

Universities and Re-Construction of Cities: the Role of Research and Education

Report of the World Café Sessions

Table 3: Building back sustainably: University engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals for research and teaching for reconstruction

*session in partnership with the International Association of Universities (IAU)

Host: Hilligje van't Land, Secretary General, International Association of Universities

Rapporteur: Martine Rahier, member of the MCO Governing Council

Full report awaited

Table outline:

World Café Topic 3

Focus

At this table we will discuss how universities engage with society using the UN sustainable development agenda and the SDGs framework in their three main missions: teaching and learning, research and community engagement.

As well we will discuss how they envisage this connects to the European Green Deal and Universities. Participants are invited to reflect on how their universities engage with their immediate surroundings (the city in which they are located) using these frameworks and beyond and how such engagement is supported by the university leadership.

Key questions

- How can / do Universities engage with the Sustainable Development Agenda and the SDG?
- What are the main challenges encountered?
- What opportunities do you see when it comes to enhancing the quality and relevance of higher education teaching and learning, research and engagement with society?
- How does the Sustainable development agenda align with the principles and values set out in the Magna Charta Universitatum?
- What changes do you foresee in the new direction chose by Europe to focus on the greening agenda and climate change more specifically?

Some background documentation

- [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](#)
- [A university vision for the European Green Deal](#)
- The [European Green Deal](#)
- The IAU Higher Education for Sustainable Development Portal online: www.iau-hesd.net
- IAU HESD Global Cluster - [Higher Education and Research for Sustainable Development \(HESD\) - IAU \(iau-aiu.net\)](#)

- “Leadership for a Sustainable Future – Higher Education and Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals”, IAU Horizons, Vol 26, no.2, 2021, see: iau-aiu.net/IMG/pdf/iau_horizons_vol_26_2.pdf