

Overview

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THE SUPERIOR UNIVERSITY





Background & Project Overview

Background

Rapid urbanisation is a defining global trend of the 21st century. Today, more than 55% of the world's population live in urban areas. It is expected that this number will increase to 68% by 2050. This development brings along various socioeconomic and environmental challenges for policy makers, urban planners and urban citizens: urban sprawl and higher urban costs, rising inequality and poverty, lack of urban investments in infrastructure, weak financial and governance capacities, increased environmental degradation, etc..

To tackle these complex and interconnected issues, collective action & collaboration across institutional silos and sectors as well as disruptive & bold ideas are needed. Here, the unique creativity and potential for innovation of youth can play a crucial catalyst role in driving sustainable urban change and accelerating the realisation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11: *“Making Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable”*. SDG11 aims to *“[...] enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management [...]”*.¹



Similarly, on an Asia-Europe level, the last ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors (ASEM MGM4) concluded that cities are both *“[...] spaces of creativity and innovation and of services for the surrounding areas [and] play a crucial role as drivers of the economy, [but] they are also places where social problems of inequality, unemployment, segregation and poverty are concentrated [...]”*. ASEM cities need *“[...] to promote sustainable urban development through urban policies [...] aimed at environmental,*

*economic and social sustainability, and guaranteeing the principles of equality, the right to quality of life, education, culture and science for all citizens.”*²

Project Overview

The 23rd ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU23) is a virtual Hackathon on “Liveable Cities for a Sustainable Future” and focuses on three of the most populated countries in ASEM: Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Implemented between October and November 2021, the Hackathon invites 84 students & young professionals (age 18-30) from the 51 ASEM countries to participate and to tackle one of three urban challenges, linking SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) with other SDGs:

Bangladesh (SDG11, SDG12 & SDG13):

Creating Clean Cities: Tackling Urban Waste Management

India (SDG3 & SDG11):

Creating Healthy Cities: Addressing Obesity among Children

Pakistan (SDG4, SDG8 and SDG11):

Creating Accessible Cities: Enhancing Urban Mobility

The Hackathon consists of 3 Phases:

Pre-Hack Phase (11-29 Oct 2021): Ideation, including challenge definition, knowledge building & stakeholder engagement

Hackathon Phase (5-15 Nov 2021) with Grand Finale (12-14 Nov 2021): Prototype Development with Experts Mentoring

Post-Hack (up to 3 months post-Hackathon; relevant for Hackathon Winners only):

Hackathon winners have the possibility for mentoring sessions and prototype testing & possible implementation after the project.

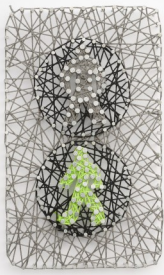
Further information on the project:

Watch the [Video Teaser](#).

Read more on the [23rd ASEF Summer University Webpage](#).

¹ See [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Urbanization Prospects](#):

² See [Final Declaration, 4th ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors \(ASEM MGM4\), 24-27 May 2017, Lisbon, Portugal](#)



Hackathon Elements

3 Hackathon Phases

Participants are required to actively take part in the Pre-Hack and Hackathon Phases, which include the following elements:

Pre-Hack Phase (11-29 October 2021)

Ideation, including challenge definition, knowledge building & stakeholder engagement

During this phase, participants will attend online sessions (e.g. webinars and lectures) on Sustainable Development, in particular SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and complete individual tasks & team assignments to gain a strong thematic understanding on the topic. E-Learning modules on the topic and human-centred design thinking will complement this phase to support in-depth and self-paced learning. Participants have the opportunity to select additional learning modules and receive a micro-credential from the University College Cork (5 or 10 micro-credits).

Hackathon Phase (5-15 Nov 2021) with Grand Finale (12-14 Nov 2021)

Prototype Development with Experts Mentoring

During this phase, participants will join

- Kick-off event on 5 Nov 2021
- Mentorship sessions, community engagements & team building sessions, when needed, between 6-11 Nov 2021
- Grand Finale to develop prototypes from 12-14 Nov 2021
- Presentation & pitching of solutions event on 15 Nov 2021

Participants will collaborate & compete in 12 teams, each consisting of 7 team members from different ASEM countries and led by a youth leader from either Bangladesh, India or Pakistan. Through a human-centred design thinking process, the teams will develop proposals (analogue and/or digital prototypes) that could solve specific urban challenges and contribute to liveable & sustainable metropolitan areas.

4 teams compete per country on the following challenges, as identified by the respective local ASEFSU23 partner organisations.

Bangladesh (SDG11, SDG12 & SDG13):

Creating Clean Cities: Tackling Urban Waste Management

India (SDG3 & SDG11):

Creating Healthy Cities: Addressing Obesity among Children

Pakistan (SDG4, SDG8 and SDG11):

Creating Accessible Cities: Enhancing Urban Mobility

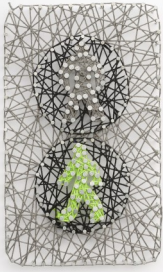
Read more about [the challenges here](#).

