



Abridged Biography | Dr Hilligje van't Land



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 celebrating this year its 70th Anniversary. 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, including as member of the High Level Advisory Board to the UNESCO Futures of Education Initiative and Mission 4.7; the UNESCO ESD for 2030 Programme; the UNESCO and Bergen Expert Group on Universities and Sustainability; the Council of Europe (CoE) Ad hoc Working Group on the Local Mission of the University; the CoE Steering Committee for Best Practice Programme in Promoting Academic Integrity; the CoE Ad hoc Working Group on Competences for a Democratic Culture; the Advisory Board of UVED, OneHE and Sulitest; the Advisory Board of the Observatory of Academic Freedom (Soros Foundation).

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. For recent publications and conferences, please click on the links. Most recent book as co-editor: Higher Educations Response to Covid 19.
