

# Equitable Access to Higher Education

ASEF Capacity Building Training in conjunction with  
World Access to Higher Education Day 2019

24-27 November 2019 | Edinburgh, United Kingdom

## Participants Booklet



Organised by



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of EDINBURGH

PARTICIPANTS				
	Country	Name	Designation	University/Institution
1.	Afghanistan	Professor Azizullah AMIR	Professor	Moraa Educational Complex
2.	Australia	Mr Anthony GARTNER	Associate Director, Student Equity and AccessAbility Services	Swinburne University of Technology
3.	Austria	Ms Elke WELP-PARK	Researcher	University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria (FHÖÖ)
4.	Bangladesh	Mr Md. Fahad Bin ZAMAL	Associate Head and Assistant Professor	Daffodil International University
5.	Croatia	Ms Sandra NUŽDIĆ	Office Manager and Student Counsellor	University of Rijeka
6.	Indonesia	Ms Prita Ika DEWI	Head of Planning and Development Department	Universitas Ma Chung
7.	Ireland	Ms Deirdre CREEDON	Access Officer	Cork Institute of Technology
8.	Japan	Ms Junko TAKAHARA	Assistant Manager of International Affairs Department	Okayama University
9.	Latvia	Dr Baiba PĒTERSONE	Director of International Department	Rīga Stradiņš University
10.	Malaysia	Dr Zaid OMAR	Director of Holistic Student Division	Ministry of Higher Education
11.	Pakistan	Professor Ghazala YASMEEN	Vice Chancellor	Women University Mardan
12.	Pakistan	Professor Riaz AHMED	Director Post Graduate Programs	Bahria University
13.	Pakistan	Ms Sarah PARVEZ	Head of Higher Education & Skills	British Council
14.	Philippines	Dr Edizon FERMIN	Vice President for Academic Affairs	National Teacher's College
15.	Philippines	Ms Aurora LACASTE	University Registrar	University of the Philippines - Open University
16.	Portugal	Mr José Ricardo MIRANDA DIAS	Rector's Advisor for Public Policy	University of Coimbra
17.	Spain	Ms Gemma XARLES-JUBANY	Director Globalization & Cooperation Unit	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)
18.	Sweden	Ms Madelene HENRIKSGÅRD	International Coordinator	Stockholm University
19.	United Kingdom	Ms Annabel BOUD	Programme Manager Policy	Commonwealth Scholarship Commission
20.	Viet Nam	Mr Son NGUYEN VAN	Lecturer	Thuyloi University

RESOURCE PERSONS				
	Country	Name	Role	University/Institution
1.	United Kingdom	Dr Graeme ATHERTON	Trainer	National Education Opportunities Network
2.	United Kingdom	Mr Martin WEBSTER	Trainer	National Education Opportunities Network
3.	Hungary	Ms Reka TOZSA	Organiser	Asia-Europe Foundation
4.	Norway	Ms Hege KALLBEKKEN	Organiser	Asia-Europe Foundation
5.	Pakistan	Ms Nishat RIAZ	Speaker	British Council Pakistan
6.	United Kingdom	Mr David WOOLLEY	Speaker	Nottingham Trent University
7.	Germany	Ms Paddy SENGE	Young Reporter	Orange Magazine, European Youth Press
8.	India	Ms Dhruvi CHAKRAVARTHI	Young Reporter	The Student Newspaper, University of Edinburgh

## PARTICIPANTS

**Professor Azizullah  
AMIR  
Afghanistan  
Professor  
Moraa Educational  
Complex**



Professor Azizullah AMIR is a seasoned cardiologist, philanthropist and educator. He is the Founder of Moraa Educational Complex (MEC) for women in Afghanistan, Founder & director of the Afghan hospital and serves on the board of directors at the Private Hospitals Association (APHA) and Association of Private Universities. He joined the Cardiovascular Department of Kabul Medical University as an Associate Professor in 2003 and still lectures there today on a full-time basis to medical students and other youth of Afghanistan studying in Kabul. Professor Amir received his medical degree from Kabul Medical University in 2002 and has been continuing his education ever since. He holds a Diploma in Clinical Cardiology from Escorts Hearts Institute and Research Center, India, a Diploma in Echocardiography and Color Doppler from the Open Global University of India, and a Masters in Preventive Cardiology from Imperial College London.

