



ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM)

Expert Group on SDGs and Education Meeting

20 February 2023

online

Draft Minutes

#	Delegation	Name	Surname
1	Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF)	Reka	Tozsa
2	Austria	Anna	Schinwald
3	Brunei	Dina Roslina	Haji Aliuddin
4	Brunei	Mariana	Nordin
5	Erasmus Student Network (ESN)	Sara	Tagliabracci
6	European Students' Union (ESU)	Iris	Kimizoglu
7	European University Association (EUA)	Theodora	Famprikezi
8	Indonesia	Cyti Daniela	Aruan
9	Korea	Minah	Park
10	Lao PDR	Viengdavong	Luangsithideth
11	Malta	Gabriella	Mallia
12	Netherlands	Gonneke	de Ridder
13	Romania	Madalina	Matei
14	SEAMEO RIHED	Christelle Mae	Agustin
15	Thailand	Supranee	Khamyuang
16	Thailand	Surachai	Kumsombat
17	Thailand	Chitralada	Chanyaem
18	Thailand	Duriya	Amatavivat
19	Thailand	Hongfah	Veeranopparat
20	ASEM Education Secretariat	Vera	Lucke
21	ASEM Education Secretariat	Sibeles	Chiari

AEI, Bulgaria, Cambodia, European Commission, Germany, Greece, IAU, Latvia and Mongolia have not participated in this meeting.

Welcome by Luca Lantero, Head of the ASEM Education Secretariat

On behalf of Mr. Luca Lantero, Ms. Vera Lucke welcomed all members of the Expert Group on SDGs and Education (EG1). She recounted the decision agreed during the ISOM 2022 to establish this new Expert Group, whose Terms of Reference will be decided directly by its members.

Attachment: ASEM_EG1_Meeting_Agenda_20022023



Tour de Table

All participants briefly introduced themselves.

Discussion on updated Terms of Reference for the Expert Group 1 SDGs and Education and appointment of chairs

The template of the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group 1 was presented for comments.

In general, participants have approved the structure of the ToR.

The **working period** is from February 2023 to the 10th ASEM Ministerial Conference (ASEMME10) in 2026.

As for the **composition**, it was reminded that membership remains open.

Regarding the **purpose and intended outcomes**, the importance of producing benefits for both, Asian and European countries, was highlighted since in some cases, these two regions might pursue different goals in the education field.

Brainstorming on topics:

- Peer Learning Activities could be organized.
- Exchanging good practices: hear from each country and stakeholder how they are streamlining SDGs in a formal way (paper or similar). Each country could share two or three key priorities with the whole group to individuate common understanding of concepts linked to SDGs and education.
- Institutional practice mapping could kick off the work of this expert group and represent the basis from which to start the discussion. Missing countries could be featured through a mapping exercise.
- The group could attend the ASEF online launch of the [Asia-Europe Higher Education Mapping on the 10 March](#).
- The group's focus is on [SDG 4](#), but also other goals are linked. Especially target 4.7 is important when working with other ministries. The 2022 [Inter-Regional Research Symposium on Sustainable Learning in Higher Education](#) that took place in Bangkok in November was interesting.
- The group could use the outcomes of the [Transforming Education Summit](#) in September 2022 and consider to look at some of the SDG indicators, that have changed after the COVID-19 pandemic. Discuss how to achieve SDGs by 2030. Consider the initiatives from the summit mentioned above and try to link.
- Interests concerning SDGs from European countries and Asian countries are very different. Get an overview of a framework on how SDGs are implemented in countries and the main policies in place. Define common goals or common projects.
- Investment in education differs in every country and this should be taken into account when discussing.
- Open education, more equitable access to education and social inclusion could be discussed.
- Professional development and teacher education.

The finalized Terms of Reference will be officially adopted at the Senior Officials' Meeting 1 that will take place in Malta on 22 and 23 May 2023.

Proposals for the appointment of chairs:

- Gabriella Mallia, Communication Manager, Malta Further & Higher Education Authority

The group approved the proposal, hence, to have as Chair Ms. Gabriella Mallia and expressed the wish to have an Asian country rather than a stakeholder as a Co-chair. Despite Ms. Vera Lucke's



invitations to have an Asian Co-chair for a balanced chairing, no Asian country has come forward. However, it was stated that the position of Asian Co-chair would remain open, hence should any Asian country wish to propose itself at any time, it will be more than welcome. ASEF and EUA are available to support the Chair or Co-chairs.

In general, the chair(s) report(s) progress to the Intermediate Senior Officials' Meeting (ISOM) and Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM) and is/are responsible to organise group meetings, to oversee the activities and to take the minutes of this EG's meetings. The ASEM Education Secretariat supports the chair(s).

Next steps:

The Chair will propose a first version of the Terms of Reference to the group via e-mail and ask for inputs on activities and topics. The Chair will organise an online meeting to finalise the ToR and to start planning the activities. During this next meeting, members will be asked to present their national practices and projects on SDGs and, more in general, what has already been done to promote and achieve sustainable education.

Attachment: ASEM_EG1_Draft_ToR_20022023

Planning of the next EG3 meeting

The Expert Group on SDGs and Education will gather online before the Senior Officials' Meeting 1 takes place. The dates will be decided by the Chair and the group in the next weeks. The possibility of holding a (if possible hybrid) meeting in Malta during the timeslot for the bilateral meetings on 22 May was pointed out. The ASEM Education Secretariat will support the planning of the next meeting by sending a doodle with dates proposed by the Chair.

Any Other Business

The Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1) is taking place on 22 and 23 May in Malta, whereas the Ministerial Meeting (ASEMME9) will probably take place in January or early February 2024 in Malta.

The list of Expert Group members will be sent by the ASEM Education Secretariat to the Chair and to the whole group.

Closing Remarks

Ms. Vera Lucke thanked all the participants and closed the meeting.

Minutes drafted by the ASEM Education Secretariat on 20 February 2023