Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1)

"Asia and Europe: Reboosting interregional cooperation on education"

Dates: 22 – 23 May 2023

Location: Radisson Blu Resort, St Julian's, STJ 3301, Malta

AGENDA

Sunday, 21 May 2023

19:00	Shuttle from Radisson Blu Resort to restaurant
19:30	Arrival at the Main Gate of Mdina for a brief tour of Mdina's city
20:00	Welcome dinner at Coogi's Restaurant, St Agatha's Esplanade, Mdina
22:00	Shuttle back to Radisson Blu Resort

Monday, 22 May 2023

09:30-10:00 Registration and welcome coffee

10:00-10:20 1. Welcome and introduction

1.1 Welcome by the Maltese Authority

- **Dr. Rose Anne Cuschieri**, Chief Executive Officer, Malta Further & Higher Education Authority (MFHEA)

1.2 Welcome by the ASEM Education Secretariat (AES)

- **Mr. Luca Lantero**, Head of the ASEM Education Secretariat

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Adoption of the minutes from the ISOM 2022
Intermediate Senior Officials' Meeting Minutes (24/25 November 2022, Malta)

10:20-11:00 4. Keynote Speech: "Asia and Europe: Leveraging the digital transformation for inclusive quality higher education" by Mr. Libing Wang, UNESCO Bangkok

- Discussion with the audience

11:00-11:30 Health Break and Group Photo

11:30-12:30 5. Updates from the ASEM Expert Groups (EGs), initiatives and projects

- EG1 on Sustainable Development Goals and Education
- EG2 on Recognition and Balanced Mobility
- EG3 on Lifelong Learning and TVET
- EG4 on Digitalisation
- Global Inventory of National and Regional Qualifications Frameworks
- Mapping the relationship of HE and the SDGs in the ASEM countries

The (Co-)Chairs of each Expert Group share updates on their groups' activities and future plans. Other initiatives are presented upon previous request of the initiatives' coordinators to the ASEM Education Secretariat.

12:30-13:30 6. Updates from the ASEM partners

ASEM countries, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat are invited to orally present the current state of play of their relevant activities, projects and initiatives carried out and implemented since the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME8, 2021). Each speaker has about 5 minutes.

13:30-15:00 Lunch break

15:00-16:15 7. Parallel Workshops

- **A: Why recognition matters?**
  Well-functioning, fair and transparent recognition of qualifications is a crucial precondition for student, staff and researcher mobility. The workshop aims to contribute to the discussion on the role of recognition of qualifications as one of the practical tools to support interregional exchange and cooperation.
- **B: Learning Cities: leaving no one behind**
  UNESCO is committed to a global agenda about 'leaving no one behind'. This is driven though many of its educational and learning projects and is especially prominent in the global network of learning cities. ASEM Education, through the activities of Research Network 6 of the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub works closely with UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in addressing that key mission within learning cities. In this workshop we will explore some really good examples from Asia and Europe that highlight how learning cities address the challenge of inclusive learning for the entire population, so that no one is left behind. These cities are endeavouring to build more sustainable communities, premised on robust learning opportunities for the entire population. Such projects not only help individuals make better lives, but they support entire communities to create better futures socially, environmentally, culturally and economically.
- **C: Approaches of digitally-enhanced learning and teaching at higher education institutions with a focus on the use of microcredentials**
  There will be a presentation by the European University Association (EUA) of the DIGI-HE project which explored different ways how higher education institutions (HEI) can boost their strategic approaches to digitally enhanced learning and teaching and enhance their capacity. Another focus will be on the use of microcredentials at HEI and the presentation of a short survey on the same topic which was conducted by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) among German HEI**.**

The participants are invited to discuss in smaller groups on one of the proposed topics.

16:15-16:30 8. Summary of the day and closing remarks

Between 16:30 and 18:30 bilateral meetings and expert group meetings are possible. Please contact secretariat@asem-education.org to check availability of rooms.

19:30 Formal dinner at the Radisson Blu Resort

Tuesday, 23 May 2023

09:00-09:05 9. Opening of the 2nd day with welcoming words

09:05-09:45 10. Updates from the ASEM stakeholders

Stakeholders are invited to orally present the current state of play of their relevant activities, projects and initiatives carried out and implemented since the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME8, 2021). Each speaker has about 5 minutes.

09:45-10:30 11. ASEM Education Process

- **Stocktaking Report**
- **Chair's Conclusion**

The ASEM Education Secretariat presents the drafting process for the Stocktaking Report and Chair's Conclusion to be adopted at the 9th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting.

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-11:10 12. Looking towards SOM2 and ASEMME9

The ASEM Education Secretariat presents the next steps towards the Senior Officials' Meeting 2 and the 9th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting, planned to be held in Malta in early 2024.

11:10-12:10 13. Outlook: ASEM Education Initiatives for the next biennial 2024-2026

13.1 ASEM partners' initiatives

13.2 ASEM stakeholders' initiatives

Partners and stakeholders are invited to present projects, initiatives and activities that are intended to be implemented during the next biennial 2024-2026.

12:10-12:15 14. Call for ISOM (2024), SOM1 (2025), SOM2 and ASEMME10 (2026) host

All ASEM partner countries, in particular all Asian partner countries – in line with the customary rotation principle – are invited to express their interest to host the ISOM, SOM1, SOM2 and ASEMME 10.

12:15-12:20 15. AOB

12:20-12:30 16. Closing remarks

12:30 Lunch

15:00 Shuttle from Radisson Blu Resort to social programme

15:00-17:30 Social programme organised by the host.

17:30 Shuttle back to Radisson Blu Resort