

EU-ASEAN

# Strategic Partnership

Blue Book 2024-2025

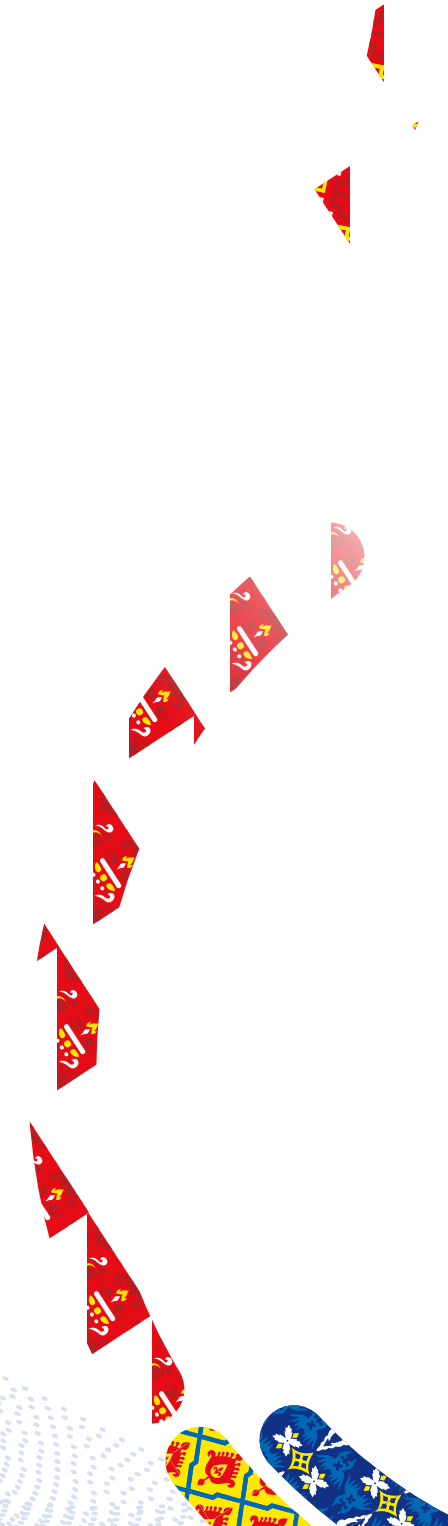




EU-ASEAN

# Strategic Partnership

Blue Book 2024-2025







EU-ASEAN  
**Strategic Partnership**  
Blue Book 2024-2025



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**H.E. Sujiro Seam**

Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN

# Foreword

## By the Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN

It is a great honour for me to introduce the EU-ASEAN Blue Book 2024-2025, marking the 47<sup>th</sup> year of EU-ASEAN relations. In this eighth edition of the Blue Book, we highlight the tangible impact of our cooperation on the lives of citizens in both our regions.

The EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit held in December 2022 to celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EU-ASEAN relations marked a key moment in our cooperation. It followed the establishment of the 2023-2027 Plan of Action to implement the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership, which was adopted at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) +1 in August 2022. The four-year plan reiterates the commitment of both the EU and ASEAN to further strengthen our partnership across multiple areas, including political and security, economic and sociocultural cooperation.

The Summit also marked the EU's growing ambition to boost smart and sustainable investments in quality infrastructure through the Global Gateway. The strategy prioritises key areas such as digitalisation, energy and climate, transport and health, as well as education and research, which all align with priorities and plans in the ASEAN region. Through this strategy, the EU and Team Europe remain steadfast in their commitment to cooperate with ASEAN, supporting flagship initiatives on the green transition and sustainable connectivity, in the region and between the EU and ASEAN.

On 2 February 2024, the 24<sup>th</sup> EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was organised in Brussels, co-chaired by the EU High Representative, H.E. Josep Borrell Fontelles, and the Philippines' Secretary for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Enrique Manalo. Just over a year since the Commemorative Summit, the EU and ASEAN confirmed the importance of strategic partnership and of championing multilateralism and international law.

The EU-ASEAN Blue Book serves as a testament to the enduring strength and vitality of our strategic partnership. It is a testament to the belief that when like-minded regions come together, they can address global challenges with innovative solutions and shared values. I hope that the stories presented here will offer a glimpse into the potential we have to achieve great things together. The Blue Book provides an insightful and comprehensive overview of the multifaceted relationship between ASEAN and the EU.

I commend the dedication of government counterparts and cooperation partners from both the EU and ASEAN, including representatives from academia, the private sector, civil society and experts who have contributed to the preparation of this Blue Book through projects that the EU proudly supports. Let the EU-ASEAN Blue Book 2024-2025 serve as a source of inspiration and information for all those who seek to understand, support and contribute to the partnership between our remarkable regions. May it foster a deeper appreciation of the possibilities that arise when nations join hands in pursuit of common goals.



**H.E. Dr Kao Kim Hourn**

Secretary-General of ASEAN

# Foreword

## By the Secretary-General of ASEAN

ASEAN and the EU have come a long way in nurturing their relations and cooperation since the establishment of formal partnership in 1977. In the span of 47 years, the EU has extended significant assistance towards the ASEAN Community-building and regional integration efforts.

Against this backdrop, our partnership was elevated to a strategic partnership in 2020 and followed by the landmark signing of the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA), and subsequently the convening of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit in Brussels in December 2022. Building on this momentum, the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting held on 2 February 2024 in Brussels, adopted the Joint Ministerial Statement, moulding the future outlook and prospects of a long-term partnership.

As strategic partners with a shared interest in a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous region, it is pivotal for ASEAN and the EU to collaborate in the four priority areas outlined in the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) as well as in the seven priority areas of the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific in a complementary manner.

With the EU being ASEAN's third largest source of foreign investment and third largest trading partner in 2022, economic cooperation remains a cornerstone of our partnership. Cognisant of the robust economic cooperation between ASEAN and the EU, efforts to increase two-way trade and investment volumes have intensified, and the work on translating the CATA to ensure its effective implementation in the areas, such as supply chain, bolstering services and intensifying people-to-people connectivity between the two regions, is closely observed.

Notwithstanding the above, the EU development cooperation programmes, such as the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU and the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument, continue to provide the necessary support and facility to achieve the ASEAN Community-building efforts across the three pillars. Correspondingly, the ASEAN-EU collaboration currently encompasses various issues, ranging from addressing emerging challenges such as food and energy crises to climate change. This is mirrored through the first-ever ASEAN-EU Energy Dialogue in 2023 as well as the first ASEAN-EU Ministerial Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change, to be held later in 2024.

Advancing the visibility of our strategic partnership, programmes and initiatives is paramount in generating awareness to all stakeholders in both of our regions. I hope that through the publication of this Blue Book, ASEAN and the EU will be able to sustain the momentum and continue to work closely together to further advance the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership for the betterment of our peoples in the two regions.



**The EU-ASEAN Blue Book continues to serve as a valuable platform in showcasing not only the potential of the strategic partnership but the EU's support towards the ASEAN Community-building efforts as well as key achievements and progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership (2023-2027) for mutual benefit.**



## H.E. Sujiro Seam

Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN

Ambassador Seam presented his letters of credence to the Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dr Kao Kim Hourn on 1 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Prior to his appointment, H.E. Sujiro Seam was the Ambassador of the European Union for the Pacific, based in Suva, Fiji. A French career diplomat, H.E. Sujiro Seam also served as the Ambassador of France to Fiji and the Consul General of France in Houston, Texas, U.S.A.



© ASEAN Sekretariat/Kusuma Pandu Wijaya

## H.E. Dr Kao Kim Hourn

Secretary-General of ASEAN

Dr Kao Kim Hourn is the 15<sup>th</sup> Secretary-General of ASEAN. Prior to assuming his current position on 9 January 2023, Dr Kao had served as a two-term Minister Delegate attached to the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, from 2013 to 2022, and Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, from 2004 to 2013. Dr Kao's career has focused on strengthening Cambodia's international relations, particularly in ASEAN, driving policy advocacy and promoting research, education, and development. He has authored dozens of books and articles on Cambodia and ASEAN. Dr Kao received BA in Asian Studies from Baylor University, MA in Political Science and MA in International Studies from Ohio University, and PhD in Political Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



© ASEAN Sekretariat/Kusuma Pandu Wijaya





# The EU worldwide

## Partnerships and connections for people and the planet

The European Union (EU) has undergone a significant evolution since the signing of the two treaties that established the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) both in 1957. Presently, the EU offers political and economic stability, which has attracted 27 Member States with a population of almost half a billion citizens, positioning it as the world's third largest economy.

All over the world, the EU works to prevent and resolve conflicts, to support resilient democracies, to promote human rights and sustainable development, to fight climate change and to contribute to a rules-based global order.



**EU diplomatic representations around the world**



**Staff in European Union External Action Service (EEAS) headquarters + EU diplomatic representations**



**Roberta Metsola**  
President of the European Parliament



**Charles Michel**  
President of the European Council



**Ursula von der Leyen**  
President of the European Commission



**Josep Borrell Fontelles**  
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission

## European Commission Priorities 2019 - 2024:



**A European Green Deal**  
Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent by 2050



**An economy that works for people**  
Working for social fairness and prosperity



**A Europe fit for the digital age**  
Empowering people with a new generation of technologies



**Europe in the world**  
Europe to strive for more by strengthening our unique brand of responsible global leadership



**A new push for democracy**  
Nurturing, protecting and strengthening democracy



## Sustainable Development










On 19 April 2021, the European Council adopted the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, followed by the Joint Communication on the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy on 16 September 2021. The Joint Communication, presented by the EU Commission and High Representative, outlines seven priority areas for EU action in the region based on the principles of democracy, rule of law and human rights.

Both the Global Gateway and the Indo-Pacific strategies are fully aligned with the United Nation's Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as with the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Recognising the importance of engaging youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the EU also introduced the first ever Youth Action Plan in October 2022. This plan serves as the EU's operational roadmap for involving young people to ensure their sense of ownership and accelerate progress towards the shared goals of the EU and its partners.

The EU's worldwide partnerships and connections are geared towards fostering sustainable development, promoting democratic values, and addressing global challenges for the benefit of the people and the planet.

### Priority areas of the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy:

-  Sustainable and inclusive prosperity
-  Ocean governance
-  Connectivity
-  Human security
-  Green transition
-  Digital governance and partnerships
-  Security and defence

## Global Gateway Strategy

The Global Gateway stands for sustainable and trusted connections that work for people and the planet. It helps to tackle the most pressing global challenges, from fighting climate change to improving health systems, and boosting competitiveness and security of global supply chains. During the EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit of December 2022 in Brussels, the EU pledged to mobilise €10 billion for connectivity projects in ASEAN by 2027 under the Global Gateway investment strategy.

**€300 billion**  
investments from Team Europe

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2021-2027



“ We will support smart investments in quality infrastructure, respecting the highest social and environmental standards, in line with the EU's values and standards. The Global Gateway strategy is a template for how Europe can build more resilient connections with the world. ”

**Ursula von der Leyen**  
President of the European Commission





# The EU and ASEAN

## Strategic partnership for the future

Since 1977, the EU's partnership with ASEAN has been based on shared values and common goals. In 2020, the EU and ASEAN became Strategic Partners. Together, they continue to cooperate in ensuring peace and security in the region, building sustainable connectivity, promoting free and fair trade, and supporting sustainable development in the ASEAN region.

The Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN, in partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat and the bilateral Delegations of the European Union to ASEAN Member States, celebrated the 45 years of dialogue relations throughout the year 2022 with a series of events, including a comic strip competition, an ASEAN-EU Virtual Cooperation Exhibition, an ASEAN-EU Joint Photo Exhibition and an ASEAN-EU Bike45Ride. The first-ever EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit at Leaders' level on 14 December 2022 in Brussels marked the pinnacle of the commemoration of 45 years of EU-ASEAN dialogue relations.

The series of commemorative events was kicked off with the unveiling of the special 45<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU anniversary logo at the ASEAN Secretariat on 11 February 2022. The event was opened by the former Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi and the former Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN, H.E. Igor Driesmans.



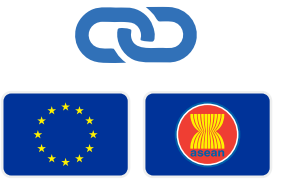
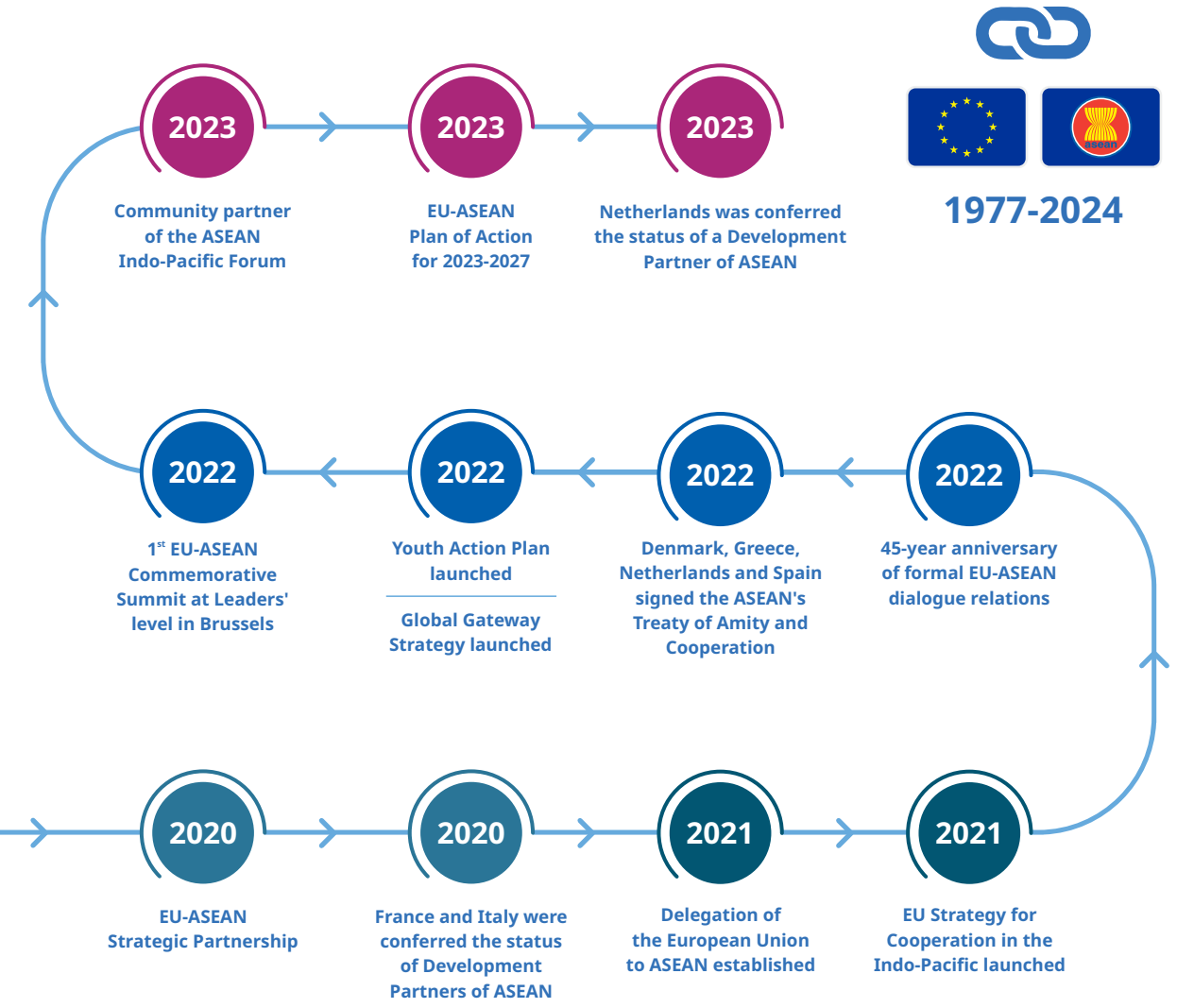
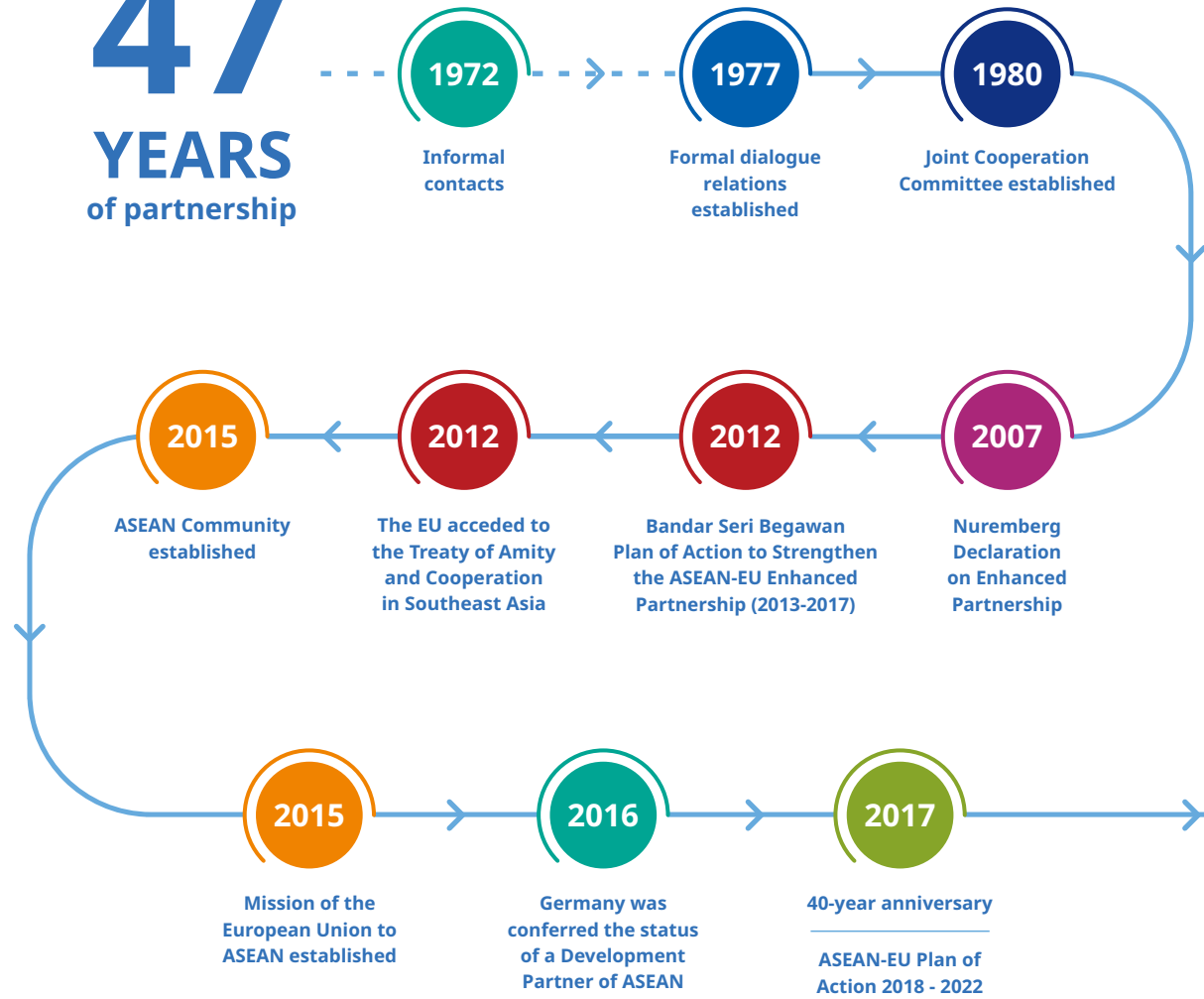
1 September 2023

H.E. Sujiro Seam, the newly-appointed Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN, presented his credentials to the Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dr Kao Kim Hourn, at the ASEAN Secretariat, followed by a courtesy call.