The most innovative solution per country will receive an award, which encompasses mentoring by tech companies for further development of the prototype developed during the Hackathon, certified training opportunities for digital leadership or digital perks.

Post-Hack (up to 3 months post-Hackathon; relevant for Hackathon Winners only)

Hackathon winners have the possibility for mentoring sessions and prototype testing & possible implementation after the project.

The Hackathon is preceded by a Train-the-Trainers programme (20-31 September 2021). 12 youth leaders from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, selected through an Open Call, will be trained in facilitation & team collaboration techniques as well as human-centred design thinking. The online training will equip them to lead the ASEFSU23 Hackathon teams, comprised of participants coming from the 51 ASEM countries.



Hackathon Timeline

PRE-HACK PHASE (11-29 OCT 2021)

CHALLENGE IDENTIFICATION, KNOWLEDGE BUILDING & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR IDEATION

MON, 11 OCT	TUE, 12 OCT	WED, 13 OCT	THU, 14 OCT	FRI, 15 OCT
Welcome & Introduction	Hackathon Briefing	SDG11		Optional: Social Session
MON, 18 OCT	TUE, 19 OCT	WED, 20 OCT	THU, 21 OCT	FRI, 22 OCT
SDG11	SDG11		Bangladesh	Optional: Social Session
MON, 25 OCT	TUE, 26 OCT	WED, 27 OCT	THU, 28 OCT	FRI, 29 OCT
India	Pakistan	Closing & Wrap-up		Optional: Social Session

TIMING -2 HRS PER DAY
 8-10AM UTC; 1-3PM PAKISTAN; 1:30-3:30PM INDIA;
 2-4PM BANGLADESH

HACKATHON PHASE (4-15 NOV 2021)

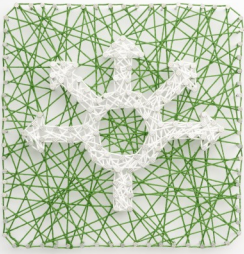
GRAND FINALE (12-14 NOV 2021)

PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT WITH EXPERTS MENTORING

THU, 4 NOV	FRI - THU, 5-11 NOV		
Kick-off Event	Mentoring and Stakeholder Engagement - as needed		
FRI, 12 NOV	SAT, 13 NOV	SUN, 14 NOV	MON, 15 NOV
Grand Finale - Development		Pitching of Solutions	Awards Presentation

POST-HACK PHASE (UP TO 3 MONTHS)

PROTOTYPE TESTING



Participants & Learning Outcomes

Participants

ASEFSU23 connects 84 young hackers, developers, programmers, designers, innovators, urban planners and SDG experts from 51 ASEM countries (age range is 18-30 years). Participants are selected through an Open Call for Application.



Project Results & Learning Outcomes

- 12 Prototypes (analogue or digital) created by participants to solve specific urbanisation challenges in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan
- ASEFSU23 e-learning modules with multi-media materials on Sustainable Development Goal 11, ASEM and country specific learning materials with the option for participants to receive up to 10 ECTS from University College Cork (UCC), Ireland
- 84 participants equipped with certificates of participation, upon completion of the Pre-Hack phase and the Hackathon, conducted by ASEF, Higher Education institutions in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, as well as international leadership institutes
- Increased understanding and knowledge on Sustainable Development among participants, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 11, through non-formal and informal education & training opportunities
- Skills development and team building for participants, both on a technical and soft skill level
- Creation of an Asia-Europe youth network for future joint collaborations

Organisers & Partners

The ASEFSU23 is a collaboration led by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in partnership with Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSS), Daffodil International University in Bangladesh, KREA University in India, Superior University in Pakistan, the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub), University College Cork (UCC) in Ireland, University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom, and the Centre for Sustainable, Healthy and Learning Cities and Neighbourhoods



(SHLC).

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Co-organised by:



Supported by:



Visual Explainer

Yarns are a symbol of the cotton production and textile industry in South Asia which greatly contributed to its economy and opening up to the rest of the world. Along with this evolution, the region's growing urbanisation has been a driving force, reshaping modern cities and societies.

Like a fabric with its distinct pattern, a city is a network of interdependencies and intertwined social interactions: a complex eco-system where every element is closely connected to each other. This intricate crisscross is a fragile equilibrium contingent on every thread which needs to be carefully sewn and integrated within the broader structure. To shape urban frameworks and images, urban policy makers and planners need intentionality and a comprehensive understanding of all its constituting elements. To weave and build liveable cities for a sustainable future, holistic and transformative visions are needed. Our ASEFSU23 participants will develop these for Bangladesh, India and Pakistan during the project.