**Mr Anthony GARTNER  
Australia  
Associate Director,  
Student Equity and  
AccessAbility Services  
Swinburne  
University of  
Technology**



Mr Anthony GARTNER is a Social Worker passionate about access to education for students with difficult circumstances, including those living with disability, those from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds and those who have spent time in institutional or foster care during childhood. With a fundamental belief in the value and power of education to transform, Mr Gartner strives to provide programs, strategies and policy to ensure equitable access to education for those who might otherwise miss out.

**Ms Elke WELP-PARK  
Austria  
Researcher  
University of Applied  
Sciences Upper  
Austria (FHÖÖ)**



Ms Elke WELP-PARK is part of the higher education research and development team at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria. She studied social and economic history at the University of Hamburg and has been working in higher education research in various contexts since 2009 (University of Klagenfurt, University of Vienna, FHÖÖ, WPZ Research). She is currently in the process of completing her PhD on tenure and academic careers in Austria. Her research interests also include changes in university governance and diversity issues in higher education. Over the last two years she has been actively involved in the development of diversity management tools in higher education in the framework of an ongoing Erasmus plus project (EnhanceIDM).

**Mr Md. Fahad Bin  
ZAMAL  
Bangladesh  
Associate Head and  
Assistant Professor  
Daffodil International  
University**



Mr Md. Fahad Bin ZAMAL is the Associate Head and Assistant Professor in Software Engineering Department at Daffodil International University, Bangladesh. He completed his MSc from Queen Mary University of London and worked there as a Student Mentor. He was invited as a visiting faculty of Chitkara University, India in Global Week. He was also invited as a resource person of National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMCO), Government of Bangladesh. He has many scholarly articles in reputed journal and conference and awarded with Best Research Award in 2017. He has significant contribution in policy making of Daffodil International University to provide equitable access among students from different socio-economic background. He has vast experience in public, private, national and international tertiary level education system and perceived how effective policy making can create

**Ms Sandra NUŽDIĆ**  
Croatia  
Office Manager and  
Student Counsellor  
University of Rijeka



impact in greater equity in access and participation in higher education.

Ms Sandra NUŽDIĆ currently manages the Office for Students with Disabilities at the University of Rijeka Counselling Centre and works as a student counsellor within the same office. She has a Master's degree in Education from both the University of Rijeka, Croatia and University of Cambridge, UK and her professional focus has been within higher education topics, such as university civic mission, service learning and working with vulnerable groups of students. Since 2016 she has been studying to be an accredited psychotherapist in The school of cybernetics and systems therapy in Rijeka. In addition to working within a university setting, she has worked at the local government level and has been active in the civil sector both as a professional and volunteer. Ms Nuždić has lived in US, UK and UAE but spent most of her life as an active citizen of Croatia.

**Ms Prita Ika DEWI**  
Indonesia  
Head of Planning and  
Development  
Department  
Universitas Ma Chung



Ms Prita DEWI is a higher education professional working at Universitas Ma Chung, a small yet prominent multicultural university in Indonesia. Her experience as a quality assurance officer and then manager leads her to be trusted as the Head of University Planning and Development Department in 2015. She focused her works on promoting good university governance, especially in the field of policymaking and financial affairs. She recently obtained her master's degree from the Faculty of Administrative Science, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia majoring in Higher Education Management. Ms Dewi is a DAAD University Leadership and Management Training (UNILEAD) 2018 alumna and now actively participate as a trainer for some internal training for students and employees of the university.

**Ms Deirdre CREEDON**  
Ireland  
Access Officer  
Cork Institute of  
Technology



Ms Deirdre CREEDON has worked in Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) since 1996, initially taking up project management roles for EU funded programmes such as New Opportunities for Women (NOW) and Integra. She took up the role of Access Officer in 2003 and in this time, has grown the Access Service in CIT from a one-person operation to a team of more than 15 people, providing pre-entry, entry and post entry supports for students who are under-represented in higher education. Ms Creedon has developed many programmes that encourage and facilitate entry to CIT by marginalised groups. Ms Creedon is a strong believer in collaboration, working very closely with key stakeholders in the design and delivery of support programmes. For example, the Cork Colleges Progression Scheme which enables students who are studying level 5 and level 6 programmes in participating FE Colleges an opportunity to progress into CIT on reduced points.

