

**ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM)**  
**Intermediate Senior Officials Meetings (ISOM)**  
**“Implementation of the ASEM Education Strategy and Vision 2030”**  
**St. Julian’s (Malta)**  
**24 / 25 November 2022**

**ITEM 9. PARALLEL WORKSHOPS**  
**9.1 WORKSHOP 1**  
**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY:**  
**ETHICS, INTEGRITY, AND TRANSPARENCY**

Moderator: Dr. Adam Liwak – Officer at Mutual Recognition Coordinator and EU Affairs  
Rapporteur: Max Bueno de Mesquita – Coordinating Policy advisor, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Department for International Policy

- Participants: EUA, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands
- Discussion on the topic in general:
  - Very broad concept.
  - How to define ethics and values? It has many perspectives.
  - What to do on this topic in the ASEM context?
  - How to stick to our (who?) ethics and values?
  - We talk about the international setting. Ethics and values are not for everybody the same, it needs context. Do we want to use this terminology in the broader international setting?
  - Overlap with discussion on this theme in other fora/groups like Council of Europe or Bologna Process.
  - It is also about international cooperation and the common understanding of the underlying rules and ethics, values of this cooperation.
- First time this theme is concretely discussed as a separate theme in the ASEM Education setting.
- But ASEM education process has already its own values. Has been defined in the vision document 2030. Is already covered.
- Other part of the discussion is how to work on ethics/values in the education field. That could be a direction for discussion in the ASEM.
- Questions regarding ethics within the field of education could also become very detailed/specific. For example, does this paper proposal be in contradict with political views? Conflict between student and establishment (lecturer or others). Approval of studies/topic proposals by establishment can be rejected on ethical (wrong) arguments.
- How to define ethics? Could for example link to the Recommendation of

the Council of Europe (CM/Rec (2022)18). This consists of 14 ethical principles, like integrity and international cooperation.

- How can civil society adapt ethics, integrity, and transparency from the education sector?
  - It is more about working together on common values. How to contribute as education sectors to build up a society with values?
  - Education sector is part of the civil society.
  - How to translate this theme into a ASEM discussion? How to make it concrete in the dialogue with Europe and Asia? Example: recognition and trust building between systems.
  - Link to ethics and values from universities to industry. Are we as education and university sector really helping the student with certain studies? Do they really find a job in the current labor market with the studies they can choose? Does it make a difference. Are we acting ethical as universities?
  - What ethical principles do we have in common? Trust building?
  - Balanced mobility and ethics.
  
- What are the challenges and threats the civil society in term of ethics, integrity, and transparency, in the context of education?
  - When civil society is used for informal education in a wrong way, we might damage education.
  - Freedom to develop education is also an ethic.
  - Civil society must be assured that education is free and open.
  - Fraudulent issues regarding recognition.
  - Role of universities and education in post-truth phenomenon. Values of science. Role of science in society. What is the truth? Independent research and education is needed. Education and research is essential in society.
  - It is about building trust and mutual understanding between AEM countries, also in relation to ethics and integrity within education.
  
- How educational institutions and civil society can work together on the ethical principles of the recommendation of the Council of Europe?
  - All institutions should guarantee the 14 principles. How well are these principles known?
  - It depends on the national context for example regarding policies, welfare, and population.
  - Brain drains element and on the other hand the changing demography. Means something for mobility framework. And ethical issues.
  - Overregulation to maintain ethics/openness is a challenge.

- Discussion on the dilemma of ethical questions in international cooperation. How to make sure that knowledge will not be misused for ‘wrong’ purposes. How to guarantee our fundamental academic values in international cooperation? What role do governments have? And what role do the knowledge institutions themselves have, with the institutional autonomy? We should make sure that international cooperation is open but also safe. Be aware of the advantages and opportunities of international cooperation but also of the risks and unwanted side-effects of sharing knowledge (‘unwanted transfer of knowledge and technology’).

