



## Call for case studies

### Higher education partnerships for societal impact

Higher education institutions engage with society and in a variety of ways. Partnerships with civil society, the private sector, the local authorities and decision-makers or between HEIs take on numerous forms and shapes. The kind of partnership developed and the way it is managed impact on the ways in which universities contribute to the development of their societies, as do the national context, the type of institution they are and the specific challenges they face.

To complement the plenary sessions that will discuss the roles that universities play in society, several breakout sessions will be organized. They will allow showcasing different types of partnerships contributing to the development of society, to share experiences and inspire new ideas among the conference participants coming from all regions of the world.

If your institution or organization is engaged in partnerships fostering societal impact and you wish to showcase your experience and work, please submit a short description of the partnership and its impact to IAU before 10 April 2018.

**Abstract:** Send a short description of the partnership that you wish to present and how it contributes to society (max. 1 page / 500 words).

**Target audience:** Higher education leaders, deans and department heads and other HEI representatives

**Deadline:** 10 April 2018 for submission of abstracts. The Conference Programme Committee will review submissions and the selected papers will be announced in June 2018. The full presentation should be sent to IAU by 1 October 2018.

**Selected case studies:** The authors of the selected case studies will be invited to make a 15 minutes presentation during the International Conference. The presentations are expected to provide concrete examples and perspectives to lay the ground for discussion with the audience. They will be granted a registration fee waiver to the IAU 2018 International Conference. Travel and accommodation is to be covered by the speakers.

**Contact:** For further information or to submit an abstract, please contact:

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## Concept note:

### Higher education partnerships for societal impact

IAU believes that higher education institutions (HEIs) play an important role in the development of societies. Universities are educating tomorrow's citizens, thought leaders, decision-makers, business leaders, innovators. Through research, new knowledge is constantly being generated. Gearing education and research towards addressing societal needs and challenges will help define and develop the solutions that are to be implemented to address the challenges the world faces today.

In the UNESCO publication, [\*Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good\*](#), it is stressed that: *"Given the need for sustainable development in an increasingly interdependent world, education and knowledge should be considered global common goods. Inspired by the value of solidarity grounded in our common humanity, the principle of knowledge and education as global common goods has implications for the roles and responsibilities of the diverse stakeholders."*

Higher education is one such stakeholder and an important one. It can and should not operate in isolation; on the contrary, HE is a key driver for change and innovation in and for the societies in which it operates.

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By focusing the IAU 2018 International Conference on the theme *Higher education partnerships for societal impact*, the Association invites its members, the global higher education communities, and their partners to reflect on and discuss their mandate and social responsibility, while presenting different forms of partnerships adopted around the world and for what societal impact. The conference will also be a venue to discuss the challenges and obstacles related to delivering on the third mission of universities.

In the plenary sessions, keynote speakers will address and discuss the topic and frame the discussions from a conceptual perspective; the three series of breakout sessions will include examples of HE partnerships aiming for societal impact. The break-out sessions will allow for discussion and exchange among peers and hopefully inspire new partnerships around the world.

IAU invites the leaders (rectors, presidents, Vice-Chancellors) of universities and other higher education institutions to join the conference, take part in the discussions, share ideas, get inspired by peers and develop new ways to ensure that HEIs can make a difference at the societal level.