



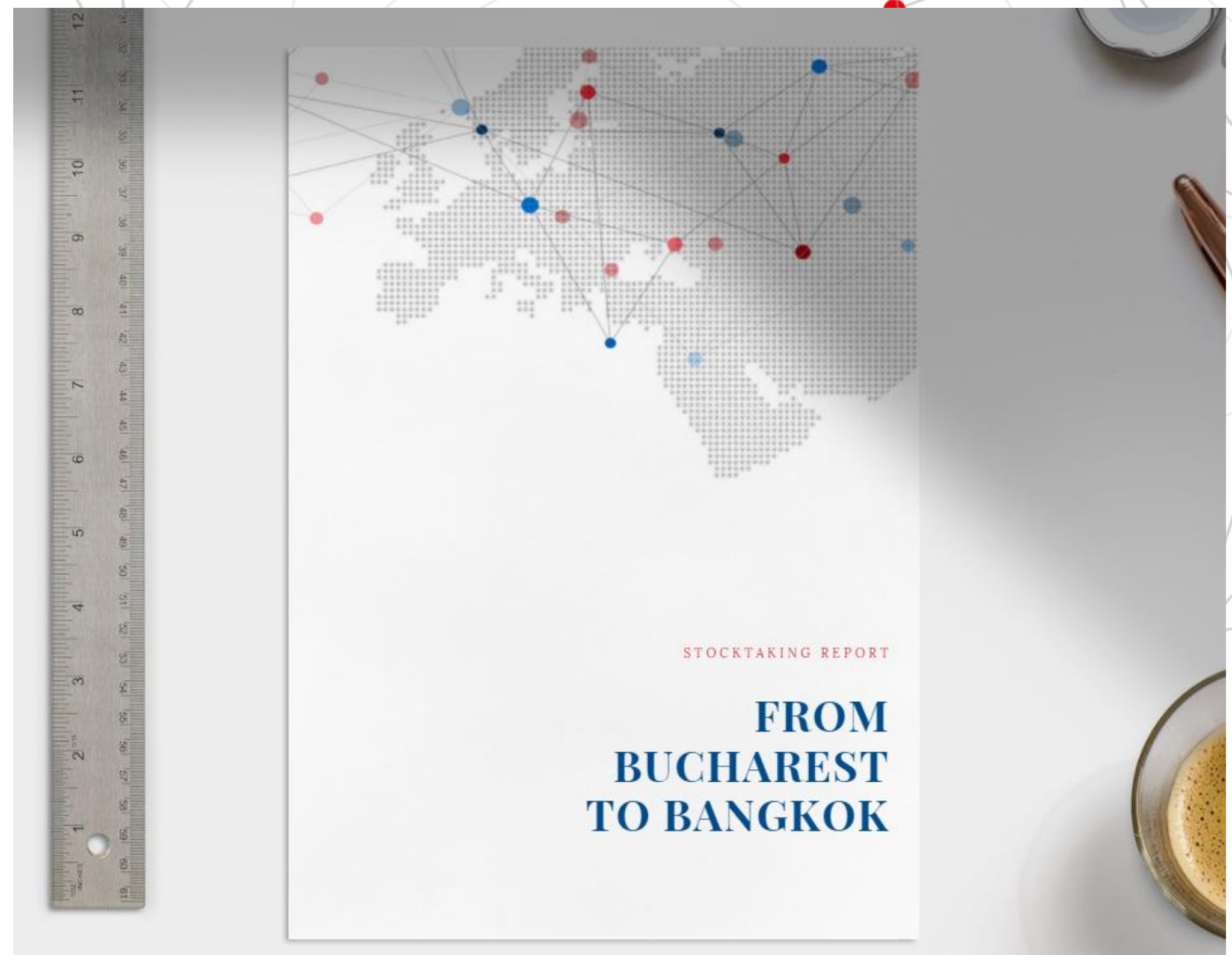
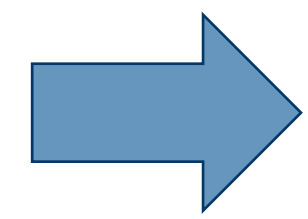
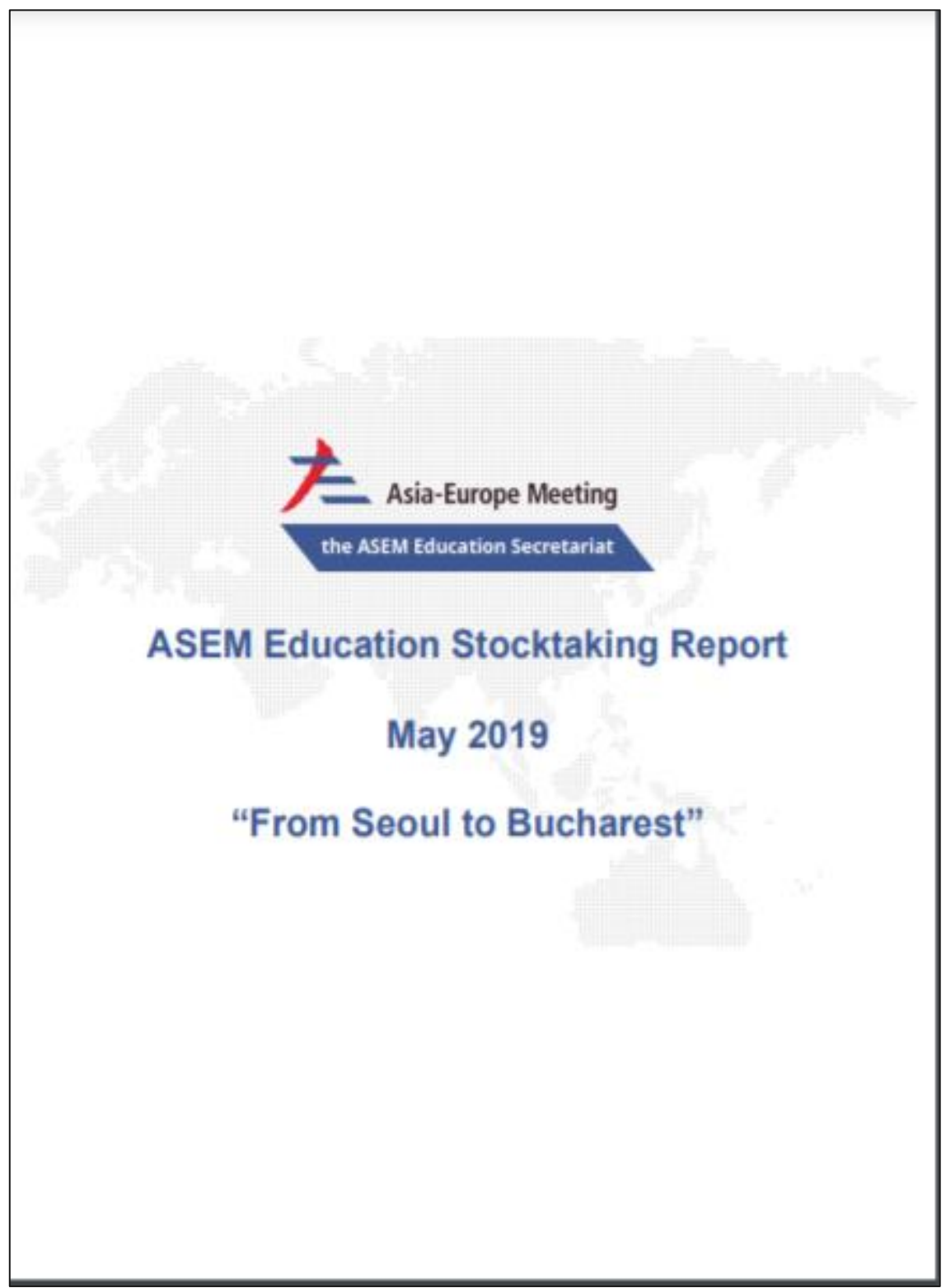
**Asia-Europe Meeting**

