#ARC7

# 7th ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7)

Students' Forum 11–15 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

ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION

National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

Ministerul Educației Naționale

In Partnership with

ASEAN University Network

eua European University Association

International Association of Universities

esn International Exchange Erasmus Student Network

esu

Erasmus Mundus Association

CNR Consiliul National al Rectorilor

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# Programme Overview

Synergies with ARC7 Students' Forum and ASEM Education Senior Officials' and Ministers' Meeting

# Draft Programme

## Sunday, 12 May 2019

**Venue | InterContinental Bucharest**
Bulevardul Nicolae Bălcescu 4, București 010051 Romania

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| 08:00 – 17:00 | Participants arriving throughout the day |
| 17:00 – 19:00 | **Registration at Hotel InterContinental Bucharest** |
| 19:00 – 21:00 | **Welcome Reception for Rectors including participants of the Students' Forum**<br>Venue \| InterContinental Bucharest<br>*Bulevardul Nicolae Bălcescu 4, București 010051 Romania* |

## Monday, 13 May 2019

**Venue | Palace of the Parliament**
2-4 Izvor street, district 5 Bucharest, 050561 Romania

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| 08:00 – 09:00 | Arrival to the Palace of Parliament and Registration |
| 09:00 – 09:10 | **Welcome Remarks**<br>Room Nicolae Iorga<br>▪ **Prof Remus PRICOPIE**, Rector, National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA)<br>▪ **Prof Sorin Mihai CÎMPEANU**, President of the Romanian National Council of Rectors, President of L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF); Rector of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest, Romania<br>▪ **HE Karsten WARNECKE**, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) |
| 09:10 – 09:15 | **Message from the President's Office**<br>Room Nicolae Iorga<br>▪ **Ms Ligia DECA**, State Adviser, Department of Education and Research, Office of the President of Romania |

09:15 – 09:45

## Key Messages

Room Nicolae Iorga

- **Mr Ramu DAMODARAN,** Chief, United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)
- **Prof Adrian CURAJ,** General Director, Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding, Romania; and UNESCO Chair on Science and Innovation Policies, SNSPA

09:45 – 10:45

## Opening Panel Discussion 1

**Taking Action at Home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance**

Room Nicolae Iorga

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.

- **Prof Pam FREDMAN,** President, International Association of Universities (IAU)
- **Ms Katrina KOPPEL**, Vice-President, European Students' Union (ESU)
- **Prof Michael MURPHY**, President, European University Association (EUA)
- **Prof Anne PAKIR**, Associate Vice President (University & Global Relations), National University of Singapore (NUS)

Moderated by **Prof Remus PRICOPIE**, Rector, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)

10:45 – 11:00

## ARC Origins, Mission and Vision

Room Nicolae Iorga

- **Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN,** Director, Education Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

11:00 – 11:30

**Family Photo and Coffee Break**

11:30 – 13:00

## Working Group Sessions Part 1

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 from among 6 parallel Working Group sessions along the 3 themes of ARC7:

### Theme 1. Taking Action at Home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance

#### Working Group 1A

Room Nicolae Balcescu

- **Prof Bundhit EUA-ARPORN**, President, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
- **Dr Àngels FITÓ BERTRAN**, Vice President for Competitiveness and Employability, Open University of Catalonia, Spain

#### Working Group 1B

Room Drepturile Omului

- **Prof John O'HALLORAN**, Deputy President and Registrar, University College Cork, Ireland
- **Professor Jongryn MO**, Executive Director, Hills Governance Center, Korea

Facilitated by **Dr Chantavit SUJATA-NOND**, Director, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED)

Facilitated by **Ms Thérèse ZHANG PULKOWSKI**, Deputy Director, Higher Education Policy Unit, European University Association (EUA)

## Theme 2. Taking Action at Community Level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact

### Working Group 2A
Room Unirii

- **Mag. Friedrich FAULHAMMER**, Rector, Danube University of Krems, Austria
- **Prof Tan Sri Dzulkifli ABDUL RAZAK,** Rector, International Islamic University Malaysia

Facilitated by **Dr Choltis DHIRATHITI**, Executive Director, ASEAN University Network (AUN)

### Working Group 2B
Room Constantin Stere

- **Prof Carmen SAMMUT**, Pro Rector for Student & Staff Affairs and Outreach, University of Malta
- **Prof Ir Panut MULYONO,** Rector, University of Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

Facilitated by **Dr WANG Libing**, Chief of Section, Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education UNESCO Bangkok

## Theme 3. Taking Action at International Level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation

### Working Group 3A
Room Avram Iancu

- **Prof Ashish BHARADWAJ,** Executive Director, Office of Rankings, Benchmarking and Institutional Transformation (ORBIT), O.P. Jindal Global University, India
- **Prof Alpaslan ÖZERDEM**, Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, Coventry University, United Kingdom

