

ASEM Expert Group 3 on Lifelong Learning and TVET (EG3)

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Name of Expert Group
Expert Group on Lifelong Learning (LLL) and TVET (EG3)
Working Period
February 2023 – ASEMME 10 in 2026 This new group was established at the Intermediate Senior Officials' Meeting (ISOM) in November 2022.
Co-Chairs
Séamus Ó Tuama, Chair of the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub (Ireland 2020-2025), University College Cork asemlllhub@ucc.ie Asia's Co-chair - TBD
Composition (Participating Countries and Stakeholders)
(Senior) Officials of the following ASEM partners: Austria, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Romania, Spain, Thailand. - Representatives from ASEM Education stakeholders: ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub, European Students' Union (ESU), European Training Foundation (ETF), European University Association (EUA), UNESCO International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNESCO UNEVOC).
Reference to Policy Background Papers
Chair's Conclusions ASEMME9 (Malta, January 2024) [The Ministers...] Thanked the (Co-)Chairs of the four ASEM Education Experts Groups on (i) Sustainable Development Goals and Education, (ii) Recognition and Balanced Mobility, (iii) Lifelong Learning and TVET and (iv) Digitalisation for their continuous and precious work and for involving most of the ASEM partners and stakeholders in the discussions, the development of tools, webinars and peer learning activities. All Expert Groups were encouraged to find synergies with other ASEM Expert Groups and to build on the achievements from previous working structures.

- [The Ministers...] Appreciated the work carried by the Expert Group 3 on Lifelong Learning and TVET, chaired by the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning, and called on the group to continue to foster dialogue on Lifelong Learning opportunities for all. The Ministers thanked the ASEM LLL Hub, currently hosted by University College Cork with the support of the Government of Ireland, for its commitment to coordinate and revitalise the seven Research Networks.

Chairs' Conclusions ASEMME8 (Bangkok (online), December 2021)

- University College Cork in Ireland was chosen to host the Hub, focusing on revitalizing Research Networks from 2020 to 2025. The Hub introduced six research networks, including e-learning and workplace learning. The Ministers appreciated UNESCO's research project on the role of higher education institutions in lifelong learning, which includes global surveys.

Chairs' Conclusions ASEMME7 (Bucharest, May 2019)

- The ministers acknowledged the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Aarhus University for their management of the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning. They appreciated the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning's Handbook and Toolkit for policy-making and UNESCO-led initiatives, including video tutorials and MOOCs. The ministers recognized the importance of World Reference Levels and qualifications frameworks. They encouraged collaboration and exchanges of best practices among ASEM partners. The ministers highlighted the significance of lifelong learning for sustainable development and called for continued cooperation and support in this area.

Seoul Declaration (ASEMME6, Seoul, 2017)

- The ASEM Education Process recognizes the significance of lifelong learning, particularly in TVET, to address educational challenges and promote employability. ASEM partners collaborate to develop policies, share best practices, and enhance educational connectivity. Initiatives focus on innovative competences, entrepreneurship education, and 21st-century skills. Qualifications frameworks facilitate lifelong learning, while the ASEM Network of MOOCs promotes peer learning and content development. Strengthening cooperation between cities and governments is proposed to foster lifelong learning and inter-sectoral linkages. ASEM strives to enhance education between Asia and Europe through collaborative efforts.

Purpose and Intended Outcomes

Purpose

- Foster dialogue and promote mutual understanding, transparency and cooperation between Asian and European counterparts through systematic exchange of information and closer cooperation as one of the four priorities of the ASEM Education Process.
- Promote peer learning among Asian and European partners and stakeholders on LLL, including TVET

- Strengthen collaboration and connectivity by identifying, sharing and promoting good practices and tools in the field of LLL, and TVET between Asia and Europe.
- Complementing the work of other ASEM Expert Groups by providing expertise in the field of Lifelong Learning and Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

Intended Outcomes

- Establishment of a pool of experts in the field LLL, including TVET specifically working within the ASEM context.
- Peer Learning Activities and sharing of good practices in the field of LLL, including TVET and to foster cooperation between Asia and Europe.
- A portfolio of good practice examples and tools, which serve as a knowledge basis for further collaboration between the two regions on LLL, including TVET.
- Leverage the knowledge base and expertise of the ASEM LLL Hub to support the work of EG3.
- Contributing to outcome documents of political meetings (SOM and ASEMME).

Reporting

The Co-chairs report progress to the ASEM partners and stakeholders at Intermediate Senior Officials' Meetings (ISOM) and Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM1 + SOM2).

The minutes of this EG's meetings are the responsibility of the Co-chairs.