**Ms Junko TAKAHARA**  
Japan  
Assistant Manager of  
International Affairs  
Department  
Okayama University



Ms Junko TAKAHARA is an assistant manager of International Affairs Department, Okayama University and works for making international exchange agreement. She started her career as an administrative staff at Okayama University in 2013 and participated in a Long-term Education Administrators Program (LEAP) supported by Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan in 2016. As a part of the program, she has worked at International Affairs Division of the Ministry for one and half year, assisted to manage G7 Kurashiki Education Ministers' Meeting in Okayama, and worked for



**Dr Baiba PĒTERSONE**  
Latvia  
Director of  
International  
Department  
Rīga Stradiņš  
University



SEAMEO (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization) - Japan ESD Award and dispatch Japanese professors to SEAMEO centers. After the training at the Ministry, she worked at Office of International Partnerships, Portland State University in the United States to learn about higher education in the US.

Dr Baiba PĒTERSONE has held the position of Director of International Department at Rīga Stradiņš University (RSU) in Latvia since December 2014. She is responsible for the University's internationalisation strategy, including international admissions, mobilities and collaborations. Her experience in higher education spans 15 years during which she has held various administrative, teaching and research positions at several universities. Before joining RSU, she was at Middlesex University in London, Zayed University in Dubai and the University of Maryland College Park in the USA. Prior to her career in higher education, she worked in the non-profit sector in Washington, D.C., including The U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation and The Johns Hopkins University's American Institute for Contemporary German Studies. She earned a master's degree at the University of Maryland College Park and holds the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Georgia, both in the USA.

**Dr Zaid OMAR**  
Malaysia  
Director  
Ministry of Higher  
Education



Dr Zaid OMAR leads the Holistic Student Division at the Ministry of Education of Malaysia and has been involved in several initiatives to promote inclusivity in higher education. Recently he spearheaded a guideline on inclusivity policy for disabled staff and students in universities. Another project he is working on is an accessibility audit for disabled in institutional buildings and facilities. He believes that when it comes to education, no child should be left behind.

**Professor Ghazala YASMEEN**  
Pakistan  
Vice Chancellor  
Women University  
Mardan



Professor Ghazala YASMEEN is Vice Chancellor of the Women University Mardan in Pakistan. What makes her distinguished are her tireless efforts in the field of research regarding Women Empowerment. She received the University Gold Medal, the Star Women International Award and the Quaid-e-Azam Award. Besides presenting her research at many national and international conferences, she owes a number of research publications to her credit in reputable international journals. She utilized all of her skills and efforts to contribute to the social sector being a resource person for the education of women. In her role as Vice Chancellor she has turned the Women University Mardan into an institution exclusively in the service of marginalized strata of the society and an ideal place for the women of the region.

**Professor Riaz AHMED**  
Pakistan  
Senior Associate  
Professor/ Director  
Post Graduate  
Programs  
Bahria University



Professor Riaz AHMED is a Senior Associate Professor in the Department of Management Sciences at Bahria University in Islamabad, Pakistan. Presently, he is also performing as Director, Post Graduate Programs. He earned his PhD from the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Malaysia, with the distinction "Best Postgraduate Student Award." He is a certified Project Management Professional and has worked in higher education institutions for 20 years. He has published a number of research articles including in Engineering Management Journal, Quality and Quantity, and International Journal of Information Technology Project Management, and International Journal of Productivity and Performance Management.

**Ms Sarah PARVEZ**  
Pakistan  
Head of Higher  
Education & Skills  
British Council  
Pakistan



Ms Sarah PARVEZ is currently working as Head of Higher Education and Skills programme at British Council Pakistan. She leads on Higher and Technical Education portfolio of projects with Government departments at both federal as well as provincial level to promote International Strategic Partnerships in Research and Education. Ms Parvez has a diverse cross functional experience in project planning, project finance, leadership and partnership development, infrastructure development, monitoring and evaluation, corporate social responsibility, organizational development and training, gender and development, qualitative research and project management at both national and international level. She has developed a number of partnerships between the UK and Pakistan through various Higher and Further Education stream institutes and has worked on several policy development programme in the education sector to improve the quality of Inclusive Higher and Further Education of the country.

