



7<sup>th</sup> 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

# Students' Forum Programme



Co-organised by



In Partnership with



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

## Programme Overview

Synergies with the ASEM Education Senior Officials' and Ministers' Meeting

Saturday 11 May	Sunday 12 May	Monday 13 May	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May
STUDENTS' FORUM					
	RECTORS' CONFERENCE				
			SOM	MINISTERS' MEETING	

## Programme

### Saturday, 11 May 2019

**Venue | Student Hostel of National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA)**  
Emanoil Bacaloglu Street no. 2, District 1, Bucharest

Throughout the day	Arrival of participants, check-in and registration  <b>Venue   Hotel Casa de Oaspeti Batistei</b> <i>Emanoil Bacaloglu Street no. 2, District 1, Bucharest</i>
17:00 – 18:00	Briefing for Participants ASEF Education Department and Team SNSPA
18:00 – 20:00	Welcome Dinner Greetings on behalf of the host, SNSPA  <b>Venue   Hotel Casa de Oaspeti Batistei</b> <i>Emanoil Bacaloglu Street no. 2, District 1, Bucharest</i>

### Sunday, 12 May 2019

**Venue | National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA)**  
Bd. Expoziției 30A, Sector 1, Bucharest, Romania

8.00	Meeting and travel to the SNSPA Campus
09.00-09.30	<b>Welcome Remarks by the Hosts</b> Room P03 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN</b>, Director, Education Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Remus PRICOPIE</b>, Rector, National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA)</li> </ul>
09.30-09.45	<b>Group Photo</b> Room P03

09.45-10.45	<p><b>OPENING PANEL DISCUSSION</b> <b>"Intergenerational Dialogue on Sustainable Development"</b> Room P03 The aim of this session is to explore how the substance of sustainable development has evolved over time, how the role of students and higher education institutions has changed in fostering sustainable development. Panellists representing different generations will discuss the responsibility of different stakeholders (university, students, business, governments), and the importance of different values when it comes to partnership among these sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Prof Cezar BIRZEA</b>, Department of International Relations and European Integration, SNSPA</li><li>▪ <b>Mr Valentin FLOREA</b>, Secretary-General of UN Youth Association, Romania</li><li>▪ <b>Dr Catalina GOANTA</b>, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Maastricht University</li></ul> <p>Moderated by <b>Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN</b>, Director, Education Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)</p>
10:45-11:15	<p><b>RAPID FIRE PRESENTATIONS</b> Room P03 Summary of the online preparatory phase of the Students' Forum, selected student representatives will present the outcomes of their online working group</p>
11.15-12.30	<p><b>WORKING GROUP SESSIONS</b> These are interactive and facilitated discussions on the topic, where the students come up with their policy recommendations. There are 3 parallel sessions running at the same time:</p> <p><b>WG1 Taking action at home - SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance</b> WG1 Room P04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Co-moderators are <b>Mr Robert NAPIER</b>, Vice-President, European Students' Union (ESU) and <b>Ms Nur Syahirah KHANUM</b>, Delegate of the International Islamic University Malaysia</li><li>▪ Rapporteur: <b>Mr Syed Raihan-UI-Islam</b>, Student and Assistant Director, Daffodil International University, Bangladesh</li></ul> <p><b>WG2 Taking action at community level – SDGs as Drivers of University Social Impact</b> WG2 Room 107</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Co-moderators are <b>Dr Georgiana MIHUT</b>, Board Member, Erasmus Mundus Student and Alumni Association (EMA); and <b>Mr Jayren TEO</b>, Co-Chairman of the ASEAN Youth Organisation</li><li>▪ Rapporteur: <b>Ms Aleksandra STEFANOVA</b>, student, Sofia University St Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria</li></ul> <p><b>WG3 Taking action at international level – SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation</b> WG3 Room 108</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Co-moderators are <b>Ms Patricia GONÇALVES</b>, External Member of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) and Member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe; and <b>Ms Jungyoon HAN</b>, President, Organisation for the Cooperation, Exchange and Networking Among Students and Alumni (OCEANS)</li><li>▪ Rapporteur: <b>Ms Dhruvi CHAKRAVARTHI</b>, Student, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom</li></ul>
12.30-13.30	Lunch

