

SEA-EU Mobility Programme for Sustainable Development: Reimagining and Reconfiguring Mobility for the Future

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Abstract

The multitude of disruptions of COVID-19, demographic shifts, economic crises and extreme social inequalities, leaping technological advancements, as well as other non-traditional security threats and climate change leave us with no alternative but to reconfigure how we would live in this damaged world. Amidst all these uncertainties, higher education is demanded to lead change, generate new and relevant knowledge as well as offer solutions to the challenges we all encounter. In addition, higher education is expected to better prepare future-ready citizens who can live and work in our next new normal world.

This presentation discusses the reimagining and reconfiguration of mobility to better prepare learners for a more sustainable future of living and working. Mobility, as a crucial mechanism of higher education internationalisation efforts, has demonstrated substantial benefits for learners, stakeholders, higher education institutions and wider societies alike. Yet, traditional mobility programmes have been affected by recent multiple disruptions and, most abruptly, through the imposition of international travel restrictions due to the pandemic. If we want to continue and maximise the benefits of mobility at this junction, we need to reimagine and reconfigure mobility for the future. The case of the “SEA-EU Mobility Programme for Sustainable Development”, an extended mobility programme of SEAMEO RIHED’s Asian International Mobility (AIMS) Programme will be shared to provide a concrete example of an inclusive and participatory approach to mobility design that embraces a focus on value-based and multi-modal learning frameworks and incorporates the aim of Sustainable Development Education: learning and living as part of a common ecological system.