**Dr Edizon FERMIN**  
Philippines  
Vice President for  
Academic Affairs  
National Teacher's  
College



Dr Edizon FERMIN is engaged in developing programs, policies, and practices to provide accessible quality higher education for underprivileged students through the National Teachers College in Manila, Philippines. His institution focuses on enhancing employability of students through various industry-informed approaches and interventions. An ESL teacher, national curriculum development specialist, teacher trainer, and researcher, he advocates learner-centred outcomes-based education from preschool to tertiary levels. He continues to work with British Council-Manila and the Philippine Commission on Higher Education in developing policy and practice pathways in teacher education, transnational education, and adult education in higher education. For almost two decades, he has worked with various local and international agencies in equipping various institutions and communities with competencies in designing and delivering quality, relevant, and sustainable education opportunities.

**Ms Aurora LACASTE**  
**Philippines**  
**University Registrar**  
**University of the**  
**Philippines - Open**  
**University**



Ms Aurora LACASTE is a faculty member and University Registrar of the University of the Philippines - Open University (UPOU). She has fifteen years of experience as an educator, and in 2017, she was appointed as UPOU Registrar. As a University Registrar, she leads the academic units of the University in planning and implementing academic policies and procedures related to student admissions, enrollment, and record-keeping in an open and distance learning context. As secretary of the University Council, a role that is also assigned to the Registrar, she coordinates and monitors the work of various University Council policy-making committees such as the committees on admission and graduation, student progress, and teaching effectiveness.

**Mr José Ricardo**  
**MIRANDA DIAS**  
**Portugal**  
**Rector's Advisor for**  
**Public Policy**  
**University of Coimbra**



Mr José MIRANDA DIAS is the Rector's Advisor for Public Policy at University of Coimbra (UC). He is a former Science and Technology Manager at Technology Transfer Office at UC and Quality Assurance Expert at European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Portuguese Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and European Students' Union. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and is finishing a Master's degree in Management, both at UC. He also received specialized and certificated Pedagogical Training from the Portuguese Professional Training and Employment Institute. Since the beginning of his student life, Mr Dias has been involved in student representation as External Relations of Mediterranean Students' Network and Vice-President of the Portuguese Students' Union. He was also President of Coimbra Students' Association and was a Coimbra University students' representative at the Senate, Welfare Council and General Assembly.

**Ms Gemma XARLES-**  
**JUBANY**  
**Spain**  
**Director Globalization**  
**& Cooperation Unit**  
**Universitat Oberta de**  
**Catalunya (UOC)**



Ms Gemma XARLES-JUBANY is the Director of the Globalisation and Cooperation Unit at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), based in Barcelona. UOC is a fully online University that was created by the Catalan Government to wider access to higher education. It is the Catalan university with the highest number of students living with disabilities. Ms Xarles-Jubany is in charge of implementing the university's globalisation strategy and foster cooperation for development. Under her direction UOC are now promoting the inclusion of migrants and refugees within their programs. Based on the UOC's experience, they are supporting several ministries of education as well as quality agencies in Latin America to promote the expansion of qualified and accessible online higher education. Ms Xarles-Jubany studied Economics and holds a Master's Degree in Political Sciences. She is now enrolled in the University of Lancaster's PhD on Education and Social Justice.

**Ms Madelene**  
**HENRIKSGÅRD**  
**Sweden**  
**International**  
**Coordinator**  
**Stockholm University**



Ms Madelene HENRIKSGÅRD is an International Coordinator at Stockholm University, Sweden. She manages international students from Asia as well as a scholarship programme for students to conduct a field study in developing countries. She has more than eight years' experience within the international tertiary education sector including mobility, admissions and inclusive education as well as diverse capacity building experience. Earlier this year, she received a scholarship to conduct an eight weeks field study within communication of inclusive education for development and social change in Nepal. She is currently pursuing a Master in Communication for



**Ms Annabel BOUD**  
**United Kingdom**  
**Programme Manager**  
**for Policy**  
**Commonwealth**  
**Scholarship**  
**Commission**



Development, Malmö University, Sweden. Ms Henriksgård is a passionate advocate for education for all. Previously she was an online mentor and provided support to disadvantaged high school students. She spent six years working within international education in Australia, focusing on women, inclusion and disadvantaged social groups.