13.30-15.00	<p><b>WORKING GROUP SESSIONS (Continued)</b></p> <p>WG1 Room P04 WG2 Room 107 WG3 Room 108</p>
15.00-15.30	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
15.30-17.00	<p><b>WORKING GROUP SESSIONS (Continued)</b></p> <p>WG1 Room P04 WG2 Room 107 WG3 Room 108</p>
17.00-17.15	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
17.15-18.00	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b> <b>Junior-Senior Thought Workshop on University Governance</b> Opportunity for in-depth personal conversation with senior university leaders, who will act as mentors throughout the working group discussions. Students stay in their 3 parallel working groups and the following mentors take the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>WG1: Prof Pornchai MONGHONVANIT</b>, President, Siam University, Thailand Room P04</li> <li>▪ <b>WG2: Prof Dr HUBER Stephan Gerhard</b>, Head of the Institute for the Management and Economics of Education, University of Teacher Education (PH) Zug, Switzerland Room 107</li> <li>▪ <b>WG3: Prof Anne PAKIR</b>, Associate Vice President (University and Global Relations), National University of Singapore Room 108</li> </ul>
18.00-18.30	<p><b>Travel to the venue of dinner</b></p>
19.00-21.00	<p><b>Dinner</b> Joint dinner among Students' Forum and Rectors' Conference participants</p> <p><b>Venue   Hotel Intercontinental</b> Bulevardul Nicolae Bălcescu 4, București 010051, Romania</p>

## Monday, 13 May 2019

### Venue | Palace of the Parliament

Calea 13 Septembrie 1, Sector5, Bucharest, Romania

08:00 – 09:00	<p><b>Arrival to the Palace of the Parliament and Joint Panel discussion with the Rectors' Conference</b></p>
09:00 – 09:10	<p><b>Welcome Remarks of the Rectors' Conference</b> Room Nicolae Iorga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Remus PRICOPIE</b>, Rector, National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>HE Karsten WARNECKE</b>, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)</li> </ul>
<p>09:10 – 09:15</p>	<p><b>Message from the Presidents' Office</b>          Room Nicolae Iorga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ms Ligia DECA</b>, State Adviser, Department of Education and Research, Office of the President of Romania</li> </ul>
<p>09:15 – 09:45</p>	<p><b>Key Messages</b>          Room Nicolae Iorga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mr Ramu DAMODARAN</b>, Chief, United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Adrian CURAJ</b>, General Director, Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI), Romania, and UNESCO Chair on Science and Innovation Policies</li> </ul>
<p>09:45 – 10:45</p>	<p><b>Opening Panel Discussion of the Rectors' Conference</b>  <b>Taking action at home: SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance</b>          Room Nicolae Iorga</p> <p>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 (like employability, skills for the labour market).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Pam FREDMAN</b>, President, International Association of Universities (IAU)</li> <li>▪ <b>Ms Katrina KOPPEL</b>, Vice-President, European Students' Union (ESU)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Michael MURPHY</b>, President, European University Association (EUA)</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Anne PAKIR</b>, Associate Vice President (University &amp; Global Relations), National University of Singapore (NUS)</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by <b>Prof Remus PRICOPIE</b>, Rector, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA)</p>
<p>10:45 – 11:00</p>	<p><b>ARC Origins, Mission and Vision</b>          Room Nicolae Iorga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN</b>, Director, Education Department, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)</li> </ul>
<p>11:00 – 11:30</p>	<p><b>Family Photo and Coffee Break</b></p>
<p>11:30 – 13:00</p>	<p><b>WORKING GROUP SESSIONS (Continued)</b></p> <p>WG1 Room Nicolae Iorga          WG2 Room European Affairs Commission          WG3 Room Foreign Affairs Commission</p>
<p>13:00 – 14:00</p>	<p><b>Lunch with university leaders from Asia and Europe</b>          Salonul Brancovenesc</p>

14:00 – 15:30	<b>WORKING GROUP SESSIONS (Continued)</b>  WG1 Room Nicolae Iorga WG2 Room European Affairs Commission WG3 Room Foreign Affairs Commission
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b> Salonul Brancovenesc
16:00 – 17:00	<b>Junior-Senior Thought Workshop on Education Governance/Policy</b> Room Drepturile Omului  Opportunity to discuss the draft policy recommendations with senior officials, the secondary target group of the recommendations. 3 parallel sessions conducted by SOMs arriving to the SOM2 meeting the day before. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Mr Stelios CHRISTOPHIDES</b>, Senior Education Officer, Department of Higher and Tertiary Education, Ministry of Education and Culture, Cyprus</li><li>▪ <b>Mr Pham Quang HUNG</b>, Director General, Ministry of Education and Training, Viet Nam</li></ul>
17:00 – 18:00	<b>Administrative Briefing, Followed by Q&amp;A and Free Time</b> Room Drepturile Omului
18:00 – 19:00	<b>Travel to the venue of the dinner</b>
19:00 – 22:00	<b>Dinner and Cultural Evening</b> Joint dinner with the participants of the Rectors' Conference from the 51 ASEM countries  Welcome Remarks by HE <b>Radu SAFTA</b> , ASEM Senior Officials and Director General Global Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania  <b>Venue   National Museum of Art of Romania</b> Calea Victoriei 49-53, București 010063

