Overview

27 January - 10 February 2018
Melbourne (Australia) & Christchurch (New Zealand)

Organised by
The 21st ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU) is a 2-week experiential learning journey and “Interdisciplinary Innovathon” for students and young professionals. Designed to foster cross-cultural exchanges and networks among youth from ASEM2 partner countries\(^1\), it offers opportunities for students and young professionals to broaden their horizons, deepen their knowledge on contemporary issues, and propose concrete solutions to societal challenges.

ASEFSU takes place on an annual basis, each year tackling a different theme of socio-political concern within Asia and Europe. ASEFSU makes a positive impact within ASEM societies as it offers tangible results and daring proposals to innovate and promote sustainable development.

**Key characteristics of ASEFSU**

- Engagement and collaboration of youth from 51 Asian and European countries with local ASEM communities
- Fusion of theoretical and practical programme components, leading up to an Interdisciplinary Innovathon and Competition
- Youth perspectives and solutions on pressing societal issues, practically contributing to the ASEM process, National Agendas, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and society at large

Watch the exhilarating visual journey of the previous ASEF Summer University edition: The ASEFSU20 on transportation and connectivity, which passed through 6 cities in China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation.

The 21st ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU21) will take place from 27 January to 10 February 2018 in at Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne (Australia), and University of Canterbury, Christchurch (New Zealand), on the topic of “Youth with Disabilities: Shaping inclusive ASEM societies”.

The project will bring together a group of over 50 mixed-ability students and young professionals from ASEM countries. Next to an invaluable international and intercultural experience, you will as a participant propose solutions to pressing challenges faced by ASEM youth with disabilities. These challenges relate to 8 key areas that have a significant impact on the lives of youth with disabilities:


These focus areas are directly aligned with and support the priorities set by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the ASEM Social Inclusion Agenda and the national disability strategies of Australia and New Zealand. The outcomes of the ASEFSU21 will subsequently be presented at high-level ASEM meetings as inputs to the deliberations of policy makers.

Read the Concept Note of the ASEFSU21 [here](#).
The ASEFSU21 consists of 3 core educational parts:

1) **2-week Online Training Experience**
In this phase the participants will actively take part in an online preparatory phase to familiarise with the topics of the project. This phase will kick-start their preparations for the upcoming on-site phase and will require a couple of hours of work per week.

2) **2-week Interdisciplinary Innovathon**
*Off we go!*
**Australia (27 January – 3 February 2018)**
The 1-week programme in Australia offers the participants trainings, workshops, lectures and study visits to develop their understanding of the themes covered by the project.

**Reaching the final milestone:**
**New Zealand (4-10 February 2018)**
In New Zealand the participants will go from theory to practice as they are given the opportunity to propose daring solutions to obstacles currently faced by youth with disabilities. The best challenge solutions will also be awarded by the project’s partners and presented to ASEM policy makers.

3) **Spin-off activities and launching prototypes**
All prototypes developed on site – analogue and digital – will be analysed and tested after the project by the relevant stakeholders and communities engaged. The participants play a crucial role in following-up on the initiatives and dissemination information about the lessons learned at the ASEFSU21. In addition, selected participants will be invited to present the outcomes of the ASEFSU21 at highlevel ASEM ministerial meetings and other events.

**WHAT DO THE PARTICIPANTS GAIN?**

**First-hand experience in solving real-life challenge**
An opportunity to develop concrete solutions to shape inclusive ASEM societies and enhance the quality of life of youth with disabilities.

**Knowledge and skills-trainings linked to SDGs**
Inspiration by fresh and practical knowledge on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda: in particular Goals 4 (Quality education), 8 (Decent work) and 10 (Inequality).

**Access to an Asia-Europe network**
New contacts with youth leaders from 51 Asian and European countries, as well as political and business leaders, and access to the large ASEFEdu alumni network.

**OUTCOMES OF #ASEFSU21 FEED INTO**

**ASEM Ministerial Meetings and ASEM activities:**
12th Asia-Europe Meeting Summit (ASEM12), 2018, Brussels, Belgium
[ASEM Cooperation on Disability], 2017, Asia

**ASEF Projects:**
Future editions of the ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU)
3rd ASEF Young Leaders Summit (ASEFYLS3), 2018, Brussels, Belgium
Informal ASEM Seminars on Human Rights

**Society at Large and SDG Agendas:**
The solutions the participants propose at the ASEFSU21 Interdisciplinary Innovathon will at large contribute to the advancement of local and national authorities’, businesses’ and civil society organisations’ work within the field of youth and disabilities.

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