

I. INTRODUCING IAU AND CPU



THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES (IAU)

For a worldwide higher education community

Founded in 1950 under the aegis of UNESCO, the **International Association of Universities (IAU)** is an **international non-governmental organization**. The permanent Secretariat of the Association is based in Paris, France.

IAU is a **membership organization** bringing together universities, other institutions of higher education and national and regional higher education associations from around the world. It promotes debate, reflection and action on key issues in the field of higher education.

The Association provides its Members and in general all higher education stakeholders (decision-makers, specialists, administrators, teachers, researchers and students) a uniquely global forum for interaction and various services such as **information** (through the IAU/UNESCO Information Centre on Higher Education) and **analysis** of latest developments in higher education (through different reference and scholarly publications), **advocacy** of higher education institutions views (through policy statements) and opportunities to build **partnerships and networks** between higher education institutions worldwide as well as with various international, regional and national bodies (through conferences and most recently the LEADHER Programme).

At present, and in parallel with many other on-going services and activities such as the full publications programme, the Association concentrates its reflection and action on the following **thematic clusters**:

- Internationalization, Cross-border Higher Education, Higher Education and Intercultural Learning and Dialogue;
- Higher Education and Society, which includes a focus on Sustainable Development and the pilot project linking Higher Education and the goals of the UN Education for All (EFA) programme;
- Access to Higher Education, including a focus on widening participation and strategies for successful retention.



CONFERENCE
DES PRÉSIDENTS
D UNIVERSITÉ

THE CONFERENCE OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS (CPU)

The Conference of University Presidents (CPU) brings together all types of institutions in the university sector : Universities, "Ecoles normales supérieures" and "Grands établissements". Established by decree in 1971 and confirmed in its responsibilities by the law on higher education of 1984, the CPU is a consultative body made up of representatives from the university sector.

Its role

Build collective autonomy

The 1984 law and the development of the contractual policy between higher education institutions and the State have strengthened university autonomy, as well as the power and responsibilities of their presidents. This has led heads of institutions to work together in the CPU to pool their experience and establish themselves as the obvious interlocutors with ministries and other players in the university sector on matters concerning higher education and research.

Encourage public debate

The Conference contributes to public debate by providing all partners in the university sector with a forum for discussion in advance of any consultation with the authorities, as well as providing a link with civil society and the public at large.

The CPU has developed contacts beyond the national and international university sector with official bodies at a national level, regional communities and political parties.

Help institutions modernise and set up mutual benefit schemes

The modernisation of institutions is crucial and has led the Conference to make use of a Mutual Benefit Agency, operating on behalf of institutions and presided over by the CPU.

Members of the CPU

88 University and Polytechnic Presidents
4 Directors of Ecoles Normales Supérieures
2 Directors of National Institutes of Applied Science
9 Directors of Grands Etablissements