International Advisory Board of Amsterdam University College, Universität Tübingen, the Berlin Universities, the Slovak Academy of Sciences and ITMO University, St Petersburg. He is editor-in-chief of the Dutch-Flemish Journal for Higher Education Th&ma. He lectures and writes on higher education issues and regularly reviews Higher Education Institutions in the European Higher Education Area. He has served on various executive and non-executive boards in the domains of Higher Education & Research, Public Radio & Television, Performing Arts & Moving Image, Health Service, High Performance Computing, Not-for-profit Publishing and Social Services. His academic field is cultural history of religions in Europe. He holds degrees from Free University Amsterdam, Utrecht University and Union Seminary/Columbia University, NYC. His mandate as Governing Council member started on June 14th, 2013 and his second mandate will expire on June 13th, 2021. He was member of the group which drafted MCU 2020 – the newly adopted Magna Charta which can be seen at <http://www.magna-charta.org/magna-charta-universitatum/mcu-2020>

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Sijbolt  
Noorda

# 6. The Magna Charta Observatory

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The Magna Charta Observatory is the global guardian of fundamental university values and assists universities and higher education systems to operate effectively in accordance with them for the benefit of students, staff, society and universities themselves.

Over 900 universities from 86 countries have signed its statement of fundamental values since 1988.

The MCO supports a global community of universities through values. It assists universities pro-actively and through supportive actions when difficulties are encountered.

The MCO was founded by the University of Bologna and the European University Association. It is a non-profit organisation and is based in Bologna. It is funded by the University of Bologna and donations from signatories.

## Why MCO is needed

The MCO provides assistance for universities who want to be at the forefront of understanding and implementation of the fundamental values.

It has developed the Living Values project which can be used by universities to enable them to put their values into practice more effectively.

MCO reviews and reports when circumstances do not allow universities to operate autonomously.

MCO helps Countries to enable their universities to be more aware of the significance of fundamental values for the development of their higher education systems.

MCO assists key stakeholders when fundamental values, especially academic freedom, are not being upheld.

MCO seeks to promote a deeper understanding of the importance of values and their operation in different contexts.

MCO helps universities learn from other situations that can enrich practice. As institutions operate more globally the importance of mutual understanding and shared values helps to build stronger partnerships through trust.

Autonomy is a journey - not a destination. Journeys have different starting points, progress at different speeds and experience different operational constraints.



# 7. The MCU 2020

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The Observatory has prepared a new version of the Magna Charta Universitatum: the MCU 2020. The text (in English) has been adopted by the MCO's Governing Council.

The new MCU removes nothing from the original fundamental values to which universities signed up. It strives to be responsive to and resonate with contemporary challenges and concerns.

Its tone recognises that the pursuit of the fundamental values has worth along with their actual attainment, which, in practice, is a constant quest.

It recognises the more global nature of what universities do and the wider range of local responsibilities which they have.

The text of the MCU 2020 is here below.

Its formal launch has been delayed by the Covid -19 emergency but it will be launched globally at the next MCO anniversary on 16 June 2021.

## Preamble

The Magna Charta Universitatum, a declaration and affirmation of the fundamental principles upon which the mission of universities should be based, was signed in 1988 on the occasion of the 900th anniversary of the University of Bologna. The first principle was independence: research and teaching must be intellectually and morally independent of all political influence and economic interests. The second was that teaching and research should be inseparable, with students engaged in the search for knowledge and greater understanding. The third principle identified the university as a site for free enquiry and debate, distinguished by its openness to dialogue and rejection of intolerance.

The Magna Charta Universitatum recognised that universities upholding these principles could take many forms under the combined influence of culture, geography and history. Despite being explicitly the product of a specific moment in European development the document envisaged a networked world in which knowledge and influence should cross cultural boundaries in the pursuit of human understanding.

**MCU**  
2020

The world has since become interconnected in ways unimaginable at the time of the original declaration. Universities have proliferated around the globe, dramatically increasing in variety as well as scope and mission. Globally the number and diversity of students seeking a university education has increased, as have their reasons for doing so and the expectations of their families and communities. The number of publications has increased enormously while trust in academia is being eroded by a loss of confidence in expertise. In the sway of new technologies, modes of learning, teaching and research are changing rapidly; universities are both leading and responding to these developments.

