

**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**  
**9.3 WORKSHOP 3**

**LIFELONG LEARNING APPROACHES AND FLEXIBLE LEARNING PATHWAYS**

Moderator: Ms. Mandy Mifsud – Education Officer Lifelong Learning, Ministry for Education and Employment, Malta

Rapporteur: Lyndsey El Amoud – Assistant Director, ACE (Adult Continuing Education), University College Cork

1. What is the ASEM definition of LLL? Should there be a definition?
  - a. Consensus that LLL means different things to different people in different contexts and that we need to address different needs in different contexts and cultures.
  - b. Acknowledgement that lots of definitions already exist in international organisations, e.g. EU, OECD, UNESCO, etc. and a participant asked whether it would be useful to list the existing definitions within the strategy.
  - c. Some participants felt that there is no need for a definition as definitions can place limits on concepts and can mean that some practices might be excluded.
  - d. Other participants queried if a concept like LLL becomes difficult to operationalise without a definition?
  - e. There was ultimately no agreement on the need for a fixed definition of LLL, but there was some agreement on a need for a common understanding and some common areas of focus but further discussion would be needed to elaborate on this.
  
2. How can we increase participation in LLL through collaboration between ASEM members?
  - a. Some participants queried how accurate the measurements of participation are now so that a baseline could be established.
  - b. Opportunities for bilateral/multilateral collaboration and knowledge sharing between countries more experienced in LLL and those less experienced.
  - c. Opportunity to share national/international targets and methods used in different contexts to achieve targets.
  - d. Opportunity to share information, contacts and increase collaboration through keeping dialogue open between members states to learn from policy developments and practice in different countries.
  - e. Good degree of interest in microcredentials displayed – need a framework for microcredentials
  - f. Opportunity to encourage mobility including virtual mobility.
  - g. Encourage each other to ratify Global Convention on Recognition.

- h. Opportunity for concrete knowledge transfer projects at practice level, e.g. between schools/education institutions in different countries.
  - i. Opportunity to bring LLL from conceptual level to practice level and encourage exchanges.
  - j. Need for greater collaboration with industry to ensure relevance of formal education offerings.
  - k. Initiatives like the Singapore Skills Passport.
  - l. This topic raised questions such as:
    - i. How can we increase participation of we need to measure that but we don't have a definition for what we are measuring?
    - ii. Is funding currently only being funnelled to formal education?
  - m. Mention that ASEM LLL Hub has a role to generate evidence to understand current trends, act as a consultancy resource for governments and influence future directions of policymaking.
3. Upskilling, reskilling, TVET, industry and employment, is that what LLL should be about? Why?
- a. Guiding principle of LLL should be the learning with the learner at the centre who is able to make their own decisions based on their own interests.
  - b. LLL is now a way of life.
  - c. Interests of the learner should not be subordinate to the needs of industry.
  - d. LLL is about all of this but it's about more than that too – it's about personal satisfaction.
  - e. Participant stated that focus needs to be on what can ASEM do in this space.
  - f. Query as to whether an individual can be recognised for their skills from one ASEM country to another.
  - g. Acknowledgement that the skills gap is a real challenge in many countries.
  - h. LLL should be for personal, societal, cultural and labour market needs.
  - i. LLL is messy but needs to be that way to remain flexible so that anyone anywhere can learn for whatever their needs might be.
  - j. A lot of work to date has focused on employability but employers are still complaining about the skills gap and lack of transversal skills.
  - k. Maybe another perspective is needed among policymakers to encourage more opportunities for informal training.
  - l. Need to focus on cultural competences in ASEM as there is a need to better understand each other.



# Asia-Europe Meeting

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