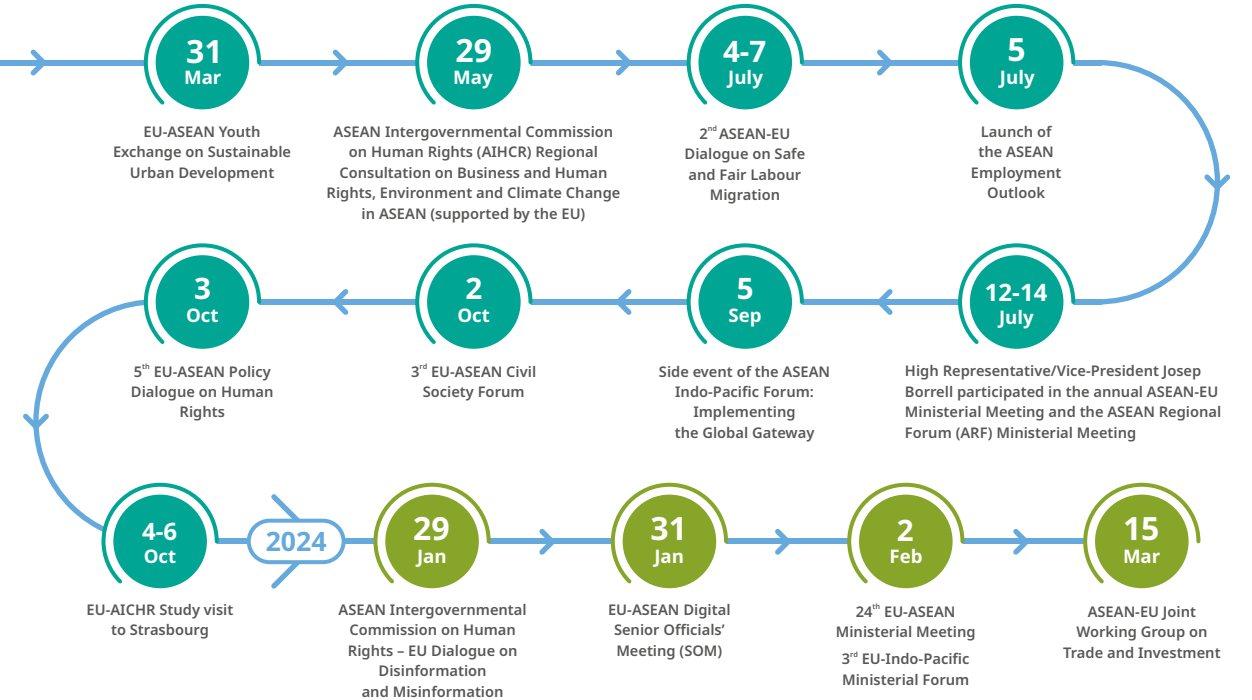
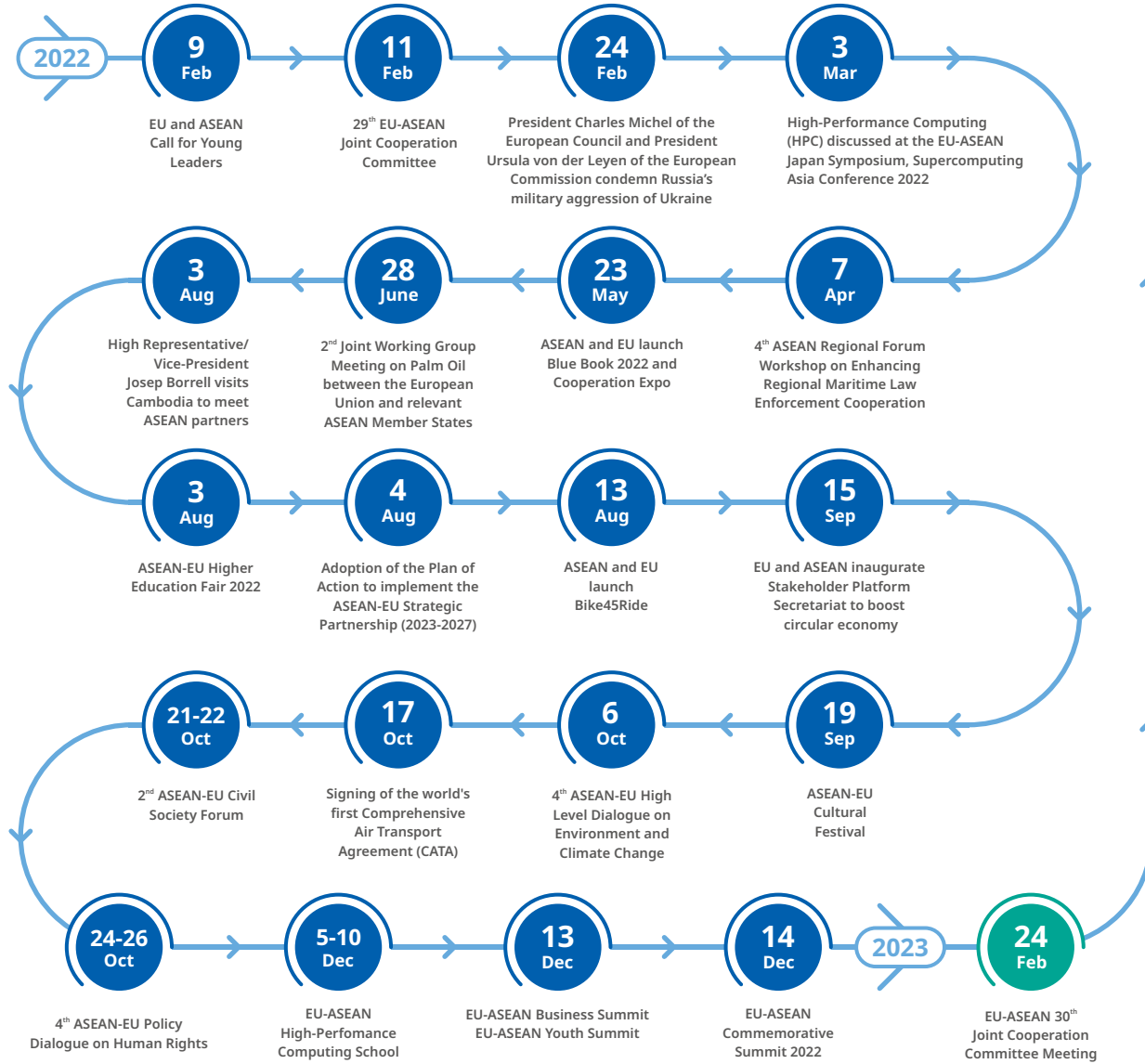
# 47 YEARS of partnership



1977-2024



# 2022-2024 Highlights >>>



## EU-ASEAN cooperation is aligned with the Three ASEAN Community Pillars



# EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit Brussels, 2022

The first-ever summit between the leaders of EU and ASEAN Member States marks 45 years of diplomatic relations. The President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the 2022 ASEAN Chair, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, co-chaired the EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit.



President of the European Council, Charles Michel; President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo; and President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen at the EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in Brussels



President of the European Council, Charles Michel; former Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi; and President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen mark 45 years of EU-ASEAN diplomatic relations





# EU-ASEAN Business Summit and EU-ASEAN Youth Summit

Brussels, 13 December 2022

## The 10<sup>th</sup> EU-ASEAN Business Summit

Held on the sidelines of the EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in Brussels, the 10<sup>th</sup> EU-ASEAN Business Summit had the theme, 'Deepening ASEAN-EU trade: sustainable development for all'. Hosted by the EU-ASEAN Business Council, the Summit provided a platform for ASEAN and EU leaders to discuss opportunities for enhancing economic cooperation between the two regions and explore future trade and investment prospects.



**The EU-ASEAN Business Council has been an important ally in deepening our economic and trade relations. We have major common interests: diversifying risks, reducing critical vulnerabilities and securing stable supply and demand chains.**

**Charles Michel**

President of the European Council

## EU-ASEAN Youth Summit

Both the EU and ASEAN declared the year 2022 as the 'Year of Youth'. Coinciding with the first ever EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit, the EU-ASEAN Youth Summit provided a unique space for youth to contribute their perspectives on current and future priorities for the EU-ASEAN relationship.

Organised by the EU-ASEAN Young Leaders Forum, the Young Indo-Pacific Forum and the Youth Sounding Board, the Summit was inaugurated by the EU Commissioner for International Partnership, H.E. Jutta Urpilainen; the former Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi; the Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia, H.E. Kim Sethany; and the Special Advisor on Youth to the European Commission, Qyira Yusri.

The EU-ASEAN Youth Summit took place at the Residence Palace in Brussels and was streamed live to ensure broad participation from youth in both the EU and ASEAN. Discussions during the summit covered various topics, including democratic governance and basic rights in the EU and ASEAN, security in the Indo-Pacific region and EU-ASEAN People-to-People connectivity.



© David Pias



EU-ASEAN Business Summit





EU-ASEAN Youth Summit



As part of the series of commemorative events, an Indonesian young artist, Ari Bayuaji, created a wish tree using plastic debris from the ocean. The wish tree showcased the aspirations of young people for the future of EU-ASEAN relations. The wish tree made its debut in Brussels from 1 to 14 December 2022.



Watch the Road to 45 interview series

### Celebrating EU-ASEAN People-to-People Cooperation on Higher Education

Ahead of the EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat, in partnership with the EU Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (SHARE) programme and ERASMUS+ Programmes, hosted an event titled 'Celebrating EU-ASEAN People-to-People Cooperation on Higher Education' in Brussels. High-level stakeholders, including Commissioner Urpilainen, attended the event and discussed the numerous gains achieved through higher education and research cooperation, concluding it as a key pillar to the strategic partnership between both regions. Greater mobility of students and professionals was identified as a driver to further knowledge, facilitate the flow of ideas and innovation between the EU and Southeast Asia regions, all of which enhance employability, digital transition and the green agenda.





## ASEAN-EU Joint Photo Exhibition

28 July - 11 August 2022

The ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia

The ASEAN-EU Joint Photo Exhibition was officially launched on 28 July 2022 at the ASEAN Secretariat, in Jakarta, Indonesia by H.E. Michael Tene, former Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Political Security Community; Ms Myriam Ferran, Deputy Director-General of International Partnerships (INTPA), European Commission; H.E. Gunnar Wiegand, Managing Director, Asia Pacific, European External Action Service (EEAS); and Ms Elizabeth Te, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. at the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to ASEAN representing the Country Coordinator for the European Union.

The exhibition featured 45 photos that exemplified the implementation of the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership in different areas of cooperation.

The ASEAN-EU Joint Photo Exhibition was also exhibited offline at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pasay City, Philippines from 23 to 29 November 2022; at the EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit from 1 to 14 December 2022 at the Halles St. Gery, Brussels; and at the Lao PDR Ministry of Justice in Vientiane from 14 to 18 December 2022.



© Valinda Alm



© Prince Loyd Basorio



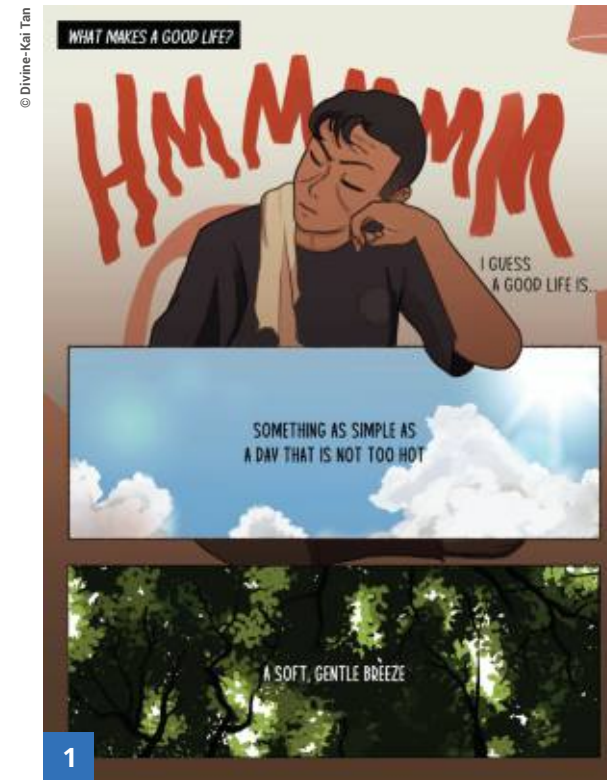
Scan here to access the full exhibition online

[euinasean.eu/45-years-joint-photo-exhibition](http://euinasean.eu/45-years-joint-photo-exhibition)

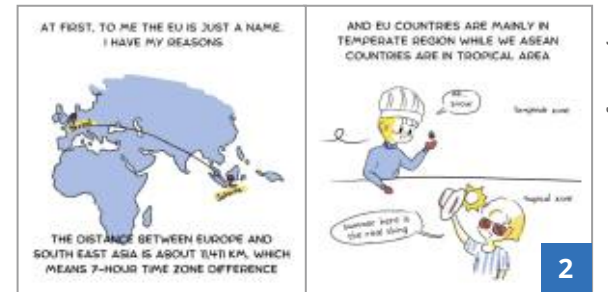
## ASEAN-EU Comic Strip Competition



On 9 May 2022, the Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN invited ASEAN youth to draw a comic strip depicting ASEAN-EU relations on ‘Sustainable Environment and Connectivity’.



© Divine-Kai Tan



© Thuy Bui Thi Ngoc



© Vanthana Narith

1<sup>st</sup> Winner:  
**What Makes A Good Life**  
Divine-Kai Tan, Philippines

2<sup>nd</sup> Winner:  
**Share The Same Concern,  
Work Together For The Green Future**  
Thuy Bui Thi Ngoc, Viet Nam

3<sup>rd</sup> Winner:  
**The Perfect World, The Insight,  
The Other Side**  
Vanthana Narith, Cambodia





## ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum 2023: Implementing the Global Gateway in the ASEAN region

Indonesia, as Chair of ASEAN in 2023, held the ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum (AIPF) event on 5 and 6 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia. With a focus on green infrastructure and resilient supply chain, sustainable and innovative financing, as well as creative economy, the forum aimed to deepen cooperation between the public and private sector in ASEAN and partner countries.

Acknowledging the links between the focus of the forum and the priorities of the Global Gateway, on 5 September 2023, the Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN organised an AIPF side-event on the implementation of the Global Gateway, showcasing EU flagship projects and key initiatives in the region.

In his opening remarks, the Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN, H.E. Sujiro Seam, highlighted the relevance of the Global Gateway Strategy to the EU-ASEAN partnership: 'It's an investment of €300 billion worldwide and a commitment from the European Union to invest in infrastructure in five key areas including digitalisation, energy and climate, transport, health, as well as education and research,' Ambassador Seam said.

Representing the Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia, Prof. Wihana Kirana Jaya, Special Staff for Economic and Transportation Investment, acknowledged the longstanding relationship between the EU and ASEAN. He cited the EU-ASEAN Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA) as a concrete example of EU-ASEAN cooperation to enhance connectivity between the two regions. 'The collaboration with the European Union extends beyond physical



infrastructures. It also includes the sharing of knowledge and best practices,' he added. 'By walking together, I believe the EU and ASEAN, including Indonesia, are not only building infrastructure but are also fostering a culture of innovation and sustainability.'

Delivering the keynote speech, Kris Peeters, Vice President of the European Investment Bank, provided a thorough outlook on the implementation of the Global Gateway, highlighting key flagships in the region which the EU supports. This included the Just Energy Transition Partnerships with Indonesia and Viet Nam, the Copernicus programme in the Philippines to bolster capacities to access vital data, as well as the rehabilitation of National Road No. 2 in Lao PDR, a vital ASEAN Highway connecting the country to Viet Nam and Thailand. 'The Global Gateway initiative proposes economic development while championing the dream decisions of green and digital across the world. It connects nations without fostering dependency and strengthens resilience,' Peeters said.



Furthermore, VP Peeters also highlighted the importance of private sector participation in the Team Europe approach and partnerships.

Managing Director of A.P. Moller Singapore Pte. Ltd (Maersk), Rene Pill Pedersen offered a great illustration of private sector's contribution to the Global Gateway objectives. He presented Maersk's commitments to sustainability and the investments the company has made, including in the procurement of green methanol-powered vessels.

Over 180 participants attended the event, including representatives of EU Member States, representatives of financial institutions, board members and directors from the EU-ASEAN Business Council and Eurocham Indonesia, as well as youth representatives from the region.





## 24<sup>th</sup> EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting

The 24<sup>th</sup> EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting was held in Brussels on 2 February 2024. Co-chaired by the EU High Representative, H.E. Josep Borrell Fontelles and the Philippines' Secretary of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Enrique Manalo, the meeting aimed to advance key areas of cooperation between the EU and ASEAN. Three main topics discussed in the meeting were the ongoing trade-related facilitation measures, with a specific focus on green initiatives, digital transition and the establishment of resilient supply chains; Global Gateway initiative updates and its implementation in the ASEAN region; as well as a thorough review of regional and global security developments to further enhance the shared understanding and cooperation between the two regions.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Josep Borrell reiterated the EU's pledge to mobilise €10 billion for connectivity projects in ASEAN under the Global Gateway initiative, while Philippines' Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Enrique Manalo, highlighted the commitment of EU and ASEAN foreign ministers to: 'fully implement the Joint Leaders' Statement and set the pace for a more vibrant ASEAN-EU relationship.'

In the joint ministerial statement issued after the meeting, the EU and ASEAN reaffirmed their strategic partnership based on shared values and common interests and reiterated their commitments to championing multilateralism and international law.

Earlier on the same day, the EU and its Indo-Pacific partners also gathered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum to discuss how to address the increasing number of complex economic, environmental, geopolitical and security challenges that affect both regions.



Find out more:

[https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/24th-eu-asean-ministerial-meeting\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/24th-eu-asean-ministerial-meeting_en)





# Strategic Partnership

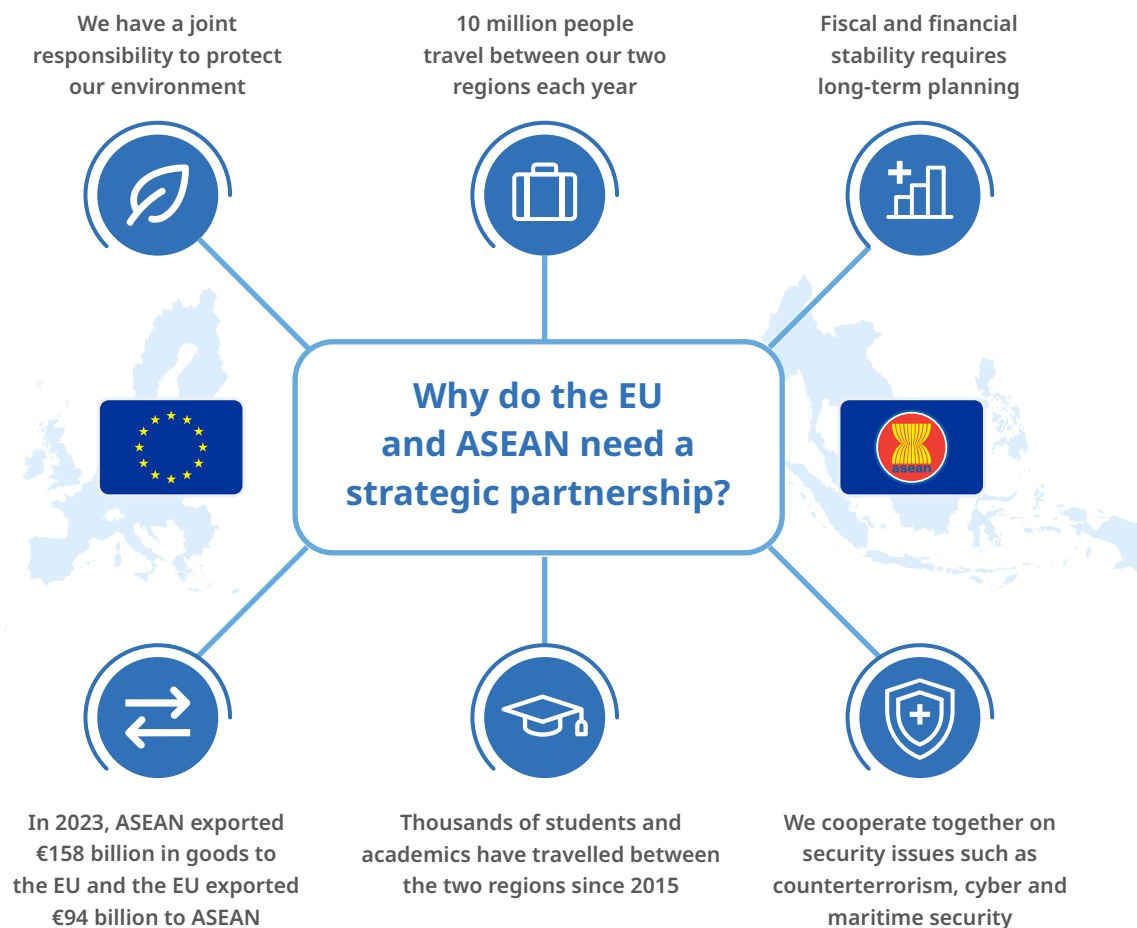
## Advancing together

On 1 December 2020, the EU and ASEAN strengthened their partnership by becoming strategic partners. As ASEAN's third largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) and its third largest trading partner, the EU has a clear stake in Southeast Asia's peace and prosperity. Beyond economic relations, the EU-ASEAN partnership is based on shared values and principles, such as rules-based international order, effective and sustainable multilateralism as well as being the world's two most advanced regionalism projects. This unique experience leads to natural exchanges on integration, which translates to over 30 different technical-level dialogues across a wide array of areas.

The ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2023-2027) is by far the most comprehensive blueprint for EU-ASEAN mid-term cooperation to date. On 14 December 2022, EU-ASEAN leaders issued a Joint Leaders' Statement of the 2022 EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit which endorsed the Plan of Action and provided further strategic guidance for EU-ASEAN ties. The implementation of these strategic documents will be crucial for bringing the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership to new levels.



# EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership



**Our strategic partnership will enable us to contribute to a peaceful, fair and prosperous world**

The European Union and the ASEAN first became dialogue partners in 1977. In 2020, the EU and ASEAN elevated their relations to Strategic Partners. To commemorate 45 years of diplomatic relations between the two regions, the EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit was held in Brussels on 14 December 2022, bringing together the leaders of EU and ASEAN Member States.

The Summit was co-chaired by the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the 2022 ASEAN Chair, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. Both the EU and ASEAN reaffirmed their commitment to shared values and principles, such as the rules-based international order, respect of international integrity and effective and sustainable multilateralism.

During the Summit, past achievements were discussed, and future endeavors were highlighted across various areas of the strategic partnership. These include addressing global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. In the Joint Leaders' Statement issued after the Summit, ASEAN leaders expressed appreciation for and commitment to the new Plan of Action, which aims to implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership from 2023 to 2027. The plan was adopted at the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) +1 with the EU and covers strategic cooperation across all three pillars of the ASEAN Community. It also includes cross-pillar cooperation, such as initiatives for ASEAN integration, narrowing the development gap in ASEAN, safe cross-border travel and cooperation on connectivity, smart cities, cybersecurity, circular economy, and technical and vocational education and training.

Furthermore, ASEAN leaders welcomed the EU's commitment to supporting sustainable infrastructure, digital innovation, seamless logistics, enhanced mobility and an enabling environment in the ASEAN region.

**“The EU and ASEAN are the world's two most advanced regional integration organisations. We understand each other very well, we share the same values and the same spirit of cooperation.”**

**Charles Michel**  
President of the European Council



# PLAN OF ACTION

to implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership  
(2023-2027)



## Political and Security Cooperation:

- Enhance strategic dialogue and deepen political and security cooperation
- Enhance the ASEAN-EU cooperation in the ASEAN-led security architecture
- Combat terrorism and transnational crimes and address other non-traditional security issues
- Enhance maritime security cooperation
- Promote disarmament and non-proliferation
- Promote the women, peace and security agenda
- Promote peace-building initiatives
- Promote cooperation on human rights and good governance
- Strengthen institutional relationships



## Economic Cooperation

- Expand trade, business and investment
- Enhance cooperation in intellectual property
- Strengthen the role of the private sector and Public-Private Partnership
- Strengthen micro, small and medium enterprises
- Strengthen cooperation in transport, energy, digital economy and technology
- Enhance cooperation in sectors on food, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry
- Enhance cooperation on research and innovation, science and technology
- Enhance cooperation on competition policy and consumer protection



## Socio-cultural Cooperation

- Enhance people-to-people exchanges and cooperation in the areas of education, science and culture
- Enhance cooperation to address health priorities, including public health emergencies and pandemics
- Promote gender equality, wellbeing, rights and welfare of women, children, the elderly/older persons, persons with disabilities and migrant workers
- Enhance cooperation on crisis and disaster management
- Address regional and global environmental challenges and promote sustainable development



## Cross Pillar Cooperation

- Cooperation on connectivity
- Smart cities cooperation
- Cybersecurity cooperation
- Circular economy
- Cooperation in technical and vocational education and training
- Initiative for ASEAN integration and narrowing the development gap in ASEAN
- Safe cross-border travel



ASEAN and the EU will pursue cooperation in conformity with their respective Member States' obligations under the international law, and in accordance with their respective Member States' domestic laws, regulations and policies.





