



**75**  
YEARS  
1950-2025  
The Global Voice  
of Higher Education

# The International Association of Universities

**The global voice of higher education**

Presented by **Giorgio Marinoni**, Manager, Higher Education and Internationalization, IAU



[www.iau.global](http://www.iau.global)



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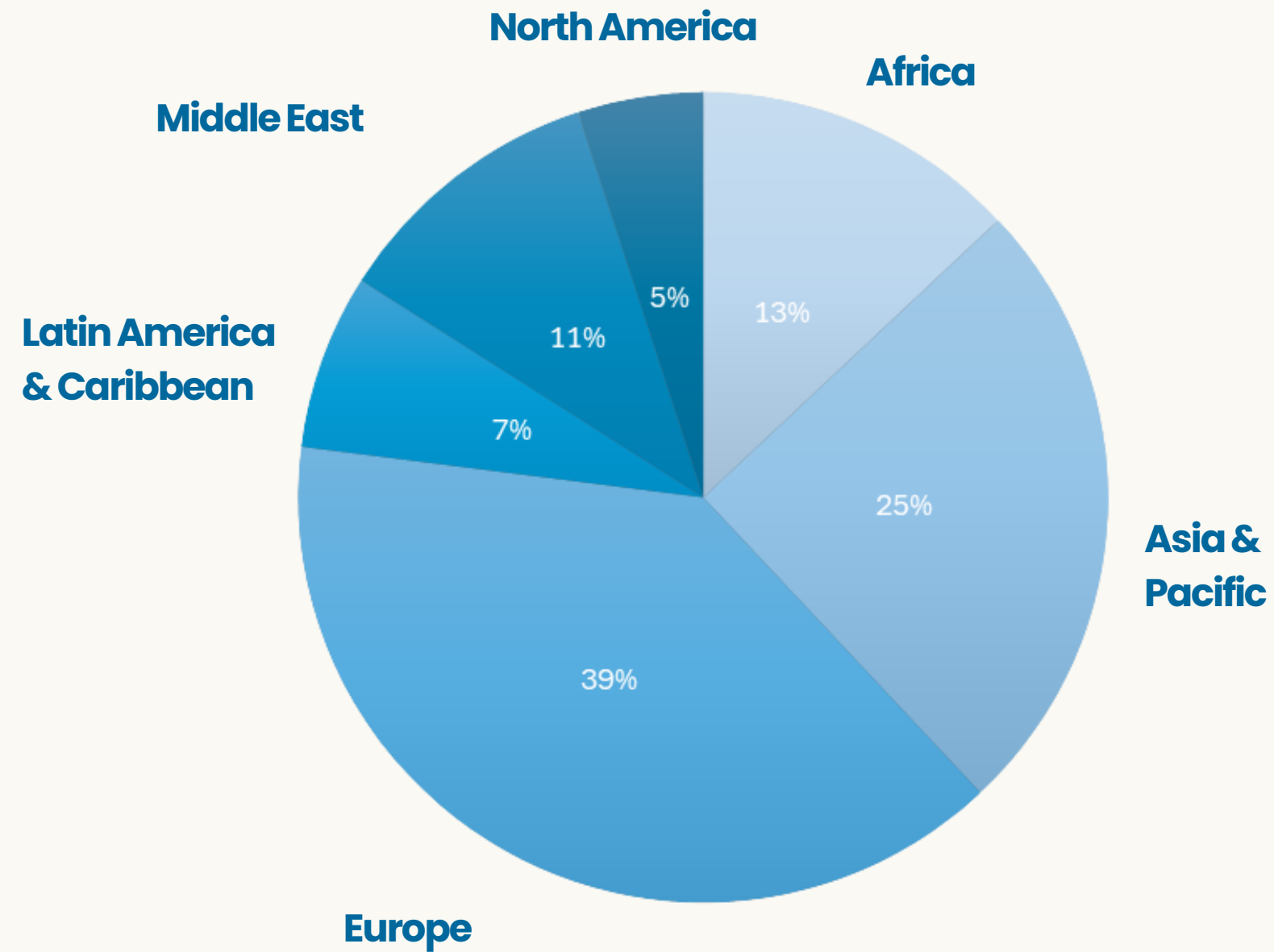
# About the IAU

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.

The IAU is an independent, non-governmental, membership organisation. IAU Membership is open to higher education institutions and organisations.