Despite these changes, the potential of higher education to be a positive agent of change and social transformation endures. The principles laid out in the Magna Charta Universitatum are as valid today as they were in 1988, and they are the necessary precondition for human advancement through enquiry, analysis and sound action. The dramatic changes outlined above require the global academy to identify responsibilities and commitments that the signatories agree are vital to universities around the world in the Twenty-First Century. That is the reason for this new declaration.

### Principles, Values and Responsibilities

Universities acknowledge that they have a responsibility to engage with and respond to the aspirations and challenges of the world and to the communities they serve, to benefit humanity and contribute to sustainability.

Intellectual and moral autonomy is the hallmark of any university and a precondition for the fulfilment of its responsibilities to society. That independence needs to be recognised and protected by governments and society at large, and defended vigorously by institutions themselves.

To fulfil their potential, universities require a reliable social contract with civil society, one which supports pursuit of the highest possible quality of academic work, with full respect for institutional autonomy.

As they create and disseminate knowledge, universities question dogmas and established doctrines and encourage critical thinking in all students and scholars. Academic freedom is their lifeblood; open enquiry and dialogue their nourishment.

Universities embrace their duty to teach and undertake research ethically and with integrity, producing reliable, trustworthy and accessible results.

Universities have a civic role and responsibility. They are part of global, collegial networks of scientific enquiry and scholarship, building on shared bodies of knowledge and contributing to their further development. They also are embedded in local cultures and crucially relevant to their future and enrichment. While they are immersed in and connected with global developments, they engage fully with and assume leading roles in local communities and ecosystems.

Universities are non-discriminatory spaces of tolerance and respect where diversity of perspectives flourishes and where inclusivity, anchored in principles of equity and fairness, prevails. They therefore commit themselves to advance equity and fairness in all aspects of academic life including admissions, hiring and promotion practices.

Education is a human right, a public good, and should be available to all. Universities recognise that learning is a lifelong activity with tertiary education as one part of a continuum. Within that one part, universities serve diverse learners at all stages of their lives.

Universities acknowledge that individuals and communities, often due to inequitable circumstances, have difficulty gaining access to higher education or influencing the modes and matter of academic study. To realise human potential everywhere, universities deliberately seek ways to welcome and engage with diverse voices and perspectives.

By signing the Magna Charta Universitatum 2020 universities declare their commitment to the original declaration and to upholding and advancing the Principles, Values and Responsibilities stated above, to strengthen the role of universities in the preservation of the planet and promoting health, prosperity, and enlightenment around the world.

*Approved by the Governing Council 12 March 2020*

# 8. How to become a signatory of the MCU 2020

In order to apply to become a signatory of the MCU2020, you are kindly asked to read the Admission Policy, fill the Application Form that you can download from the MCO website (link for your convenience: <http://www.magna-charta.org/magna-charta-universitatum/sign-the-magna-charta>) and email it with the following documents to the Magna Charta Observatory Administrator at [magnacharta@unibo.it](mailto:magnacharta@unibo.it).

Documents to be attached:

- a) A formal request to become a signatory signed by the senior academic post holder (Rector, President or Vice-Chancellor)
- b) Evidence in the form of certified minutes from the senior academic body and the ultimate governing body that the application has their full support
- c) Statements of support from 3 universities, at least two of which should be outside their own country, which are already signatories of the Magna Charta Universitatum.

The Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory reviews request to sign the MCU during its Winter/Spring meeting, before the 2020 signing event (now delayed to June 2021), that will be held in Bologna, Italy on 16th-17th June 2021.

Please send us the listed required documents within the 15th of February, to be reviewed within next Ceremony of June 2021.

The Application Form and the required documents have to be drafted in (or translated into) English.