Founded in 1957  
**European Union**



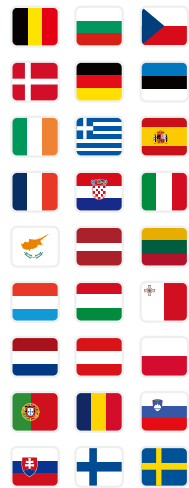
**27**  
Member States

Motto:  
**United in Diversity**

Official Languages: **24**

Population:  
**447.7M**

Land Area:  
**4 225 127**  
KM<sup>2</sup>



Founded in 1967  
**ASEAN**



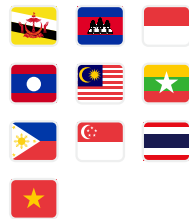
**10**  
Member States

Motto:  
**One Vision, One Identity, One Community**

Working Language:  
**English**

Population:  
**661.8M**

Land Area:  
**4 500 000**  
KM<sup>2</sup>



The EU and ASEAN are the two most advanced regional integration initiatives in the world.

The EU is ASEAN's most significant partner in development cooperation.

The EU is the **third largest external provider of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** to the ASEAN region.

The EU is an increasingly important destination for investment coming from the ASEAN region.

**Main EU regional cooperation projects in the ASEAN region**

Political Security	Economic	Socio-Cultural
Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) €20 million   2017-2025		
Strategic Communication €2.05 million   2017-2025		
CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CBRN CoE) €33.5 million   2010-2024		
EU CRIMARIO II €7.5 million   2020-2024		
EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific €600 000   2024-2025		
	<b>SCOPE Connectivity</b> €60 million   2024-2028 <i>at preparation stage:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCOPE Trade</li> <li>• SCOPE Higher Education</li> <li>• SCOPE Civil Aviation Partnership</li> <li>• SCOPE Intellectual Property Rights</li> <li>• SCOPE Seafarers</li> <li>• SCOPE Investment Facility</li> <li>• SCOPE Digital</li> <li>• SCOPE Ship Safety</li> <li>• SCOPE Energy</li> </ul>	
	<b>ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE+ ASEAN)</b> €40 million   2017-2023 <i>In combination with €50 million ARISE+ country-level interventions in 8 ASEAN Member States</i>	
		<b>Safe &amp; Fair: Realising Women Migrant Workers' Rights and Opportunities in ASEAN</b> €25 million   2018-2023
		<b>Sustainable use of Peat Lands and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA)</b> €20 million   2019-2023
		<b>Forest Governance Support Programme (FLEGT)</b> €20 million   2019-2024
		<b>Biodiversity Conservation &amp; Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP)</b> €10 million   2016-2023
		<b>EU Support to the AHA Centre &amp; ASEAN Emergency Response (EU-SAHA)</b> €7.2 million   2020-2025
		<b>South East Asia Health Pandemic Response and Preparedness</b> €20 million   2021-2023
		<b>SMART Green ASEAN Cities</b> €5 million   2021-2024
		<b>ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF)</b> €50 million   2022 onward
		<b>EU-ASEAN Green Initiative</b> €30 million   2023 - 2027
		<b>ERASMUS+ 2021-2027</b>
		<b>Horizon Europe 2021-2027</b>

**Key Regional Initiatives Supported by the EU in the ASEAN region**

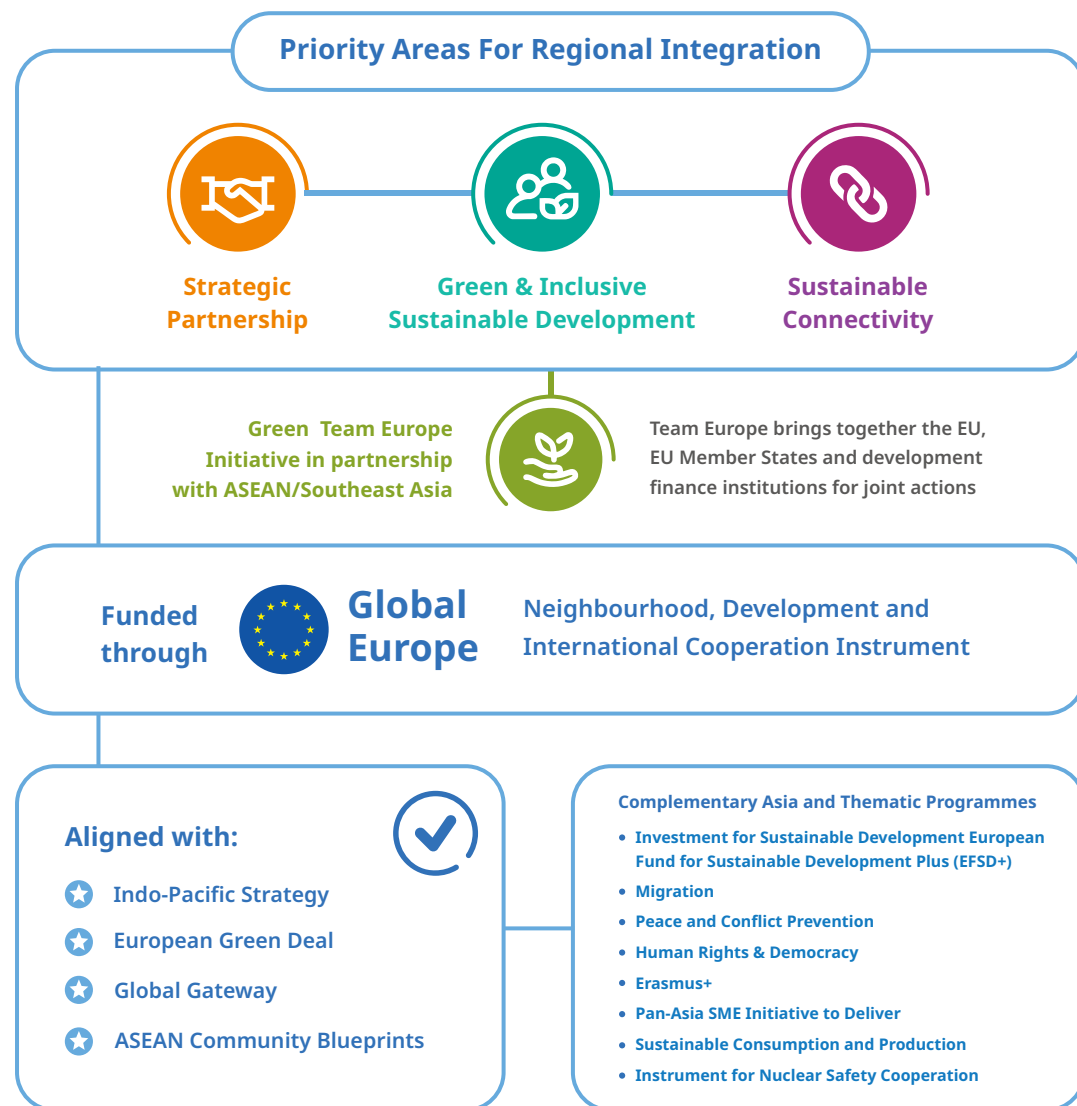


**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**





# EU-ASEAN Cooperation



# The Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI)

**€20 million**  
2017-2025

The overall objective of E-READI is to support ASEAN integration aiming at poverty reduction through inclusive and sustainable growth.

Its specific objective is to support the implementation of the ASEAN Community Blueprints, drawing on European experience and know-how through sectoral policy dialogues.

E-READI operates within the context of:

- The ASEAN-EU Plan of Action 2018-2022
- The Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership 2023-2027
- The ASEAN Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together and its three Community Blueprints
- The Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Programme III and IV
- The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The Addis Ababa Agenda of 2015
- The Paris Agreement on Climate Change of 2015
- The Glasgow Climate Pact of 2021
- The European Consensus on Development of 2017

These policy documents inform and inspire cooperation under E-READI.

E-READI support to EU-ASEAN dialogue fora includes establishing contacts, strengthening networks, developing studies, arranging seminars, workshops and meetings to exchange knowledge or facilitating participation in such, building capacity and much more.

**34** E-READI is a demand-driven cooperation programme that facilitates dialogue fora between the European Union (EU) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) currently on 34 joint priority policy areas.



## E-READI THEMATIC AREAS

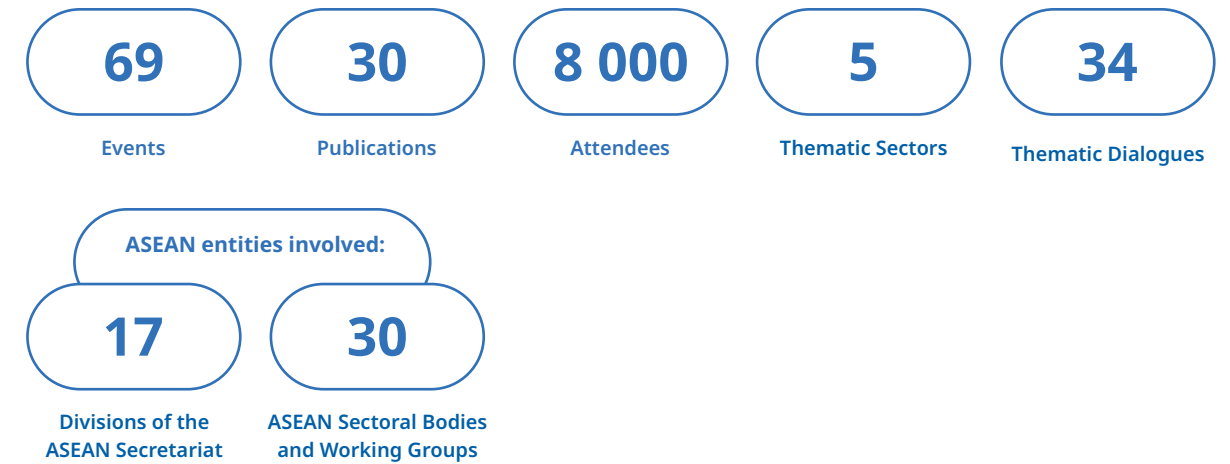
ECONOMIC & TRADE	SDG PARTNERSHIPS	SCIENCE & RESEARCH
Trade Experts' Dialogue on Trade & Sustainable Development	High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable Development	Dialogue on GreenTech & Innovation Mapping
Trade Experts' Dialogue on E-Commerce	Dialogue on Cross-Sectoral Coordination	Dialogue on High-Performance Computing
Trade Experts' Dialogue on Standards & Conformance	Dialogue on Carbon Neutrality in Agriculture	Dialogue on Talent Mobility
Trade Experts' Dialogue on Rules of Origin	<b>HUMANS RIGHTS &amp; GENDER EQUALITY</b>	Dialogue on Regional Research Infrastructure
Trade Experts' Dialogue on GreenTech and Green Services		Policy Dialogue on Human Rights
Trade Experts' Dialogue on Resilient Supply Chains		Safe & Fair Labour Migration Campaign
Trade Experts' Dialogue on Non-Tariff Barriers in ASEAN		Harmonising Migration Measures in ASEAN
Dialogue on Road Safety		ASEAN Employment Outlook
Dialogue on Intelligent Transport Systems	Women's Political Participation & Leadership	<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; CLIMATE CHANGE</b>
Dialogue on Railway Traffic Monitoring	EU-ASEAN High-Level Dialogue on Environment & Climate Change	
Dialogue on Maritime Transport - Maritime Labour Convention	Dialogue on Fisheries Policy	
Dialogue on Digital Economy & Society	Dialogue on Combatting Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported Fishing	
Dialogue on Eurocodes	Dialogue on Clean Energy	
	Dialogue on Circular Economy	
	Dialogue on Natural Capital	
	Climate Policy & Long-term Strategies	
	Climate Finance Strategy	
	Carbon Pricing Instruments in ASEAN	

**E-READI promotes the EU-ASEAN Partnership & directly contributes to ASEAN Community Pillars**

- Political-Security Community
- Economic Community
- Socio-Cultural Community



### Achievements so far:



## Bridging Academia with the Private Sector



**Three EU-ASEAN workshops brought together stakeholders from academia, start-ups and innovators, the private sector and technology transfer offices from all ASEAN Member States to jointly develop and design the concept for the ASEAN Technology Management Hub (TMH).**

The TMH project intends to develop a comprehensive online platform that will match commercially viable university research with an innovation-driven private sector to accelerate research, catalyse innovation, foster knowledge-sharing and promote technology transfers in ASEAN. It will be the first of its kind at a regional level in ASEAN.

The first workshop in Jakarta on 23 and 24 February 2023 was hosted by Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and focused on identifying stakeholder priorities, securing their support and designing the TMH platform. The workshop was organised with the support of the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) in coordination with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) of the European Commission and the Science and Technology Division of the ASEAN Secretariat.

Hosted by Cambodia's Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation (MISTI) in Siem Reap on 16 and 17 March 2023, the second workshop developed results from the first workshop into recommendations on how the ASEAN TMH would be structured, implemented and



At the opening of the second workshop, Thibaut Portevin, Head of Cooperation of the Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN, congratulated ASEAN on developing its regional TMH and stated: 'The EU is pleased to be supporting this important initiative which will offer ASEAN universities, research organisations, private companies and government agencies an opportunity to interact more effectively to maximise the social impact and commercial potential of their research and innovation efforts, and will contribute to the regional integration process.'

The results from the two workshops were fed into a draft proof of Concept Note for the ASEAN TMH, which was adopted by the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) on 29 May 2023. The draft proof of Concept Note was then validated during the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-ASEAN Workshop on the ASEAN TMH in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 22-23 November 2023.

The European Union and E-READI are supporting the development of the ASEAN TMH by facilitating the dialogue with some European initiatives including EURAXESS ASEAN, the Southeast-Asia Europe Joint Funding Scheme for

Research and Innovation, the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA), the Competence Centre on Technology Transfer set up by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and the SAIRA platform. During the workshops, representatives from these entities shared lessons learnt in building innovation ecosystems covering both successes and failures.

The Indonesia National Chair of the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI), Boediastoeti Ontowirjo, confirmed Indonesia's support for the implementation of ASEAN TMH and conveyed her expectations for the workshop to produce the most feasible and reliable TMH concept.

Cambodia COSTI Chairperson, Seingheng Hul, also reaffirmed Cambodia's commitment to ensure the successful establishment and operation of the ASEAN TMH: 'The ASEAN TMH initiative will not only drive the effort of scaling up innovations, but also bring together stakeholders from across the ASEAN region to effectively tackle regional, and ultimately, global challenges by utilising science, technology and innovation.'





## High-Performance Computing in Rural Thailand



The Lampang campus of the Thammasat University is located approximately 600 kilometres North of Bangkok, and is one of the only two universities in the city. Here, the university had been grappling with the challenges of low admission and a high dropout rate, particularly within the computer science major.

'A computer science major is not exactly the most popular major in a rural campus like this one,' Worawan Diaz Carballo, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Thammasat University, noted. Limited infrastructure and opportunities have meant that students have had to invest more time and effort in completing their studies, making it unaffordable for many.

In 2021, Carballo participated in the first EU-ASEAN HPC Virtual School: System Design and HPC Applications. The experience proved to be a turning point in her career. The unique platform aims to increase the skill and capability of ASEAN students and scientists by bringing together top international experts in the HPC field to share their expertise and knowledge. The invaluable knowledge and experience Carballo gained during the programme has had a ripple effect that extends far beyond herself.

In 2022, Carballo received full support from E-READI to attend another EU-ASEAN HPC school in Bangkok, Thailand. This opportunity allowed her to network and collaborate with other scientists from the region. 'During my time at the school, I can't stop thinking about my students and how I can help them experience the international HPC community,' Carballo said.

**The HPC schools expose exceptional Southeast Asian researchers, primarily at the postgraduate level, to a hands-on curriculum taught by international luminaries in HPC technology from Japan, Europe, Southeast Asia and beyond.**

### H.E. Sujiro Seam

Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN



The dedication and hard work of Carballo and her students paid off as they secured the third place for the second consecutive year and won the best HPC performance award in the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific High-Performance Computing-Artificial Intelligence (APAC HPC-AI) competition. Their achievements shone a spotlight on the university and its computer science programme. The impact was astounding. Over 400 high-school students in Lampang expressed newfound interests in HPC and AI skills, a remarkable transformation from the initial 13 students from low-income families that Carballo had mentored.

As Carballo's influence continues to spread and inspire more students in rural Thailand, the future of High-Performance Computing in the region looks brighter than ever before. The ASEAN HPC School 2023, held in Bogor, Indonesia from 11 to 16 December 2023, marked a new era with an ASEAN Member State organising and managing the school. H.E. Sujiro Seam, Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN explained: 'The HPC schools expose exceptional Southeast Asian researchers, primarily at the postgraduate level, to a hands-on curriculum taught by international luminaries in HPC technology from Japan, Europe, and Southeast Asia and beyond.'



## Saving Lives with Safer ASEAN Roads

In 2020, ASEAN Member States experienced over 156 000 traffic accident casualties, most of which involved motorcycles which are the main means of personal transportation in the region. Despite recognising the significance of improving road safety to enhance citizens' welfare and promote economic benefits, ASEAN governments face the challenges of limited resources and capabilities for addressing the issue.

In response to this challenge, the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) initiated a study aimed at identifying the needs of ASEAN to enable it to reduce road casualties in the region by 50% and achieve the goals set by the United Nations Global Plan for Road Safety 2021-2030.

A European road safety expert was assigned to conduct comprehensive research and surveys among road safety practitioners both within the EU and ASEAN regions. The collected data was then verified through a series of stakeholder interviews in ASEAN Member States to identify specific challenges and data gaps.

The findings from the study were presented during the EU-ASEAN Road Safety Workshop and Capacity Building event held from 7 to 9 February 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The event served as a platform for ASEAN Member States to share their perspectives, experiences and aspirations for developing safer roads in their respective countries. The workshop generated a toolbox comprising a stakeholder map, a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and



threats) analysis of the road safety intervention implementation in ASEAN. The work also streamlined recommendations on the three key areas: data collection and management; understanding the cost, impact and value of road safety interventions; and behaviour change through awareness campaigns.

In 2020, Lao PDR ranked as the fourth highest country in terms of traffic casualties. The Deputy Director of the Department of Transport, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lao PDR, Mr Phouthavishet Phommanivong, expressed his enthusiasm for the workshop's discussions, finding all the topics covered to be engaging. 'The workshop also provided us with the opportunities to find solutions to solve our problems together,' he added.

## Enhancing ASEAN Secretariat Project Management Capacity

Tia Djaharani is a young professional from North Sumatra with a Master Degree in European Studies. Since 2015, Djaharani has been working at the ASEAN Secretariat as an officer at the Programme Coordination and Project Management Division. Her responsibilities include providing support to the ASEAN cooperation with the European Union, UN/World Bank and other development partners such as, Australia, Canada, France, Italy and New Zealand.

In 2021, Djaharani was selected as one of the nine professionals from the ASEAN Secretariat who received support from the ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE Plus Grant) to participate in the Certified Project Management Professional (PMP) Programme of the Project Management Institute. She found that the 45 contact hours training she underwent gave her not only project management technical skills but also soft skills like innovation, communication and proactivity. Together with other young professionals of the ASEAN Secretariat, she also participated in the ARISE Grant funded three-year modular training programme on Effective Corporate Services Delivery (ECSD) during 2020-2022.

'I have applied what I learned from the PMP training in my current work as a development cooperation programme support officer. I provide support to development partners and project proponents in formulating project identification notes, project logical framework, proposal and budget. I also benefit greatly from the ECSD training, especially on the ASEAN



Secretariat Service Behaviour - C.A.R.E (Continuous Improvement, Accountable, Reliance and Empathy). I noticed that my colleagues and clients appreciate my assistance and recognise the differences,' she said.

After the training and long-hours of study and practicum, Djaharani took the examination in April 2022. She passed the exam and is now a certified project management professional. She is also a member of the Project Management Institute, the biggest project management community of practitioners in the world. With the skills acquired from the training and certification, along with her passion in international cooperation, Djaharani is now ready to contribute further toward the cooperation project, not only with the EU but also with other ASEAN partners.





## Security and Defence Cooperation: Promoting Peace, Stability and Prosperity

On 14 July 2023, the 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held in Jakarta. Chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Retno Marsudi, under the ASEAN Chairmanship theme 'ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth', the meeting was attended by Foreign Ministers and Representatives of ARF and the Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dr Kao Kim Hourn.

The meeting was also attended by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, who reiterated the EU's commitment to ASEAN Centrality and the desire to step up the EU-ASEAN dialogue and cooperation to promote peace and security in the region. H.E. Borrell also highlighted the link between the growing impact of climate change on peace and security and encouraged the ARF: 'to pay increased attention to the threats of climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security and defence.'

Established in 1994, the ASEAN Regional Forum is one of the main platforms for dialogue and consultation on political and security issues in the region.

In the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 24<sup>th</sup> EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held in Brussels on 2 February 2024, the ASEAN ministers welcomed the EU's active engagement in the ASEAN Regional Forum and the EU's commitment to adhere to all relevant ASEAN-led security mechanisms, including the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)-Plus.



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In the statement, both the EU and ASEAN also reaffirmed their position for the need to respect the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine. In light of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine which began on 24 February 2022, EU leaders have demanded a cessation of military actions and withdrawal of all Russian forces in Ukraine. Expanded sanctions against Russia have also been imposed and the EU has continued to provide Ukraine with humanitarian, political, financial and military support.

CBRN CoE – Project 62

€2.4  
million

2018-2024

## Leveraging Regional Expertise in ASEAN

Regional expertise within ASEAN holds the potential to play a crucial role in reinforcing the world's commitment to the universal prohibition of biological weapons, as mandated by the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). From 3 to 4 November 2022, experts and national authorities from ASEAN Member States gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR to discuss Confidence-Building Measures (CBM) as the primary mechanism to exchange information between Member States.