**ASEM Education**

# **ASEM Education Stocktaking Report**

SOM1  
15 September

## New concept



## Example 1/2





**STRUCTURED BASED EXCHANGE THROUGH PAIRING**

### ASEM-DUO

*Photographs by ASEM-DUO Secretariat*

**PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONNECTIVITY**

ASEM-DUO contributes to the overarching ASEM objective of people-to-people connectivity which was confirmed at the highest political level by all ASEM members. The objective of balanced mobility is achieved through reciprocity ("pairing"). There is unanimous support for the continuation of the Programme with 100% of respondents clearly advocating for ASEM-DUO to be continued as one of the uncontested success stories of ASEM.

**7 ASEM-DUO PROGRAMMES**

As of May 2021, there are seven ASEM-DUO Programmes in operation, supported by eight governments which are Belgium (Flemish and French Community), Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, Republic of Korea, India and Germany.

Every year since 2000, more than 200 students and professors have benefited from the initiative; during AY2020/2021, 341 students and professors were selected for support.

However, a sizable number of exchanges has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NEW CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES**

As announced in ASEMME7, DUO-India was launched in July 2019 and selected awardees. There were a few challenges for students to apply for the exchanges since it was the first call for applications in the middle of summer vacation. Therefore, fewer students had been selected than planned, but more professors had been selected than expected.

In addition, Germany became one of the contributing members of ASEM-DUO since 2021, and they will contribute the fellowship fund to the DUO-Korea Fellowship Program and support for Germany-Korea exchange.