Facilitated by **Mr Sebastian SPERLICH**, Head of Section Sustainable Development, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

### Working Group 3B
Room Spiru Haret

- **Prof Joanne PAGÈZE,** Vice-President for Internationalisation, University of Bordeaux
- **Prof James TANG**, Secretary-General, The University Grants Committee of Hong Kong, China

Facilitated by **Mr Giorgio MARINONI**, Manager for HE and Internationalisation Policy, International Association of Universities (IAU)

13:00 – 14:00

**Lunch with student leaders from Asia and Europe**
Salonul Brancovenesc

14:00 – 15:30

## Working Group Sessions Part 2

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 from among 6 parallel Working Group sessions along the 3 themes of ARC7:

## Theme 1. Taking Action at Home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance

### Working Group 1A
Room Nicolae Balcescu

- **Prof Dr Regina VALUTYTE,** Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania
- **Prof Sidong XIONG**, President Soochow University, China

Facilitated by **Dr Chantavit SUJATA-NOND**, Director, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED)

### Working Group 1B
Room Drepturile Omului

- **Prof Mislav BALKOVIC**, Dean, Algebra University College, Croatia
- **Professor Tsolmon JADAMBA,** President, Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences

Facilitated by **Ms Thérèse ZHANG PULKOWSKI**, Deputy Director, Higher Education Policy Unit, European University Association (EUA)

## Theme 2. Taking Action at Community Level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact

### Working Group 2A
Room Unirii

- **Prof Martin HELLSTRÖM**, Vice-Chancellor, University West, Sweden
- **Dr Joyce TEO Siew Yean**, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Vice President, Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Facilitated by **Dr Choltis DHIRATHITI**, Executive Director, ASEAN University Network (AUN)

### Working Group 2B
Room Constantin Stere

- **Prof Melinda dela Pena BANDALARIA**, Chancellor of the Open University, President of the Asian Association of Open Universities, The Philippines
- **Dr Imran UDDIN,** Vice-Rector, Artevelde University College Ghent, Belgium

Facilitated by **Dr WANG Libing**, Chief of Section, Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education UNESCO Bangkok

## Theme 3. Taking Action at International level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation

### Working Group 3A
Room Avram Iancu

- **Prof Maria de LURDES CORREIA FERNANDES**, Vice-Rector for Education, Academic Affairs and International Cooperation, University of Porto, Portugal
- **Dr VO Huan,** Deputy Head, Office of External and Public Relations, International University (VNU-HCMC)

Facilitated by **Mr Sebastian SPERLICH**, Head of Section Sustainable Development, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

### Working Group 3B
Room Spiru Haret

- **Prof Katherine BELOV**, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement), University of Sydney, Australia
- **Ambassador Prof Adam JELONEK,** Rector's Proxy for Internationalization, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Facilitated by **Mr Giorgio MARINONI**, Manager for HE and Internationalisation Policy, International Association of Universities (IAU)

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| 15:30 – 16:00 | **Coffee Break**<br>Salonul Brancovenesc |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | **Panel Discussion 2**<br>**Taking Action at a Community Level: SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact**<br>Room Nicolae Iorga<br><br>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.<br><br>▪ **Ms Tuula ANTOLA,** Director for Economic and Urban Development, City of Espoo, Mayor's Office, Finland<br>▪ **Prof Ioan Vasile ABRUDAN**, Rector, Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania<br>▪ **Assoc Prof Nopraenue Sajjarax DHIRATHITI,** Acting Vice-President for International Relations and Corporate Communication, Mahidol University, Thailand<br>▪ **Prof Diep Tuan TRAN,** President, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Viet Nam<br><br>Moderated by **Ms Nadia REYNDERS**, Head, ASEM Education Secretariat (AES) |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | **Leadership Swap Sessions led by students**<br><br>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 4 parallel sessions organised on different topics related to the conference.<br><br>**A. Making education a force for good with Education for Sustainable Development**<br>Room Nicolae Balcescu<br><br>Facilitated by **Ms Meg BAKER,** Senior Project Officer - Education for Sustainable Development, National Union of Students, United Kingdom<br><br>This session will share knowledge of student interest and demand for sustainability learning and opportunities in their tertiary education experience from UK and international survey findings. Meg will share lessons learned from National Union of Students (UK) and the approaches they are taking to support further and higher education institutions to embed impactful learning for societal impact in all areas of the curriculum.<br><br>**B. Universities as key elements of social dimension of higher education**<br>Room Constantin Stere<br><br>Facilitated by **Mr Stefan Marius DEACONU**, Former President, National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania<br><br>SDG 4.3 tackles the problem of equal participation of women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university. Starting from this goal, this session will focus on how accessibility towards higher education can grow. As the ASEM Ministers of Education acknowledged in Singapore during their last session (ASEMME6), higher education has an important contribution to create a more inclusive society. The session showcases good practice from students' perspective on two different levels: taking action at home and taking action at community level. |