Ms Annabel BOUD is the Programme Manager for Policy at the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC). She is responsible for the equity, access and inclusion strategy at the CSC which is the UK Government's scholarship scheme led by international development objectives. Based at the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the scheme brings over 700 postgraduate students annually from predominantly low and middle-income Commonwealth countries to the UK to study and research at UK universities. Ms Boud is also a PhD student at the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge where she is undertaking research into higher education and the Sustainable Development Goals. Her research seeks to explore how inclusive and equitable aid-funded scholarships programmes are in relation to SDG 4 and its related targets.

**Mr Son NGUYEN VAN**  
**Viet Nam**  
**Lecturer**  
**Thuyloi University**



Mr Son NGUYEN VAN is a lecturer at School of International Education, Thuyloi University, Hanoi, Vietnam. He has diverse relevant experience in language teaching, adult education, and admission in higher education. He is currently studying for his Ph.D in Education at University of Szeged, Hungary. His jobs and interests mainly focus on learner autonomy, language education, access, and success in higher education.

## RESOURCE PERSONS

**Dr Graeme ATHERTON**  
United Kingdom  
Director  
National Education  
Opportunities Network



Dr Graeme ATHERTON founded and leads the National Education Opportunities Network (NEON), the national professional organisation for equality and diversity in higher education in the UK. He has produced nearly 200 publications, holds visiting professorships at 3 different universities including Sunway University, Kuala Lumpur and leads the World Access to Higher Education Day initiative.

**Mr Martin WEBSTER**  
United Kingdom  
Operational  
Consultant  
National Education  
Opportunities Network



Mr Martin WEBSTER has been working in widening access since the year 2001. He was manager of the Centre for Widening Participation at Liverpool Hope University and, from 2005, Head of Widening Participation at Nottingham Trent University. In 2011 he became an educational consultant and helped to form the National Education Opportunities Network (NEON). Since that time he has worked with NEON to develop their programme of activities. Martin has extensive experience of delivering training having both taught Sociology at undergraduate level and delivered on Nottingham Trent's Post Graduate Certificate in Higher Education. He has delivered many of NEON's Access Academy Training Sessions to higher education professionals working in the United Kingdom. Martin lives in Wales and in his spare time enjoys walking his dogs, going to rock music concerts and spending time with his family.

**Ms Reka TOZSA**  
Hungary  
Project Manager  
Asia-Europe  
Foundation



Ms Reka TOZSA, a Hungarian national, joined ASEF's Education Department in September 2017. Reka is responsible for the ASEF Education Policy Programme projects, including the ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum. Prior to joining ASEF, Reka worked as the Head of International Office at the National University of Public Service in Hungary. Her role was to design and implement the international mobility scheme of the university, to plan joint project with strategic partners, and to build the international brand of the university. Reka had been working as a civil servant before, at the National Institution of Public Administration and the Ministry of Human Resources, State Secretariat for Higher Education and Science Policy. Reka obtained her first degree at the Corvinus University of Budapest in Public Administration, and successfully completed the Master in Public Administration program at the National University of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

**Ms Hege KALLBEKKEN**  
Norway  
Project Officer  
Asia-Europe  
Foundation



Ms Hege KALLBEKKEN is a project management professional from Norway. She joined ASEF's Education Department in May 2019, where she mainly supports projects in the Education Policy Programme. She is an alumna of the 8th Model ASEM in Myanmar, and has several years' experience of implementing small- and large-scale international formal and non-formal learning experiences and events in diverse settings, from youth organisations to government, diplomacy, academia and the private sector. Hege obtained her Bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of Oslo with an exchange semester at Akita International University in Japan, and her Master's degree in Political Science from UiT - The Arctic University of Norway.

**Ms Nishat RIAZ**  
Pakistan  
Director Education  
British Council



Ms Nishat RIAZ is Director Education at the British Council in Pakistan. She has Twenty years of experience of managing development programmes. She has supervised large scale programmes on health, gender, skills, culture and education and holds special interest in improving the equitable access to education in HE. Nishat is one of the founding members of Karakoram International University. She is also associated with the Aga Khan Development Network as a director since 1999. Nishat Riaz holds an engineering degree in Electronics and Communications. She was the Premier Chevening Scholar from Pakistan in 2003. She is a registered British Alumna with an MA in International Development from the University of Manchester. At present, Nishat is managing the British Council's education work in Pakistan. Her portfolio includes management and implementation of multi- million-dollar education programme covering schools, skills and higher education.