During this event, a leading expert from the Philippines, Prof. Irma Makalinao, shared her experiences in supporting the national authorities of Lao PDR to prepare their annual submission of CBMs. Despite the importance of CBMs in improving international cooperation on biological activities, participation in the CBM process remains low due to the lack of awareness and dedicated training on how to complete and submit annual CBM reports in the national levels. Makalinao's presentation was seconded by the Lao PDR National contact point, Ms Somsanouk Keobounsouvan who attributed the success of Lao PDR in submitting its CBM report to the training that strengthened the capabilities of national authorities in understanding the CBM reporting process.

Ambassador Leonardo Bencini, president of the 9<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention, highlighted that the fruitful collaboration between the Philippines and Lao PDR served as an exemplary model of how leveraging regional expertise can deliver effective technical support. The synergy between countries within the region in tackling the challenges posed by biological weapons underscores the potential for collective strength and collaborative solutions.

The EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative (EU CBRN CoE), established in 2010, stands as a significant driving force behind the promotion of a global culture of safety and security. In the context of ASEAN, the EU CBRN CoE Project 62 'On-site Technical Support to the Regional Secretariat in Southeast Asia' has played a vital role in supporting the development of a regional expert network. This network not only informs but also drives the delivery of tailored training, making it an essential foundation for regional cooperation.

The fruitful collaboration between the Philippines and Lao PDR is a testament to the importance of harnessing regional expertise in ensuring the safety and security of the ASEAN region and beyond.



For more information on the EU CBRN CoE, please see:

[https://cbrn-risk-mitigation.network.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://cbrn-risk-mitigation.network.europa.eu/index_en)





## Master Trainer Establishes Sustainable Chemical Response Training for Cambodian CBRN Response Team

€3  
million  
2017-2023



Col. Dr Sat Chansovannary has been fascinated by Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation since the beginning of her career in 2018 at the General Secretariat of the National Authority for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (NACW) of the Ministry of National Defence of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In November 2019, she participated in her first CBRN course, a national training delivered by the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Project 61 Sound Management of Chemicals and their Associated Wastes in Southeast Asia (P61). Based on her outstanding performance, she was nominated for the P61 Regional Train-the-Trainers Course to ultimately become a Master Trainer for Cambodia.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the project provided a series of online training sessions, which Col. Chansovannary used to focus on more advanced topics related to the response to chemical incidents. These topics included a comprehensive set of measures managed by multi-agency response teams.

In May 2022, Cambodia hosted a P61 Regional Train-the-Trainers Course for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam. This event comprised theoretical, interactive and practical training. It also provided an excellent platform for Col. Chansovannary to showcase her exceptional organisational leadership capabilities.



Col. Chansovannary's remarkable performance during the event caught the attention of the P61 Work Page 4 implementer, the International Security and Emergency Management Institute (ISEMI) from Slovakia, who decided to offer her a study visit to Slovakia and Czechia. 'This study visit motivated me to organise my own national implementation training on the topic of response to chemical incidents and to make Project 61 sustainable in Cambodia,' Col. Chansovannary said.

Following her study visit to Europe in October 2022, Col. Chansovannary led a national training course for the NACW CBRN Response Team on Response to Chemical Incidents in Cambodia. This training course will be repeated, serving as an

excellent example of sustainability for the future. 'I am very proud that we managed to carry out our new training. It was a great honour to be part of this project and to cooperate with experts from the European Union,' Col. Chansovannary explained.

The P61 consortium team was led by Sustainable Criminal Justice Solutions (SCJS) from the United Kingdom, with partners including the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), ISEMI from Slovakia, the Dutch National Laboratories (RIVM) from the Netherlands and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) from the UK. The project was funded by the European Union.



## Preparing ASEAN for Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies

€1.7  
million  
2020-2025

Following developments after the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011, ASEAN endorsed its Protocol for Preparedness and Response to a Nuclear and Radiological Emergency in 2021. The protocol aims to strengthen the coordination of ASEAN Member States for preparing and responding to nuclear or radiological emergencies occurring within an ASEAN Member State or potentially having an impact on the region.

The EU remains committed to supporting ASEAN's Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R) through, for example, providing support for the development of a regional Early Warning Radiation Monitoring Network (EWRMN) and Radiation Data Exchange Platform in ASEAN (ARDEP). Hosted by the Office of Atoms for Peace in Thailand, the ARDEP aims to provide real-time monitoring data to assist decision making in case of nuclear or radiological incidents.

Since 2021, the EU has provided 40 gamma dose rate monitoring systems (made in Germany) to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, with a further 40 following soon in Viet Nam. EU support also includes the strengthening of national radiation monitoring networks in ASEAN Member States in accordance with best international practices.



In Cambodia, the EU provided hardware and software support to six of its national radiation monitoring networks. Cambodia's Minister of Mines and Energy, H.E. Keo Rottanak welcomed the EU support and reiterated Cambodia's commitment 'to nuclear safety, safeguarding our environment and protecting our citizens from the harmful effects of radiation in case of nuclear accidents or radiological emergencies occurring in the region.' He added: 'With the increasing use of nuclear technology and the potential for radiation exposure, we must have the necessary infrastructure in place to monitor and assess radiation levels in our surroundings. The equipment empowers us with real-time data, enabling proactive decisions to safeguard public health and the environment.' The EU also provided training to Cambodia's central EWRMN, which is hosted by the Department of Nuclear Science and Technology at the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Cambodia.

'This initiative reflects the EU's commitment to improving emergency preparedness, response capabilities, and coordination to effectively address health and ecosystem threats at both national and international level,' said the Ambassador of the European Union to Cambodia, H.E. Igor Driesmans. 'From various nuclear disasters to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the lesson we learned is clear: we need to be prepared and build our capabilities for detection of risks and early response,' he added and continued: 'We are pleased to support Cambodia's efforts to build this capability for emergency preparedness and to contribute to strengthening the country's capacity for managing peaceful use of and environmental radiation protection.'



**With the increasing use of nuclear technology and the potential for radiation exposure, we must have the necessary infrastructure in place to monitor and assess radiation levels in our surroundings.**

**H.E. Keo Rottanak**  
Minister of Mines and Energy Cambodia

**The lesson we learned is clear: we need to be prepared and build our capabilities for detection of risks and early response.**

**H.E. Igor Driesmans**  
Ambassador of the European Union to Cambodia





## Preparing for Future Infectious Diseases

**€3.8**  
million  
2019-2024

From 16 to 18 November 2022, a national Simulation Exercise (SimEx) was held in Udon Thani, Thailand, to raise awareness about biosecurity considerations in the event of an infectious disease outbreak originating in a neighbouring country.

Bringing together 80 participants from Regional Medical Sciences Centres (RMSCs) across Thailand with representatives from the National Institute of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institute of Animal Health, the event served as an effective platform for collaboration and sharing of expertise between the EU and Thailand.

EU experts from the CBRN CoE Project 81 'Enhanced Biosecurity in Southeast Asia' (P81) prepared the scenario outline and designed the management arrangements for the exercise which were then refined and adopted by the Thai team.

The joint exercise provided the team in Udon Thani with the confidence and capabilities to design and deliver future exercises for other RMSCs and provide consultancy support as needed.

The P81 consortium team is led by the Sustainable Criminal Justice Solutions (SCJS) Europe from Belgium with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the Dutch National Laboratories from the Netherlands (RIVM) and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC) from the UK.



For more information on the EU CBRN CoE, please see:

[https://cbrn-risk-mitigation.network.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://cbrn-risk-mitigation.network.europa.eu/index_en)



For more information on P81, please see:

<https://www.cbrn-project81.com>



## Maritime Cooperation

On 10 March 2023, the European Commission and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy adopted a Joint Communication on an enhanced EU Maritime Security Strategy and an updated action plan to implement the strategy.

The EU Maritime Security Strategy aims to promote international peace and security, as well as respect for international rules and principles, while ensuring the sustainability of the oceans and the protection of biodiversity.

Under the new strategy, the EU will continue to strengthen its cooperation and engagement with ASEAN. Through the EU-

funded Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean (CRIMARIO I) project, the EU has increased awareness among partner countries about the maritime domain. In 2020, the EU mandated the CRIMARIO II project to further support partner countries in information sharing, incident management and maritime data processing.



**EU Maritime Security Strategy:**

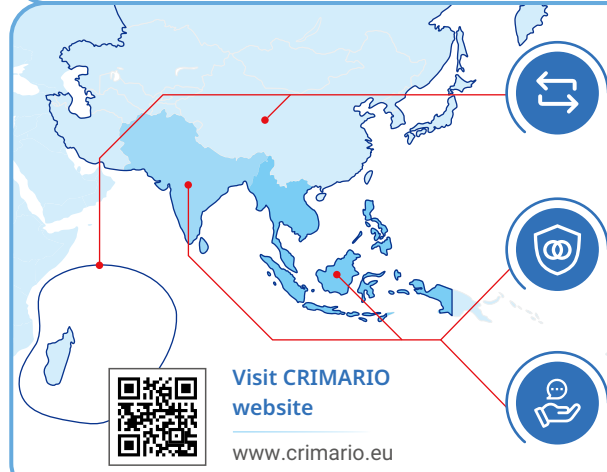
[https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/ocean/blue-economy/other-sectors/maritime-security-strategy\\_en](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/ocean/blue-economy/other-sectors/maritime-security-strategy_en)

**CRIMARIO II**

**EU Critical Maritime Routes Indian Ocean II**

**€7.5**  
million  
2020-2024

A capacity-building initiative to enhance maritime security and safety through cross-sectoral, inter-agency and cross-regional cooperation, including addressing IUU fishing, for the common good.




**Enhancing information exchange and analysis, and crisis/incident management at national and/or international level in the maritime domain exchange and analysis, and crisis/incident management** (Western Indian Ocean and Asian countries)

**Strengthening inter-agency cooperation in maritime surveillance, policing, investigation and judicial matter** (South Asian and Southeast Asian countries)

**Fostering cooperation and building knowledge through common exercise** (South Asian and Southeast Asian countries)

**Building regional knowledge and experience through training**



Visit **CRIMARIO** website

[www.crimario.eu](http://www.crimario.eu)



## IORIS Platform: Leading the Way to Maritime Safety and Security



In August 2023, the National Coast Watch Center (NCWC), a central inter-agency mechanism for a coordinated and coherent approach on maritime issues and maritime security operations in the Philippines, organised a large-scale interagency tabletop and field training exercise in Manila.

Supported by the IORIS platform, promoted by the EU-funded project Critical Maritime Routes in the Indo-Pacific (CRIMARIO), personnel from over 10 national agencies cooperated in addressing complex simulated challenges in the maritime domain.

The IORIS platform is a neutral, reliable and user-friendly maritime information sharing tool, which enables secure inter-agency communication and coordination, at national and regional level.

'The IORIS platform played a crucial role in facilitating interagency cooperation during the exercise. Its seamless communication and information sharing capabilities proved to be invaluable. By providing a secure and neutral environment, IORIS enabled participating agencies to share sensitive data, while maintaining confidentiality,' said Captain Hector Ramos Rafin from the Philippine Coast Guard.



IORIS also proved to be a reliable communications platform for interagency planning and coordination at the national level facilitating the gathering, analysis and exchange of information to timely and efficiently respond to complex maritime incidents.

'As the Director of the National Coast Watch Center, I am truly grateful for the assistance provided by our foreign partners in achieving this objective. The EU CRIMARIO has been instrumental in enhancing our monitoring capabilities and information sharing by launching IORIS – a secured info-sharing platform for our maritime law enforcement agencies. This additional platform is crucial in maintaining a common

operational picture among our support law enforcement agencies. This platform also supports the role of the NCWC to ensure the timely sharing of information and intelligence, and to implement an overall government approach to persistent maritime issues that consistently threaten our security, economy, peace and stability, or even the sovereignty of our country,' CG VADM Roy A. Echeverria, Director of NCWC, added.

Besides the Philippines, where the platform is already adopted, other ASEAN countries such as Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are currently at different stages of adopting the IORIS platform.





## Human Rights and Gender Equality

Human rights and gender equality are two of the thematic sectors supported by the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI). On 3 October 2023, the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-EU Policy Dialogue on Human Rights was concluded in Brussels. The discussions marked another milestone in the interregional cooperation to uphold human rights in both regions. The dialogue facilitated an exchange of views on human rights, including women's and children's rights, as well as the human rights implications of global developments and challenges in both regions.

Timor-Leste participated for the first time in this interregional policy dialogue on human rights as an observer, in line with established ASEAN guidelines.

The 5<sup>th</sup> PDHR was preceded by the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-ASEAN Civil Society Forum on Human Rights (CSO Forum) in Brussels on 2 October

2023, during which representatives from civil organisations presented a joint policy recommendation to be taken into consideration in the framework of the dialogue. The dialogue was co-chaired by H.E. Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, and H.E. Yuyun Wahyuningrum, Representative of Indonesia to AICHR and Chair of AICHR 2023.

Following the dialogue, ASEAN delegates travelled to Strasbourg, France, from 4 to 6 October 2023 to meet representatives from the European Parliament, the Council of Europe (CoE), European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), and the Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe to discuss recent policy updates on human rights challenges and to enhance cooperation between different human rights mechanisms of the two regions.



**AICHR**

**Support to the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights**

**€ 600 000**

2024-2025

A new project to support the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) was launched in January 2024. Funded by the EU and implemented by the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the project aims to contribute to fostering a culture of respect, protection, and promotion of human rights across Southeast Asia and ASEAN countries.

### OBJECTIVES



Strengthened capacity and expertise of AICHR in addressing thematic priorities on business and human rights, environment and human rights, freedom of expression and digital transformation and human rights, thus ensuring their effectiveness in promoting and protecting human rights across the region.



Strengthen the networking of AICHR with the EU and other institutions, including civil society and human rights mechanisms at national and regional level, fostering collaboration and dialogue to advance human rights principles within the region.



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# Sustainable Connectivity

## Resilient bonds, sustainable futures

Connectivity is a key priority for both the EU and ASEAN and their respective connectivity strategies, the **Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025** for ASEAN and the EU's **Europe-Asia Connectivity Strategy**, complement each other well. As the EU-ASEAN partnership enters its 47<sup>th</sup> year, establishing EU-ASEAN sustainable connectivity remains one of the top priorities. This priority is also in line with the EU's Global Gateway and the Indo-Pacific Strategy, as well as the EU-ASEAN Joint Ministerial Statement on Connectivity.

In December 2022, the EU, its Member States and the European Investment Bank launched the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Sustainable Connectivity with ASEAN/Southeast Asia during the 2022 EU-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in Brussels. The initiative aims to further support sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based connectivity between EU and ASEAN, as well as interconnectivity within ASEAN.

## Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Sustainable Connectivity:

-  Trade, economic connectivity and sustainable value chains
-  Transport
-  Energy
-  Digital
-  Higher education / people-to-people connectivity

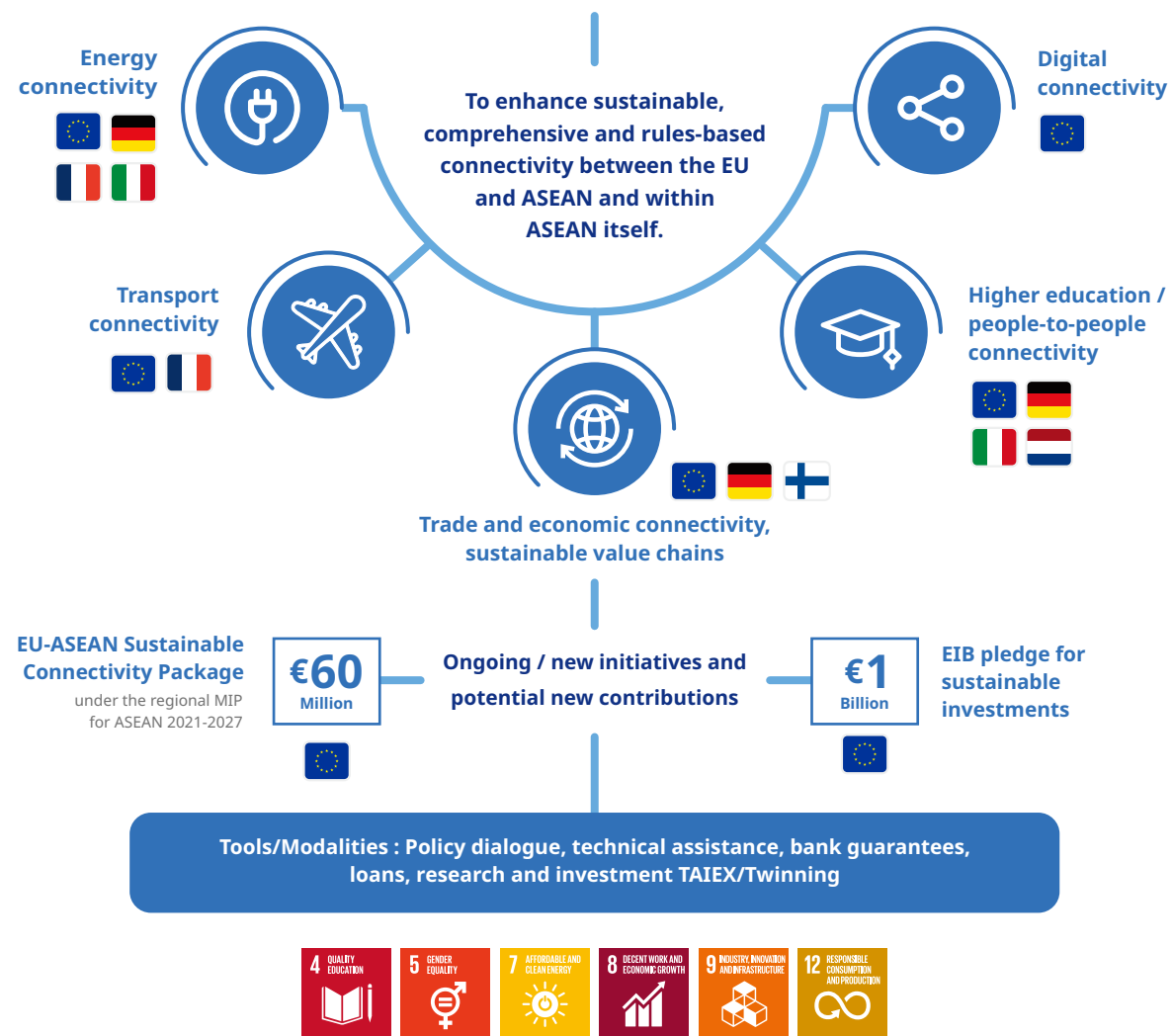
## Cross cutting elements:

-  Environmental and social sustainability
-  Human rights (including gender equality and women's empowerment)





# ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Team Europe Initiative



## ASEAN Regional context



### Main challenges:

- Barriers to trade and full economic integration
- Asymmetries of digital links
- Untapped renewable energy potential
- Transport safety and sustainability
- Accessibility, inclusivity and equity of the higher education system

### Key policies:

- Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025
- ASEAN Digital Master Plan 2025
- ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2025
- ASEAN Transport Strategic Plan 2025
- Roadmap on the ASEAN Higher Education Space 2025

## Geopolitical context

### EU-ASEAN

- The EU is ASEAN's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest trading partner and investor
- 10 million people, including thousands of students and researchers, travel between the two regions each year
- Joint responsibility to protect our people and environment

### ASEAN is the EU's strategic partner for EU's external action objectives and policies

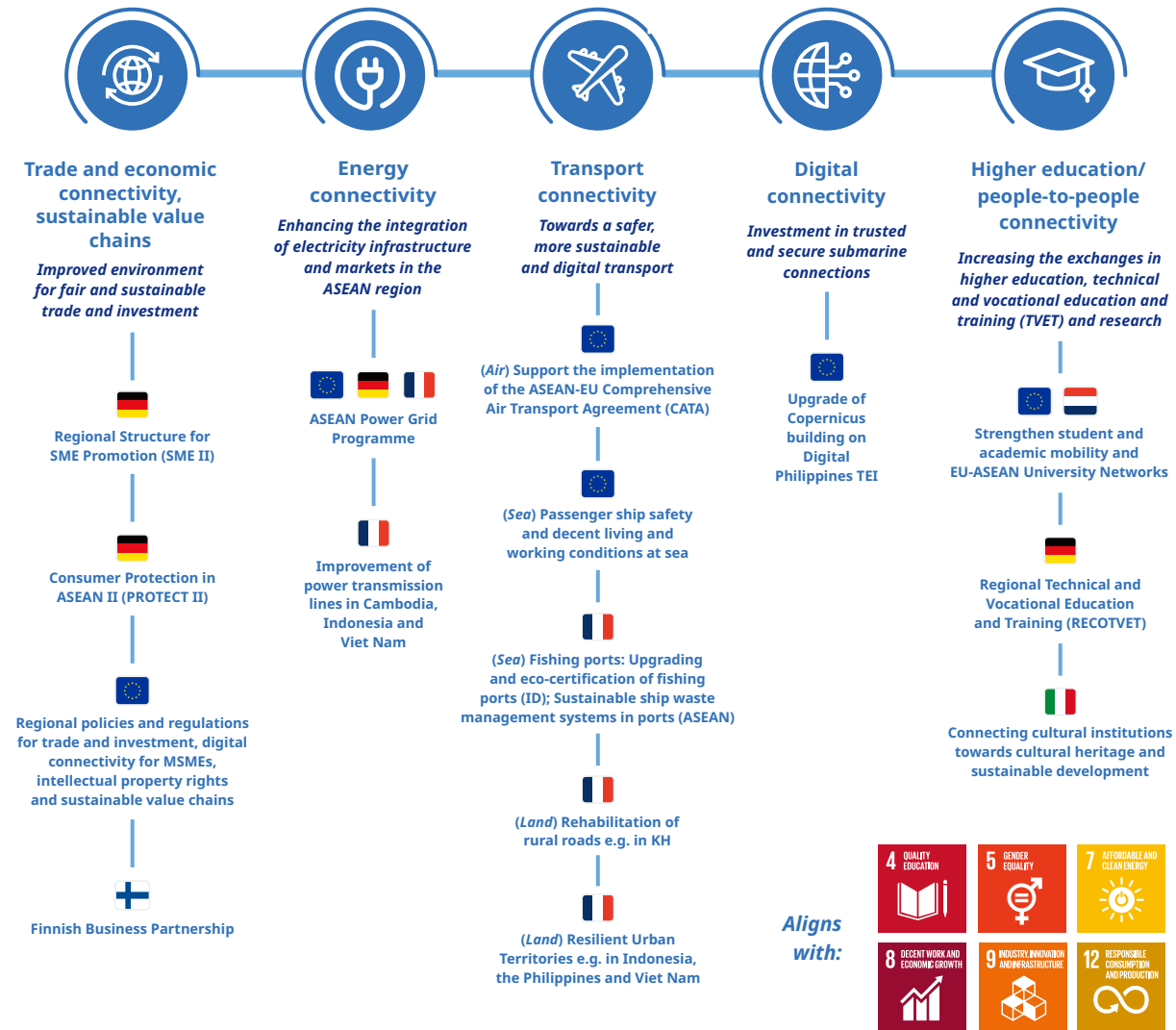
- Global Gateway Indo-Pacific Strategy
- Europe-Asia Connectivity Strategy

## Transformation Potential:

- ✓ To promote sustainable connectivity between the EU and ASEAN and within ASEAN
- ✓ To contribute to the broader EU and ASEAN relations
- ✓ To contribute to the Global Gateway, notably through investment in energy infrastructure, digital connections and support to sustainable and resilient value chains



# Zooming in on Team Europe Initiative on Sustainable Connectivity in ASEAN



In April 2023, the EU adopted the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package (SCOPE) as its contribution to the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Sustainable Connectivity. The €60 million package builds on the success of EU-funded programmes that contribute to connectivity in the region, particularly ARISE Plus (ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU), EU SHARE (EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region) and policy dialogues including transport, energy, digital, research and innovation and gender equality under E-READI (Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument).

