

ASEF Capacity Building Workshop

Equitable Access and Success in Higher Education

15 November – 17 December 2021

OVERVIEW



Organised by



In Collaboration with:



KEY FACTS

Dates | 5-weeks long programme between 15 November – 17 December 2021

Format | The 5-week long programme consists of synchronous (5 live online workshops) and asynchronous (access to materials on ASEF's e-learning platform) learning and exchange activities.

Mode of delivery | Online

Participants | 30 managers, academics and administrators in tertiary higher education institutions in charge of inclusion, access and success initiatives

Outcomes for participants

- Enhanced understanding of advancing equity in universities
- Tailored action plans to enhance inclusion at participants' institutions
- Personal network and Community of Practice on the topic

BACKGROUND

Why are we organising this workshop series?

This project is part ASEF's efforts to promote inclusion, equity and diversity in higher education in Asia and Europe.

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) has been promoting diversity & inclusion since its inception, in the last 25 years. ASEF is regarding this project as a spin-off activity of the recent [8th ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education \(ARC8\)](#) that took place on 10 September 2021. ARC8 is a prime example for dialogue and collaboration between Asia-Europe on the issue of inclusion. One of the main outputs of this conference has been the [ARC8 Outlook Report 2030: Inclusive and Diverse Higher Education in Asia and Europe](#), which provided a set of recommendations to policymakers, and a set of recommendations to higher education leaders to improve equity in their international activities.

This workshop series serves as a forum of practitioners to further explore the usefulness and feasibility of these recommendations and design actions to implement them at their home institutions. Furthermore, the workshop series are designed to **facilitate exchange of good practices and networking** among universities in Asia and Europe; and **inspire stakeholders to take action** along the recommendations provided in the ARC8 Outlook Report.

TOPIC OF THE WORKSHOP SERIES

What is topic of this 5-week long project?

Advancing equitable access and success in higher education institutions.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call for action to shape a better future for all. Universities and their students have a key responsibility to tackle complex societal challenges of our times, manifested in these Goals. While recognising the outstanding results of universities contributing to the SDGs, the recent COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how fragile the achievements on the goals are. According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020, COVID-19 is reversing decades of progress on poverty, healthcare and education. Green and equitable economic recovery is not possible without innovative tertiary education and a renewed commitment to inclusion in tertiary education, if we are to deliver on our promise on leaving no one behind.

The workshop will help participants come up with tailored action plans to address their equity challenges, including:

- **Widening access and admission for underrepresented groups**
 - **Designing equity initiatives in teaching, policies and student services**
 - **Ensuring successful completion of studies, preventing drop-out**
 - **Increasing student success and feeling of belonging**
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DATE AND TIME **When does it take place and how long is it?**
The workshop series is 5 weeks long, taking place between 15 November – 17 December 2021, entirely online.

TARGET GROUP **Who should apply?**
This Workshop series is designed for university managers, administrators and academics who spearhead equity initiatives in their institutions.

We envision about 30 participants from among the 51 ASEM countries to join, **who meet the following criteria:**

- Managers, administrators or academics in tertiary higher education institutions
- Working at a university **in any of the 51 ASEM partner countries**
- Excellent command of English (written and verbal)

Selected participants will have to commit to allocate approximately 3 hours weekly to prepare and participate at the live online workshop sessions. They will be also required to develop and submit an individual action plan at the end of the programme that will be published. This will be the condition of earning a certificate of completion.

Participants will be selected by an Open Call for Application. The screening process will ensure a non-discriminative approach assuring a balanced geographic representation, gender balance and fair access to the opportunity for all. When assessing the applications, **ASEF will look for applicants who meet the eligibility criteria, express strong motivation, and are committed to transform the knowledge and skills gained during the workshops into action.**

PROGRAMME OUTLINE **What are the programme elements of the workshop series?**
It is a 5-week long virtual learning and networking project with collaborative and self-paced learning elements.

The workshop series will take place **entirely online**, with the use of online collaboration tools and platforms. It is a **5-week long engagement with approximately 3-hour commitment per week**. There will be:

- **Synchronous learning elements | Live online sessions each week**
Participants will meet every week and jointly attend a 2-hour long live online group session, led by expert facilitators, featuring speakers from universities and NGOs, sharing good practices and examples on equitable access and success in higher education. Participants will attend these 2-hours long exchange sessions every week.
- **Asynchronous learning elements | On demand**
The learning journey includes self-paced study elements such as readings, videos, case studies, with collaborative learning elements such as live online presentations, group exercises, tailored to the challenges that participants define to work on.

There will be 5 live online sessions throughout the 5-week programme, and participants will be invited to join the [World Access to Higher Education Day 2021](#) on 17 November 2021.

Week 1 | Target Group and Value Proposition
Week 2 | Activities and Resources

- Week 3** | Stakeholders
- Week 4** | Measuring Outcomes and Impact
- Week 5** | Summary and presentation of action plans

OUTCOMES

What do participants get out of the workshop series?

In short: Knowledge, ideas and networks to kick-start their own project at home.

Participants will complete the programme with a key combination of knowledge, practical solutions and new networks which can advance their work in driving innovation. Participants will walk away with:

- **Enhanced understanding of advancing equity in higher education**
The project will help participants to understand the added value of equitable access and success in higher education, expand their knowledge on different strategies on advancing equity at universities, and learn about good practices from other universities in Asia and Europe.
- **Personal network in Asia and Europe**
The workshop will provide diverse opportunities for interaction and cooperation for 30 participants from different countries across Asia and Europe. Therefore, we fully expect new bi-lateral and multi-lateral partnerships to emerge and also hope to build a sustainable community of practice.
- **Tailored action plan to implement at their institutions**
Participants will develop their own action plans to advance equity, which they can implement in their home institution to unlock the full potential of their organisations and their career.

EXPECTED IMPACT

In the long term, the impact of ASEFIInnoLab is expected to realise on four levels.

- Individual level: Inspire **higher education managers** to take the lead on equity initiatives and engage their peers
 - University level: Strengthen **universities'** capacity to advance equity strategies and practices in their operations
 - Policy level: Inform **education policy makers** on universities' roles and strategies in advancing equity in higher education
 - International level: Create a **peer network/community of practice** to support exchange on equity and find opportunities for collaboration
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**ORGANISED
BY****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, public health and media. The work of ASEF's Education Department (ASEFEdu) focuses on the themes digitalization & inclusion, 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 www.ASEF.org.

**IN COLLABORA-
TION WITH****National Education Opportunities Network (NEON) UK**

NEON is the professional organisation supporting those involved in widening access to higher education (HE). NEON enables those working to widen access to HE at all levels and in all sectors to affect change in their own organisations and communities.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.educationopportunities.co.uk/>

Centre for Diversity Policy (ECHO)

ECHO's mission is to contribute to an inclusive society, in which everyone, regardless of origin, can reach their highest potential. We do this through projects that contribute to awareness and understanding of different experiences worlds, such as the Mentor program and the Pre Academic Program. In addition, ECHO develops products that make the power of diversity visible and tangible, such as the ECHO Award and the ECHO study trip.

For more information, please visit: <https://echo-net.nl/en/about-us/>