**C. Reintegration of students after their international mobility experience**
Room Avram Iancu

Facilitated by **Ms Marie-Céline FALISSE**, Liaison Officer, Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

The session will highlight how reintegration plays an essential and strategic role in quality mobility and global citizenship education. Research conducted by ESN has shown that 7 out of 10 students are convinced of the necessity of reintegration services for homecoming students, however, the availability of such services at higher education institutions are often lacking (only 17% have access to language support, 22% to career consulting, <50% to support current or future mobile students). The participants of this session are invited to discuss the role of higher education institutions and student organisations in making quality reintegration a reality, and how the ASEM Education Process can support these actions.

**D. Impact Education Lab: How to Equip Youth with Skills that Enable them to Make a Change in the World**
Room Spiru Haret

Facilitated by **Ms Lucia LOPOSOVA**, Vice-President, Eramus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA)

This session focuses on social entrepreneurship and experiential learning of students. Lucia will demonstrate the model of impact education courses taught at the University of Hong Kong and will facilitate a brainstorming session on opportunities and barriers of implementing similar models in other higher education institutions, to equip more students to make a change in their communities. The workshop will make use of modern technology to engage the audience, but no more than a smartphone and the internet connection will be required for the participants.

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| 18:00 – 19:00 | **Travel to the Dinner Venue** |
| 19:00 – 22:00 | **Dinner and Cultural Evening**<br>with the 51 Students' Forum participants from the 51 ASEM countries<br><br>**Welcome Remarks by HE Radu SAFTA,** ASEM Senior Officials and Director General Global Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania<br><br>**Venue \| National Museum of Art of Romania**<br>*Calea Victoriei 49-53, București 010063* |

## Tuesday, 14 May 2019

**Venue | Palace of the Parliament**
2-4 Izvor street, district 5 Bucharest, 050561 Romania

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| 08:00 – 09:00 | Arrival to Palace of Parliament |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | Introduction to Day 2<br>Room Nicolae Iorga |
| 09:15 – 10:15 | **Panel Discussion 3**<br>**Taking Action at International Level: SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation**<br>Room Nicolae Iorga<br><br>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 contribute to the SDGs? |

Panellists 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.

- **Dr Caroline BENTON**, Vice President and Executive Director for Global Affairs, Tsukuba University, Japan
- **Prof Orla FEELY,** Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, University College Dublin, Ireland
- **Prof Catherine MORAN**, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
- **Dr Eden Y WOON,** President, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

Moderated by **Dr Hilligje VAN'T LAND**, Secretary General, International Association of Universities (IAU)

10:15 – 11:00

**Coffee Break**
Salonul Brancovenesc

11:00 – 12:30

## Parallel Debate Sessions

**A. "Connecting SDGs to research rankings will undermine academic quality."**
Room Nicolae Balcescu

Designed by **Dr Christopher TREMEWAN**, Secretary General, Association of Pacific -Rim Universities (APRU). Debaters:

- **Mr Phil BATY,** Chief Knowledge Officer, Times Higher Education
- **Prof Sunhyuk KIM**, Professor of Political Science and Former Vice President for International Affairs, Korea University, Korea

Curiosity-driven research is often claimed as ultimately more productive than mission-driven research. Imposing narrow objectives is destructive of the serendipitous nature of research, especially when the value of it may only be recognized much later. On the other hand, universities have a responsibility to demonstrate that their use of public funding for research contributes to society's well-being. Governments have the right to decide how public funding is used and corporations should be able to fund research that brings returns on investment. In any case, at this time of global inequality and ecosystem crisis, don't we need to inspire students and faculty to focus on solving global issues? Is measuring the relevance of research to the Sustainable Development Goals as a feature of university rankings a way to achieve this? Or will it undermine the value of research?

**B. "Does making higher education free make it more equitable? "**
Room Constantin Stere

Designed by **Dr Graeme ATHERTON**, Director, National Education Opportunities Network (NEON). Debaters:

- **Mr Robert NAPIER**, Vice-President, European Students' Union (ESU)
- **Dr Roberto C YAP**, President, Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan, The Philippines

Recent years have seen rising concern that access to higher education (HE) is becoming more inequitable and making HE free is the way to combat this problem. From Scotland to the Philippines governments are saying that a university education is a right not a privilege. But does free tuition actually mean exclusion not entry? Does it open the doors to all or starve universities of the resources they need to expand? Guest speakers from Europe and Asia will debate this issue and participants will be asked to take the side they support.

