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

Programme

Organised by
Programme

Saturday, 23 November 2019

Arrival

Participants arriving throughout the day

15:00 – 17:00  Registration
Venue | Hotel Ibis Edinburgh Centre South Bridge
77 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1HN, United Kingdom

18:00 – 20:00  Informal Welcome Dinner
Venue | Howies Restaurant
10-14 Victoria St, Edinburgh EH1 2HG, United Kingdom

Sunday, 24 November 2019

Equitable access & success in higher education: The challenges and how we will address them

Venue | The Project Room, 1.06 at The School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
50 George Square, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

09:00 – 09:10  Welcome Greetings of the Host
•  Professor Liz Grant, Assistant Principal Global Health, The University of Edinburgh

09:10 – 10:30  Ice-breaking and understanding participants’ goals and motivations
In this session we will get to know each other as a group by undertaking a series of interactive exercises. We will also look individually, in small groups and as a collective at what we bring to the course and what we wish to achieve from it. We will also look at the programme for the next 4 days and in particular where we want to get to by Day 4, when we will be outlining our action plans.

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30  How do we define access and success in Higher Education?
One of, if not the, key issues faced in global work in this area is the differing definitions of ‘equity’, ‘access’, ‘inequality’, ‘inclusion’ and ‘success’ and which groups are seen as priority in this field. In this session we will look at specific concepts through a series of interactive exercises that aim to understand better the lexicon of higher education inequality. There will be a lecture followed by group work where we will explore how these different terms and conceptions of priority group work in specific national contexts.

12:30 – 14:00  Lunch | Kalpna restaurant
2-3 St Patrick Square, Edinburgh EH8 9EZ, United Kingdom

14:00 – 15:30  The Global Access Picture
In this session we will look at the global context where Higher Education participation is concerned and specifically access and inequalities. We will look at what we know, what we think we know and in particular what we don’t know where access/success in HE is concerned. The lecture will be followed by small group work exploring the interactions...
between the local, national and international where access/success in HE is concerned.

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>15:30 – 16:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>16:00 – 17:00</td>
<td><strong>Who are the stakeholders?</strong>&lt;br&gt; In the final session of the day we will look at who is shaping the agenda where equitable access is concerned. We will look at what we know about the respective role of government, higher education providers, students, NGOs and employers in this space. We will then explore the relationship these stakeholders have with each other in the context of the countries represented in the group.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:00 – 17:10</td>
<td>Summary&lt;br&gt;A brief overview of emerging themes from the day and look forward to Day 2.</td>
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**Monday, 25 November 2019**<br> Understanding equitable access to Higher Education: Looking at global practice and solving access problems

**Venue | B1.11-3 in the Outreach Centre**<br> 9C Holyrood Rd, Edinburgh EH8 8FP, United Kingdom

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<tr>
<td>09:00 – 10:30</td>
<td><strong>Overview of trends and developments in global practice</strong>&lt;br&gt; We will look at what we know about global work being undertaken by higher education providers and policymakers to address inequalities in access/success in Higher Education. The lecture will be followed by small group discussion on what good practice could look like in this area.</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:30</td>
<td><strong>Understanding practice in Asia – the work of the British Council in Pakistan</strong>&lt;br&gt;This lecture will focus on the context for equity in access/success in Higher Education in Pakistan and the work that is being undertaken by universities and the British council to address inequalities. There will then be a group discussion looking at what can be learnt from the experiences and activities being undertaken in Pakistan.</td>
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<td>• Ms Nishat Riaz, Director Education, British Council Pakistan</td>
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<td>11:30 – 12:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>12:00 – 13:00</td>
<td><strong>Understanding practice in Europe</strong>&lt;br&gt;This lecture will focus on the context for equity in access/success in Higher Education in the UK and the work that is being undertaken by universities to address inequalities. There will then be a group discussion looking at what can be learnt from the experiences and activities being undertaken in the UK.</td>
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<td>• Mr David Woolley, Director of Student and Community Engagement, Nottingham Trent University</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 – 14:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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### 14:00 - 15:30  Solving access problems

In this session we will break into teams of 5-6. Each team will be required to explore in detail how we would address a different challenge where access/success is concerned. These challenges will be in the form of hypothetical scenarios based on real world examples of access and challenges. Each team will be required to devise solutions and then present them back to the group. The aim is to apply our growing knowledge to the challenges that universities and policy-makers face. The challenges will focus on the following areas in the field of access/success:
- Implementing institutional changes
- Advocacy and working with policy makers
- Working with students, NGOs and the community
- Understanding impact in access/success

### 15:30 - 16:00  Coffee break

### 16:00 - 17:00  Planning for change

This session will look at how countries and universities have tried to organise and plan for change in the access/success field and look at the characteristics of such plans. We will then break into small groups to reflect on what different elements need to be in place in order to achieve impact and share what our individual action plans will look like.

### 17:00 - 17:10  Summary

A brief overview of emerging themes from the day and look forward to Day 3.

### 17:10 - 17:30  Asia-Europe Collaboration Opportunities

This session is dedicated to introducing different opportunities to the participants, which they can explore to advance or implement their ideas and projects together.

- Ms Reka Tozsa, Project Manager, Asia-Europe Foundation

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**Tuesday, 26 November 2019**  
**World Access to Higher Education Day Global Summit**

**Venue | Playfair Library Hall, University of Edinburgh**  
*Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh EH8 9YL, United Kingdom*

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**08:00-15:00**  
To mark the second ever World Access to Higher Education Day, the University of Edinburgh will be hosting the WAHED Global Summit on 26th November 2019. The summit will present an opportunity to examine in detail, the challenges associated with addressing inequalities in access/success in HE and discuss the future development of World Access to Higher Education Day.

Registration takes place between 8.00-8.45AM at Playfair Library Hall.

See [separate programme](#) for details.
Wednesday, 27 November 2019
Moving forward and taking action at home

Venue | The Project Room, 1.06 at The School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures
50 George Square, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

09:00 – 09:45
Reflections on the WAHED Global Summit

We will begin the day reflecting as a group on the emerging themes from the WAHED Global Summit. We will consider the extent to which such themes relate to what we have discussed in our sessions and what we felt was learnt in terms of the potential for global collaboration in this field.

09:45 – 10:45
Building our action plans

The focus of this session will be on finalising our action plans and preparing a 2-4-minute presentation on these plans for the next session. This will be done either individually/in groups depending on the preference of the group.

10:45 – 11:00
Coffee break

11:00 – 13:00
Presentation of action plans

All participants will share their action plans with the group via a short 2-4-minute presentation.

13:00 – 13:30
Summary and moving forward

In the final session we will reflect briefly on the course and what we have achieved. Most importantly we will look forward and share ideas regarding how the group can remain connected and how ASEF & WAHED can enable this ongoing relationship. Participants will get to learn about funding opportunities they can use to advance equity jointly in Asia and Europe.

14:00
Farewell Lunch

Venue | The Peartree
38 W Nicolson St, Edinburgh EH8 9DD, United Kingdom

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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.
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.

Co-organised by

[Images of logos for Co-organised by organisations]

Contributing to

[Images of logos for Contributing to organisations]

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