



Commission concludes its third policy dialogue with Japan on education, culture and sport

Brussels, 3 April 2024

Earlier today, representatives from the European Commission and the Japanese government met in Tokyo for the third edition of the EU-Japan Policy Dialogue in the areas of education, culture, and sport. Both parties recognise the importance of mutual collaboration as a vector for exchanges of best practices, pedagogical approaches, and strategies for policy development and innovation in these areas.

This third dialogue was jointly chaired by Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Iliana **Ivanova** and Japan's Minister for Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology, Masahito Moriyama.

Both sides agreed on the benefits of promoting student and academic staff mobility between the EU and Japan. International mobility schemes, like the Erasmus+ programme, play a pivotal role in promoting people-to-people exchanges, enhancing skills development, as well as fostering academic excellence. Over the last three years, the Erasmus+ programme offered mobility opportunities to around 1750 higher students and academic staff to take part in international mobility exchanges between Europe and Japan. However, there is potential to do more. By investing in mobility programmes, both the EU and Japan harness the full potential of their educational ecosystems and contribute to global knowledge creation. For this purpose, an Erasmus+ National Focal Point will now be established in Japan, with the purpose of reinforcing international collaboration with Japan in the implementation of mobility schemes as well as further promoting the opportunities offered under Erasmus+ to Japanese and European students and academic staff.

In the field of education, today's exchanges between the EU and Japan also provided valuable insights on how to navigate the opportunities and challenges offered by digital education. Participants discussed ways of exploring the responsible integration of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in schools to harness its potential to personalise learning experiences, improve educational outcomes, and prepare students for the demands of the digital age. The dialogue also included discussions on ethical considerations, data privacy concerns, and the need for improved digital skills and digital literacy among educators and learners. To continue discussing and exchanging practices on these important topics, the parties agreed to hold a follow up seminar on digital education in the next months.

The third policy dialogue also focused on digital technologies offer to document, preserve, and virtually disseminate cultural heritage. Both parties agreed on the transformative shift the digital transformation represents in societies, economies, and cultures, with profound implications for cultural heritage and the associated skills required for its preservation and promotion.

The EU and Japan shared expertise on the promotion of sport and healthy lifestyles among young generations, as well as enhancing the effectiveness and inclusivity of sports programmes, benefiting individuals and societies alike.

Background

The EU-Japan policy dialogue in education, culture and sport, was launched in 2018. Since, then two dialogue meetings have been held. The first policy dialogue took place in July 2018 in Budapest, while the second took place in May 2021 in video format because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both policy dialogue meetings represented an occasion to exchange views and practices on several thematic subjects such as enhancing student exchanges through highly integrated master's programmes between European and Japanese universities, as well as assessing the impacts of the pandemic on education, culture and sports policies on both sides.

Erasmus+ National Focal Points (ENFPs) are representatives of the education sector in countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and the Americas. Since 2022, the Erasmus+ National Focal Points have been nominated in over 70 countries of the world not associated to the Erasmus+

programme. This world-wide network of ENFPs supports the Commission, the Executive Agency to improve awareness, visibility, and access to the opportunities offered by the international dimension of Erasmus+.

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Quotes:

"Today's third policy dialogue has further reinforced the already close links between the EU and Japan. By exchanging on our respective work and visions for education, culture and sport, we have learnt from each other, enriched our policymaking and solidified our cooperation to the benefit of our citizens. As we move towards an increasingly digital future, the EU and Japan will continue to share knowledge in the face of challenges, promote the mobility and exchange of our people and strive to build lasting and effective educational, sporting and cultural initiatives."

Iliana Ivanova, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth - 03/04/2024

"The EU is a strategic partner for Japan, acting together based on fundamental values and principles such as freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and the market economy, and it is becoming more important to work together beyond our respective regions. I am convinced that this policy dialogue will enable face-to-face discussions and will further deepen mutual understanding between the EU and Japan."

Masahito Moriyama, Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan - 03/04/2024

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