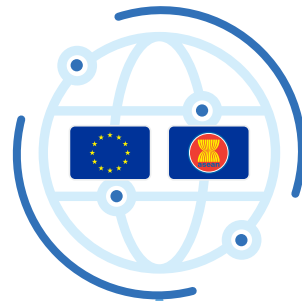
## 5 The EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package aims to:

- Improve regulatory frameworks, dialogue and institutional capacities in key areas of **trade and economic connectivity with a focus on sustainable value chains** and on better conditions for trade and investment flows.
- Strengthen the regional/sub-regional **integration of electricity infrastructure and markets in the ASEAN region.**
- Strengthen ASEAN/ASEAN Member States (AMS) regulatory and policy environments in the field of **human-centric digital connectivity** in order to create a strong foundation for investment in secure and resilient digital infrastructure in the ASEAN region.
- Enhance **transport connectivity** and technical cooperation between the EU and ASEAN as well as within ASEAN, with a focus on safety, digital solutions (where relevant) and on social and environmental sustainability.
- Increase exchanges and people-to-people connectivity, notably in relation to **higher education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and research** within ASEAN as well as between the EU and ASEAN, with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment, digital and green skills.

The EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package aims to strengthen the current enabling environment by utilising innovative financial tools, such as guarantees, to facilitate **sustainable connectivity investments**. These investments will also be supported by EU bilateral programmes, the European Fund for Sustainable Development+ (EFSD+), as well as actions from EU Member States. In line with the **Global Gateway** and in complementarity with the 2021 **ASEAN Green Initiative**, this support also contributes to the green transition by integrating environment and climate action, while ensuring a just transition for all.







# SCOPE

€60 million

The EU ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package (SCOPE)

was adopted by the EU in April 2023 as the EU's main contribution to the Team Europe Initiative on Sustainable Connectivity



## SCOPE Trade

€20 million

Building on the success of ARISE Plus, the project aims to improve regulatory frameworks, dialogue and institutional capacities in key areas of **trade and economic connectivity** with a focus on resilient, socially, economically and environmentally sustainable value chains and on better conditions for trade and investment flows.



## SCOPE Higher Education

€9 million

Aims to continue the success of EU SHARE in increasing exchanges and **people-to-people connectivity**, notably in relation to higher education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and research within ASEAN as well as between the EU and ASEAN with a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as digital and green skills.



## SCOPE Investment Facility

€8 million

In line with one of the core principles of the Global Gateway, the project aims to improve the regulatory and institutional environment to **facilitate investments in connectivity infrastructure projects** in ASEAN/Southeast Asia.



## SCOPE Aviation Partnership Project

€7 million

Aims to improve the conditions for regional integration, safety and sustainability of the **civil aviation sector** and market within ASEAN and with the EU.



## SCOPE Seafarers

€4 million

Aims to improve implementation and oversight of minimum education, training and certification requirements as well as living and working conditions for **seafarers** in Indonesia and the Philippines.



## SCOPE Energy

€4 million

Aims to strengthen the **regional integration of electricity infrastructure and markets** in the ASEAN region.



## SCOPE Digital

€4 million

Aims to further strengthen ASEAN/AMS' regulatory and policy environments for **human-centric digital connectivity** in order to create a strong foundation for investment in secure and resilient digital infrastructure in the ASEAN region.



## SCOPE Intellectual Property Rights

€3 million

Aims to enhance harmonisation, convergence of practices and cooperation among the AMS on **intellectual property**, including the preparation and implementation of the ASEAN action plan on intellectual property rights 2026-2035.



## SCOPE Ship Safety

€1 million

Aims to **improve knowledge and capacities for passenger ship safety** in relevant AMS and in the wider ASEAN region.

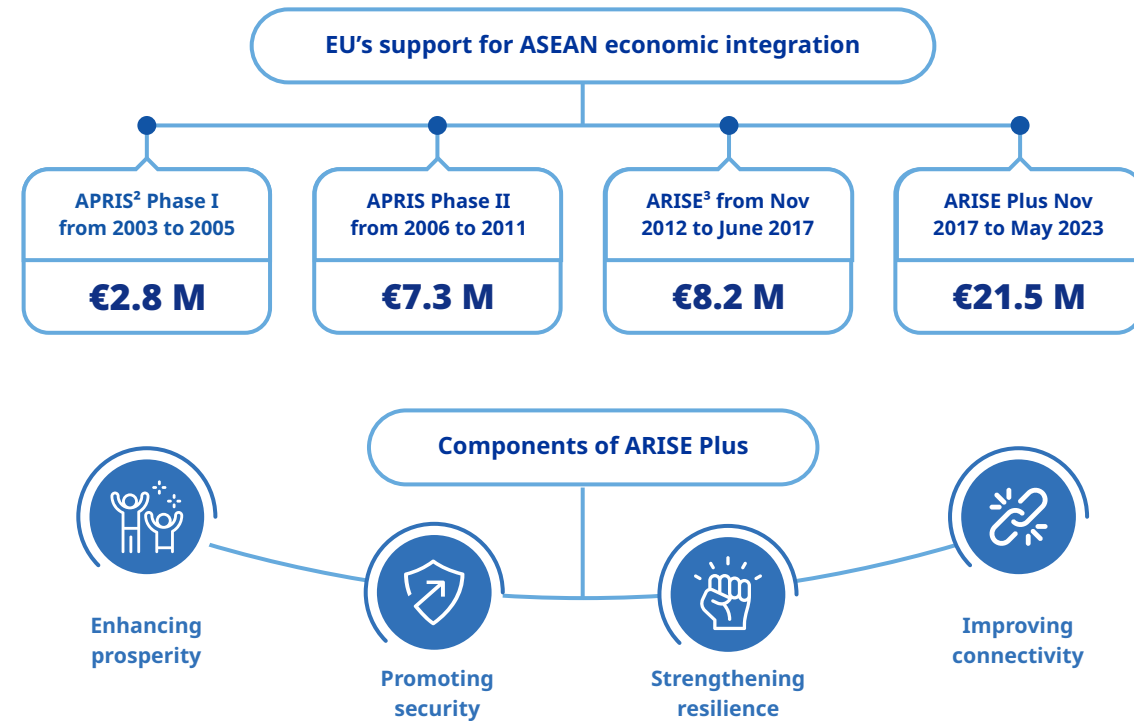


# EU-ASEAN Economic Connectivity

EU-ASEAN economic connectivity seeks to create a more integrated and interconnected economic environment by promoting trade, investment and infrastructure development. Under the umbrella of the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership, the EU-ASEAN economic connectivity plays a pivotal role in promoting sustainable development, social progress and prosperity across the interconnected economies, making it a vital component of the global economic landscape.

Building on the success of ARISE Plus, the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Package (SCOPE) - Trade will continue to facilitate better trade and investment flows, develop more sustainable, resilient and inclusive value chains, as well as complement regional efforts on the clean energy transition.

## ARISE Plus Technical Assistance



### Legacy Results:

- ASEAN Trade Repository linked to National Trade Repositories
- Food safety regulatory framework
- Mutual Recognition Agreement for Organic Agriculture Certification
- Pharmaceutical regulatory frameworks and related protocols
- ASEAN Customs Transit System
- Supported the mid-term review of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025
- ASEAN Help ASEAN (statistics)
- Sustainable Development Goal indicators and monitoring system



Sustainability of the tangible and significant results is key to enable greater and timely progress towards the ASEAN Economic Integration agenda. The EU will continue its strategic support towards ASEAN and remains confident that this partnership will continue to flourish with equal commitment and accountability to uphold our shared values and principles of a rules-based international order, effective and sustainable multilateralism, and free and fair trade.

**H.E. Igor Driesmans**  
Former Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN

Towards 2025 and beyond, ASEAN must take into consideration emerging and cross-cutting issues. The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the AEC Blueprint 2025 opens up an opportunity to calibrate our new approaches and initiatives moving forward. Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic challenges us to take up innovative approaches, to do more and to do better than the usual in the new normal. I thank the European Union through the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE) Plus Programme for the additional support provided in the conduct of the MTR and more broadly in supporting integration monitoring and statistical capacity building at the ASEAN Secretariat.

**H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi**  
Former Secretary-General of ASEAN





## Driving Economic Growth Through Intellectual Property Rights

€5 million  
2019-2024



A recent study conducted by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EU IPO) and European Patent Office (EPO) on European SMEs shows that businesses with their own IP rights portfolio have 68% higher revenues compared to those who do not own any IPR rights.

In today's knowledge economy, intangible assets such as brand presence and designs are becoming increasingly important in driving economic growth. However, despite its significance, awareness on the use and value of IP rights is still often overlooked.

In ASEAN, the ARISE Plus IPR project has been working to make IP more accessible and attractive for SMEs. In September 2022, the project held a seminar on IP valuation and intangible assets for over 200 SMEs from ASEAN. The seminar was designed to increase the awareness of ASEAN business about the dynamics of designing an IP strategy, how to identify intangible assets, how to conduct an IP audit and basic valuation and the available support SMEs can access to develop its IP strategy and valuation. The project also coordinated with ASEAN IP offices to develop a guidebook on regional IP management for SMEs in ASEAN.

ARISE Plus IPR is one of the three components of the Enhanced ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE Plus). The project supports ASEAN regional integration through intellectual property cooperation and promotes an upgrade of IP systems for creation, protection, utilisation, administration and reinforcement, in line with international best practices and standards as well as the strategic objectives of the ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2016-2025.

Building on the success of ARISE Plus IPR, the SCOPE Intellectual Property Rights will support the harmonisation, convergence of practices and cooperation among ASEAN Member States on intellectual property, including the preparation and implementation of the ASEAN action plan on intellectual property rights 2026-2035.



There is much to win with intellectual property. It is important for businesses, especially SMEs, to start choosing the suitable and winning IP strategies for their businesses.

**Carolina Pitarch**

Deputy Project Leader, ARISE Plus IPR



Scan here to access the guidebook on regional IP management for SMEs in ASEAN:

[https://internationalipcooperation.eu/sites/default/files/ariseguidebooks/2022/ARISE\\_Guidebook-on-Regional-IP-management\\_SMEs-in-ASEAN\\_.pdf](https://internationalipcooperation.eu/sites/default/files/ariseguidebooks/2022/ARISE_Guidebook-on-Regional-IP-management_SMEs-in-ASEAN_.pdf)



Scan here to read the full study on intellectual property rights and firm performance in the European Union:

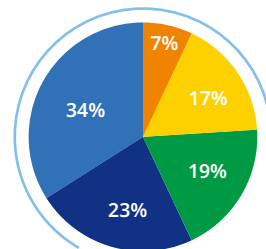
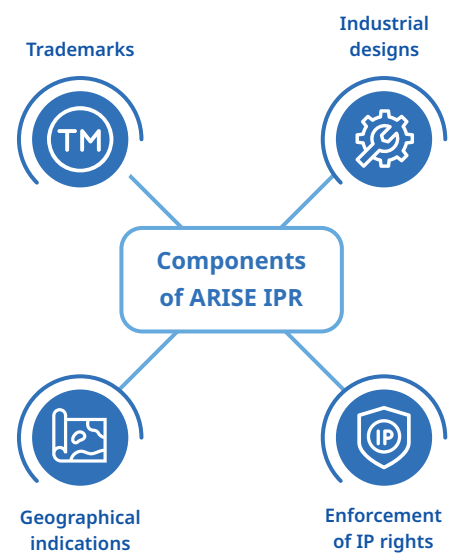
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## ARISE Plus Intellectual Property Rights (ARISE Plus IPR)

January 2019 – June 2023

The ARISE Plus Intellectual Property Rights (ARISE+ IPR) programme is one of the components under the Enhanced ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the European Union or ARISE Plus. The programme supported ASEAN regional integration and further upgraded and improved the systems for IP creation, protection, utilisation, administration and enforcement in the ASEAN region in line with the best practices and standards of international IP and the ASEAN IPR Action Plan 2016-2025.



107 activities

6 766 participants

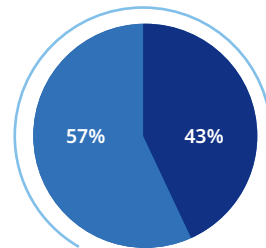
### Percentage Of activities by IPRs

- Cross IP (more than two IPRs)
- Trademarks
- Industrial designs
- Geographical indications
- Enforcement

### Number of participants (by gender):

A total of 6 766 people participated in the project activities

- Women
- Men



The 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Network of Intellectual Property Enforcement Experts Meeting held in the Philippines on 27-28 April 2023 discussed the importance of the engagement of the private sector and of building public awareness.

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## Paving the Way to an Open Sky

The ASEAN region continues to record the world's biggest air traffic growth and is projected to double its traffic by 2035.

On 17 October 2022, ASEAN and the EU signed the world's first bloc-to-bloc air transport agreement in Bali, Indonesia. The Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA) will provide greater opportunities for the airlines of ASEAN and the EU to operate passenger and cargo services within and beyond both regions. Passengers can anticipate a wider range of destinations, more flight frequencies and increased travel options between Southeast Asia and Europe.

In 2018, the ARISE Plus Civil Aviation project was established to strengthen the aviation system in ASEAN Member States and facilitate the implementation of the CATA agreement. This includes facilitating an agreement among ASEAN Member States on the expected rights of passengers.

'Through a series of workshops and working groups, we supported ASEAN Member States in drafting the Common Practices Document on passenger protection,' ARISE Plus Civil Aviation's Project Manager Santiago Haya Leiva said. 'This document has been agreed upon at the technical level by all ASEAN Member States.'



The harmonisation and implementation of the Common Practices document will bring ASEAN Member States closer to the regulatory framework of the EU. It will allow the region to fully capitalise on the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement and realise the potential of the ASEAN Single Aviation market.

As part of the Team Europe Initiative on Sustainable Connectivity, the SCOPE Aviation Partnership Project will build on the success of ARISE Plus Civil Aviation to improve the conditions for regional integration, safety and sustainability of the civil aviation sector and market within ASEAN and with the EU.

## ARISE Plus Civil Aviation Project

January 2018 – March 2023

115 activities

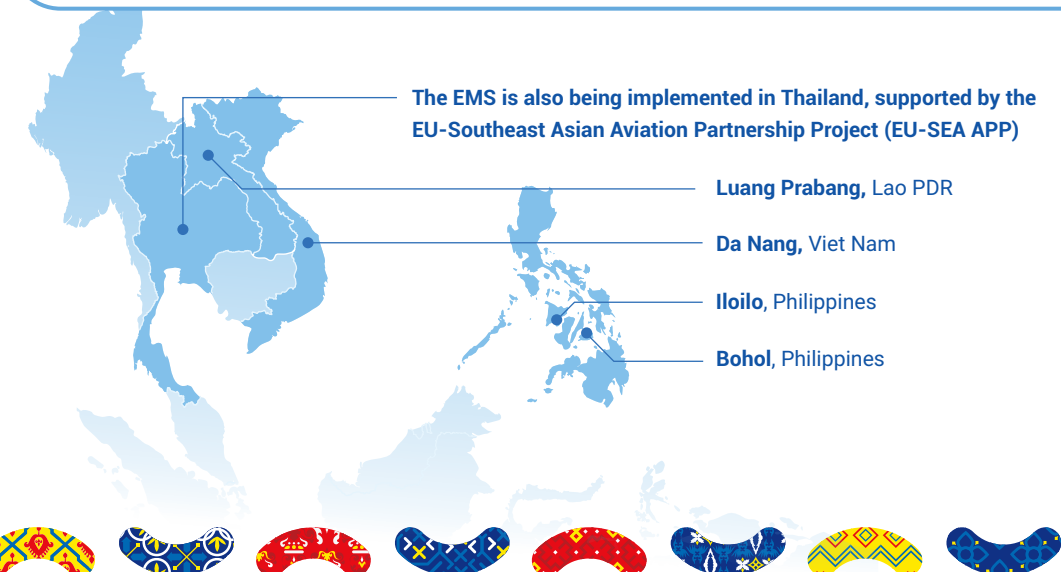
€5 million

3 500 participants

2018-2023

The ARISE Plus Civil Aviation has been supporting ASEAN for a single aviation market and paving the way for a seamless ASEAN sky.

- Higher safety and environmental standards
- More harmonised and competitive sector
- Enhanced connectivity
- Facilitating competitiveness
- Mutual recognition of licences, approvals and certificates
- Passenger protection
- Equal rights and responsibilities across ASEAN
- Knowledge hub for new technologies
- Drones and urban air mobility
- Improving efficiency in Air Traffic Management
- Enabling capacity to manage environmental challenges by implementing Environmental Management Systems (EMS) at airport level



## 7<sup>th</sup> High-Level Dialogue on ASEAN-Italy Economic Relations



The 7<sup>th</sup> High-Level Dialogue on ASEAN-Italy Economic Relations was held on 3 and 4 October 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. Opening the event was the Deputy Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy, H.E. Valentino Valentini and Thailand's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Sihasak Phuangketkeow, who emphasised the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises and identified green and digital transition as priority areas for collaboration.

In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Development Bank, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti and Malaysia's sovereign wealth fund, Khazanah was signed to promote Italian investments in Malaysia and support the entry of Malaysian companies into the Italian market. The 8<sup>th</sup> High-level dialogue on ASEAN-Italy Economic Relations is scheduled to take place in Manila, Philippines in 2024.

## People-to-People Connectivity

People-to-people connectivity stands at the heart of the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership. Built upon the principles of cultural exchange, education, tourism and human interactions that foster mutual understanding and cooperation between the peoples of the two regions, it emphasises building bridges that transcends borders.

By promoting academic mobility, research partnerships and youth exchanges, the EU is committed to continue facilitating cross-cultural learning and capacity building, nurturing a new generation of globally-minded leaders.



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To celebrate 45 years of EU-ASEAN relations in 2022, Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN, together with the ASEAN Secretariat, organised the first-ever ASEAN-EU Cultural Festival. The festival highlighted the value of culture as a vital element in international relations and its role in building and promoting understanding within and between societies.





## European ‘Squares’ and ‘Villages’ in ASEAN: Celebrating Culture and Connectivity

**A trio of cultural festivals brought Europe to the doorstep of over 65 000 people across Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam in May and June 2023.**

Held in Jakarta on 6 May 2023, Alun-alun Eropa ‘European Square’ featured performances from EU Member States and Indonesian artists, extending opportunities for EU companies to showcase environmentally friendly technologies and solutions. A collaborative plastic recycling initiative by Danone and Octopus, along with eco-bricks made of recycled plastic from PT. Block Solution Indonesia, were amongst the many highlights of the one-day event which captivated over 10 000 visitors both on-site and online throughout Indonesia.

Soon after, from 12 to 15 May 2023 in Hanoi, Europe Village (introduced to Viet Nam in 2018) brought together EU partners, from national and local government to international organisations, civil society and the private sector in Viet Nam, to showcase the richness of European culture to over 50 000 people, embracing the theme ‘Adventure of the Senses’. Strategically designed to engage participants from across the spectrum of Vietnamese society, the event featured over 20 European and Vietnamese artists and musicians, a series of interactive activities such as dancing and sports and booths by over 35 European businesses including brands known worldwide.

This momentum was continued in Pasig City, with the Philippines’ first-ever Euro Village on 3 and 4 June 2023. The two-day event garnered around 5 000 participants, revealing the diversity of the EU through a broad range of food, crafts, music, sports and language lessons provided by European

cultural institutes. The dynamic display effectively paved the way for closer exchange and trade opportunities between the EU and the Philippines.

The three events were organised by the EU Delegations to Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam, with the support of the EU Policy and Outreach Partnership in ASEAN Countries (EUPOP ASEAN) for the Europe and Euro Villages, as part of this year’s Europe Day celebrations and were held in accordance with EU sustainability policy. In Indonesia, for example, hydration stations were provided to discourage the use of single-use plastic bottles, while in the Philippines, food waste was processed into compost with food surplus donated to those in need.

EUPOP ASEAN was built under the EU Foreign Policy Instrument to support the EU’s engagement with Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and ASEAN as a region through public diplomacy activities, tools and training. Events such as these European ‘Squares’ and ‘Villages’ have positively contributed to deepening people-to-people connectivity, which remains as one of the key strategic priorities of both regions.



**To learn more about EUPOP ASEAN:**  
engage.eu



European squares and villages in ASEAN

### Sustainable Cultural Heritage Management



The Italy-ASEAN virtual learning centre on cultural heritage and sustainable development hosted its inaugural course from April to August 2023. Funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and implemented by the Italy-ASEAN Association and Fondazione Carlo Maurillo Leric, the online platform serves as a hub for knowledge exchange and experience sharing. The inaugural course culminated in a two-day conference in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 11 and 12 January 2024, where participants discussed cultural heritage management, environment and the effects of climate change on cultural heritage.



## Unlocking the Potential of ASEAN Youth

The EU-ASEAN Youth Sustainable Project (YSUP) Competition was launched on 12 September 2023 for its second time. First introduced in 2021, YSUP aims to serve as a platform for ASEAN youth to showcase their social projects. This year's competition invited ASEAN youth to submit any projects within the Global Gateway priorities and the European Green Deal.

