

Dear colleagues,

With this email, we would like to invite you to the upcoming talk organized by the Institute for Higher Education Management.

Title: ***Openness challenged university at risk?***

Date: Tuesday, **October 18**, 4 pm

Speaker: **Prof. Dr. Marijk van der Wende**, Distinguished Faculty Professor of Higher Education at Utrecht University's Faculty of Law, Economics and Governance

Location: WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Institute for Higher Education Management, Building **D5, 2nd Floor, Room D5.2.019** (<http://campus.wu.ac.at/>). The event location has barrier free access.

For those who cannot attend in person, can join us online via [MS Teams livestream](#)

Please express your interest by registering at verena.herbsthofner@wu.ac.at.

Looking forward to welcoming you,
Barbara Sporn

About the speaker

Marijk van der Wende is Distinguished Faculty Professor of Higher Education at Utrecht University's Faculty of Law, Economics and Governance. Her research focuses on the impact of globalization and internationalization on higher education systems, institutions, curricula, and teaching and learning arrangements. She is also an affiliate faculty and research associate at the Center for Studies in Higher Education (CSHE) at the University of California Berkeley, Guest Professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and member of the International Advisory Board of its Graduate School of Education. She is a member of the Academia Europaea (the Academy of Europe) and has been a chair and member of numerous national and international advisory committees and editorial boards.

Abstract

Universities are seen as core institutions of an open society, a condition and foundation for open, democratic, fair and sustainable societies, by nurturing human talent and independent knowledge creation and dissemination. They increasingly subscribe to the principles of open science as to conduct research in open connection with society. Openness, open borders, an open higher education system, is recognized as a necessary condition for universities to compete and collaborate internationally, to contribute to an open society, to global challenges, and the public good. However, openness cannot any longer be taken for granted in the changing global context. Rising geo-political tensions, conflict, security concerns, and illiberal trends jeopardize institutional autonomy, academic freedom and weaken the university's ability to play its role as a core institution of the open society. In particular the EU, a strong proponent of openness, is being challenged by a shifting globalization paradigm, weakened multilateralism, and internal tensions, all putting the values of an open society under pressure, and potentially, the university at risk.