



ICA Excellence Award 2023 - Citation

Matthias Tips

Matt Tips is a MSc graduate of the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering (hereinafter – FBSE) of KU Leuven (2005) with the professional title of ‘Bioscience Engineer’. Since 2007 he has been active as the International Policy advisor and international liaison officer at KU Leuven at large and FBSE. Driven by Matt’s expertise and enthusiasm, FBSE is with no doubt the ‘most international’ of the 16 faculties of KU Leuven (the highest share of students having a meaningful international experience, through ERASMUS and other types of semester exchanges, internships, summer schools and master thesis research projects).

Matt has a lot of expertise in the field of international networking in higher education. Amongst others, he is a very active member of the following networks:

- Member of the ICA Standing Committee of International Relations Officers Network (hereinafter – IROICA) for many years and the President of the Network from 2014-2021;
- Part of the League of European University (hereinafter – LERU), Alliance Sustainability Policy Group;
- Member of European Climate Action Network for International Educators (Hereinafter – CANIE). (<https://canie.org/>).

He has recently been given the position of Policy Advisor at the Sustainability Office in KU Leuven where he is engaged in influencing KU Leuven students and staff, as well as their institutional partners, on matters of sustainability.

Because of all his efforts in the past, he has indeed been - and still is - an inspirational example for his peers and everybody collaborating with him. He has always been very keen on sharing this specific knowledge and creating awareness of sustainable internationalisation within Higher Education Institutions across the world.

Matt has been contributing a lot this last decade to the change of attitude towards more sustainability in Higher Education. He organized 3 IROICA conferences, a series of other events, and he also processes regular communication (IROICA newsletters, IROICA Facebook page) on the sustainability topic: webinars, conferences, publications, trainings, new trends, sharing good practices among the European networks.

He has been particularly active at the European level, as the President of IROICA for 7 years. He has so much influenced the network that today, a new position of sustainability officer, has been created in the Executive Committee and sustainability is now one of the IROICA mission statements.