



**Association for European
Life Science Universities**

European Network of International Relations Officers at Life Science Universities

**Matt Tips – KU Leuven
IROICA President**

European Network of International Relations Officers at Life Science Universities

HISTORY OF IROICA

**Created in 1997 as an activity within a Socrates Thematic Network
“DEMETER”**

Iroika (Greek) = heroically

IRO – ICA:

IRO: International Relations Officers

ICA: since 1998 a Standing Committee within ICA

*Now IROICA has the status of a non-profit international association with
its own statutes*





European Network of International Relations Officers at Life Science Universities

WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS?

- Staff of International Offices
- From Life Sciences Universities/Faculties/Schools
- In Europe

Evolution in type of staff members in IRO's & evolution in number of programs and scholarship programs

- 1997: small offices, often 1 or 2 persons
- 2017: variety of structures, diverse job content of IRO's



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STRUCTURE

General Assembly (GA): consisting of all listed members, annual meeting

Executive Committee (ExCo), elected by the GA:

President:	Matt Tips, KU Leuven, Belgium
Vice-President:	Ivana Prosinecki, University of Zagreb, Croatia
Secretary General:	Hilde Vandecasteele, Ghent University, Belgium
Treasurer:	Zsuzsanna Tarr, Szent Istvan University Gödöllő, Hungary
Ordinary members:	Laurent de Potter, Agro-Bio Tech Gembloux, Belgium
	Cecile Dubas, Agrocampus Ouest, France
	Gabriele Klumpp, University of Hohenheim, Germany
	Florence Malaise, ISA Lille, France
+ 2 Auditors + 2 Members of the Election Committee	



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GOALS

To support and to enhance the work of the IRO's of the network by:

- Promoting and supporting international activities for undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate students and for academic and administrative staff of their institutions
- Providing a pool of information about important developments in the field of international higher education
- Providing professional development for international relations officers
- Providing guidance for newly established international offices in relation to their overall profile and their principle tasks
- promoting internal quality assurance of institutional internationalisation strategies through the adoption of IROICA's standardised quality assurance procedures
- disseminating outcomes from projects implemented by member universities



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MAIN ACTIVITIES: ANNUAL CONFERENCES

Topics of last conferences:

- 2016, Lyon-Lilli, France: ***Efficiency of IRO's in a network, IROICA recipes for succes***
- 2015, Cluj-Napoca, Romania: ***International Alumni Networks***
- 2014, Gembloux-Leuven-Gent, Belgium: ***Cooperation with 3rd Countries***
- 2013, Joensuu, Finland: ***IROs – the Solid Compass Helping Universities Navigate the New EU Financial Perspective***
- 2012, Bolzano, Italy: ***IRO Communication and management of the Net Generation***
- 2011, Warsaw, Poland: ***Sustainable Strategies For Internationalisation: From Targets to Implementation and Results***

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MAIN ACTIVITIES: ANNUAL CONFERENCES