Over 150 submissions were received from 10 ASEAN Member States. The submitted projects were selected based on their relevance to the Global Gateway priorities and the European Green Deal, as well as their potential benefit for their respective communities.

The 10 winning projects offered solutions such as a portable paper battery, a semi-calcite passive brick, renewable energy access for geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, improving access to health services for marginalised communities, a mobile app to provide financial access for farmers, recycling centre for youth, supporting education access to marginalised communities and offering alternative education for children, as well as a peatland conservation project.

Facilitated by the Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN, the 10 winning projects received mentorship on the ASEAN business landscape and project communications as well as opportunities to be introduced to the Delegation of the European Union in their respective countries.

Youth engagement is also a priority of EU Member States' cooperation with ASEAN. In the framework of the development partnership between Italy and ASEAN, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC), the Italian NGO "Global Action" and the ASEAN Secretaria, joined forces to foster the connections between ASEAN and Italian students.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-Italy Youth Conference took place at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia, from 29 to 31 May 2023.

The event consisted of training sessions and open debates on climate change, food security, youth empowerment and digitalisation.



Highlights of the 10 selected projects can be viewed [here](#)



Carlo Charles, Singapore. Flint Paper Battery



Siti Nur Hanisah Binti Omar, Malaysia, Mearpet



Kolatat Phaiboonnukuljij, Thailand. Semi-Calcite Passive Brick



Yulia Ratnasari, Indonesia, Karbon Biru

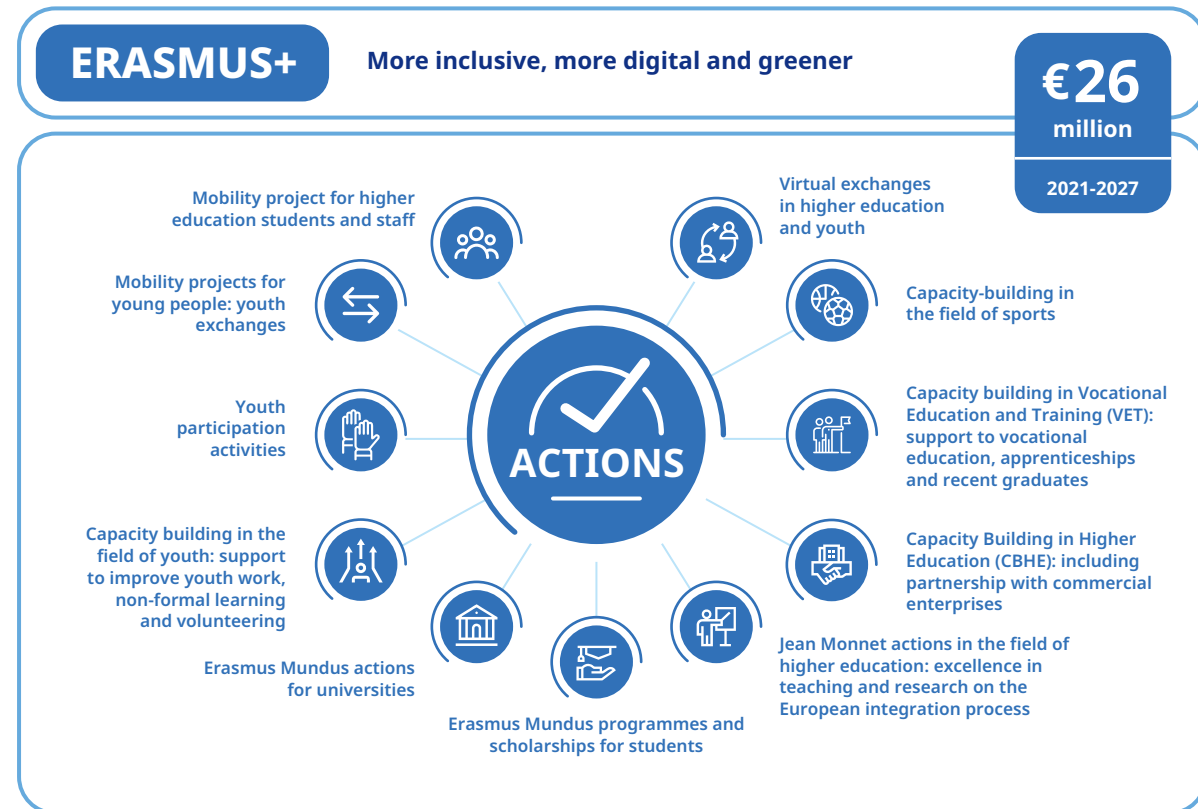




## Academic Cooperation

EU-ASEAN academic cooperation plays a pivotal role in fostering a dynamic partnership between the EU and ASEAN. One of the key initiatives under this cooperation is the Erasmus+ programme. The flagship programme offers a transformative platform for students, academics and educational institutions from both regions to engage in a wide

array of collaborative activities. Through mobility opportunities, such as student exchanges, joint master's programmes and staff training, Erasmus+ nurtures a network of talented individuals who actively contribute to social, economic and cultural development in both regions, paving the way for a mutually beneficial and enduring partnership.

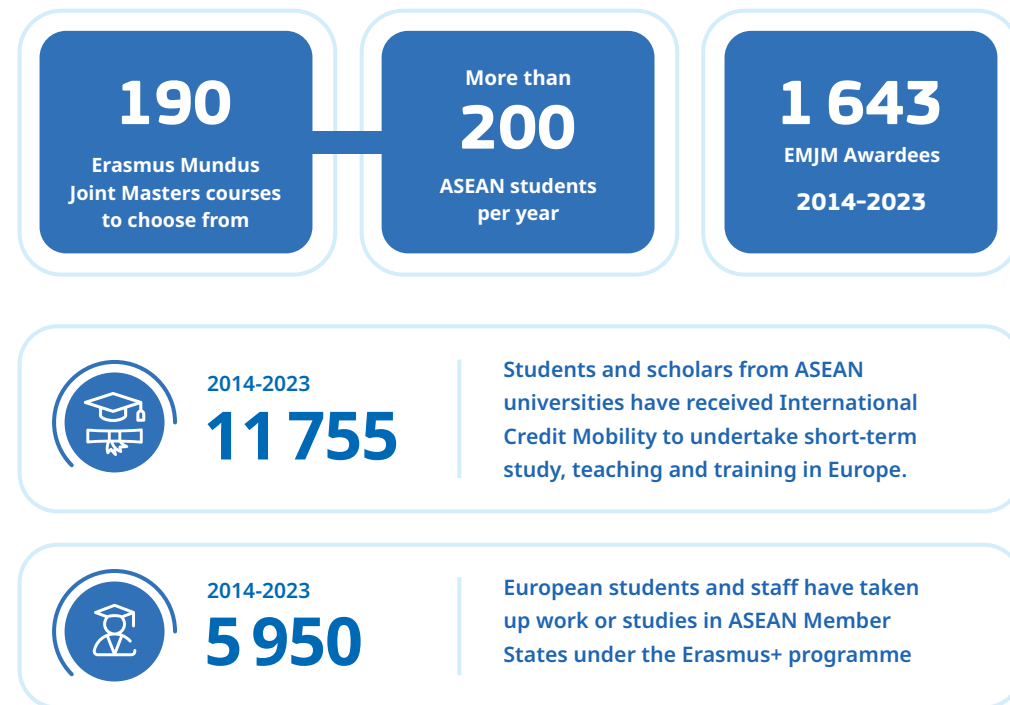


Prior to the departure of Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's (EMJM) Awardees to Europe, the Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN organised a pre-departure event. Mr Andreas Unterstaller gave opening remarks to Indonesian awardees in a pre-departure event. The awardees will have the opportunity to study in at least two different EU Member States.



## Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Scholarships

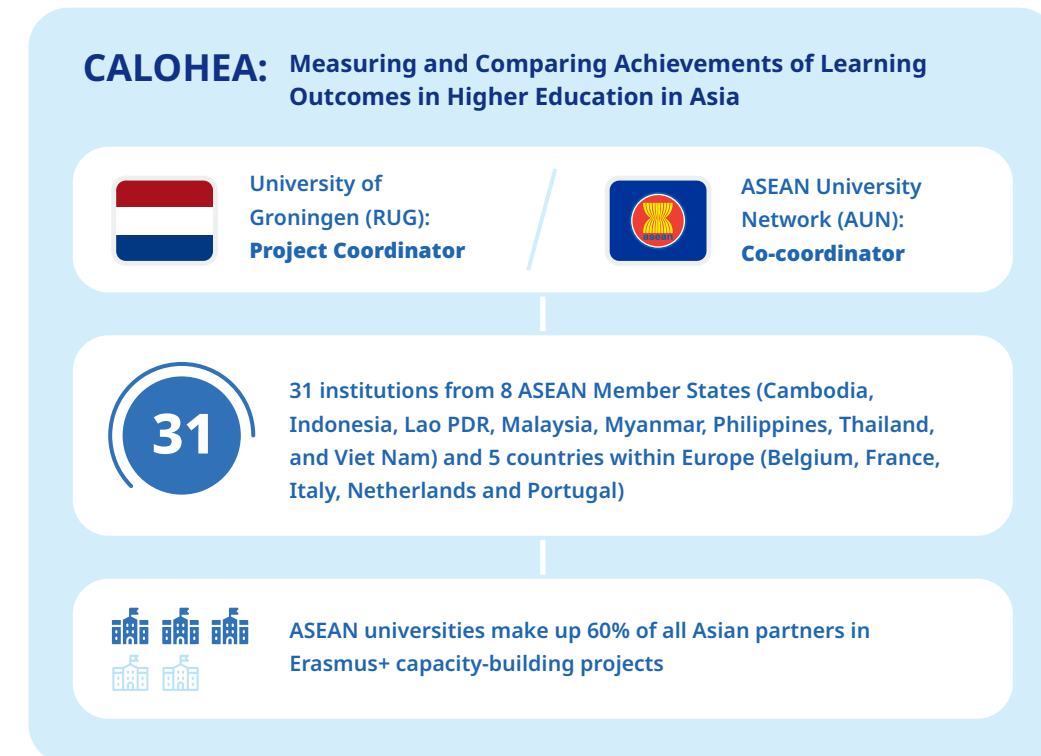
Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) Scholarships are designed and delivered by a consortia of higher education institutions. Through this programme, the EU aims to foster excellence and internationalisation of the participating institutions.



## Capacity Building in Higher Education

Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) projects aim to modernise and reform higher education institutions by developing new curricula, improving governance and building relationships between higher education institutions and enterprises.

CBHE aims to contribute to the internationalisation of higher education institutions in Southeast Asia by measuring and comparing the learning outcomes of higher education institutions in Europe and Asia.





## Linking the Arctic and the Tropics through 'Bravo' Climate Investigation



Dr Aramando Lasabuda from Indonesia

The Barents Sea, situated in the Arctic region, serves as a unique intersection between the warm Atlantic water and the cold water from the Arctic Ocean. In recent decades, this region has witnessed the more pronounced impacts of the changing climate. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the average temperature here has been rising at least twice as fast as the global temperature.

Dr Amando Lasabuda, a geologist and scientist, comes from the tropical archipelago of Indonesia. Born and raised in Jakarta, he graduated from the Institute of Technology Bandung in 2010 and earned his Master's degree from the University of Bergen, Norway in 2013. The allure of the Barents Sea in the Arctic, thousands of kilometres from Indonesia, captured Lasabuda's fascination. In 2018, he conducted research on the Cenozoic (c. 66 million years ago) evolution of the Barents Sea, utilising the tectono-stratigraphy and mass-balance approach for his Doctoral dissertation at the UiT (The Arctic University of Norway).

Following his initial investigations at UiT and during his sabbatical at the Royal Holloway University of London (UK), Lasabuda continued his research on the Barents Sea, leading to numerous scientific papers, before he decided to apply for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Global Postdoctoral Fellowship. Funded by the European Union, the MSCA fellowship aims to cultivate global talents and foster research excellence in the European research area and is part

of the Horizon Europe strategic programme (2021-2027). Renowned for its competitiveness and dedication to innovation, the initiative has been empowering researchers regardless of their nationality, including ASEAN countries since its establishment in 1996.

As a recipient of the MSCA Global Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dr Lasabuda secured €306 000 for his groundbreaking project, Barents Sea Evolution (BRAVO). The ambitious initiative endeavours to reconstruct the paleogeography of the Barents Sea in the Arctic using numerical modelling and simulating sediment transfer from source areas to the basins. Dr Lasabuda envisions exploring the Barents Sea's history as far back as 66 million years ago, thereby providing valuable insights for climate modelling in the region and globally. BRAVO's research theme on Arctic climate change aligns perfectly with the EU's strategy, aiming for a stronger EU engagement for a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous Arctic

and its renewable energy potential. Dr Lasabuda is confident that the project will contribute significantly to subsequent climate modelling for projecting past climate into the present and future.

The three-year BRAVO project is set to thrive through strong collaboration with prominent institutions: the University of Oslo, Norway and the University of Sydney, Australia. BRAVO is committed to Open Access scientific dissemination, ensuring full accessibility for anyone, including researchers from the Global South and ASEAN countries.

'I am excited to represent ASEAN as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions fellow and contribute to tackling global climate challenges,' Lasabuda said. 'The BRAVO approach can also be applied in the ASEAN region. For example, Indonesian waters could be a good candidate as it also connects two major oceans, the Pacific and Indian Oceans.'

***The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions is an initiative under pillar I of the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, Horizon Europe.***





## Horizon Europe

EU cooperation with ASEAN on science, technology and research is driven by mutual interests and the desire to share experiences on shared challenges, enhance connectivity and boost sustainable economic growth.

Horizon Europe, the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of partnerships in tackling global challenges, such as climate change and supports the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### HORIZON EUROPE

€95 million

2021-2027



- ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**  
(including societal transformation)
- CANCER**
- CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND SMART CITIES**
- HEALTHY OCEANS, SEAS, COASTAL, AND INLAND WATERS**
- SOIL HEALTH AND FOOD**

## STRUCTURE OF HORIZON EUROPE

### HORIZON EUROPE

#### SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT\*

Exclusive focus on civil applications



#### SPECIFIC PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND

Exclusive focus on defence research & development



#### WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA



### EURATOM



\*The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme





# Green and Sustainable Development

## Charting sustainable pathways

The European Green Deal puts sustainability at the heart of the EU agenda, both in Europe and the rest of the world. Addressing the global climate, biodiversity and pollution crises is a shared interest between the EU and ASEAN, as this triple planetary crisis already affects millions of people in both regions. The Joint Leaders' Statement from the 2022 EU-ASEAN Summit and the EU-ASEAN Plan of Action 2023-2027 reflects this and seeks closer partnership on green and sustainable development, also with a view to realising the economic and social opportunities that the green transition offers.

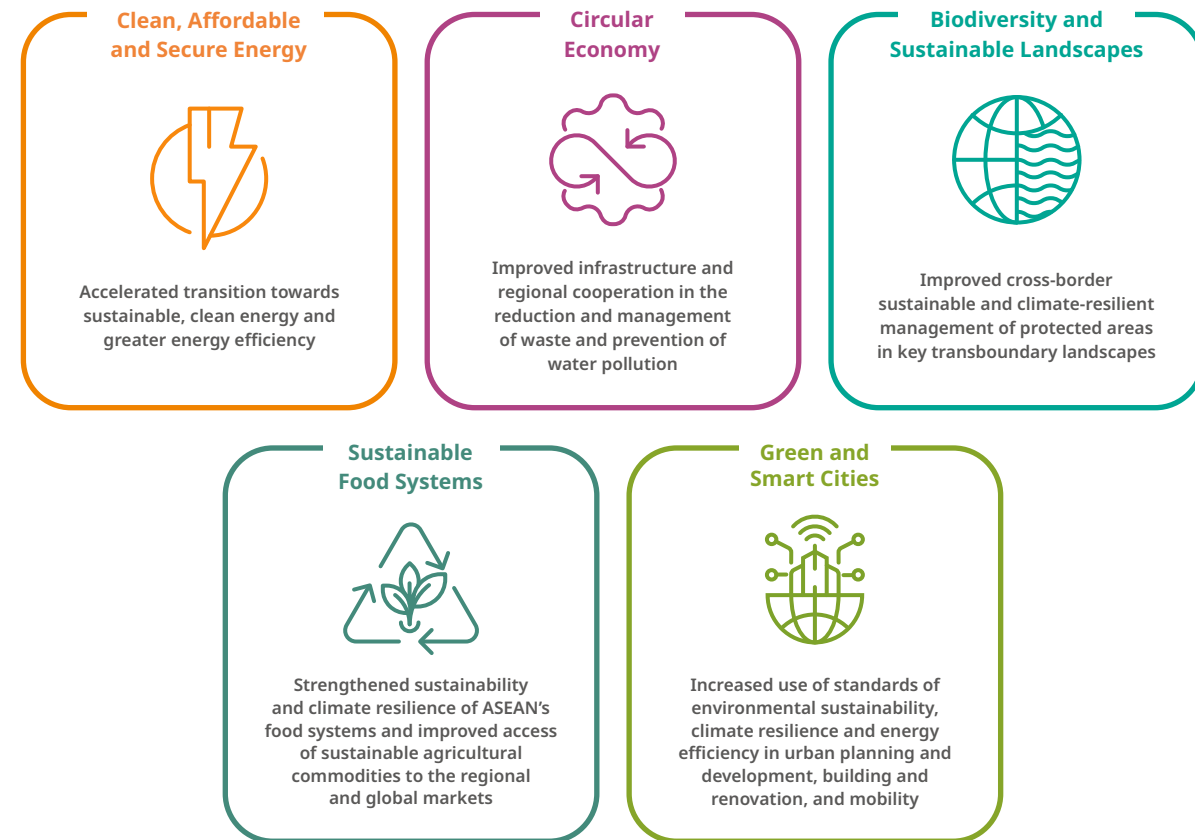
Green and sustainable development is already a mainstay of EU-ASEAN cooperation. EU initiatives support ASEAN and its Member States in their adaptability and resilience to the impacts of climate change, in protecting their rich biodiversity and in strengthening their disaster preparedness and response. Under its Global Gateway strategy, the EU is investing in green infrastructure and clean energy across the ASEAN region. The new Green Team Europe Initiative in Partnership with ASEAN provides tangible support to achieve international commitments and seeks to pave the way towards a closer partnership on green and sustainable development.



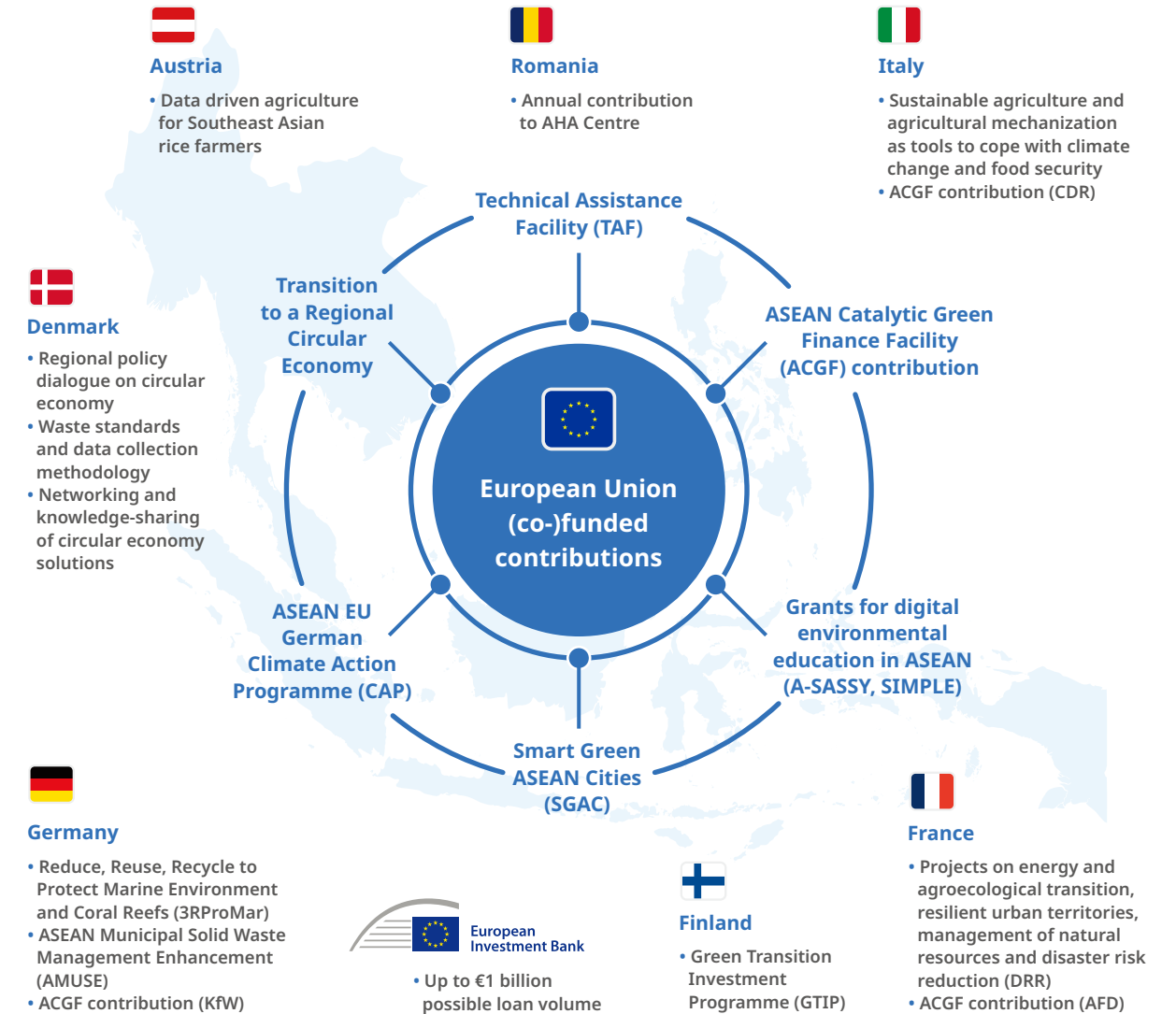
# Green Team Europe Initiative in Partnership with ASEAN

The Green Team Europe Initiative (TEI) was launched during the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-ASEAN Dialogue on Sustainable Development in November 2021. The initiative integrates actions planned by the EU, EU Member States and European development banks, pulling together resources and enhancing coordination.

