



Asia-Europe Meeting

the ASEM Education Secretariat

REPORT

The 2nd Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM2) of ASEMME7

14 May 2019

Bucharest, Romania

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On the 14th of May 2019, the 2nd Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM2) took place in the Palace of the Parliament, I.C. Bratianu Hall and was **chaired by Ms. Luminata-Mihaela Matei**, Director General for International Relations and European Affairs of the Ministry of National Education of Romania. The meeting took place as preparatory meeting of the 7th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME7) "Connecting education: inclusion, mobility and excellence in support of the Sustainable Development Goals"

All meeting documents and presentations can be found on [this webpage](#).

This report has been edited by the ASEM Education Secretariat (AES) based on the presentations and the records of the participants. We would like to thank all participants of SOM2 for their contributions to the meeting.

Welcome Speeches

Mr. Loan Stefan GROZA, Secretary of State, Ministry of National Education, Romania

- ✘ Welcomed to all participants on behalf of the Ministry of National Education, Romania;
- ✘ Introduced the meeting venue, the Palace of Parliament, which is the largest administrative building worldwide in different architectural styles, European but also Asian;
- ✘ Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union: European leaders have confirmed the importance of working together in the world to tackle global issues;
- ✘ As it is underlined in the draft Chair's Conclusions, it is extremely important that all ASEM partner countries contribute to the global efforts of achieving the SDG's. In this context it is relevant to better link the ASEM Education Process more explicitly to the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030;
- ✘ Nowadays, education systems in both regions are facing similar challenges related to the Digital revolution. Therefore, we should focus more on the theme of Digitalisation;
- ✘ In the context of globalisation, international cooperation and partnerships between European and Asian actors are becoming increasingly important in order to create better responsiveness of education and research systems and make them more adaptable to the changes in the labour market;
- ✘ Under the framework of ASEM, initiatives and projects have been developed. During the meeting (SOM2) we will learn more about their challenges, outcomes and results; and
- ✘ Thanking all participants for accepting the invitation, their valuable contribution to the preparation of the documents, and for their commitment to the ASEM Education Process.

Mr. David URBAN, ASEM Education Secretariat Belgium

- ✘ The ASEM Education Secretariat (AES) thanked the Romanian Ministry of National Education for hosting [SOM2](#) and [ASEMME7](#), the ASEMME7 Secretariat for their close collaboration and expressed their warm welcome to all participants.

- ✘ The AES reminded participants of the achievements of [ISOM](#) (3-5 June 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia) and [SOM1](#) (16-17 October 2018, Krems, Austria) and stressed the close collaboration of the whole ASEM community;
- ✘ The AES pointed out the importance of the Stocktaking Report and the draft Chair's Conclusions presented the next day at ASEMME7 and adopted by the Ministers and Heads of Delegations.
- ✘ The AES thanked all ASEM partner countries and stakeholders for their contribution to SOM2 and reminded of the need to find a new host to assure the continuity of the ASEM Education Secretariat.
- ✘ [The full speech can be found here.](#)

Introduction of the participants

All participants introduced themselves.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without any remarks.

Presentation Stocktaking Report 'From Seoul to Bucharest'

Ms. Nadia Reynders, ASEM Education Secretariat Belgium

The ASEM Education Secretariat presented the drafting process and the main conclusions of the Stocktaking Report 'From Seoul to Bucharest'.

- ✘ [Link to Presentation](#)
- ✘ Link to the [Stocktaking Report](#) 'from Seoul to Bucharest'
- ✘ Link to [summary](#) of the Stocktaking Report 'from Seoul to Bucharest'
- ✘ Link to [annex 1](#) 'Progress made by initiatives and projects listed in the Chair's Conclusions of ASEMME6'
- ✘ Link to [annex 2](#) 'Initiatives proposed by ASEM Partners and Stakeholders for the period 2019-2021'

Presentation and discussion of the Draft Chair's Conclusions of ASEMME7

Ms. Nadia Reynders and Mr. David Urban, ASEM Education Secretariat Belgium, presented the Draft Chair's Conclusions of ASEMME7 which were developed based on the input and feedback of ASEM Education partners and stakeholders.