# 9. MCO Contact details

Magna Charta Observatory

Via Zamboni 25

40126 Bologna - Italy

Tel. 051.2098709

Email: [magnacharta@unibo.it](mailto:magnacharta@unibo.it)

[www.magna-charta.org](http://www.magna-charta.org)



## Secretariat

**DAVID J. LOCK**

Secretary General

**CARLA PAZZAGLIA**

Events organizer & Administrator

# 10. The International Association of Universities

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Founded in 1950, under the auspices of UNESCO, the International Association of Universities (IAU) is the leading global association of higher education institutions and organisations from around the world. It celebrates 70 years of higher education cooperation this month!

IAU brings together its Members from more than 130 countries for reflection and action on common priorities. IAU is an independent, bilingual (English and French), non-governmental organization. It acts as the global voice of higher education to UNESCO and other international higher education organizations, and provides a global forum for leaders of institutions and associations. Its services are available on a priority basis to Members but also to organisations, institutions and authorities concerned with higher education, as well as to individual policy and decision-makers, specialists, administrators, teachers, researchers and students.

IAU is an official partner of UNESCO (Associate status) and has been given consultative status by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

More information on IAU's activities and membership is available on the [IAU website](#).

## **IAU Mission**

To contribute to peace and human development by promoting and enhancing the power of higher education to transform lives, build capacity, connect diverse peoples, generate and disseminate new knowledge, create insights and find sustainable solutions to local and global challenges.

## **IAU Vision**

As the global voice of higher education, IAU will be the most influential and representative global association of diverse higher education institutions and their organisations, advocating and advancing a dynamic leadership role for higher education in society. Articulating the fundamental values and principles that underpin education and the pursuit, dissemination and application of knowledge, the Association will lead and advocate the development of higher education policies and practices that respect diverse perspectives promote social responsibility and contribute to the development of a sustainable future. IAU will be a think tank and forum for the development of new approaches, the sharing of best practice and the undertaking of joint action, encouraging and facilitating innovation, mutual learning and cooperation among higher education institutions around the world.

## **VALUES**

IAU promotes core values among its Members and the wider higher education community including:

- *Academic freedom, institutional autonomy and social responsibility locally and globally*
- *Cooperation and solidarity based on mutuality of interests and shared benefits*
- *Tolerance of divergent opinions, freedom from political interference*
- *Equity in access and success in higher education and open access to knowledge*
- *Scientific integrity and ethical behaviour as cornerstones of conduct for all stakeholders in higher education*
- *Higher education and research in the public interest*
- *Quality in learning, research and outreach*

## STRATEGY

IAU works to enhance higher education community's role and actions in advancing society worldwide. As a global membership organization, IAU represents and serves the full spectrum of higher education institutions and their associations.

The Strategic plan 2016-2021, adopted during the 15th IAU General Conference, in 2016, confirms IAU's focus on four key higher education priority themes, while improving support and services to members as well as enhancing their visibility and engagement.

### IAU 4 strategic priorities:

- Promoting value-based leadership in higher education
- Remaining a leader for inclusive, fair and ethical Internationalization of higher education
- Integrating sustainable development fully into higher education strategies
- Enhancing the role of technology in higher education

### IAU fulfils its goals through:

- Expertise development & trends analysis
- Publications & specialized portals
- Advisory services
- Training & peer-to-peer learning
- Knowledge sharing events
- Global advocacy & representation

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF

## HE & SD

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was unanimously adopted in 2015. Higher Education has accompanied that way, and continues to do so.



## IAU priority Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development (HESD)

Sustainable development is part of the strategic commitment of the International Association of Universities (IAU) for over 25 years. In 1993, the Association adopted the IAU Kyoto Declaration on Sustainable Development and reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development in 2014 with the IAU Iquitos Statement on Higher Education for Sustainable Development. IAU promotes the role of HESD globally; it speaks out at UN organisations including UNESCO and the UN and at other multilateral organisations around the world, including the Council of Europe. The Association supports UN programmes for sustainable development since the early 1990s. IAU was one of the Key Partners in UNESCO's Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP ESD – 2014-2019) and is now fully engaged in the UNESCO ESD for 2030 follow-up programme adopted in 2019. It reconciles 'Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)' principles with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda (UNESCO, 2019).

