

**ASEM Education 1st Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1)****“Connecting Education. Fostering collaboration between Asia and Europe”**Dates: 18-19 November 2025Location: Bucharest, RomaniaVenue: Hotel Pullman Bucharest World Trade Center**AGENDA****Monday, 17 November 2025**

19:30 Welcome Dinner Hotel Pullman Bucharest World Trade Center,
Restaurant “Paris Bucarest Brasserie” (ground floor)

Tuesday, 18 November 2025

09:00-10:00 **Bilateral Meetings** between delegations are possible.
Please arrange the bilateral meetings and then contact secretariat@asem-education.org to reserve a space.

09:00-10:00 Registration

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

Plenary
Room:
New York

Welcome by the Romanian Authorities

- ◆ Ministry of Education and Research, Romania
- ◆ Romanian Erasmus+ National Agency

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 last meeting**

[Intermediate Senior Officials' Meeting \(ISOM\) held on 18-19 November 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand](#)

10:20-11:20 **4. Keynotes on**

Plenary
Room:
New York

Regional and Interregional Cooperation in Higher Education

- ◆ **“Quality Assurance to Foster Global Cooperation in Higher Education”** by **Prof. Daniela Cristina Ghițulică**, President of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and former Vice-Chair of the European Higher Education Area (Romania)
- ◆ **“The Global Dimension of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)”** by **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
- ◆ **“Fostering a Common Higher Education Area in Southeast Asia”** by **Christelle Mae Agustin**, Programme Officer at SEAMEO RIHED (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation-Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development)
- ◆ **“ASEAN-Malaysia 2025: Fostering a Common space in Southeast Asian Higher Education”** by **Dato' Dr Haji Megat Sany Megat Ahmad Supian**, Deputy Secretary General (Policy), Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia

Discussion with the audience

11:20-12:00 **Group Photo & COFFE BREAK**



- 12:00-12:20 **Plenary Room: New York**
5. **Presentation of the Concept for the 10th Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME10) in 2026 in the Philippines**
 ♦ **Commissioner Dr. Michelle Aguilar Ong**,
 Commission on Higher Education, The Philippines
- 12:20-13:00 **Plenary Room: New York**
6. **Handover of the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub's Secretariat**
The ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub) is handed over from Ireland, where it was hosted at the University College Cork for the years 2020-2025, to Thailand, where it will be hosted for the next period 2025-2030 at the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.
- 13:00-14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**
- 14:00-15:30 **7. Parallel workshops**
The participants are invited to discuss in smaller groups on one of the proposed topics.
- Workshop A Room: Beijing**
- 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.
Moderator:
 ♦ **Horia Oniță**,
 Head of the European Higher Education Area Secretariat (Romania)
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)
 ♦ **Nilinthone Sacklokhom**,
 Academic Officer at the Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR
- Workshop B Room: Vienna**
- 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.
Moderator:
 ♦ **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)
Speakers:
 ♦ **Nguyen Thao Huong**,
 Principal Official, Higher Education Department at the Ministry of Education and Training, Viet Nam
 ♦ **Prof. Ts. Dr. M. Iqbal Bin Saripan**,
 Deputy CEO (Quality Assurance), Malaysian Qualifications Agency

Workshop
C Room:
New York

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.

Moderator:

- ♦ **Adrian Georgescu**,
Director of the Erasmus+ National Agency, Romania

Speakers:

- ♦ **Nicoleta Popa**,
Deputy Director of the Erasmus+ National Agency, Romania
- ♦ **Vladimir Tanasiev**,
Associate Professor, National University of Science and Technology Politehnica of Bucharest, 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

15:30-15:50

COFFEE BREAK

15:50-17:10

8. Updates from the ASEM partners

Plenary
Room:
New York

ASEM partners (ASEM Countries, European Commission and ASEAN Secretariat) are invited to present their current relevant activities, projects, and initiatives carried out and implemented since the 9th ASEM Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME9, January 2024). ASEM Partners are also encouraged to present their future initiatives and ideas for cooperation between Asia and Europe. Each speaker has approximately 5 minutes.

17:10-17:15

9. Closing of the first meeting day

18:30

Departure from the conference venue to the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest (bus transfer)

19:00-21:00

Presentation and dinner at the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest. Dinner at "Salon Ceres"(entrance from Bd. Expozitiei no.1-5)

Wednesday, 19 November 2025

- 09:00-09:05 **10. Opening of the 2nd meeting day with welcoming words**
- 09:05-09:20 **Reporting from the parallel workshops**
Plenary Room: New York
- ◆ A: Regional cooperation processes and their role in shaping and transforming higher education
 - ◆ B: Lifelong Learning with a focus on Micro-credentials (European and Asian experiences)
 - ◆ C: Mobility and internationalisation as instruments to build bridges between Asia and Europe
- 09:20-10:00 **11. Updates from the ASEM Expert Groups (EGs)**
Plenary Room: New York
- EG1 on Sustainable Development Goals & Education**
- ◆ Duriya Amatavivat (Thailand) and Cleo Cachapero (ASEF)
- EG2 on Recognition & Balanced Mobility**
- ◆ Giannandrea Guglielmi (Italy)
- EG3 on Lifelong Learning & TVET**
- ◆ Prof. Séamus Ó Tuama (Chair of ASEM LLL Hub, Ireland)
- EG4 on Digitalisation & Artificial Intelligence**
- ◆ David Akrami Flores (Germany)
- 10:00-10:30 **12. Updates from the ASEM Stakeholders (first slot)**
Plenary Room: New York
- Stakeholders are invited to present their current relevant activities, projects, and initiatives carried out and implemented since the 9th ASEM Meeting of Ministers for Education (ASEMME9, January 2024). Stakeholders are also encouraged to present their future initiatives and ideas for cooperation between Asia and Europe. Each speaker has approximately 5 minutes.*
- 10:30-11:15 **COFFEE BREAK (Bilateral Meetings possible)**
Please arrange the bilateral meetings and then contact secretariat@asem-education.org to reserve a space.
- 11:15-11:45 **12. Updates from the ASEM Stakeholders (second slot)**
- 11:45-12:45 **13. ASEM Education Process and way to the ASEMME10**
Plenary Room: New York
- ◆ Drafting Process of the Stocktaking Report
 - ◆ First ideas for the Chair's Conclusions
 - ◆ Next steps towards the ASEMME10
 - ◆ Proposal for a new initiative: ASEMConnect
- The ASEM Education Secretariat presents the drafting process for the Stocktaking Report 2024-2026 and the ASEMME10 Chair's Conclusions together with the next steps towards the 2nd Senior Officials' Meeting and the 10th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEMME10), planned to be held in late 2026 in the Philippines. The Senior Officials will discuss and agree on the topics and way forward. In addition a proposal for a new initiative (ASEMConnect) will be presented and discussed.*
- 12:45-12:55 **14. Any Other Business (AOB)**
- 12:55-13:00 **15. Closing Remarks**
- 13:00-14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**
- 13:30-15:00 **Bilateral Meetings between delegations are possible.**
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