One of the fellowship programs will be terminated in 2021. Unfortunately, the Belgium/Flemish Government decided not to prolong the DUO-Belgium/Flanders Fellowship Programme as of the academic year 2021/2022 due to the changes in priorities of the Ministry of Education. Therefore, there will be no call for DUO-Belgium/Flanders 2021.

STOCKTAKING REPORT | PX

### Testimonials from awardees

I am very happy with my exchange as both the university as well as the ASEM-DUO fellowship have offered me a great opportunity to increase my intercultural competence and international communication network. This has helped me to further broaden my perspectives and get a better and more thorough understanding of people of various different cultures that I have encountered and interacted with. Hereby, I want to thank ASEM-DUO for making this exchange possible.

**Deniz Tosun (Germany, Exchanged in Korea), Ingolstadt University of Applied Sciences**

I want to say thank you for the ASEM-DUO which helps to make my dream to study in Europe into reality. I really gained not only on-class knowledge but also got valuable opportunity to get access to the splendid culture and people in Europe. I really appreciate this worthwhile time spending in Belgium, which may also give me profound influence in my future study and daily life. Hope the students in the future to exchange also have a good and memorable experience in Belgium.

**Wenyuan Yang (China, Exchanged in Belgium), Fudan University**

My time abroad has opened my mind to a wide range of possibilities. Through meeting people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures I personally believe that I have become a more "worldly" person and open to new experiences. Most importantly I would like to thank ASEM-DUO for supporting me on my journey to Sweden. Knowing I had their support was a great reassurance and I will be forever grateful to ASEM-DUO for giving me this opportunity.

**Amelia Hayes (Australia, Exchanged in Sweden), La Trobe University**




“  
The DUO-fellowship not only helps further one's education but also brings exposure to new cultures, gains a global perspective, better employability, networking, and broadens one's horizons.  
”

Hannah Singh (India, Exchanged in Spain), Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee



## Example 2/2



**ARISE** ASEAN REGION INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENGAGEMENT  
Internationalisation Forum 2 - 4 May 2019 | Singapore

**IxESN** INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK

**OCEANS** OCEANIC COMMUNITY FOR ENHANCING AND SUPPORTING INTERNATIONALISATION

**ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION**

**NUS** NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

**ESAA** ERASMUS STUDENT AND ALUMNI ALLIANCE

### ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK (ESN)

**ARISE Project**  
The first instalment of the ARISE (ASEAN Region International Student Engagement) Training & Conference was held May 2019 in Singapore. Organized by ESN in partnership with the Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA) and the OCEANS Network, funded by the Erasmus+ Student and Alumni Alliance (ESAA), and supported by the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), it gathered 32 participants from 12 universities from 6 ASEAN countries. This conference served as a pilot initiative for empowering student representatives to support and facilitate internationalisation at their home universities and to improve the support of incoming students.

During the conference, various experts took part in a panel discussion about internationalisation at home in Asia, ESN trainers offered workshops on a multitude of topics such as cultural integration and student support services, and ample space was given to share experiences and best practices and to network with like-minded youth.

A detailed report of the event can be found under this link. ARISE concluded with the creation of an ARISE Alumni facebook group that is still used by ASEAN youth to this day.

**Umbrella Organisation**  
A second instalment, ARISE 2.0, has been in the works since late 2019 and was originally scheduled for May 2020. Focus of the second edition will not so much be internationalisation at home, but rather kicking off the foundation of an umbrella organisation for local student organisations supporting international students in Asia, acting as an Asian counterpart for ESN.

Just as the first edition, it is planned to take place in Singapore, but with participants from ASEAN as well as East-Asian countries. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hosting the event physically at the initially targeted date was out of the window, and the decision was made to rather completely postpone it rather than hold it online. The reason for this decision is the fact that while national umbrellas and a few smaller international umbrellas (such as AYO for ASEAN countries) already exist, none of them seemingly aspire to become an Asia-wide organisation.

We believe that this persistent deficit of a region-wide perspective cannot be easily solved by yet another online conference during the pandemic. The fact that no such umbrella organisation has emerged to this day, and no pointers towards something similar emerging any time soon exist, suggests that in-depth networking and joint strategic planning is necessary – impossible in a Covid-related online environment.

**Funding and Action Plan**  
Currently, ESN has applied for funding by ESAA that will allow the organization of a conference of similar scale to the first edition of ARISE. Participant-wise, the current instalment will exclusively target student organisation representatives and will focus on strategic planning, finding common ground, and creating an Action Plan for the foundation of the mentioned umbrella organisation. There is also the possibility to host the conference as one of the capacity building trainings connected to ASEF'S ARC8, on which a decision will be made in the future. There is no decision yet on whether a Covid-related cancellation of the physical event will result in another postponement, or rather a more elaborate online format than just a simple online conference.

<https://www.esn.org/> | 45



**Thank you for your attention**

**Any questions?**