 **UNESCO House / 1 Rue Miollis, Paris 75015**

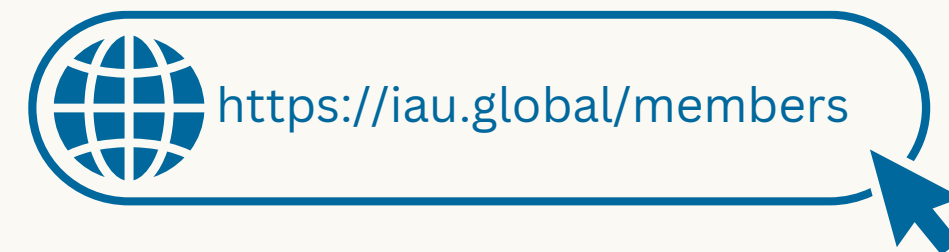




# Our Global Network

## The Global Voice of Higher Education

- **550 HEIs Members** across **115 countries** spanning **all continents**
- **20 +** Regional, National and International **Organisations**
- **19 affiliate** members
- **4 expert working groups**





## Our **vision**

As the **global voice of higher education**, IAU aims to be the **most influential and representative global association** of diverse higher education institutions and their organisations.

## Our **mission**

The Association leads and advocates for the development of higher education policies and practices that respect **diverse perspectives**, promote **social responsibility**, and contribute to the development of a **sustainable future**.

# Our Administrative Board



20 Board Members from all  
regions of the world:

Presidents, Rectors, Vice-

Chancellors of HEIs



<https://iau.global/governance>



# Thematic Priorities



## Globally-engaged and Value-Based Leadership

IAU strengthens values-driven, evolving higher education leadership to enhance institutional capacity, foster global cooperation, and maximise universities' impact on equitable, sustainable, and democratic societies.

## Higher education and research for Sustainable Development

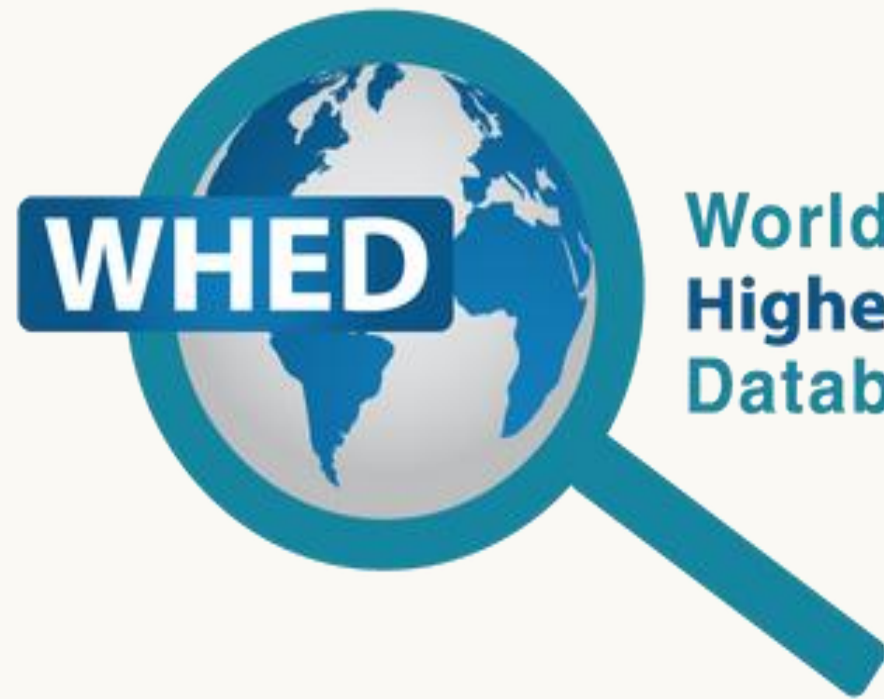
IAU champions the role of higher education in advancing sustainable development by supporting universities to embed sustainability principles, foster collaboration, and contribute to the well-being of humanity and the planet.

## Internationalization for society and the global common good

IAU champions a transformative, inclusive internationalization of higher education that advances global citizenship, open knowledge, and equitable collaboration to address global challenges.

## Digital Transformation of Higher Education

IAU supports higher education institutions in navigating and shaping digital transformation, advocating for a shared commitment to build a humanistic, ethical, inclusive and purpose-based digital transformation of higher education.



## World Higher Education Database



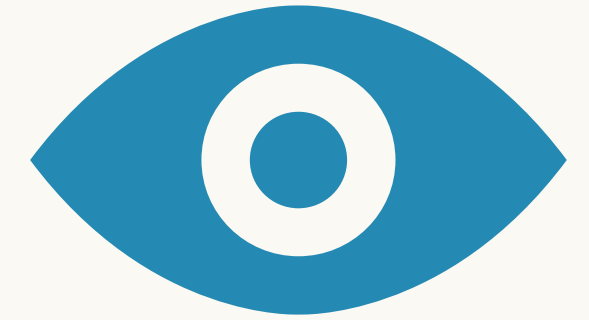
**22,000**

higher education  
institutions



**196**

countries and  
territories



**3,6 million**

average pageviews  
per year

The **WHED** provides comprehensive and detailed information on Higher Education Systems, Credentials – and is **the only global repository of all accredited and recognized universities in the world.**

It serves as a crucial source for recognition and data provision across the global higher education community and empowers all stakeholders to engage in collaboration across borders more confidently. The WHED obtains its information from national higher education authorities, governmental agencies, and national academic bodies.

