

## Foreword

The First International Symposium on Education in Astronomy and Astrobiology<sup>2</sup> (ISE2A) was held in Utrecht, the Netherlands from July 3-8, 2017. ISE2A was designed to bring education research in astronomy in general, and in astrobiology in particular, to the professional scientific community and was co-sponsored by the International Astronomical Union<sup>3</sup> (IAU) and the European Astrobiology Campus<sup>4</sup> (EAC).

Education has always played a large role in the fields of astronomy and astrobiology, but education research has seldom been the main subject in IAU events. Yet the scientific results from this field have a great potential to improve the teaching and learning of astronomy and astrobiology for students of all ages. New results and research methodologies from the cognitive and learning sciences domains can, however, be of large influence on the work of educators but, generally, professional astronomers and astrobiologists are not fully aware of the results from astronomy education research.

In this first meeting combining astronomy education with its growing subdiscipline astrobiology, we aimed to strengthen both fields through cross teaching collaborations. The symposium was designed specifically to expand awareness of the results of the cognitive and learning sciences, as well as to provide a forum for active scholars in astronomy and astrobiology education.

In these proceedings we present an overview of the current state-of-the-art of education in astronomy and astrobiology. These proceedings resulted from a very fruitful meeting that allowed many people to interact and learn from each other's experiences. We thank the community for a very inspiring week.

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1 <http://ise2a.uu.nl>

2 <http://ise2a.uu.nl>

3 <https://www.iau.org>

4 <http://astrobiology-campus.eu/>