At the [HLPF 2020](#), IAU organized virtual side events and exhibitions jointly with its Members and partners. IAU supports and materialises the contribution of higher education to the debates and review mechanisms and affirms the higher education's sector dynamics as one of the key mechanisms for ensuring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the global goals. IAU partners with the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), UNESCO and UNODC and with a wide range of other key partners to increase the visibility and underline the contributions of the sector to the processes.

Through surveys ([IAU HESD global survey 2019](#)), publications, the [IAU HESD Portal](#), events and communications for and with its Members, the IAU HESD work is increasing and strengthening the commitment and activities for sustainable development at higher education institutions and beyond.



## The IAU Global Cluster on HESD

The Cluster brings together 16 universities as leading institutions, each one bringing in expertise for one particular SDG while fostering cross cutting dynamics with all 17 goals. IAU leads the work on *SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals*. The lead institutions, which are based in all world regions, are working with subgroups of 2 to 8 ‘satellite’ institutions to advance a particular SDG and initiate concrete projects, while ensuring synergies among all goals. The Cluster promotes the role and potential that HEIs globally have in order to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2030. Institutions in higher education engage with the SDGs in multiple ways, in particular through teaching, research, leadership, and campus operations. The Cluster encourages collaboration and a holistic approach to work with the SDGs, focusing specifically on the whole institution approach.

Within the overarching goal of “*Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” (UN SDG Summit 2019), the Cluster has two concrete objectives:

- to serve as a **resource and networking hub for HEIs** around the world for institutions already engaged with the SDGs locally and seeking partnerships, and those starting to engage with the SDGs at their institutions to turn to the Cluster for collaboration and guidance on best practices to translate and advance SDGs in local, national and international contexts.
- the IAU Global Cluster serves as a **global voice for higher education in sustainable development**, at the local/regional and international levels.

We are very pleased to welcome Prof. Eva Wiberg, Rector Gothenburg University to the MCO-IAU Webinar as Gothenburg University is fully engaged with the SDGs and leads the work on SDG 8 “Decent Work and Economic Growth” in the context of the IAU global cluster on HESD.

The latest IAU HESD Cluster [Activity Report 2019-2020](#) provides more insight into the diverse projects and actions put into practice by Cluster members.

## Links:

Gothenburg University

- GU as IAU HESD Cluster Lead for SDG 8, [please read more](#)
- <https://gmv.gu.se/english>
- <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=313>

IAU:

- [www.iau-aiu.net](http://www.iau-aiu.net)
- <https://iau-aiu.net/HESD>
- [www.iau-hesd.net](http://www.iau-hesd.net)

## How to join the IAU

Please go to: <https://iau-aiu.net/Join-IAU>

Contact us at: [membership@iau-aiu.net](mailto:membership@iau-aiu.net)

IAU Contact details:

International Association of Universities - UNESCO House

1 Rue Miollis - F -75015 Paris

[www.iau-aiu.net](http://www.iau-aiu.net)

### Contact IAU:

Isabel Toman [i.toman@iau-aiu.net](mailto:i.toman@iau-aiu.net)

Hilligje van't Land [h.vantland@iau-aiu.net](mailto:h.vantland@iau-aiu.net)

### Contact Gothenburg University:

Jenni Strömstad, Project manager, [jenni.stromstad@gu.se](mailto:jenni.stromstad@gu.se)

Eddi Omrcen, Sustainability Strategist, University of Gothenburg, [eddi.omrcen@gu.se](mailto:eddi.omrcen@gu.se)

Gunnar Köhlin, Director, Environment for Development (EfD), [gunnar.kohlin@efd.gu.se](mailto:gunnar.kohlin@efd.gu.se)



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Hilligje  
van't Land



Eva  
Wiberg

# 11.

## Feedback

Thank you for attending our webinar: We hope you have appreciated it.

We would like to know your opinion, and we would be very thankful if you can reply to a few questions, that you can find here:

<https://forms.gle/P5EzWGB3ezDt6qaj8>



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# Thank you!

**LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE  
QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS.**