

**15.2.2026****Author**

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**Title**

The European landscape : a shifting perspective / Fiona Hunter ; Hans de Wit

**Publication year**

2016

**Source/Footnote**

In: Internationalisation of higher education : a handbook. - 4 (2016) 2, S. 49 - 68

**Inventory number**

39886

**Keywords**

Internationalität ; Mobilität ; Ausland : Europa : Forschung

**Abstract**

Internationalisation of higher education is a relatively recent concept, but one, which has roots in a longer history. This article sets out to trace that historical development with a principal focus on the last 25 years. Alongside the historical developments it considers how researchers have observed the shifts and sought to capture them in definitions that can enhance both our understanding and enactment of internationalisation of higher education, as well as addressing its misconceptions and unintended negative consequences. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)