C. **"Partnerships are crucial for achieving the SDGs: Should universities play a managerial or a participatory role?"**
Room Spiru Haret

Designed by **Dr Josep M. VILALTA**, Director, Global University Network for Innovation. Debaters:

- **Prof Dato' Dr Imran Ho ABDULLAH**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Industry and Community Partnerships), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia; Chair, University Social Responsibility and Sustainability Thematic Network, ASEAN University Network (AUN)
- **Dr Dalibor MIKULÁŠ**, Head of International Relations Office, Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic

In the framework of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in a time where our world is more connected and interdependent than ever, successful multi-stakeholder partnerships seem to be essential in order to implement solutions to achieve sustainable development. But, what role should higher institutions play in those partnerships to make them work towards the 2030 Agenda? Should universities play a managerial role or a participatory role? Which one of the two models has more impact? Which one is more democratic in the higher education context? What are the main challenges in terms of establishment, sustainability and success of these kind of multi-stakeholder partnerships?

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 15:00 **Closing Panel Discussion 4**
**Taking Action in Asia and Europe: Cooperation and Partnerships on SDGs**
Room Nicolae Iorga

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.

- **Dr Pornchai MONGKHONVANIT**, President, Siam University, Thailand
- **Prof Göran FINNVEDEN**, Vice President for Sustainability, KTH, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden
- **Mr Joao PINTO,** President, Erasmus Student Network (ESN)
- **Deputy Minister Dr Alma Ruby C TORIO**, Department of Education, The Philippines

Moderated by **Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN**, Director, Education Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

15:00 – 16:15 **Presentation of Policy Recommendations**
from the Rectors' Conference and the Students' Forum, followed by discussion and Q&A
Room Nicolae Iorga

16:15 – 17:00 **Hand-over of the ARC7 Policy Recommendations to**

- **Dr Ecaterina ANDRONESCU**, Minister of National Education, Romania, Host of the 7th ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME7)

**Reflections and closing remarks**
Room Nicolae Iorga

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| 17:00 – 17:30 | **Refreshment**<br>Salonul Brancovenesc |
| 17:30 – 18:00 | **Introduction to Bucharest history and highlights**<br>Room Nicolae Iorga |
| 18:00 – 19:00 | **Travel to Dinner Venue** |
| 19:00 – 21:00 | **Closing Dinner of ARC7**<br>Joint Dinner with participants of the ARC7 Students' Forum, ARC7 Rectors' Conference, ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM2), ASEM Ministers' of Education (ASEM ME)<br><br>**Venue \| Romanian Athenaeum**<br>*Strada Benjamin Franklin 1-3, București 030167, Romania* |

## Wednesday, 15 May 2019

**Venue | Prahova valley, Dracula Castle, Transilvania University of Brasov**

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| 7:30 – 19:30 | **Optional Cultural Visit**<br>Optional full day cultural trip to Prahova Valley, visiting the Dracula Castle, City of Brasov, with lunch at the courtesy of the Transilvania University of Brasov, **Prof Ioan Vasile ABRUDAN**. |

## 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.

The work of ASEF's Education Department (ASEFEdu) focuses on the themes *access to quality education* and *youth employment*, and, hence, contributes with its projects 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."

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.

### Ministry of Education, Romania

The mission of the Ministry of Education is to provide an educational environment to ensure the harmonious development of all its beneficiaries by promoting excellence and ensuring equal access to education.

For more information, please visit http://edu.ro.

## VISUAL CONCEPT

*The United Nations General Assembly identified 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that encompass many aspects of contemporary society. The goals serve as globally-recognised standards that call upon stakeholders across all sectors, including education, to implement them by 2030. Achieving the SDGs, however, is a complex interplay that requires both strategic thinking as well as creative and innovative methods. Solving a Rubik's cube - one of the most famous educational toys ever - resembles this multifaceted process: it takes not only analytical skills and imagination but also hands-on action in solving the puzzle to get all the colours, sides and patterns right within the given time. Like the pieces in a Rubik's cube, the SDGs are interconnected and any decision to move towards a certain direction has an impact on the overall pattern and outcome. The 7th ASEF Rector's Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7) is the platform for students, rectors, policy-makers and education ministers to showcase the interdisciplinary role of higher education in this serious game of developing and sustaining our societies. While the optimal solution may not be the easiest nor the quickest, we know we are moving the pieces in the right order by taking turns in drafting policy recommendations and making commitments towards the SGDs at ARC7.*

**Co-organised by**

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SNSPA National University of Political Studies and Public Administration

Guvernul României Ministerul Educației Naționale

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