- 2017, Vienna, Austria: *Halfway Through the Erasmus+ Adventure*

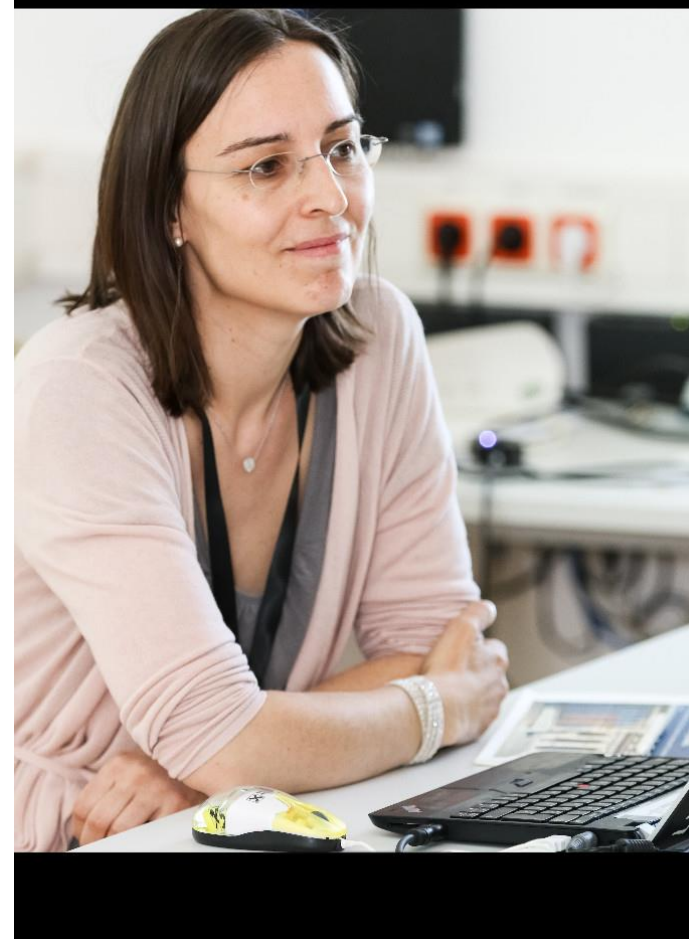


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Managing diversity of students and staff,
Sibo Kanobana, Ghent University



Security issues for incoming students and staff,
Michaela Fiska, University of Vienna



Citizenship Initiatives in Higher Education,
Julie Anderson, EU Commission





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MAIN ACTIVITIES: ANNUAL CONFERENCES

- 2018, Wroclaw, Poland: ***Beyond student exchanges: what to do to strengthen collaborations?***





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MAIN ACTIVITIES: PROJECTS + WORKSHOPS

Projects:

- **ICTAS:** focused on developing intercultural competence in administrative staff working at higher education institutions
- **ENAGRA:** Tempus project: 'Environmental curricula at agricultural universities' with Russia & Ukraine
- **FOOD STA:** development of activities towards the improvement of food studies higher education through a deeper interaction with the agrifoodchain

Vocational trainings: every year during the annual conference

Workshops on demand: ECTS, quality assurance, intercultural communication, ...



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MAIN ACTIVITIES: PUBLICATIONS

- Gregersen – Hermans J (2011). **Intercultural Communication Training for Administrative Staff**. An attempt towards a true international campus: intercultural inclusive and open to learning. University of Udine, Italy, pp 39.
- Delgado M, Hellgren S-L, Nielsen M, Vandecasteele H, Wojciechowska A and Heath S (2008). **Handbook of good practice in the management of the academic studies and pastoral care of international Master students**. Association for European Life Science Universities, Gent, Belgium, pp 45 .
- Karlsson I, Mueller I, Atkinson H, Toborn J and Bengtsson (2004). **Good practice for international relations officer**. Interuniversity Consortium for Agricultural and Related Sciences in Europe, 2nd edition, pp55.
- Heath S B (2004). **Quality in internationalisation, the password for the future**. Proceedings of the 8th European Conference for international relations officers at higher education institutions for agricultural and related sciences. Institute National Polytechnique de Lorraine (INPL), Nancy, France pp 43.
- Mueller I (2000). **International relations management at higher education institutions in agricultural and related sciences** – contributions at IROICA workshops 2000. Interuniversity Consortium for Agricultural and Related Sciences in Europe, pp56.



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BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

- Opportunities to **acquire skills** crucial for international relation officer **during the workshops** designed on the members requests and the annual **vocational trainings**
- Find **new partners** as a result of the networking events being and integral part of every IROICA event
- IROICA provides **a forum for promoting and supporting international activities** for undergraduate and post-graduate students, and for academic and administrative staff
- Updates on the **newest information on important developments in the field of international higher education**
- New members: **establish personal contacts with the IRO representatives of your institution's partner institutions**
- Experienced members: opportunity to **meet many colleagues from partner institutions** at one place to sort out all matters connected with the daily work cooperation
- **A channel of dissemination for projects**



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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Follow us

 <http://www.ica-iroica.eu>

Interested to become a member

Hilde.Vandecasteele@UGent.be

Register for the newsletter

<http://www.ica-iroica.eu/index.php/news>