

ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM)

Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1)

“Asia and Europe: Reboosting Interregional Cooperation on Education”

Location: Radisson Blu Resort, Malta, St Julian's STJ 3391, Malta

Dates: 22nd- 23rd May 2023

WORKSHOP B

Learning Cities: Leave No One Behind

Moderator: Dr. Séamus O'Tuama, Chair of ASEM LLL Hub, cum Director of Adult Continuing Education, University College Cork, Ireland

Rapporteur: Nghia Mai, Research Manager, ASEM LLL Hub, University College Cork, Ireland

Participants: ASEM LLL Hub, Austria, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, SEAMEO RIHED, Thailand.

Agenda:

15.00 – 15.10: Welcome and Introduction to Learning Cities and RN6

15.10 – 15.20: Learning Cities Video – How Learning Cities leave no one behind

15.20 – 15.35: Sharing Observations on Practice; Learning Neighbourhoods Cork, Ireland; Balanga Learning City, The Philippines; Community Learning in Ayudhaya, Thailand

15.35 – 15.50: Group Session

15.50 – 16.00: Speed Dealing

16.00 – 16.15: Plenary Feedback

Meeting Summary:

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome to all the attendees and a brief introduction of the agenda. The focus of the meeting was on the topic of "Leaving No One Behind" and the initiatives taken by the ASEM lifelong learning hub in collaboration with UNESCO.

The participants were provided with an overview of the ASEM lifelong learning hub and its six research networks, which cover various aspects of lifelong learning, including digital learning,

learning in the workplace, professionalization of teachers and educators, national strategies on lifelong learning, and transitions in lifelong learning.

Emphasis was placed on the partnership building and collaboration efforts between the ASEM lifelong learning hub and UNESCO, particularly in learning cities and learning regions. The aim was to align thinking and work closely with UNESCO's approach to learning cities.

The meeting highlighted the importance of addressing the needs of marginalized groups and disadvantaged individuals in the context of lifelong learning. The concept of learning neighborhoods was introduced as a means to engage and include ordinary people in the learning process. Examples were shared to demonstrate the positive impact of learning neighbourhoods in different communities.

There were three specific case studies:

1. Learning Neighbourhoods Cork, Ireland, formed in late 1950s/ early 1960s with the inclusion of all stakeholders and community.
2. Balanga Learning City in the Philippines, showcasing the community-based, inclusive, and participatory approach taken in their educational initiatives. The slogan 'One Balanga' explained the success of this city.
3. Community Learning in Ayutthaya, Thailand, where community informal education can bring people skills for jobs and made good impact to the society.

The Second part of the meeting is open discussion with 3 main questions and collected answers are shown below:

Q1: Three things I learned from the cases?

- Collaboration vs competition
- Create image of joint responsibility --> inclusion
- Pride in your neighbourhood
- Maybe easier in less organized communities?
- Innovate your own model
- Communications/ plans/ engaging all group of people
- Make use of whatever you have
- Innovation is key/ Engage/ Direction
- Learning takes place outside formal education
- Everyone is learning/ whole society
- Special attention to those who might be left behind
- Leadership/encouragement/involvement
- The potential for inter-regional learning and collective intelligence

Q2: Three things I could implement at home?

- Share examples of learning cities
- Engagement with all related stakeholder
- Awareness raising events
- At the organization, everyone is encouraged to learn and share new knowledge or results of events by coming together on a regular basis
- Offering the opportunities to all in the organization to get training in areas they need to develop
- Working towards collective knowledge and intelligence through our work
- Empower members in the workplace that could increase effectiveness of the workplace
- Brainstorming session of members
- Learn how to mobilize people
- Inclusive neighbourhood
- Use libraries better
- Common goals of all members in the neighbourhood

Q3: One thing ASEM could do to support us?

- Partnership/Twinning places under ASEM EU/ Asia to share good practices
- Provide/ gather best practices
- Organize study visits/ produce concrete guidelines
- Sharing expertise
- From a working group, make it a subject at the next minister conference
- Funding
- Mapping/ Expertise/ Discussions
- Produce concrete guidelines
- Partnership between cities in Asia and Europe to share their practices
- Organize seminars and study visits innovate cities
- Introduce the coordinators globally not just senior people
- Improve the communications with the networks

At the speed dealing session, top ideas are picked:

Q1:

- Collaboration vs competition
- Create image of joint responsibility --> inclusion
- Pride in your neighbourhood

Q2:

- Share examples of learning cities
- Engagement with all related stakeholder

- Awareness raising events

Q3

- Partnership/Twinning places under ASEM EU/ Asia to share good practices
- Provide/ gather best practices
- Organize study visits/ produce concrete guidelines

The workshop ended with action Items concluded:

- Further explore collaboration opportunities with ASEM partners and stakeholders
- Consider the implementation of learning neighbourhoods in respective areas and share best practices.
- Stay informed about ongoing developments in the field of learning cities and Informal and Non-formal learning
- Follow up on the provided examples and case studies
- Research Network 7 Launch: Informal and Non-formal learning

Registration link: https://ucc-ie.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FFIH4CucRDW-N8BKqF4ivA#/registration

Speaker info is shown

at: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7067861974646190080>

- More information about ASEM LLL Hub at: <https://asemlllhub.org/>
- More information of the ASEM LLL Hub Global Lifelong Learning Week 2024 at: <https://asemlllhub.org/homepage/news>