## Areas of Intervention & Results



# Green Team Europe Initiative





# Financing for Sustainable Infrastructure

Global Gateway is Europe's offer for connecting the world with sustainable investments to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors and to strengthen health, education and research systems. Under the umbrella of the global gateway, the EU is committed to mobilise €10 billion in investments in Southeast Asia on sustainable connectivity and green transition.

## Key Initiatives:



Policy dialogue on common priorities, including a new **EU-ASEAN dialogue on energy**



Transnational research and innovation partnerships under **Horizon 2020**



**Regional Team Europe Initiatives** on the green transition and sustainable connectivity



Students and university exchanges through **Erasmus scholarships** and higher education programmes



Mobilisation of investments through the **European Fund for Sustainable Development+** and the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility



€2.5 billion contribution to the **Just Energy Transition Partnership with Indonesia**



**Flagship programmes** from EU Member States such as the Hydro Mekong (France) and the Hon Trau Offshore Wind Farm in Viet Nam



Bilateral and regional agreements, including **the EU-ASEAN Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement** and **EU-Singapore Digital Partnership**

## Just Energy Transition Partnership with Indonesia

Team Europe is a key contributor to the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) launched between Indonesia and the International Partners Group, including the EU, Denmark, France, Italy and Germany, as well as Japan, USA, Canada, Norway and the UK during the G20 Summit in Bali in November 2022.

### Targets include:

- Peaking total power sector emissions by 2030, shifting its projected emissions peak forward.
- Capping on-grid power sector emissions at 250 megatons of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2030, down from baseline value of 357.
- Establishing a goal to reach net zero emissions in the power sector by 2050, bringing forward Indonesia's net zero emissions target by ten years.
- A renewable energy generation share of 44% by 2030.

The EU, European Investment Bank (EIB) and EU Member States intend to mobilise

**AROUND**  
**€3.4 billion**

FOR THE JETP

## Global Gateway Flagship Programmes from EU Member States



**Anantara Energy Singapore /Indonesia (Germany):** Solar power project initiated by a German / Singaporean / Indonesian business consortium to catalyse the energy transition in Indonesia and Singapore.



**Hon Trau Offshore Wind Farm in Vietnam (Germany):** Investment by a German business in a 2 GW Offshore Wind Farm.



**Hydro Mekong phase 2 Lao PDR / Cambodia / Viet Nam and Thailand project (France):** Enhancing the knowledge of the hydrological profile of the Mekong River and its main tributaries to better understand the impacts of climate change.



**Hydropower reservoir operation in the Red - Thai Binh river basin in Viet Nam (Italy):** Investment in water resources monitoring stations to support the implementation of inter-reservoir operation in the Red River basin.



## EU-ASEAN GET UP and MOVE and EU-ASEAN Green Diplomacy Weeks 2023

First introduced to the public in 2019, Climate Diplomacy Week has become a landmark annual event where EU Delegations and embassies of EU Member States around the world host events to foster dialogue and cooperation on climate change. Called 'Green Diplomacy Weeks' this year, the event still aims to serve as a platform to showcase success stories and inspire further action.

The EU-ASEAN Green Diplomacy Weeks 2023 was launched in Jakarta, Indonesia on 15 October 2023 by the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to ASEAN, H.E. Sujiro Seam; the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community H.E. Ekkaphab Phanthavong and the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to ASEAN, H.E. Hjayceelyn Mancenido Quintana.

The EU-ASEAN GET UP and MOVE (EU-ASEAN Green Transition for Sustainable Planet and More Positive Impact) event marked the start of the region-wide activities held from 15 to 22 October 2023. A total of 1 766 participants took part in 10 events held in nine ASEAN Member States.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN, H.E. Sujiro Seam, reaffirmed the EU's commitment to supporting ASEAN in its green transition: 'This event shows our commitment to continue working together with ASEAN towards a greener future. It is an opportunity to celebrate the progress we have made, and to encourage individuals, communities and organisations to take stronger action in the future—to protect, preserve and restore our environment, for now and for future generations.'



Over 300 people, representing officials from ASEAN, the EU and its Member States, youths, and people with special needs, marked the occasion with a symbolic bike ride, run, and walk along the route of Jalan Sudirman to Gelora Bung Karno, Senayan, Jakarta.

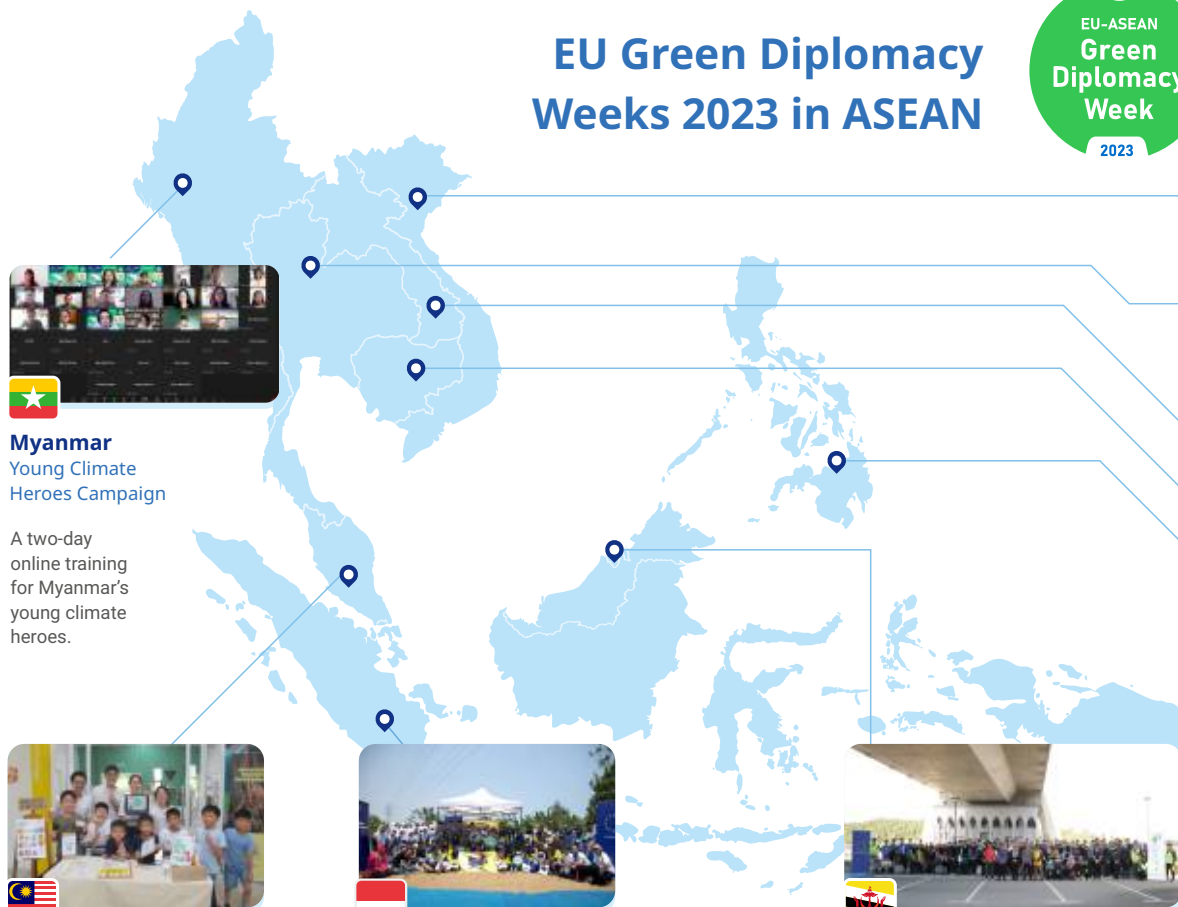
'I would like to invite everyone to take this opportunity to reflect, engage, and motivate others to join in climate action to ensure a sustainable and resilient ASEAN Community,' said Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN H.E. Ekkaphab Phantavong.

The Philippines currently serves as the ASEAN Country Coordinator for ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations. H.E. Hjayceelyn M. Quintana, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to ASEAN, said: 'We welcome this initiative from the European Union as it implements our leaders' decision to strengthen shared endeavours regarding climate change by promoting enhanced collaboration for a green and inclusive transition.'





# EU Green Diplomacy Weeks 2023 in ASEAN



**Myanmar**  
Young Climate Heroes Campaign

A two-day online training for Myanmar's young climate heroes.



**Malaysia**  
Waste Segregation Education Programme

On 21 October 2023, a waste segregation and recycling campaign was held at Parc, Subang Ria, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



**Indonesia**  
EU GET UP and MOVE Waste Bank Tour

The Waste Bank Tour took place at Tanjung Burung Bank Sampah (Tabur Banksa) on the outskirts of Jakarta, Indonesia. Targeted at high-school students, the event successfully engaged 108 students from neighbouring schools to learn more about waste segregation and composting.



**Brunei Darussalam**  
River Clean-up

A total of 134 participants comprising youth volunteers from universities, government agencies and the general public gathered to clean up the river and riverbed at Kampong Ayer. The clean-up activity managed to collect over 1 356.5 kg of trash.



**Viet Nam**  
Educational Campaign on Biodiversity Protection

In Viet Nam, an educational campaign was held for over 300 children living on the margins of Pu Mat forest. Julien Guerrier, Ambassador of the European Union to Viet Nam, opened the event. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the EU's work with Viet Nam's state agencies and local organisations in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. 'The EU Green Diplomacy Weeks is an opportunity for us to celebrate the success of these initiatives and to explore further innovative ways to protect our biodiversity and our planet.'



**Thailand**  
Plastic Waste Recycling Workshop

In 2020, the Roadmap Plastic Waste Management 2020-2030 was introduced as the policy framework for related agencies to achieve Thailand's plastic waste reduction target. As part of the EU Green Diplomacy Weeks 2023, a Plastic Waste Recycling Workshop for elementary students was organised to provide children with the opportunity to see a demonstration of a plastic recycling machine and learn about waste segregation.



**Lao PDR**  
Online Competitions

The photography, artwork and speech competition in Lao PDR aimed to engage Lao youth to express their thoughts on climate issues through different media. The competitions centred around three main topics, namely: 'Climate change and youth', 'Sustainable Fashion' and 'My Green City in 2023'.



**Cambodia**  
Mekong River Shoreline Clean-up and Tree Planting

Over 400 people participated in the river cleanup and tree planting event including representatives from the EU and its Member States, representatives of the Cambodian government, youth and the general public. An estimated 300 kg of waste was collected during the event and was sent to Chip Mong Ensee for further processing.



**Philippines**  
Young Steward of Nature Campaign

The Young Steward of Nature campaign provided a two-day training to build environmental awareness of the children of the indigenous community in the Sitio Mainit Barangay Calancusan in Casiguran, Aurora.





## EU SUPPORT TO THE AHA CENTRE

LAUNCHED IN  
JANUARY 2020

€7.2  
million

Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms

2020-2025



Supports the goals of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)



Implemented through a combination of a direct grant to the AHA Centre, as well as capacity-building by EU Member States' Civil Protection Agencies



Aims to strengthen the capacity of the AHA Centre, to achieve operational excellence in disaster monitoring and emergency response

## LACER

Leveraging ASEAN Capacities for Emergency Response

€2  
million

2020-2024

THE PROJECT IS SUPPORTING THE AHA CENTRE ACROSS FOUR TECHNICAL COMPONENTS:

Strengthen the institutional capacity, corporate policies and management of the AHA Centre

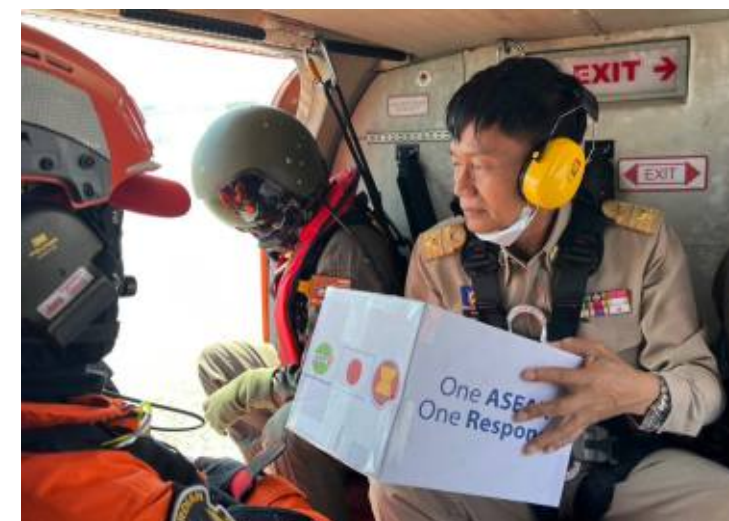


Enhance the operational capacity of the AHA Centre in monitoring, preparing and responding to disasters

Increase ASEAN's preparedness and Respond-As-One capacities



Enhance AHA Centre's professionalism through standards and certification



© AHA Centre



## Smart Solutions for Sustainable ASEAN Cities

In 2020, urbanisation in the ASEAN region surpassed the halfway mark, with the projection of a 55.6% rise in 2030 (ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Report, 2022). While the increasing rate of urbanisation can be associated with increased growth and connectivity, it also presents a myriad of challenges for ASEAN Member States and their cities. From traffic congestion and pollution to environmental degradation and inequality. It is evident that a more integrated approach to master planning and development is crucial to ensure the long-term sustainability of ASEAN cities.

Recognising the urgency of addressing these issues, the Smart Green ASEAN Cities (SGAC) programme was introduced on 19 October 2021 as part of the strengthened EU-ASEAN green partnership. Implemented by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and funded by the European Union, the programme aims to promote smart solutions through digitalisation and the use of technology to address urban challenges and climate change governance issues.

The SGAC programme has been actively collaborating with local governments and municipalities across the region to develop infrastructures and processes for a municipal finance architecture. This framework is designed to complement central-level efforts and facilitates investments in green sustainable solutions.

From 6 to 8 December 2022, the programme facilitated the Smart Green ASEAN City Windows in Bangkok, Thailand. Serving as a dynamic knowledge-sharing platform, the event was attended by 142 participants from 16 countries, including representatives of ASEAN Member States, the EU, international financing institutions and ASEAN research institutions.

The policy dialogue resulted in the nomination of 16 cities in ASEAN to participate in the initial diagnostic phase of smart green investments. The nomination was followed with an initial scoping mission in the first quarter of 2023. 'The scoping mission was carried out to obtain comprehensive knowledge and understanding regarding the capacity and readiness of candidate cities. We collected data from the discussion results to see what programmes deserve our support,' Fakri Karim, Smart Green ASEAN Cities Programme Leader said.

The EU has pledged €5 million through the programme to support up to 10 ASEAN cities in proactively addressing the challenges arising from the high urbanisation rates.

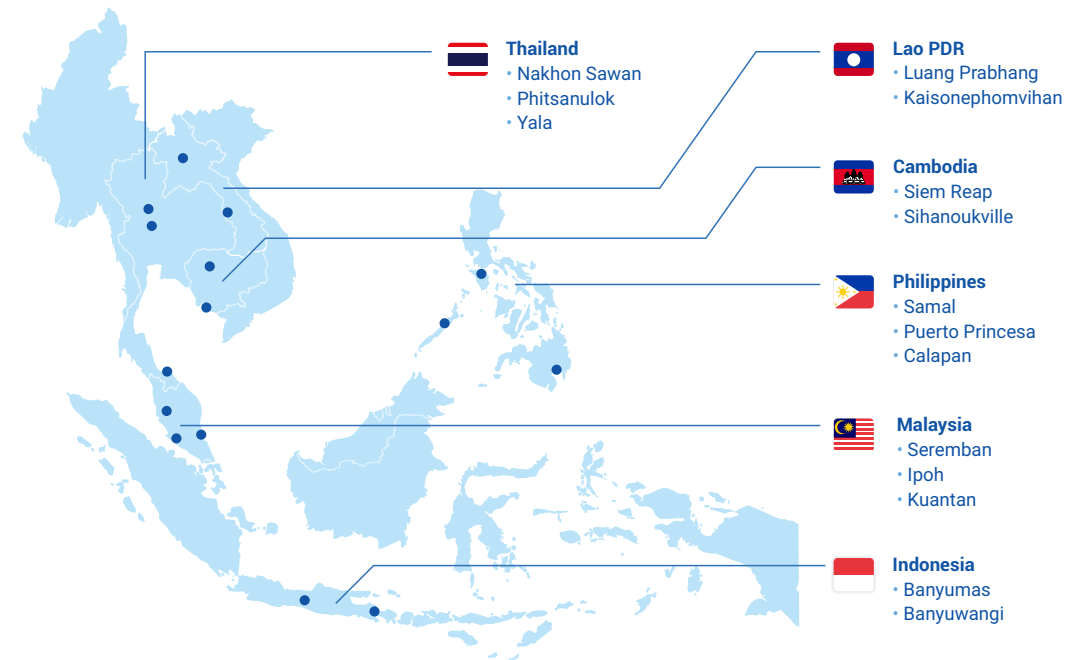


I am a strong believer in the EU-ASEAN cooperation. The Smart Green ASEAN Cities programme is very dear to me. It is important that cities, which face huge challenges, get the opportunity to also find solutions.

**Frans Timmerman**

Former Executive Vice-President for the Green Deal, European Commission

### SGAC CITIES



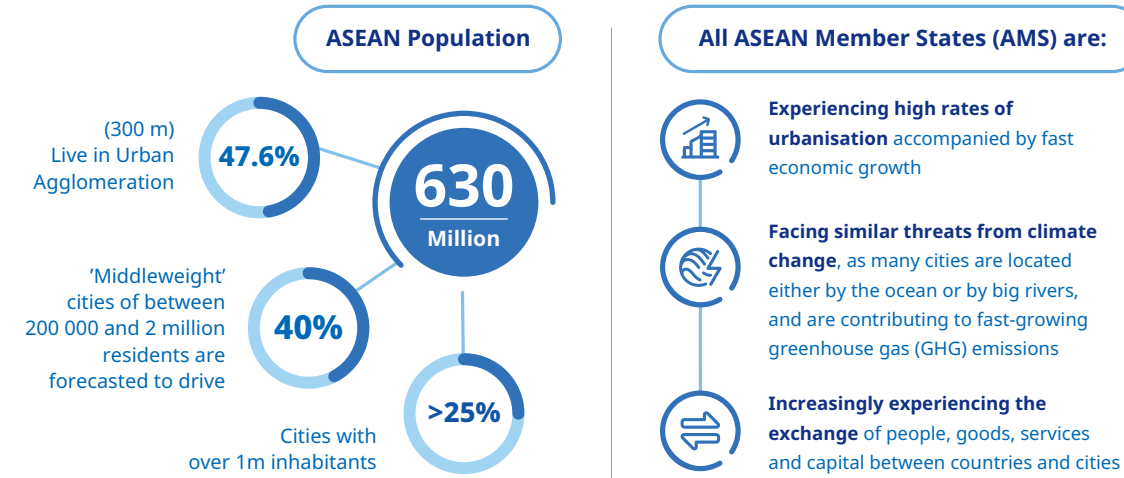


# SMART GREEN ASEAN CITIES PROGRAMME

Implementing Agency: United Nations Capital Development Fund



€5 million  
2021-2024



## SMART GREEN ASEAN CITIES PROGRAMME



## BCAMP

# Unlocking the Power of ASEAN Youth: Young ASEAN Storytellers Programme

€10 million  
2017-2023

In 2022, Southeast Asia emerged as the world's third-largest region in terms of social media users, boasting over 506 million active users, primarily between 18 to 30 years old. Within this vibrant and dynamic demographic lies a vast potential of ASEAN youth as storytellers and agents of change. Recognising this, the ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Programme (AYBP) initiated the Young ASEAN Storytellers (YAS) programme to engage and empower ASEAN's young creative minds from diverse fields to tell motivating stories of the region's rich natural and cultural heritage.

Supported by the European Union through the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP) Project, the YAS programme became a platform for young ASEAN creatives to showcase their talents and advocate for biodiversity conservation.

The initiative selected two storytellers from each ASEAN Member State, guiding them through a full story development process. From brainstorming and workshop sessions to narrative planning, material gathering, and editing, the participants received robust capacity-building activities and funding support.

The 2022 YAS programme centred around the captivating themes of ASEAN's rich flora and fauna and the intricate relationship between humanity and nature. Drawing inspiration from 11 ASEAN Heritage Parks, the 20 participants transformed their narratives into a captivating array of

mediums, including photography, film, painting, weaving, audio tracks, podcasts, long-term narratives, poetry and performance. These stories were unveiled at the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Heritage Parks Conference in Bogor, Indonesia on 1 November 2022 and were simultaneously showcased as an interactive online exhibition.

'Through this programme [and] through my fieldwork, I was able to reconcile my role as a member of the most destructive species to ever set foot on this planet with my role in the climate movement,' one of the young ASEAN storytellers from the Philippines, Celine Murillo, said. 'Through my YAS experience, I was also able to confirm that poetry is indeed transcendent and can be used to mainstream the Philippine native biodiversity and culture.'

By nurturing and empowering young storytellers, the programme has successfully set in motion a wave of awareness and advocacy for biodiversity conservation and cultural preservation.



Scan here to visit the interactive exhibition:  
<https://stories.aseanbiodiversity.org/>



# Sustainable Land Use and Forest Management

The ASEAN region contains over half (56%) of all global tropical peatlands which store 68 billion tonnes of the world's carbon. These peatlands are also home to some of the most endangered species of flora and fauna.

Launched in November 2019, the Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA) programme combines both a governmental and non-state actor approach to support ASEAN's strategy on peatland management and sustain local livelihoods.

Under the first component of the programme, the first SUPA pilot site was launched in Aceh, Indonesia on 15 June 2021.

SUPA

**Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN**

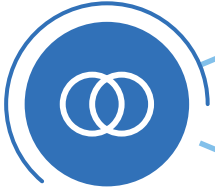
€24 million

**LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER 2019**

**2019-2023**


**TWO COMPONENTS**

Combining a governmental and a non-state actor approach




**SUPPORTS ASEAN'S STRATEGY ON PEATLAND MANAGEMENT**


**SUPPORTS AND SUSTAINS LOCAL LIVELIHOODS**



**€20 million**  
FROM THE EU



**€4 million**  
FROM GERMANY



The ASEAN region contains **over half (56%)** of all global tropical peatlands which store **68 billion tonnes of the world's carbon** and contain some of its most endangered species of fauna and flora.

