



ASEFYLS 2026 Capacity Training Anticipatory Leadership for a Human-Centred Future



Open Call Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

Do YOU(th) want to be a Leader who Embraces Uncertainty and Understands the Importance of Adaptability in Shaping our Futures?

Join the ASEFYLS2026 leadership journey for Asian and European youth!

BACKGROUND

The **ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS)** is a Youth platform that builds **a community of young people from Asia and Europe**. It invites participants to join a learning journey to reflect on and develop their 1) self-leadership (you), 2) team leadership (we), and 3) societal leadership (all). ASEFYLS is designed to **instil a spirit of curiosity, innovation, and intercultural understanding** among young people, who can take over leadership roles and drive society forward through community engagement.

See what the ASEFYLS is all about in this [trailer](#)! Explore previous editions of the programme here: [ASEF Young Leaders Summit Programme](#).

WHAT WILL YOU EXPERIENCE IN #ASEFYLS2026?

Selected participants of the ASEFYLS Capacity Training 2026 will have the chance to:



Receive training from experts in the field: developing your understanding of Anticipatory Leadership, Futures Thinking, and Foresight.



Strengthen your intercultural understanding: learn directly from your peers by interacting with a diverse group of young Asians and Europeans from different academic and professional backgrounds.



Build networks for interregional cooperation: making life-long friends and opening doors for cross-regional collaboration and exchange.



Create international impact: bring back your learnings to your local community and help create a larger impact of the programme and spread the knowledge of 'Anticipatory Leadership for a Human-Centred Future'.

QUICK FACTS

When and Where?

- **Training Phase** | 9 June – 30 July 2026 | Online
- **Action Phase** | August – November 2026 | In local communities
- **[For selected participants] Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic** | 23-29 August 2026 | Tromsø, Norway

Are there any fees involved?

There are no registration or participation fees!

For further information check the [FAQ](#) or sign up to our [FAQ Webinar](#). For other questions, email us: asefys@asef.org

ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA

100-120 youth leaders from across Asia and Europe will be selected to join the programme, based on the following criteria:

Eligibility criteria:

- Students and young professionals between 18-30 years
- Citizens of eligible [Asian and European countries](#)*
- Playing a leading role in a Youth Organisation/ Student Association (not exclusive to board members, executive committees)
- Excellent command of English (verbal and written)

Selection criteria that will be considered:

- Originality of the **motivational statement** and quality of written answers.
- Demonstrated experience in **societal leadership** in a youth/student organisation/association, which could enrich the diversity of expertise and perspectives of the overall participant group.
- Ability to **create impact and multiplier effect** in their local community through their engagement in the programme and on the topic.
- *Selection for the 'Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic' in Norway will be made based on the above criteria and on active engagement in the Training Phase.*

The Open Call and screening process will ensure a non-discriminative approach assuring an even geographic representation, gender balance, and fair access to the opportunity for all.

**All ASEF projects are implemented in line with the decision of the ASEF Board of Governors.*

THEME: 'ANTICIPATORY LEADERSHIP FOR A HUMAN CENTRED FUTURE'

This year's theme is 'Anticipatory Leadership for a Human Centred Future'. By developing an Anticipatory Leadership Mindset, you will strengthen your capacity and habit of using the future to inform the present by analysing trends. You will be challenged to explore a range of future scenarios, and using the insights gained to question assumptions, adjust your leadership style, and take collaborative, adaptive action, that move systems toward more equitable and sustainable futures. We are looking for motivated youth who are actively engaged in youth and student life and wish to develop their personal and professional skills to better lead in an uncertain future and who can contribute to the development of their local communities.

**EXPECTED LEARNINGS OUTCOMES**

By the end of the programme, participants should be able to:



Demonstrate a clear understanding of anticipatory leadership and its related concepts, including futures thinking, strategic foresight, systems thinking, and horizon scanning, in support of human-centred leadership.



