



7<sup>th</sup> ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7)  
Students' Forum: 11-14 May 2019 | Rectors' Conference: 12-14 May 2019

**Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:  
Perspectives from Asia and Europe**

## Open Call



Co-organised by



National University of Political  
Studies and Public Administration

In Partnership with



## WHY DOES #ARC MATTER?

The ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC) is the only bi-regional multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for university and student leaders, policy makers, and business representatives to discuss higher education challenges of mutual concern in Asia and Europe.

ARC is recognised as the Official Dialogue Partner of the ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting (ASEM ME). Participants of the Students' Forum and the Rectors' Conference respectively develop Policy Recommendations and present them to the ASEM Ministers of Education.

The ARC Students' Forum offers you a unique opportunity to deepen and share your knowledge on the topic and propose concrete policy recommendations to the highest level of decision makers. Take a look at the [ARC Teaser video](#) to understand the concept better.

## WHAT IS #ARC7?

The [7<sup>th</sup> ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum \(ARC7\)](#) titled "Higher Education Taking Action Towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Perspectives from Asia and Europe" takes place between 11-14 May 2019 in Bucharest, Romania. ARC7 is hosted by the [National University of Political Studies and Public Administration \(SNSPA\)](#) and brings together about 150 higher education leaders and 51 student leaders from the [Asia-Europe Meeting \(ASEM\)](#)<sup>1</sup> [Partner countries](#)<sup>2</sup>.

ARC7 explores how higher education can take action towards achieving the sustainable development goals on 3 different levels:

- Taking action at home - SDGs as Core Pillars of University Governance
- Taking action at community level - SDGs as Drivers of University Societal Impact
- Taking action at international level - SDGs as a Catalyst to Reorient Internationalisation

You can find a detailed introduction to the themes in the [Overview of ARC7](#).

## WHAT IS THE #ARC7 STUDENTS' FORUM?

The ARC7 Students' Forum is the right place to be for Asian and European students, who take leadership in their community and want to take action towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

### #Networking\_Hub

ARC7 consists of the Students' Forum (11-14 May 2019) and the Rectors' Conference (12-14 May 2019). The two

## APPLY NOW

**DEADLINE: Thursday,  
29 November 2018,  
11.30AM GMT**

### #Fast Facts

### WHEN & WHERE?

11-14 May 2019, Bucharest,  
Romania

### FOR WHOM?

Citizens of any of the [51 ASEM partner countries](#) between the ages 18 and 30

University students from all levels (undergraduate, graduate, doctoral)

Members and leaders of student associations engaged in academic affairs, student life or sustainability matters

Individuals with a strong command of English (verbal and written)

### DEADLINE

We accept applications until **Thursday, 29 November 2018, 11:30 GMT**

### SELECTION

51 participants selected through an online Open Call.

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

<sup>1</sup> The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing together the 28 European Union member states, 2 other European countries, and the European Union with 21 Asian countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between the two regions, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. For more information on ASEM, please visit the [ASEM InfoBoard website](#).

<sup>2</sup> ASEM brings together 51 members countries: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

events have several joint parts to ensure synergies among participants. The ARC7 Students' Forum will bring together students from 51 countries from Asia and Europe.

#### #Impact\_Platform

Participants of the Students' Forum will develop Policy Recommendations. Selected students will present the PRs to the ARC7 Rectors and at the [7<sup>th</sup> ASEM Education Ministers' Meeting \(ASEM ME7\)](#) (15-16 May 2019).

#### #Skills\_Development

100% of the previous ARC Students' Forum participants feel that their skills in policy drafting, negotiation, intercultural communication and negotiation has improved as a result of their participation.

We invite you to get on board and share how your organisation contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and shapes a "Future We Want".

### WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF THE #ARC7 STUDENTS' FORUM?

By participating in the ARC7 Students' Forum, you will join a group of students and young professionals for a 4-day intensive intercultural experience.

ARC7 is an experiential learning space, where students

- Participate in interactive sessions with their peers from 51 countries in Asia and Europe;
- Share their knowledge and good practices on the topic, through survey & fact checks, stories & conversations;
- Improve their personal skills in reasoning, critical thinking, intercultural collaboration;
- Meet with policy makers and ministers of education from across Asia and Europe;
- Shape the Policy Recommendations for the Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers of Education (ASEM ME) and make their voice heard.

Quench your thirst for more info on the conference and hop over to the ARC7 [Webpage](#) here.

