



7th ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7)
Students' Forum: 11-14 May 2019 | Rectors' Conference: 12-14 May 2019

Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:
Perspectives from Asia and Europe

Rectors' Conference Programme



Co-organised by



National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

In Partnership with



Programme Overview

Synergies with the ASEM Education Senior Officials' and Ministers' Meeting

Saturday 11 May	Sunday 12 May	Monday 13 May	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May
STUDENTS' FORUM					
	RECTORS' CONFERENCE				
			SOM	MINISTERS' MEETING	

The 7th ASEF Rectors' Conference

Sunday 12 May 2019	Monday 13 May 2019	Tuesday 14 May 2019
Arrival throughout the day	Morning sessions Welcome remarks and Opening Keynote Speech Opening Panel Discussion 1 “Taking action at home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance” Working Group Sessions along the 3 themes of the conference	Morning sessions Recap of the previous day Panel Discussion 3 “Taking action at international level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation” Oxford Debate Sessions led by ARC partner organisations
	Lunch and speed dating with student leaders from Asia and Europe	Lunch and speed dating with senior policy makers from Asia and Europe
	Afternoon Sessions Working Group Sessions to be continued Panel Discussion 2 “Taking action at community level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact” Leadership Swap Sessions led by ARC partner student organisations	Afternoon Sessions Closing Panel Discussion 4 “Taking action in Asia and Europe: Cooperation and Partnerships on SDGs” Presentation of Policy Recommendations from the Rectors' Conference and the Students' Forum Hand-over of the ARC7 Rectors' and Students' Policy Recommendations to ASEM Ministers of Education
19.00-22.00 Cocktail Reception With the Students' Forum participants	19.00-22.00 Dinner and Cultural Evening with the 51 Students' Forum participants from 51 ASEM countries	19.30-22.00 Closing Dinner of ARC7 with student leaders, senior policy makers and Ministers of Education from 51 ASEM countries

Programme at a Glance

Sunday, 12 May 2019

Venue | National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA)

Bd. Expoziției 30A, Sector 1, etaj 2-4, Bucharest, Romania

08:00 – 17:00	Rectors arriving throughout the day
17:00 – 18:00	Registration
19:00 – 22:00	Cocktail Reception with the Students' Forum Participants (Optional)

Monday, 13 May 2019

Venue | Palace of the Parliament

Calea 13 Septembrie 1, Sector5, Bucharest, Romania

08:00 – 09:00	Registration			
09:00 – 09:45	Welcome Remarks			
09:15 – 09:45	Keynote Speech			
09:45 – 10:45	<p>Opening Panel Discussion 1 “Taking action at home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance”</p> <p>The aim of this session is to demonstrate how universities can make best use of their abilities and capacities to address the Sustainable Development Goals. Panellists will discuss visions and missions of universities within the framework of the sustainable development agenda, and the ability of institutions to link knowledge, research, education to contribute to the SDGs. The importance of cherishing values (like academic freedom, autonomy, participation) will be also discussed, and ways of balancing it with the more “technical” or “utilitarian” tasks and demands (like employability, skills for the labour market).</p>			
10:45 – 11:00	ARC Origins, Vision and Mission			
11:00 – 11:30	Family Photo and Coffee Break			
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Working Group Sessions Part 1</p> <p>The Working Group Sessions are facilitated discussions to exchange good practices and discuss the Policy Recommendations (PRs) of rectors to the ASEM Ministers of Education. The PRs will be pre-drafted by the Conference Organising Committee and circulated among participants before the conference. Participants can select different Working Groups along the 3 themes of ARC7:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center; border-right: 1px dashed black;"> WG1 A and B on “Taking action at home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance” </td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center; border-right: 1px dashed black;"> WG2 A and B on “Taking action at community level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact” </td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;"> WG3 A and B on “Taking action at international level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation” </td> </tr> </table>	WG1 A and B on “Taking action at home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance”	WG2 A and B on “Taking action at community level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact”	WG3 A and B on “Taking action at international level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation”
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13:00 – 14:00	Lunch and speed dating with student leaders from Asia and Europe			
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Working Group Sessions Part 2</p> <p>The Working Group Sessions are facilitated discussions to exchange good practices and discuss the Policy Recommendations (PRs) of rectors to the ASEM Ministers of Education. The PRs will be pre-drafted by the Conference Organising Committee and circulated among participants before the conference. Participants can select different Working Groups along the 3 themes of ARC7:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border-right: 1px dotted black; padding: 5px;"> WG1 A and B on “Taking action at home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance” </td> <td style="width: 33%; border-right: 1px dotted black; padding: 5px;"> WG2 A and B on “Taking action at community level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact” </td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px;"> WG3 A and B on “Taking action at international level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation” </td> </tr> </table>	WG1 A and B on “Taking action at home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance”	WG2 A and B on “Taking action at community level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact”	WG3 A and B on “Taking action at international level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation”
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15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break			
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Panel Discussion 2</p> <p>“Taking action at a community level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact”</p> <p>The aim of this session is to review the different approaches how higher education actors (universities, students, regional networks) can play together to realise the SDGs, engage local communities and civil society in providing sustainable research and teaching, how can they translate the global goals into local actions, and what is the added value that SDGs can provide in these partnerships.</p>			
17:00 – 18:00	<p>Leadership Swap Sessions led by students</p> <p>The Leadership Swap Sessions are facilitated by student leaders, who bring fresh ideas to the table and nudge participants to look at problems from a different perspective. There will be 6 parallel sessions organised on different topics related to the conference.</p>			
18:00 – 19:00	Refreshments			
19:00 – 22:00	<p>Dinner and Cultural Evening</p> <p>with the 51 Students' Forum participants from the 51 ASEM countries</p>			