Analyse trends, weak signals, and system interconnections across local, regional, and global contexts to better understand how change emerges and how future challenges may evolve.



Critically assess the opportunities and limitations of emerging technologies and AI in foresight, while applying ethical, inclusive, sustainable, and human-centred principles.



Translate anticipatory leadership learning into practical action, adapting insights to their own contexts, driving their own organisations forward and designing multiplier activities for their communities.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The ASEFYLS2026 programme consists of 2 programme elements, with an additional programme element for a selected number of participants:

PHASE	COMMITMENT	COSTS
TRAINING PHASE 9 June – 30 July 2026 Online		
An exploration into 'Anticipatory Leadership for a Human-Centred Future' with trainings from thematic experts. Explore anticipatory leadership styles, systems thinking in different contexts, and how various sectors can apply an anticipatory framework in their organisations.	- Actively participate in 2 live sessions a week on Tuesdays (8am–9:30 am UTC) and Thursdays (8am–10am UTC) online - Contribute to Study Group discussions - Contribute to Forum discussions	ASEF covers all costs related to the training. The estimated value of the Training is SGD 1,000 per person, which ASEF covers.
ACTION PHASE August – November 2026 In Local Communities		
Translating theory into action, participants will have to organise multiplier events in their local communities.	Organise an activity (online/in-person) in their local community to:	ASEF will be able to provide funding support to a selected number of participants to implement their multiplier events to help cover

See examples of what previous participants organised as part of the [Action Phase here](#).

- promote Asia-Europe exchange
- multiply the impact of the training by disseminating knowledge on the topic

expenses such as venues, speakers, online meeting licenses etc. (depending on the type of event organised).

This is in addition to in-kind support such as access to ASEF network of speakers and communication platforms.

ASIA-EUROPE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING: ANTICIPATORY LEADERSHIP IN THE ARCTIC | 23– 29 August 2026 | Tromsø, Norway

Note: Based on engagement and commitment during the Training Phase, 40 participants will be selected to join

40 participants will be invited to join the 'Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic' in Tromsø, Norway. This in-person training will continue to explore the topic of anticipatory leadership by examining the Arctic as a case study. It will also provide further opportunities for people-to-people exchanges, dialogues with experts, networking, and learning in a local context.

The Training is organised in partnership with the Arctic University of Tromsø (UiT), and the European Youth Capital 2026: "True North – Tromsø 2026."

- *If selected*, participants are expected to have actively participated in the full Online Training and to actively participate in the full on-site 'Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic' in Norway.

ASEF covers the costs of:

- **5-day** training programme;
- **accommodation** in shared twin rooms;
- **meals**, adjusted for participants who have special dietary requirements, as much as possible;
- **travel subsidy** (including economy flights, insurance, visa fees) from your country of residence to Norway and back [*provided on a reimbursement basis i.e. participants will pay the costs upfront and will be reimbursed up to 3-months after the event*];
- **visa support letter** to those who require it.

The estimated value of the 'Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic' is SGD 6,500 per person, which ASEF covers.

See more details and the timeline of commitments in the [Programme here](#).

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY!](#)



STILL NOT CONVINCED?

Read the testimonials of previous participants to learn more about what you can experience!



“ASEFYLS 2024 was a life-changing journey that sparked a deep passion within me to contribute to a world that is more just and sustainable. The late-night talks with fellow participants, where we shared ideas and learned about Society 5.0 with its global challenges, will forever remain etched in my reflection. The programme empowered me with the tools to lead transformative projects, like our new initiative to foster cultural exchange through innovative digital platforms. I am now more determined than ever to carry forward the invaluable lessons from ASEFYLS, driving meaningful change and inspiring the next wave of leaders to shape a better Society 5.0

Shabil Syach (Jau) PACHLEFI
ASEFYLS2024 Participant from [Indonesia](#)



“In this super diverse cohort of youth from so many countries, I felt a lot of belonging from the beginning. Even though we all have very different backgrounds, what connects us is the openness to learn and to drive change in our communities. Seeing others equally passionate about their work and our insightful conversations gave me a lot of energy and motivated me even more to do the work I'm doing.

