

## ASEM LLL Network 4: “National strategies of Lifelong Learning” Meeting in Riga, Latvia 16-19 June 2009

**The Research Network 4 meeting** follows the annual network meeting and annual international conference in Beijing in November 2008 and aims at coordinating further network activities to match the adopted recommendations in LLL.

Thematic recommendations from the last conference held in Beijing University in 2008 cover the following fields:

- common efforts to strengthen competence transparency,
- development of new cost-effective financial models and quality systems for the LLL initiatives,
- further development of evaluation models on LLL learners' outcome and initiatives for all and also vulnerable groups,
- creation of partnership models,
- strengthen the promotion efforts and incentives,
- institutional change and development of learning environments,
- an integrated approach to LLL,
- bridging curriculum and didactics.

Members from seven countries – China, Denmark, France, Latvia, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand, and from ASEF participated in the Beijing meeting. The network discussed relevant topics and research areas, including policy analysis, R&D project proposals, and R&D project's funding possibilities. Beijing meeting focused on the following main issues identified as research area of the network in the coming years:

- Compare policy understanding of LLL across countries by socio-political and socio-cultural factors;
- Compare policy implementation of LLL across countries;
- Describe empirical patterns and trends of participation in LLL among different groups, in terms of educational attainment, age, socio-economic status, occupational type (skills, gender, employment status, cultural groups, community size, etc.);
- Compare provisions of LLL opportunities made available by national strategies (structures, pathways, alternatives) across country.

The network came up with four possible project proposals:

- Emerging markets for Lifelong Learning.
- Towards National Systems of LLL, National Strategies, Financing and Qualification Staff.
- The Patterns and Trends of Participation in LLL among Different Groups.
- Mapping National Strategies of Lifelong Learning (from pre-school to adult education and learning).



**The meeting in Riga** will aim to bring together policy makers, researchers, entrepreneurs involved in working out National strategies for lifelong learning and investigating barriers against continuing education and training.

During the Riga meeting experts from eight countries – China, Denmark, Finland, France, Latvia, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand, will discuss further possible collaboration in scientific projects, and their procedure. The participants will discuss relevant topics and research fields, including political analysis, R&D project proposals and their financing possibilities, will come to an agreement on an exact work programme – a framework for carrying out the common research projects in the period of 2009. – 2010. The project results will be presented in ASEM HUB LLL conference in Vienna in 2010 and they will be used to work out of the EU recommendations in LLL.

On behalf of the organizing committee of the Riga meeting:

Dr. Prof. Xjanjin Dou  
ASEM LLL Research Network 4 Coordinator

Dr. Prof. Irina Maslo  
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