### WHO CAN APPLY?

Eligibility criteria:

- Citizens of any of the [51 ASEM partner countries](#) between the ages 18 and 30
- University students from all levels (undergraduate, graduate, doctoral)
- Members and leaders of student associations engaged in academic affairs, student life or sustainability matters
- Individuals with a strong command of English (verbal and written)

### SELECTION

Participants of the Students' Forum are selected through an Open Call for Application. The Open Call and the screening process will ensure a non-discriminative approach assuring an even geographic representation, gender balance and fair access to the opportunity for all.

### COSTS

There are neither registration nor participation fees for the invited participants. Accommodation, meals and a travel subsidy will be provided by the organisers. It is **#FullyFunded** opportunity.

### ACCESSIBILITY

ARC7 is accessible to all ASEM youth. Do you need any special assistance to apply and/or participate? Contact us – we will do our utmost to accommodate your requirements.

### APPLY NOW!

Does all of this sound like your cup of tea? Then, [send your application](#) and join us next spring at ARC7 in Romania!

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more heads-up on ARC7 Students' Forum check [the website](#).

**Burning questions?** Roll over to the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#).

**Still curious?** Get in touch with the team at [arc@asef.org](mailto:arc@asef.org).

The ARC7 Open Call for Participation is accessible to all ASEM youth. We do our best to make the project fully accessible wherever we can. If you would need special assistance to apply/participate, please contact us in advance and let's discuss how could we accommodate your requirements.

#### **COSTS**

No registration or participation fee applies. Accommodation, travel subsidy and meals will be provided to each selected participant. This event is #FullyFunded.

#### **OUTCOMES OF #ARC7 FEED INTO**

##### **Ministerial Meetings**

- o Asia-Europe Meeting of Education Ministers' (and further ASEM Ministerial Meetings)
- o European Higher Education Area Ministerial Meetings and the Bologna Policy Forum Meetings

##### **Senior Officials' Meetings**

- o Asia-Europe Meeting of Senior Officials in Education (SOM)
- o Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED) by UNESCO

##### **SDG Agendas and Society at Large**

The recommendations and the spin-off projects undertaken by the participants after ARC7 will at large contribute to the advancement of universities, local and national communities.

#### **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.

ASEF's Education Department (ASEFEdu) is particularly focusing on access to quality education and youth employment, which ensures that all our projects contribute to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially to Goal4 by "ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all." The most prominent example which includes sustainable development as a horizontal priority is the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEF Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC7). The entire project will focus on the question: how can higher education actors – students, rectors, policy makers and international organisations – take joint action towards the SDGs?

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).

#### IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



##### **ASEAN University Network (AUN)**

<http://www.aunsec.org/>

Founded in November 1995, the ASEAN University Networks' (AUN) main objective is to strengthen the existing network of cooperation among leading universities in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region.



##### **European University Association (EUA)**

<http://www.eua.be/>

The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of universities and national rectors' conferences in 47 European countries. It was formed in 2001 as the result of a merger between the Association of European Universities (CRE) and the Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences. EUA supports and takes forward the interests of individual institutions and the higher education sector as a whole.



##### **International Association of Universities (IAU)**

<http://www.iau-aiu.net/>

Created in 1950 under the auspices of UNESCO, the International Association Universities (IAU) brings together more than 650 institutions and organisations worldwide for exchange and action on common concerns in the area of higher education.



##### **European Students' Union (ESU)**

<http://www.esu-online.org/>

The European Students' Union (ESU) is the umbrella organisation of 44 National Unions of Students from 38 countries. The aim of ESU is to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Bologna Follow Up Group, Council of Europe and UNESCO. Through its members, ESU represents over 15 million students in Europe.



##### **Erasmus Student Network (ESN)**

<http://esn.org/>

Established in 1989, Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is the biggest student association in Europe. ESN works for the creation of a more mobile and flexible education environment by supporting and developing the student exchange from different levels and providing an intercultural experience also to those students who cannot access a period abroad ("internationalisation at home").

#### SUPPORTED BY

##### **Ministry of National Education (Romania)**

<http://edu.ro>

##### **Erasmus Mundus Students and Alumni Association (EMA)**

[www.em-a.eu](http://www.em-a.eu)

**European Students' Forum (AEGEE-Europe)**

<https://www.aegee.org/>

**International Association of Political Science (IAPSS)**

<https://www.iapss.org/>

**ASEM Education Secretariat (AES)**

<https://www.asem-education.org/>

**The European Union (EU)**

<https://europa.eu>

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Contributing to



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)