



*A Framework for
Lifelong Learning Research in the
ASEM Region: 2020-2025*

ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning

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Rialtas na hÉireann
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The Mission

The ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub) aims to lead a research and policy agenda on lifelong learning in the ASEM region that addresses the various complexities of contemporary society. Today's challenges include those encountered by ordinary people in their day-to-day lives up to global ones. Lifelong learning allows individuals, communities, and wider society to acquire learning throughout the lifecycle in everything from basic education to advanced skills and knowledge, in how to live with each other in a changing world and how to live our lives better.

Lifelong learning is the essential paradigm of the contemporary era. In this era skills, careers, where one might live, work, and learn are predictable only to the extent that they are unpredictable, where technology, climate, migration, security and global health for instance are presenting ever new challenges. The concept of education being linear, divided into phases, having exit points and conclusions is no longer valid.

The ASEM LLL Hub offers Asia and Europe an unparalleled mechanism for engaging in high-level, policy-oriented research on futures in lifelong learning, drawing on rich traditions and exciting new trends in both regions

Collaboration and partnership building will be the key mission of the ASEM LLL Hub. The Hub shall consolidate its mission to maintain an international network for research and policy engagement on lifelong learning. It shall include researchers, practitioners, policymakers and all lifelong learning stakeholders within this network with the aim of generating evidence-based outcomes to understand current trends and influence future directions in lifelong learning in the ASEM region.

Statement of Intent

1. Recognising that lifelong learning is one of the four priority areas of the ASEM Education Process and one of the four strategic objectives of the ASEM Education Strategy 2030, it is intended that the ASEM LLL Hub and the Research Networks shall have a significant role in building robust engagement between researchers, policy makers and stakeholders in identifying research topics and translating research results into policy recommendations.
2. The ASEM LLL Hub shall be oriented by a collaborative approach that ensures that all partners in learning and education have opportunities to engage, and that all regions of ASEM and their diverse populations are fairly represented.
3. The work of the ASEM LLL Hub shall be influenced in all its activities by the need to urgently address sustainable development as a transversal imperative, as expressed in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It shall be cognizant of global challenges, policies, and international commitments especially as they relate to lifelong learning.
4. The ASEM LLL Hub shall be oriented to a vision of lifelong learning that helps enable people to thrive in a carbon-neutral, digital age; our approach goes beyond considerations of human capital to the broader dimensions of development and progress in living standards, including the rights, and enabling environments that widen people's opportunities and improve their wellbeing (Work for a Brighter Future: Global Commission on the Future of Work, 2019).
5. Lifelong learning is key to helping prepare people to deal with the increasing complexity and unpredictability, not just of labour markets, but life on the planet. The ASEM LLL Hub research mission shall maintain a longer-term trajectory aimed at equipping learners for sustainable futures as we emerge from Covid-19, adapt to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, deal with climate change, mass migration and increased contingency.

6. The ASEM LLL Hub's programme of research and enquiry shall be aimed at enabling a dynamic lifelong learning context for all in the ASEM region. It will be a programme that supports all citizens to engage in learning through the life course, modelled on a revision of the Delors Report adding learning to live with others to the existing four pillars of learning: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together, and learning to be.
7. The ASEM LLL Hub shall seek strategic *partnerships with other organisations, like the ASEM Education Secretariat, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), and to support its mission and create synergies, for example by jointly organising activities* and to support its mission to publish and disseminate the outcomes and outputs or its work as widely as possible.
8. The ASEM LLL Hub and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) shall develop a long-term partnership to enhance cooperation and synergies on areas of mutual interest and to reciprocally contribute to activities and processes of each organisation.
9. The ASEM LLL Hub shall be available as a consultancy resource for governments and global organisations in policy development on lifelong learning.
10. The ASEM LLL hub shall provide a platform for discussion and dissemination of comparative research on lifelong learning policy and programmes in European and Asian countries, thereby promoting international cooperation and understanding.

A Common Research Agenda

The Research Networks share a common interest in the research and policy agenda on lifelong learning in the ASEM region. This agenda fits within of the ASEM Education Process and relates to key global strategies such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It shall be cognisant of international policies related to lifelong learning emanating from UNESCO, the International Labour Organisation and other UN bodies, governmental and intergovernmental organisations and other key policies, reports and developments that impact lifelong learning in Asia and Europe.

Among the common themes that each Research Network shall consider are equity and inclusion; identity, respect and dignity; digital education and ICT; demographic trends such as ageing and migration; knowledge, policy and capacity building in lifelong learning across the ASEM region; and engagement with civil society and community based lifelong learning.

Research Network Organisation

1. A Council of Research Network Coordinators shall be established and shall meet regularly as directed by the Chair of the ASEM LLL Hub.
2. The Chair ASEM LLL Hub shall develop the terms of reference for the Council of Research Network Coordinators.
3. The ASEM LLL Hub will be organised into a number of Research Networks, those active at this time being:
 - RN1: e ASEM (Digital Learning Management System, Techno- Pedagogic Skills and knowledge network communities in Lifelong Learning)
 - RN2: Workplace Learning
 - RN3: Professionalisation of Adult Teachers and Educators in ASEM countries
 - RN4: National strategies for Lifelong Learning
 - RN5: Lifelong Learning Transitions

RN6: Learning Cities and Learning Regions

4. Additional Research Networks may be added to accommodate additional lines of research and/or emerging areas.
 5. A set of terms of reference shall be developed for research networks (including criteria for membership, types of member and processes for becoming members) which shall be approved by the Council of Coordinators
 6. Each Research Network shall develop an operational plan for three year period starting on 1 January 2021 (including key activities, milestones, workplan for each year of the period) which it shall bring to the Council of Research Network Coordinators. There shall be regular updates and a mid-term review of progress.
 7. Each Research Network shall have a Coordinator and two Joint-Coordinators: Joint-Coordinator (Asia) and Joint-Coordinator (Europe)
 8. Each Research Network shall endeavour to have equitable gender and geographical spread
 9. In line with the Statement of Intent, each Research Network shall adopt its own research programme, synergetic with that of the ASEM education process. Each Research Network shall be encouraged to build synergies with all of the other Research Networks and cooperate on Joint events, publications, reports and other actions.
 10. All Research Networks are encouraged to collaborate with the wider research community and with relevant stakeholders including civil society, public and private organisations
 11. ASEM LLL Hub results, reports and other outcomes shall be open source, unless there are specific exemptions for ethical, proprietary or other justifiable reasons.
 12. Among the platforms for dissemination shall be the websites of ASEM LLL Hub, ASEM Education Secretariat and partner organisations, the ASEM Infoboard, via Ministries of Education in Asia and Europe, and official meetings of ASEM and the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).
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