## Tuesday, 14 May 2019

### Venue | Palace of the Parliament

Calea 13 Septembrie 1, Sector5, Bucharest, Romania

08:00 – 09:00	Arrival to the Palace of the Parliament
09:00 – 10:30	<b>WORKING GROUP SESSIONS (Continued)</b> Finalisation of Recommendations in the 3 working groups  WG1 Room Drepturile Omului WG2 Room European Affairs Commission WG3 Room Foreign Affairs Commission
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b> Salonul Brancovenesc
11:00 – 12:30	<b>INTRODUCTION OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS IN PLENARY</b>

	<p>Room Drepturile Omului</p> <p>The 3 Working Groups introduce the Policy Recommendations to the members of the other Working Groups, the students jointly finalise the recommendations.</p> <p>Co-moderators of this session are <b>Mr Robert NAPIER</b>, Vice-President, European Students' Union (ESU); and <b>Ms Jungyoon HAN</b>, President, Organisation for the Cooperation, Exchange and Networking Among Students and Alumni (OCEANS)</p>
<p>12:30 – 14:00</p>	<p><b>Lunch</b> Salonul Brancovenesc</p>
<p>14:00 – 15:00</p>	<p><b>Closing Panel Discussion of the ARC7 Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum</b> <b>Taking Action in Asia and Europe: Cooperation and Partnerships on SDGs</b> Room Nicolai Iorga</p> <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Göran FINNVEDEN</b>, Vice President for Sustainability, KTH, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden</li> <li>▪ <b>Dr Pornchai MONGKHONVANIT</b>, President, Siam University, Thailand</li> <li>▪ <b>Mr Joao PINTO</b>, President, Erasmus Student Network (ESN)</li> <li>▪ <b>Deputy Minister Dr Alma Ruby C TORIO</b>, Department of Education, The Philippines</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by <b>Ms Leonie NAGARAJAN</b>, Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)</p>
<p>15:00 – 16:15</p>	<p><b>Presentation of Policy Recommendations</b> from the Rectors' Conference and the Students' Forum, followed by discussion and Q&amp;A Room Nicolai Iorga</p>
<p>16:15 – 17:00</p>	<p><b>Hand-over of the ARC7 Rectors' and Students' Policy Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Dr Ecaterina ANDRONESCU</b>, Minister of National Education, Romania, Host of the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME7)</li> <li>▪ <b>ASEM Minister of Education, Asia</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Reflections and closing remarks</b> Room Nicolai Iorga</p>
<p>17:00 – 18:00</p>	<p><b>Debriefing for Students' Forum Participants</b> Room Drepturile Omului</p>
<p>18:00 – 18:45</p>	<p><b>Travel to the dinner venue</b></p>
<p>19:00 – 21:00</p>	<p><b>Closing Dinner of ARC7</b> Joint Dinner with participants of the ARC7 Students' Forum, ARC7 Rectors' Conference, ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM2), ASEM Ministers' of Education (ASEM ME)</p> <p><b>Venue   Romanian Athenaeum</b> <i>Strada Benjamin Franklin 1-3, București 030167, Romania</i></p>

---

**Wednesday, 15 May 2019**

**Venue | InterContinental Bucharest, Rapsodia Ball Room**

---

08:30 – 09:30	<b>Education Leaders Dialogue – Higher Education for Sustainable Development</b> with <b>Mr Ramu DAMODARAN</b> , Chief, United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Education Leaders Dialogue – Europe: 7<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME7)</b> with <b>Dr Tibor NAVRACSICS</b> , European Commissioner for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
11:15 – 12:15	<b>Education Leaders Dialogue - Asia: 7<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME7)</b> with <b>Hon Evarist Bartolo</b> , Minister for Education and Employment Vice Minister, Malta
Throughout the morning 09:00 – 12:00	Possible informal meetings between ARC7 student representatives with their respective Education Ministers participating in the 7th ASEM Ministers' of Education Meeting (ASEM ME7)

---



**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](http://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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 SDGs at ARC7.

### Co-organised by



National University of Political  
Studies and Public Administration



MINISTERUL  
EDUCAȚIEI  
NAȚIONALE

### In partnership with



### Supported by



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