



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



EUROPEAN UNION



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## ASEM Education 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

#### 10:30-11:00 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 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

Discussion with the audience

11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK

#### 11:30-12:00 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 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.*

ASEM Education Secretariat

Italy 2022-2026





**12:00-12:30 6. Presentation of Concept for 10<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting Ministers' of Education Meeting (ASEMME10) in 2026 by the hosting country**

**12:30-13:00 7. Updates from the ASEM partners**

*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.*

**13:00-14:30 LUNCH BREAK**

**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.

**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.

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

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

**16:00-16:30 COFFEE BREAK**

**16:30-16:50 8. Reporting from the workshops**

**16:50-17:00 9. Summary of the day and closing remarks**

Between 17:00 and 18:00, bilateral meetings and expert group meetings are possible. Please contact [secretariat@asem-education.org](mailto:secretariat@asem-education.org) to check the availability of rooms.

**19:30 Dinner**



**Wednesday, 19 November 2025**

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

**09:05-9:30 Continuation of 7. Updates from the ASEM partners**

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**9:30-9:45 11. 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.*

**9:45-10:30 12. Updates from the ASEM stakeholders**

*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.*

**10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK**

**11:00-12:00 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 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting.*

**12:00-12:45 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 10<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting, planned to be held in late 2026. The Senior Officials will discuss and agree on the topics and way forward.*

**12:45-12:55 15. Any Other Business (AOB)**

**12:55-13:00 16. Closing remarks**

**13:00 LUNCH**