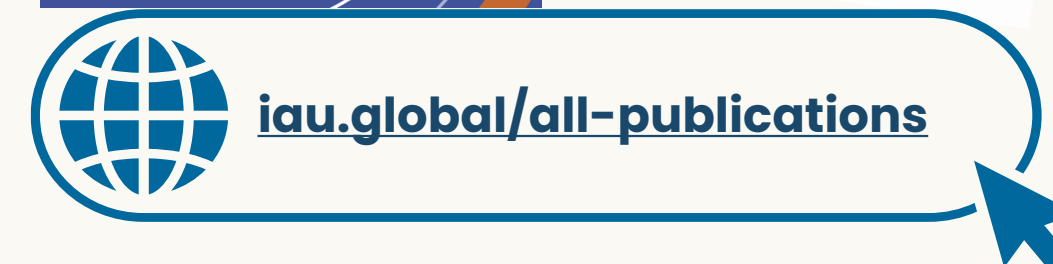
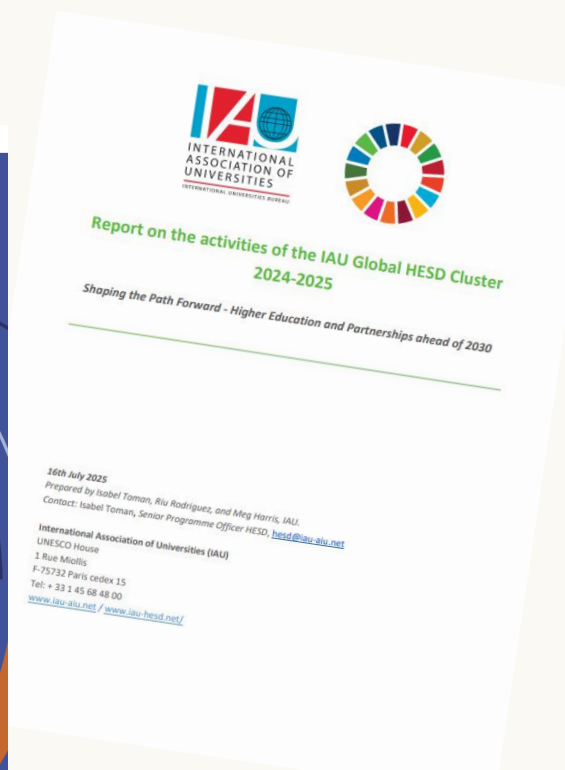
# IAU Publications

## Periodic

- IAU Horizons: the association magazine published twice per year
- Themes of the 2025 editions:
  - Dimensions of Trust in Higher Education
  - IAU Horizons: Transforming our World: Shaping the Path Forward
- Higher Education Policy: published quarterly, is an international peer-reviewed journal

## Research reports and policy statements

- Internationalization of Higher Education: Insights into Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion; Sustainable Development; and International Partnerships
- Shaping the Path Forward - Higher Education and Partnerships ahead of 2030
- Achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 8: Economic Growth and Decent Work for All
- Open Science: The Challenge for Universities

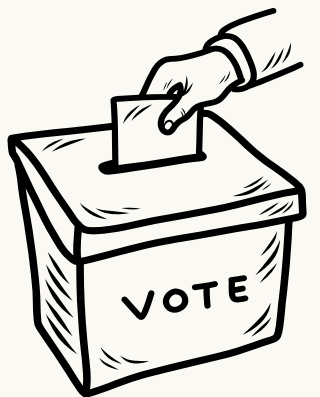




## Join us from 3 – 6 November 2026 for our 17th General Conference

We will gather up to 400 university leaders from around the world in **Perth, Australia** to discuss ***The Value of Universities in the Age of AI***

Members also have the chance to participate in the **IAU Elections** and be elected for the Board.



# Stay in touch

**Sign up to our newsletter**

<https://iau.global/newsletter> 



**Any questions?**

Contact our Membership Officers,  
Hannah Borhan, at  
[\*\*h.borhan@iau.global\*\*](mailto:h.borhan@iau.global)  
Jessica Huang, at  
[\*\*Membership@iau.global\*\*](mailto:Membership@iau.global)

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**Website :**

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