



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



EUROPEAN UNION



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ASEM Education 1st Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1)

“Connecting Education. Fostering collaboration between Asia and Europe”

Dates: 18-19 November 2025

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Venue: Hotel Pullman Bucharest World Trade Center

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday, 17 November 2025

19:30 Welcome Dinner at the Hotel Pullman Bucharest World Trade Center

Tuesday, 18 November 2025

09:30-10:00 Registration

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

1.1 Welcome by the Romanian Authorities

- **Minister of Education and Research / Secretary of State** (tbc), Ministry of Education and Research, Romania

1.2 Welcome by the ASEM Education Secretariat (AES)

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

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Adoption of the minutes from the ISOM held in 2024

[*Intermediate Senior Officials' Meeting Minutes*](#) (18-19 November 2024, Bangkok)

10:20-10:30 Group Photo

10:30-11:30 4. Keynotes on Regional and Interregional Cooperation in Higher Education

- Cristina Ghițulică, Vice-Chair of the European Higher Education Area (Romania) and Vice-President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)
- Elisa Petrucci, Co-chair of the European Higher Education Area's Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue and Head of International Cooperation and Policy Development Department at CIMEA, Italy
- Christelle Mae Agustin, Programme Officer at SEAMEO RIHED (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation-Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development)
- (tbc) Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia

Discussion with the audience

11:30-12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00-12:30 5. Presentation of Concept for the 10th Asia-Europe Meeting Ministers' of Education Meeting (ASEMME10) in 2026 by the hosting country

12:30-13:00 6. Handover of ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub Secretariat

The ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub) is hosted by the University College Cork, Ireland in the years 2020-2025. The Irish mandate is ending and the ASEM Lifelong Learning is going to be handed over for the next period.

13:00-14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00-14:30 7. Updates from the ASEM partners (first slot)

ASEM countries, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat are invited to present the current state of play of their relevant activities, projects, and initiatives carried out and implemented since the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME9, 2024). Partners are also encouraged to present their future initiatives and ideas for cooperation. Each speaker has approximately 5 minutes.

14:30-16:00 8. Parallel workshops

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

A: Regional cooperation processes and their role in shaping and transforming higher education

The session will explore the role of intergovernmental processes such as the Common Space in Southeast Asian Higher Education and the European Higher Education Area/Bologna Process in shaping and transforming higher education, initiatives that have been developed within the processes, and how they support international cooperation in higher education, as well as ways to develop synergies between regional cooperation processes.

Speakers:

- Elisa Petrucci, Co-chair of the European Higher Education Area's Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue and Head of International Cooperation and Policy Development Department at CIMEA, Italy
- Christelle Mae Agustin, Programme Officer at SEAMEO RIHED (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation-Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development)
- Horia Oniță, Head of the European Higher Education Area Secretariat (Romania)
- Nilinthone Sacklokhham, Academic Officer at the Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR

B: Lifelong Learning with a focus on Micro-credentials (European and Asian experiences)

The session will provide participants with a framework to discuss and exchange experiences and practices in skills development and lifelong learning with a focus on short, flexible study formats such as Micro-credentials.

Speakers:

- Prof. Séamus Ó Tuama, Director of ACE (Centre for Adult Continuing Education) at the University College Cork, Ireland and Chair of the ASEM LLL Hub (Ireland 2020-2025)
- Romanian representative (tbc)
- Nguyen Thao Huong, Principal Official, Higher Education Department at the Ministry of Education and Training, Viet Nam
- Prof. Ts. Dr. M. Iqbal Bin Saripan, Malaysian representative, Deputy CEO (Quality Assurance), Malaysian Qualifications Agency

C: Mobility and internationalisation as instruments to build bridges between Asia and Europe

Drawing on the Erasmus+ Programme, the ASEM DUO Fellowship Programme and the ASEM Work Placement Programme, the session will explore obstacles to mobility and ways to increase mobility, including by using new technologies.

Speakers:

- Adrian Georgescu, Director of the Erasmus+ Agency, Romania
- Nicoleta Popa, Deputy Director of the Erasmus+ Agency, Romania
- Prof. Dr. KJ Sung, Director General of the Secretariat for ASEM-DUO Fellowship Programme, Seoul, Korea
- Marie-Anne Persoons, Advisor International Policy at the Department of Education and Training of the Flemish Community of Belgium

16:00-16:55 7. Updates from the ASEM partners (second slot)

ASEM countries, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat are invited to present the current state of play of their relevant activities, projects, and initiatives carried out and implemented since the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME9, 2024). Partners are also encouraged to present their future initiatives and ideas for cooperation. Each speaker has approximately 5 minutes.

16:55-17:00 9. Closing of the first day

18:00 **Departure from the Hotel Pullman Bucharest World Trade Center to the University of Agronomic Sciences and Medicine Veterinary of Bucharest for a visit** (walking in comfortable shoes).

19:00-21:00 **Dinner at the University of Agronomic Sciences and Medicine Veterinary of Bucharest**

Wednesday, 19 November 2025

09:00-09:05 **10. Opening of the 2nd day with welcoming words**

09:05-09:20 **8. Reporting from the parallel workshops**

09:20-10:00 **11. 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 and Artificial Intelligence

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

10:00-10:30 **12. Updates from the ASEM stakeholders (first slot)**

Stakeholders are invited to present the current state of play of their relevant activities, projects, and initiatives carried out and implemented since the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME9, 2024). Stakeholders are also encouraged to present their future initiatives and ideas for cooperation. Each speaker has approximately 5 minutes.

10:30-11:10 COFFEE BREAK

11:10-11:45 12. Updates from the ASEM stakeholders (second slot)

Stakeholders are invited to present the current state of play of their relevant activities, projects, and initiatives carried out and implemented since the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME9, 2024). Stakeholders are also encouraged to present their future initiatives and ideas for cooperation. Each speaker has approximately 5 minutes.

11:45-12:15 13. ASEM Education Process

- **Update on Stocktaking Report**
- **First ideas for the Chair's Conclusion**

The ASEM Education Secretariat presents the drafting process for the Stocktaking Report and Chair's Conclusion to be adopted at the 10th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting.

12:15-12:50 14. Looking towards SOM2 and ASEMME10 and beyond

- **Next steps towards ASEMME10 presented by the ASEM Education Secretariat**

The ASEM Education Secretariat presents the next steps towards the second Senior Officials' Meeting and the 10th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting, planned to be held in late 2026. The Senior Officials will discuss and agree on the topics and way forward.

12:50-12:55 15. Any Other Business (AOB)

12:55-13:00 16. Closing remarks

13:00 LUNCH