Tuesday, 14 May 2019

Venue: National Parliament

08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:15	Recap of Day1, Introduction to Day2
09:15 – 10:15	<p>Panel Discussion 3</p> <p>“Taking action at international level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation”</p> <p>The aim of this session is to explore what kind of international partnerships do universities engage in, what is the shared purpose of these, and how do they</p>

	<p>contribute to the SDGs? Panelists will discuss how persons and ideas flow across borders, and how to generate dynamics among different systems and silos of research and education for the sake of the SDGs. The discussion will also focus on ethical and equitable international mobility of students and staff, and its contribution to sustainability.</p>
10:15 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Debate Sessions led by ARC partner organisations Designed by ARC partner organisations, these sessions provide food for thought in an innovative format. The aim of the Oxford style debate approach is to tackle one consensual topic from two different or opposing points of view, requesting the participants to take a side before the debate and see how their opinion has shifted by the end of the sessions. There will be 3 parallel sessions participants can choose from.</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Closing Panel Discussion 4 “Taking action in Asia and Europe: Cooperation and Partnerships on SDGs” The Closing Panel Discussion summarizes the take-aways and recommendations of the conference. It draws a conclusion on how higher education can influence its social environment through SDGs, and how university sectors can work together (in Asia, in Europe, between Asia and Europe, globally), and continue to feed into the Agenda 2030.</p>
15:00 – 16:00	<p>Presentation of Policy Recommendations from the Rectors' Conference and the Students' Forum, followed by discussion and Q&A</p>
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Hand-over of the ARC7 Rectors' and Students' Policy Recommendations to ASEM Ministers of Education</p>
19:30 – 22:00	<p>Closing Dinner of ARC7 Joint Dinner with participants of the ARC7 Students' Forum, ARC7 Rectors' Conference, ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM2), ASEM Ministers' of Education (ASEM ME)</p>

CO-ORGANISED BY



The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). ASEF promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

ASEF's Education Department (ASEFEdu) is particularly focusing on access to quality education and youth employment, which ensures that all our projects contribute to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially to Goal4: "ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all." However, the most prominent example of the ASEF Education Department's goal to include sustainable development as a horizontal priority to its projects, will be the 7th ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7). The entire project will focus on the question: how can higher education actors – students, rectors, policy makers and international organisations – take joint action towards the SDGs?

For more information, please visit the www.ASEF.org.



The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)

The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), established in 1991 as a school of governance, is a landmark in the Romanian academic setting. SNSPA promotes academic excellence in Political Sciences, Sociology, Administrative Studies, International Relations, Diplomacy, European Studies, Communication Sciences, Psychology, Management. SNSPA teachers are experts in their fields; they incorporate current and global perspectives into the curriculum and promote innovative and original thinking.

Currently, the university is home to more than 6,000 students enrolled across 9 departments. Thousands of graduates from their academic programs have successfully entered careers in academia, government, industry and nonprofits. SNSPA is a member of several international university alliances (European Association of Institutions in Higher Education, Romanian-U.S. Fulbright Commission, International Association of Universities, European University Association, European Association for Public Administration Accreditation) and collaborates with public institutions and business organizations across a wide range of different fields.

For more information, please visit www.SNSPA.ro/en.

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