

7 November 2025

Background Note to item 6 “Handover of ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub Secretariat” of the Draft Agenda of the [ASEM Education 1st Senior Officials’ Meeting \(SOM1\)](#) taking place on 18-19 November 2025 in Bucharest, Romania.

Handover of the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub to next host

Background

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning ([ASEM LLL Hub](#)) was established by the 5th ASEM Heads of State Summit in Hanoi in 2004 and was launched in Denmark in 2005 as official network of Asian and European higher education institutions, working and learning together to achieve excellence in comparative research on lifelong learning, to offer research-based education policy recommendation, and to develop mutual understanding between Asia and Europe. The ASEM LLL Hub was hosted by the Aarhus University, Denmark and funded by the Danish government in a strategic partnership with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) from 2005 to 2019. The University College Cork, Ireland took over and hosted the ASEM LLL Hub from 2019 to 2025. The ASEM LLL Hub disseminates research results, coordinates currently 7 Research Networks (RNs), organises the Global Lifelong Learning Week every two years, has established a South Asia Centre and several National Contact Points. The Chair of the current ASEM LLL Hub and the ASEM Education Secretariat engaged in dialogue with various national authorities to find a host for the ASEM LLL Hub’s Chairmanship for the period from November 2025 to 2030 and received various expressions of interest.

Details for the handover at the SOM1 on 18 November 2025:

- ♦ The Chairmanship of the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub is handed over from Ireland to Thailand on 18 November 2025 at the SOM1 in Bucharest, Romania.
- ♦ The Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI) of the Kingdom of Thailand endorse Prof. Wilert Puriwat, President of the Chulalongkorn University to become the Chair of the ASEM LLL Hub 2025-2030 and the Chulalongkorn University will host and finance the ASEM LLL Hub Secretariat. The ASEM LLL Hub’s Secretariat works in close cooperation with the ASEM Education Secretariat and is advised by the ASEM LLL Hub International Advisory Council (IAC).
- ♦ The current structure of the ASEM LLL Hub (RNs, Council of Research Network Coordinators, South Asia Centre, National Contact Points, Global Lifelong Learning Week, etc.) will be continued with the addition of:
 - An ASEM LLL Hub Regional Centre for Central Asia for Promoting Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Central Asia Centre) will be established with an office at the Eurasian National University in Astana, Kazakhstan.
 - An ASEM LLL Hub Regional Centre for Europe for Promoting Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Europe Centre) will be established with an office at the Institute for Higher Education Law and Governance, European Public Law Organization (EPLO) in Rome, Italy.
- ♦ The ASEM LLL Hub International Advisory Council (IAC) composed by ASEM Ministries and stakeholders will be chaired by Mr. Duman Aitmagambetov, Kazakhstan, and co-chaired by Italy. The IAC meets regularly and advises the ASEM LLL Hub Secretariat.