

4th ASEF SUSTAINABLE YOUNG LEADERS DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT POST-COVID-19

A multi-part youth programme in 2021 | Virtual, Cambodia & Across ASEM Countries
Official youth event in support of the 13th ASEM Summit (ASEM13)



Leadership in Action

Economic Diplomacy as an Engine of Growth and Prosperity

Leadership in Action - Project #8

Economic Diplomacy as an Engine of Growth and Prosperity



About the 4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS4)

The [4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit \(ASEFYLS4\)](#) is a 10-month long youth leadership programme connected with the [13th ASEM Summit \(ASEM13\)](#) in Cambodia. The ASEFYLS4 focuses on 'Sustainable Development in a post-COVID-19 World' and incorporates 3 spheres for youth leadership:

- 1) self-leadership (**you**)
- 2) team leadership (**we**) and
- 3) societal leadership (**all**).

To demonstrate the youth's role in driving Sustainable Development, the programme encourages participants to collaborate & volunteer on meaningful community projects with an Asia-Europe twist. Based on the four ASEFYLS4 focus areas (SDG3, SDG4, SDG8 and SDG13), participants are allocated to specific working groups and work on "Leadership in Action" activities. In total, the ASEFYLS4 facilitates 15 community projects, each led by 1 ASEFYLS4 Navigator and supported by up to 10 participants from different Asian & European countries. See the list and outlines of all "Leadership in Action Projects" [here](#).



About the Leadership in Action Project #8

Background

Globalisation and trade liberalisation have been among the key drivers in unlocking new opportunities and fostering development and economic growth on a national, regional & global level. At the same time, both have brought significant challenges, including issues linked to rising inequality, economic exploitation and financial crises.

Given the uncertainties stemming from the current geopolitical and geo-economic landscape, the world is witnessing new waves of protectionism and unilateralism while dealing with the lingering effects of trade war & the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the role and impact of new technologies & climate-

related disasters have also become more profound. These factors, among others, have posed immense pressure on the world economy and the current multilateral trading system.



Outline and Objectives

The project "[Economic Diplomacy as an engine of growth & prosperity – A Policy Brief](#)" emphasises the need for a renewed spirit of multilateralism, which has to be re-inspired and reinvigorated through economic diplomacy. It revolves around how states can utilise economic diplomacy as a tool to enhance international cooperation and therefore attain mutual growth and prosperity. It also calls for a more proactive role of governments in ensuring that growth and benefits fuelled by globalisation and multilateralism are inclusive and sustainable. This will be particularly relevant in the post-COVID-19 world.

This [mini research project, taking place between June to November 2021](#), brings together young researchers, economists and international relations professionals from Asia and Europe. The objective is to share insights from the two regions and individual countries, to jointly conduct research and develop recommendations through a policy brief.

The [synthesised inputs will be put forth to ASEM policy makers for consideration](#) and can serve to contribute to the development of policy frameworks in ASEM partner countries. The policy briefs are also a contribution by the ASEFYLS4 youth to the deliberations of the ASEM Officials in preparation of the 13th ASEM Summit in Cambodia.



Planned Activities



Part 1: Main Policy Brief

All Project participants will collaborate and conduct qualitative research for the Main Policy Brief.

- Outline of the significance of Economic Diplomacy
- Presentation of the current context and trends in Economic Diplomacy
- Introduction of the main issues/challenges for Economic Diplomacy within ASEM
- Synthesis of the relevant research findings
- Suggestions for possible policy options and/or a particular course of actions based on areas/sectors/themes



Part 2: Supplementary Policy Briefs

A pair of participants, ideally each from Asia & Europe and based on academic expertise, will produce supplementary Policy Briefs. These supplementary Policy Brief will build on the Main Policy Brief, but delve into a more specific topic or area of focus.

- Presentation of the context and specific issue
- Engagement and interviews of practitioners, professionals, and experts to gain further insights as well as best practices/lessons learnt (economists, diplomats, policy makers, etc.)
- Synthesis of relevant research findings
- Suggestions of practical solutions and/or policies options

Publishing options of both the Main and Supplementary Policy Briefs will be explored.



Expected Results & Outcomes



Tangible

⇒ **One Main Policy Brief**, presented at the 1st Asia-Europe Economic and Business Forum (AEEBF1), an official side event of the 13th ASEM Summit, on 24 November 2021

⇒ **Up to five Supplementary Policy Briefs by sub-groups**

The practical policy briefs aim at fostering economic growth, resilience building, and the spirit of inclusion and multilateralism.



Intangible

⇒ **Contribution of youth's perspectives** to the efforts of ASEM policy makers (i.e. governments and relevant stakeholders)

⇒ **Awareness creation on the topic of economic diplomacy** and its significance for the post-COVID-19 world across ASEM stakeholders, through wide distribution of Policy Briefs



Project Team

Cambodia	Mr Vongmonasekar Vuthy, Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia (Project Lead)
Australia	Mr Nicholas Pentney, Executive Assistant, RMCC/ Monash University
Belgium	Mr Maxim Vandekerckhove, Assistant Coordinator on Innovation Diplomacy, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Cambodia	Ms Setthikun Sun, International Relations Lecturer, Royal University of Phnom Penh
China	Mr Nan Hao, Political Affairs Program Officer, Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat
Czech Republic	Mr Martin Simacek, President, European Youth Parliament Czech Republic
Hungary	Ms Virág Kemecei, Research Student, Waseda University
Korea	Ms Eunkyung Son, Virtual Sales Account Manager, Cisco Systems,
Latvia	Ms Eliza Semkina, Undergraduate Student, Riga Graduate School of Law,
Lithuania	Ms Aleksandra Golovliova, UN Special Envoy for Road Safety, Global Public Policy and Advocacy
Netherlands	Mr Bartimeüs Heuts, Graduate Student, Leiden University & the Clingendael Institute
Portugal	Ms Carolina de Albuquerque, Blook Book Trainee, European Commission
Viet Nam	Mr Anh Nguyen, Teaching and Research Assistant, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

Further Information

www.asef.org

[4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit \(ASEFYLS4\)](#)

To get in contact with the Project Team:
asefyls@asef.org

Team Photo



Organised by:



ក្រសួងការបរទេស
និងសហប្រតិបត្តិការអន្តរជាតិ
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation



In partnership with:



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Contributing to:



ASEF's contribution is made possible with the financial support of the European Union.