Annika MAURER
ASEFYLS2024 Participant from [Germany](#)

WATCH THE **HIGHLIGHTS FROM PREVIOUS EDITIONS** AND LISTEN TO PARTICIPANTS REFLECT ON THEIR EXPERIENCES!

ASEFYLS
Trailer



ASEFYLS6
Highlights



Interviews with
ASEFYLS6 Participants



ASEFYLS2024
Highlights



JOIN A COMMUNITY OF 900+ YOUNG LEADERS!

**[CLICK HERE
TO APPLY!](#)**

The Open Call for Application will close on Tuesday, 12 May 2026 at 23.59 UTC!

There are no registration or participation fees!

*All the applicants will go through the selection process and will receive an email about the outcome by
Monday, 1 June 2026.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Q1: I am older than 30 years old. Am I still eligible to apply?

This programme is addressed to youth between 18-30 years old. You may still apply if you believe you have a lot to contribute to the programme, as applicants up to the age of 35 may be selected under exceptional circumstances. However, priority will be given to applicants who are a closer fit to the eligibility criteria.

Q2: If I am a citizen from an eligible country, but currently living in a non-eligible country, can I apply?

Yes, you are welcome to apply. Please note that you are required to join synchronous online sessions during the programme, and these may fall beyond usual work hours for those residing outside Asia/Europe.

Q3: When will I know if I have been selected for the 'Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic'?

The selection will be made on a rolling basis, from the commencement of the online Training based on active engagement and visa requirements. All selected participants will be informed by 19 June 2026.

Q4: Will I receive a certificate of participation?

Each participant will receive a Certificate of Participation upon completion of the full programme, jointly issued by ASEF and organising partners. Participants of the 'Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic' will also receive a separate certificate for their participation on-site.

Q5: Is the programme inclusive?

We aim to make all our projects as inclusive as possible and to accommodate the needs of the participants. We will, therefore, request all selected participants to provide the information of their special requirements.

Q6: I do not have experience in such a programme. Can I still apply?

Yes, we welcome applicants from all backgrounds, whether you have participated in similar programmes before or not. The programme is designed to be inclusive of people with different

levels of prior experience and knowledge. We recognise that participants both have a lot to learn from, and bring to our programme. We will base the application selection on the criteria above.

Q7: What does it mean to be 'Playing a leading role in a youth organisation/student organisation' according to the eligibility criteria?

We are looking for participants who are already leading a team or leading activities within their own community, and are in a position to make decisions and take initiative in their organisation. For example, you are a president or board member; a programme/event officer; leading a project within your organisation; or coordinator of student representatives at your university.

Q8: Can I participate in only one part of the programme (either the Online Training or the 'Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic')?

All selected participants are required to complete both the online Training and the Action Phase. In addition, participants selected to attend the 'Asia-Europe Youth Leadership Training: Anticipatory Leadership in the Arctic' will be expected to complete the full online Training beforehand, attend the event in-person in Norway, and then complete the Action Phase upon returning home. However, if you are unable to or prefer not to attend the Norway component, you may indicate this in the Application Form. There will be a field where you can indicate your availability for specific programme components.

Q9: What support is provided for the Multiplier Activities?

The ASEF team and Organising Partners will support the participants with advice and, where possible, with human resources on administration, communication, outreach, and stakeholder liaison. In addition, there will be a possibility for participants to apply for financial resources (if required) to implement their event/activity..

For other questions:

- [Join our FAQ Webinar on 21 April 2026 at 16:00 SGT / 10:00 CEST](#)
- or drop us an email: asefys@asef.org

ORGANISED BY:**LOCAL HOSTS AND SUPPORTERS:**

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Flags represent countries that contributed to ASEF's General Pool for the previous year, as of 01 January 2026

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