Minor comments and feedback on this last draft version were the following:

- §25 – **Added:** ‘China’ and ‘Ireland’
- §26 – **Added:** ‘The Ministers welcomed the interest of Austria and India to join the Expert Group’
- §31 – **Added:** ‘The Ministers welcomed the interest of India and Netherland to participate in the ASEM WPP.’
- §32 – **Deleted:** ‘invited expressions of interest from ASEM Partners to organise the 5th ASEM University Business Forum’. No partners have shown interest.
- §33 → §40 – ‘Encouraged the organisation of a Peer Learning Activity (PLA) on Inclusion through virtual and blended mobility by Belgium (Flemish Community) in spring 2020’. **Moved:** to priority theme ‘Balanced Mobility’
- §33 – **Added:** ‘and regional seminars, **added:** ‘Students and alumni associations also play a crucial role in promoting mobility programmes and contributing to the modernisation of higher **education systems**’
- §35 – **Added:** ‘balanced mobility between both regions’
- §37 – **Added:** ‘15 Projects & activities and 1270 participants’
- §41 – **Added:** ‘Welcomed the Russian Federation’ STIpot (stipot.com) initiative establishing the ASEM educating process information framework for students and young scientists and digitalization of academic mobility.’
- §42 - **Added:** ‘The Ministers appreciated the willingness of the Russian Federation to continue the initiative and interest of India to join the seminar’.
- §51 – **Added:** ‘The Ministers welcomed the interest of India to join the network.’
- §54 – **Reformulated:** ‘To establish a permanent Standing Working Group (SWG) with Terms of Reference (ToR) to support the ASEM Education Secretariat in the strategic work of the ASEM Education Process (development of strategy paper and action plan including the monitoring of the action plan) and explore the possibility of giving the ASEM Education Secretariat a structure that meets comprehensive challenges in a long-term perspective in order to avoid loss of expertise and to ensure sustainability and continuity.’
- §55 – **Added:** ‘To establish an expert group on the transversal topic on digitalisation in order to foster dialogue and synergies on activities in the field of digital learning and teaching. The Ministers thank Germany for the initiative. ’
- §57 – **Reformulation:** ‘explore the possibility of hosting an ASEM Education Week with an ASEM Education Fair focusing on networking between the ASEM partners and stakeholders in connection with the ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting and ASEM Day on the 1st of March, as well as showcasing the top-class ASEM Education Process initiatives in collaboration with the ASEM Education Secretariat, ASEM partners and the host of the ASEM Education Ministers’ Meeting.’
- §65 – **Added:** ‘India.’
- §66 – **Added:** ‘Germany’

- §67 – **Added:** 'Thailand'

Presentations of ASEM Partners and Stakeholders and Discussion

Mr. Martin Schifferings, Head of Division, German Academic Exchanges Service (DAAD), Germany

- ✘ ASEM Education in a digital world. Bridging the Continents – Connecting the People?
[Link to presentation](#)

Mr. Gianpaolo Suriano, Deputy Head of Unit, International Cooperation, European Commission, Directorate General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

- ✘ The International Dimension of Erasmus+
[Link to presentation](#)

Mr. Michael Gore Graham, Deputy Head, Policy Unit, European Training Foundation

- ✘ Global Inventory of Regional and National Qualification Frameworks 2019
[Link to presentation](#)

Ms. Magalie Soenen, Senior Policy Officer Internationalisation, Flemish Ministry of Education and Training

- ✘ ASEM Work Placement Programme (WPP)
[Link to presentation](#)
- ✘ Compendium Higher Education
[Link to presentation](#)

Mr. Amir Piric, Chief Programme Coordinator, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)

- ✘ Making Lifelong Learning a reality: Introducing UNESCO's Handbook of Lifelong Learning
[Link to presentation](#)

Mr. Claus Holm (Former Director of the ASEM LLL HUB, Aarhus University Denmark) and Mr. Séamus O'Tuama (Future Director of the ASEM LLL HUB, University College Cork, Ireland)

- ✘ Chair Priorities ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub
[Link to presentation](#)

Mr. Karsten Warnecke, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

- ▀ People-to-People Connectivity: Impact & Outlook by ASEF

[Link to presentation](#)

Dr. Keuk Je Sung, Director General, ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme

- ▀ ASEM Duo at a Glance

[Link to presentation](#)

Ms. Marie-Céline Falisse, Liaison Officer, Erasmus Student Network

- ▀ Pilot Project: Internationalisation at Home and creation of local student organisations supporting international students in Asia

[Link to presentation](#)

Ms. Thérèse Zhang, Deputy Director for Higher Education Policy, European University Association (EUA)

- ▀ Universities as Partners and Contributors to the Agenda 2030

[Link to presentation](#)