**Mr David WOOLLEY**  
United Kingdom  
Director of Student  
and Community  
Engagement  
Nottingham Trent  
University



Mr David is the strategic lead for the agendas of social mobility and widening participation and his responsibilities include data analysis; research and evaluation; learner analytics; outreach across the student lifecycle; community engagement and volunteering. His department's programmes of activity are centred on the importance of participation in and developing a sense of connectivity to your communities. They use data and research to back purposeful action and provision, underpinned by pedagogical practices. David's previous roles include Deputy Head of Widening Participation at the University of Nottingham and a teaching career before that, both abroad and in UK Further Education. Nottingham Trent University was awarded the prestigious title of 'University of the Year' at the Guardian University Awards 2019, the Times/Sunday Times Modern University of the Year 2018 and the THE University of the Year 2017.

**Ms Paddy SENGE**  
Germany  
Editor  
Orange Magazine,  
European Youth Press



Ms Patricia SENGE is currently pursuing her Master in European Politics at the University of Oxford. After graduating from Maastricht University with her Bachelor in European Studies, she interned at the education department of the Asia-Europe Foundation in Singapore. Afterwards she continued with a traineeship at the German Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and assisted the team on Human Rights. In her free time she enjoys volunteering and writing for the European Youth Press (EYP) and is the head of Orange Magazine, the magazine of EYP.

**Ms Dhruiti  
CHAKRAVARTHI  
India  
Editor  
The Student  
Newspaper  
University of  
Edinburgh**



Ms Dhruiti CHAKRAVARTHI is currently pursuing her undergraduate programme in Sustainable Development with a foundation in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. She has a myriad range of experience in working with Sustainable Development at various interdisciplinary levels across the world. Having worked as a researcher in Rwanda, worked with the School of Diplomacy in Kosovo, audited the Social Responsibility or 'Service' sector of Kings College London and having been delegated as a Climate Reality Leader by Former US VP Al Gore, she has a panoramic perspective to Sustainable Development. An extremely involved student on campus, Dhruiti is an Editor at UK's oldest student newspaper, 'The Student', has represented the Debates Union as the Vice-President and as an adjudicator at the World Championships in Mexico and is currently the Undergraduate School Representative at the university.



### Co-organised by



**The Asia-Europe Foundation (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. 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 runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks, and web-portals.

For more information, please visit [www.ASEF.org](http://www.ASEF.org).



**The National Education Opportunities Network (NEON)** is the professional organisation supporting those involved in widening access to higher education (HE). NEON has over 80 organisations as members, mainly universities but also some not for profit bodies and works with over 1000 professionals every year. NEON aims to enable those working to widen access to HE at all levels and in all sectors to affect change in their own organisations and communities. At the heart of NEON is a cross-sector approach bringing together higher education institutions (HEIs), schools, colleges, the voluntary sector, professional bodies and employers.

For more information, please visit [www.educationopportunities.co.uk](http://www.educationopportunities.co.uk)



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**The University of Edinburgh**, established in 1582, is the sixth oldest university in the English-speaking world and one of Scotland's ancient universities. It is ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in the world by the 2019 QS World University Rankings. It has around 41,300 students and 10,300 staff across five main campuses in the city of Edinburgh.

For more information, please visit <https://www.ed.ac.uk/>

### 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 higher education, to implement them by 2030. Sustainable Development Goal 4 is of particular importance to higher education since it enjoins UN member states to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”.

Universities have a lot to contribute to reach this target. They need to make their admission systems and policies more equitable and support all type of students to achieve their potential during their studies and after. This visual is resembling the complexity of education pathways of individuals and indicates that strategic thinking is required to improve access to success of all students in higher education.

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The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an intergovernmental process established in 1996 to foster dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. Presently it comprises 53 partners: 30 European and 21 Asian countries, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEM addresses political, economic, social, cultural, and educational issues of common interest, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. For more information, please visit [www.ASEMinfoboard.org](http://www.ASEMinfoboard.org)