## SUPA component 1



# Empowering Sustainable Peatland Management

In Southeast Asia, peatlands cover approximately 27 450 582 million hectares of the world's known tropical peatlands (ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2023-2030, 2023). Despite the significant presence of peatlands in the region, understanding and knowledge of peatlands management and its role for the environment remains lacking.

Ahmadi, a second-generation farmer in Aceh, Indonesia had little knowledge of the intricate workings of peatland ecosystems. To him, the waterlogged peatlands were merely the source of annual flooding in his village. 'I didn't know anything about peatland and its importance for our environment. So, we used to drain the peatlands and use it for agriculture and infrastructure', Ahmadi revealed.

Supported by the European Union, the Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA) programme works with villagers and farmers like Ahmadi to implement sustainable peatland management practices. Through partnerships with local environmental and forestry offices, the programme provided information sessions, forest firefighting training, and community plan development support.

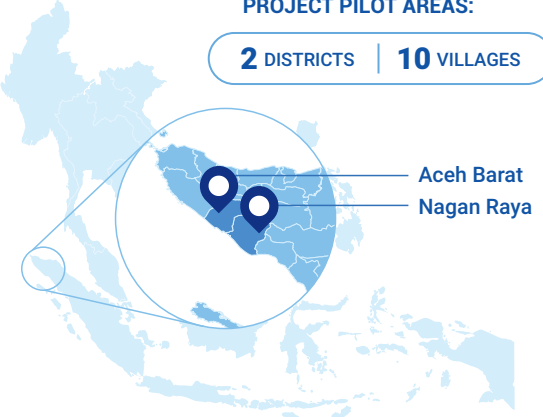
Ahmadi's participation in the information sessions was transformative. He became acutely aware of the contribution of drying peatlands to the rampant forest fires in the past. His newfound knowledge also encouraged him to shift his farming practices: 'I used to grow palm oil trees, just like other local

villagers here for easy profit. But then I learned it was not sustainable for our peatlands. So, I switched to planting oranges, which thrive in wet peatlands without the need for draining,' Ahmadi shared.

Today, Ahmadi is an active advocate for peatlands in his village. As the leader of the Peat Ecosystem Protection and Management Working Team in his village, Sumber Bakti: 'I now have the opportunity to address our community's needs, including obtaining orange seedlings, training our people on sustainable plant choices that won't harm the peatland, and sharing my knowledge on cultivation techniques for wet peatlands, such as catfish farming,' Ahmadi asserted with pride.

**PROJECT PILOT AREAS:**

**2 DISTRICTS** | **10 VILLAGES**



— Aceh Barat

— Nagan Raya





## SUPA component 2

# Wild Wild Champions of Peat

Power couple Jam Colas and Ronnie Villaber have always dreamt of owning a farm. 'I want a place where my children can run free and be with nature,' Colas said. In 2015, they realised their dream with The Peat by Wild Wild Pigs (WWP) - a hilltop peatlands farm on the Leyte Sab-a Basin in the Philippines. 'When we bought this farm, we didn't know it was on peatlands, but after reading up on it, we knew it was important that we protect this ecosystem,' Colas added.



However, running a productive farm that's also an eco-tourism hotspot is not an easy feat. That's why Colas and Villaber reached out to People for Peat (PFP).

Funded by the EU, the PFP coalition is the Component 2 of the Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA) programme which aims to support and sustain local livelihoods through cooperation with non-state actors.

In 2021, WWP joined Cohort 1 of PFP's Business Hub - an accelerator programme that offers business support and technical assistance facilities to peatland businesses. Through close collaboration assisted by a country coordinator and a panel of experts, Colas and Villaber learned how to market their products and services holistically and sustainably, successfully growing WWP's revenue by 685% by 2022.

The two PFP Peat Rangers even turned part of their land into a communal farm to dissuade their neighbours from poaching on peatlands.

'People here often turn to poaching out of necessity, so we're offering them an alternative livelihood option. We try to help them find a market to sell the produce as well. The important thing is they realise there is another way to make a living on peatlands,' Villaber said.

Colas and Villaber are currently working with the PFP Business Hub to expand their eco-tourism offerings and productivity on the farm, all while lifting the local community.



## SIMPLE

### Sustainability Issues Metaverse for Building Participatory Learning Environment

€2.5 million

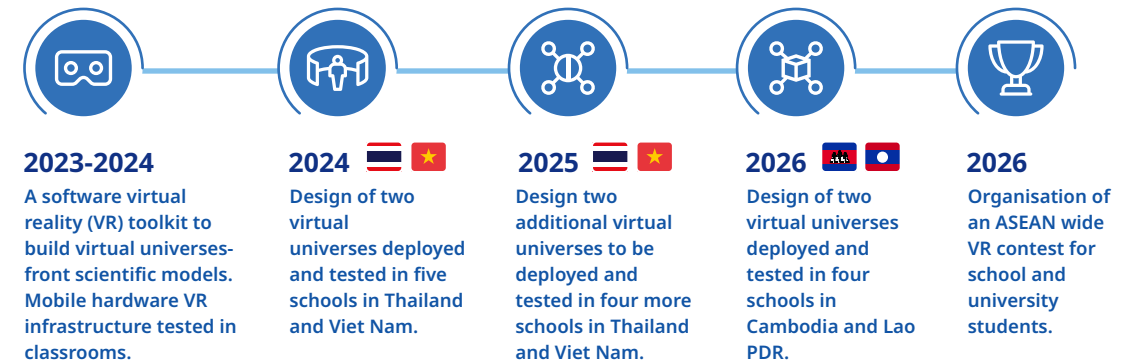
2023-2026

SIMPLE designs virtual reality universes to give every child access to evidence-based knowledge and experiential learning about environmental issues in the classroom. The project explores the potential of virtual reality universes to raise awareness on environmental questions.

The project aims to design a set of educational and entertaining virtual universes, each dedicated to a particular issue, representing a given case study (climate change in the Mekong Delta, the role of national parks in biodiversity protection in Thailand, etc.), and built on rigorous scientific models capable of providing realistic evolution scenarios.



### PROJECT TIMELINE



## A-SASSY

Building One ASEAN of Sustainability and Solidarity with a Partnership between Youth, CSO and the Member States

€2.5 million

2023-2026

The A-SASSY Project will enhance the EU-ASEAN partnership and cooperatively reduce the negative environmental impacts in key areas of the European Green Deal. The project will build proactive partnerships between youth, civil society, and local authorities to act on climate change impacts, environmental protection, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in ASEAN.



### PROJECT TIMELINE



Gender-sensitive digital environmental education programmes for youth will build capacities and educational competencies in the age brackets 15-19, 20-24, 25-35 years old.



Youth partnerships in 400 Youth for Sustainable Development Goals (Y4SDG) groups and 50 youth-led initiatives will create participatory spaces and resources for youth to act on climate change, environmental protection and DRR.



Youth mobilisation and advocacy through the ASEAN Green Generation Network (AGGN) will result in youth research, campaigns, ASEAN-EU exchange and evidence-based advocacy for ASEAN schools, universities and local and national governments to adopt environment education programmes (EEPs) into main and extra-curricular agendas.

### POPULATION BACKGROUND



**687 million** population across the ASEAN Member States



**31%** of the population are youth



**129 million** population threatened by the rise of the sea level

## CAP

ASEAN-EU German Climate Action Programme

€6 million  
€3 million

2023-2026

ASEAN EU - German Climate Action Programme (CAP) aims to improve ASEAN's capacity to promote regional cooperation for implementing ambitious climate policies and for accelerating the sustainable energy transition towards clean energy and greater energy efficiency.

### SECTORS



Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry



Sustainable energy transition

### OUTCOMES



The institutional and individual capacities of the ASEAN bodies relevant to climate policy are strengthened.



ASEAN's visibility in the international dialogue on climate policy and finance has been enhanced.



ASEAN and its Member States are better able to interlink regional and national climate policies.



# Migration and Mobility

## Navigating opportunities and challenges

In December 2015, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) was formally established with free movement of skilled labour as one of its key components. ASEAN is currently home to 10.6 million migrants, half of which are women.

Migrant workers are significantly contributing to the region's labour markets, production and remittance flow. However, the increased mobility of workers also calls for improved regional frameworks, coordination mechanisms and national policy initiatives to ensure the protection of ASEAN migrant workers.

During the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit, chaired by Indonesia, the ASEAN Member States issued the ASEAN Declaration of the Protection of Migrant Workers and Family Members in Crisis Situations. The declaration reaffirms ASEAN's commitment towards equitable access to social protection for all and the commitment for better preparedness of policies to increase the resilience and agility of the ASEAN workforce for the potential outbreak or recurring of crises.

The EU has been a staunch supporter of ASEAN's efforts to protect its migrant workers. In 2020, the EU and the UN launched a multi-country, multi-annual initiative, 'Ship to Shore Rights' programme. Implemented by the International Labour

Organization (ILO) in collaboration with International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the programme aims to promote regular and safe labour migration and decent work for all migrant workers in the fishing and seafood processing sectors in Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, to protect the rights of women migrant workers in ASEAN, the EU is supporting the joint ILO-UN Women programme, 'Safe and Fair: Realising women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region' under the Spotlight Initiative.

From 4 to 7 July 2023, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Safe and Fair Labour Migration was held on Boracay Island, Philippines. Over 70 policymakers, practitioners and representatives of civil society and international organisations came together to explore better ways to protect the rights of ASEAN migrant workers.

'Migration is a vital component of development, as it contributes to global economic growth and eradicating poverty. With the increasing prominence of migration in our society, there is a pressing need to prioritise its safety and

fairness,' H.E. Igor Driesmans, former Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN stated. 'The EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership recognises the complexities associated with this issue and underlines our collective commitment to addressing the common challenges, including through our cooperation to protect and advance the rights of migrant workers. Equally important is the inclusion of voices that are often marginalised in the migration debate, as they can contribute to our policy development,' he added.

The EU, through the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI), also supported the development of a series of awareness-campaign videos for the ASEAN Safe and Fair Migration Campaign. The campaign was launched to equip prospective and current migrant workers with reliable and comprehensive information to help them prepare better for migration and be safeguarded against exploitation.



© UN Women





## Bridging Information Gap for ASEAN Women Migrant Workers

In recent decades, international labour migration in the ASEAN region has significantly increased with almost half of the 10.6 million migrants being women.

Nineteen years ago, Parijati embarked on a journey that took her away from her hometown in Cirebon, Indonesia to work as a domestic worker in Saudi Arabia. Her motivation was simple: to earn enough money to provide for her son's circumcision.

In her excitement to embark on her new employment journey, Parijati signed her employment contract under the pressure of her agency without enough time to thoroughly read it. As she was en route to Saudi Arabia, she discovered her employment agency had manipulated her personal information. Upon her arrival, her agency became unresponsive. For three years, her wages were withheld by the agency, and she was coerced with the threat of wage forfeiture should she dare to leave her job.

Despite the increasing number of women migrant workers and their positive economic contributions to both origin and destination countries, the scarcity of information about safe migration and accessible services remains a persistent challenge.

The National Agency for the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers has documented around 278 cases of labour rights violations and gender-based violence against women migrant workers from Parijati's village of Cirebon alone.



© UN Women / Youngwa Choi

In an effort to bridge this informational gap, the Safe and Fair programme, funded by the European Union, strives to empower women migrant workers in ASEAN. Spearheaded by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in partnership with UN Women and United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, the programme has been supporting the Migrant Worker Resource (MRC) since 2019. These MRCs, established in partnership with governmental bodies, trade unions and civil society organisations (CSOs), offer a comprehensive suite of information services in both origin and destination countries.

Reflecting on her experience, Parijati wished she had access to more information: 'My only sources of information were my friends and family,' she said. Parijati is currently one of the network leaders of the Integrated Gender Responsiveness-One Roof Integrated Service (LTSA-MRC) in Indonesia. 'Having the right information when working abroad should be on top of the priority list,' Parijati said. 'The role of LTSA-MRC is very important to empower women migrant workers with information, and to provide support for survivors of violence.'

Beyond outreach activities to villages, pre-employment consultation and psycho-social counselling service, the MRC programme undertakes a multifaceted approach. This includes refining data collection methods, providing gender-responsive labour migration governance at the village level, fostering the capacity of local government officials and other service providers and strengthening coordination and social dialogue via tripartite plus forums dedicated to migrant worker protection, at both district and sub-district levels.

'We hope these services would provide better protection for Indonesian migrant workers, particularly women migrant workers, from trafficking in persons as well as violence and harassment at work, including gender-based violence', Director General of Manpower Placement and Extension of Job Opportunity of the Ministry of Manpower Suhartono said.



The Safe and Fair Programme is supporting Migrant Worker Resource (MRC) operations in:

- 📍 Cambodia
- 📍 Indonesia
- 📍 Lao PDR
- 📍 Malaysia
- 📍 Myanmar
- 📍 Philippines
- 📍 Singapore
- 📍 Thailand

302 912

women migrant workers benefitted from the support services provided by MRCs



## Empowering ASEAN Migrant Fishers

© Quang Nguyen Vinh



**ASEAN states are among the world's top producers and exporters of seafood products, as well as the top origin countries for migrant fishers. The term migrant fishers itself refers to migrant workers employed in any capacity on board commercial fishing vessels flying the flag of a country other than their own nationality.**

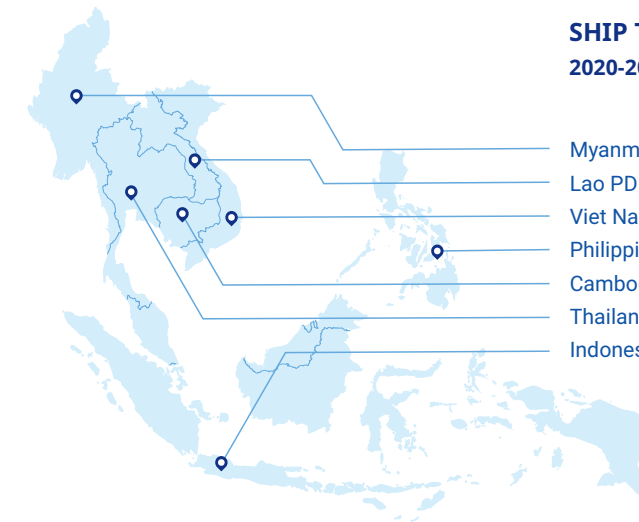
On a Thai boat in Ranong, Thailand, 11 migrant fishers from Myanmar had been working without pay for six months. When they finally received their wages, it was much less than what was specified in their employment contracts. Unfortunately, many other migrant fishers in Southeast Asia also encounter the same problems. Deterred by intimidation and potential retaliation from the vessel owners, most of these cases remain unreported and unsolved.

The EU-supported Ship to Shore Rights Southeast Asia Project provided a platform for these migrant fishers from Myanmar to file their cases. Through the Fisher's Rights Network (FRN), the project facilitated the fishers' legal complaints and provided legal assistance and defence throughout the course of their cases' investigations.

Following a two-month legal battle, the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare in Thailand issued an order requiring the employer to fully compensate the fishermen. 'We stood up to fight for justice collectively as a union,' Leader of the Fishers' Rights Network Aung Myo Oo said. 'This means we can send more money home to our families and it demonstrates the strength we have when we stand together.'

The Ship to Shore Rights Southeast Asia Project was launched in 2020 to build on the successes of the EU funded Ship to Shore Rights Project (2016–2020). Implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the project aims to promote labour migration laws, policies, practices, and services that respond to the needs of migrant fishers and promote innovative, rights-based, and safe solutions to manage labour migration and ensure decent working conditions.

Recognising the vulnerability of ASEAN migrant fishers, leaders of ASEAN Member States adopted the ASEAN Declaration on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers during the 42<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit from 9 to 11 May 2023 in Indonesia. The declaration marks the commitment of ASEAN leaders to strengthen measures and dedicate resources to enhance the labour conditions of migrant fishers and ensure the protection of their rights.



### SHIP TO SHORE RIGHTS SOUTHEAST ASIA 2020-2024

- Myanmar
- Lao PDR
- Viet Nam
- Philippines
- Cambodia
- Thailand
- Indonesia



Learn more about the project:

<https://shiptoshorerights.org/>





# Bilateral Cooperation

Strengthening EU-ASEAN development cooperation through close partnerships with ASEAN Member States



## Global Gateway Flagship projects in the ASEAN region

**THAILAND**

- Upgrading of the critical infrastructure of Thailand's main energy operator, the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), with smart grid technology

**LAO PDR**

- Increasing investment, connectivity and trade in agriculture and forestry
- Rehabilitation of an ASEAN highway

**CAMBODIA**

- Construction of water treatment plant in Phnom Penh
- One Health for Cambodia
- Partnership in Education for green and digital jobs

**VIET NAM**

- Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP): construction of Bac Ai hydropower pump storage (1,200 MW)
- Upgrading of hydropower plant Tri An by 200 MW to increase peak capacities
- Construction of the Tra Vinh 48 MW nearshore wind farm

**PHILIPPINES**

- Scale up service provision from the Copernicus mirror site to provide high-speed internet capacity; Digital Economy Package to support digital connectivity, cybersecurity and 5G

**MALAYSIA**

- Development of the port of Lumut

**INDONESIA**

- Smart City connectivity in Nusantara capital city
- Investment plan via the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) to expand renewable energies, phase down on and off-grid coal-fired electricity generation
- Double tracked upgrading and electrification of suburban train

- Climate and Energy
- Health
- Education and Research
- Digital
- Transport







# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



1985

Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force

The EU and Brunei Darussalam share a close working relationship, partnering with each other through various multilateral platforms, including:

- ASEAN** | The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- ARF** | ASEAN Regional Forum
- ASEM** | The Asia-Europe Meeting

## KEY PROJECT

European Union-Brunei Darussalam Partnership Facility

2023-2025

€300 000

## KEY RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ The EU supports the establishment of the new ASEAN Centre for Climate Change in Brunei through the ASEAN-EU-German Climate Action Programme.
- ★ The EU is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest exporter to Brunei, sending €315 million worth of goods.
- ★ Total trade with the EU has grown by 130.8% since the beginning of the pandemic.
- ★ Several small and large EU-based companies are part of Brunei Darussalam's economy.
- ★ Cooperation on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risks Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CBRN CoE) supports the reinforcement of Brunei Darussalam's National Action Plan.



# CAMBODIA



Cambodia hosted the 32<sup>nd</sup> SEA Games in 2023 and the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Para Games under the motto of Sports Live in Peace

2002

EU Delegation opened in Phnom Penh

## FOCUS AREAS

- Green Growth & Decent Jobs
- Education
- Good Governance

## KEY PROJECTS

- Bakheng Water Supply Project** | 2021-2023 | €210 million
- EU-Cambodia Education Sector Reform Partnership** | 2018-2023 | €105 million
- EU-Cambodia Partnership for Public Financial Management Reform (Stage IV)** | 2022-2026 | €31 million

## KEY RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ Construction of the Bakheng water treatment plant, a €210 million joint investment with the European Investment Bank and Agence Française de Développement to bring clean water to the underserved half million people and industries in the suburb of Phnom Penh, reached 90% completion (official inauguration June 2023).
- ★ The education programme contributed to the national capacity to regularly assess learning outcomes, increase budget allocation and disbursement timeliness for schools' operation and provide scholarships to over 250,000 poor students in the national budget annually.
- ★ Effective cooperation through Joint Programming with nine EU Member States and Switzerland, aligning with Cambodia's national priorities.
- ★ The 2021 Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability assessment confirmed that the PFM systems in Cambodia have significantly improved in the areas related to fiscal and budget management.





# INDONESIA



2014

Indonesia is the first country in ASEAN with a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the EU.

## FOCUS AREAS



Trade, Investment, and Connectivity



Sustainable Development, Climate Change and the Environment



Governance, Human Rights, and Security

## KEY PROJECTS

EU-Indonesia Cooperation Facility

2023-2025

€10 million

Sustainable Oceans Management

2024-2028

€7.3 million

Support to Sustainable Investments and Infrastructure (S4I / SDG Indonesia One)

2020-2026

€22.3 million

## KEY RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ Launch of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) during Indonesia's G-20 Presidency in 2022.
- ★ Establishment of a bilateral EU-Indonesia cooperation facility in 2023 to reinforce dialogue and cooperation on issues of common interest.
- ★ Launch of a plan with the Ministry of Investments in 2024 to attract new EU investments in "future-oriented" sectors with support from the ARISE+ trade facility.
- ★ Implementation of new infrastructure projects in areas such as blue economy, energy and health, in partnership with Development Finance Institutions from EU Member States.



# LAO PDR



The EU's cooperation strategy objective in Lao PDR is: 'Together as Team Europe, to foster quality and sustainable trade and investment in green economic sectors, supported by enhanced skills, and improved governance'.

## FOCUS AREAS



Agriculture, Forestry and Biodiversity



Education



Trade and Private Sector Development



Good Governance

## PROJECTS

- ✔ Team Europe Partnership with Lao PDR to increase sustainable and inclusive Trade, Investment and Connectivity in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors (TICAF), €28.4 million, 2024-2028. Project supporting the development of coffee, tea and timber value chains, and improved market access through road rehabilitation. Co-financed with France, Germany, and EIB.
- ✔ Team Europe Partnership for Education and Skills for Inclusive and Green Growth (PESIG), €37 million, 2023-2027. Budget support to help improve education access, quality, relevance and governance, with complementary support (co-financed by Luxembourg and Switzerland) focusing on technical and vocational education and training in tourism, hospitality, agriculture and forestry.
- ✔ Citizen Engagement for Good Governance, Accountability and Rule of Law – PHASE 2 (CEGGA2), €2 million, 2023-2025. Supporting capacity-building of National Assembly, Provincial People Assembly and civil society organisations, as well as improved access to justice. Co-financed by Germany and Switzerland.

## KEY RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ Following the launch of the Team Europe Strategy 2021-2025 in December 2021, the EU and Team Europe Partners in Lao PDR engaged intensively in joint activities to build the Team Europe image. This included the formulation of joint programmes; a joint field mission of Team Europe Heads of Mission and High-level Officials to visit co-financed projects in the three priority areas of the new strategy; a celebration of International Tree Planting Day; Team Europe Climate Diplomacy week; the relaunching of the "Study in Europe" Fair in four provinces; the European Food and Film Festival; and #TeamEurope #Forourplanet campaign in December 2022.
- ★ In 2022, the EU approved three new bilateral programmes on education, good governance and public finance management for a total of €44 million.
- ★ The EU contributed to 12 youth/women events in Lao PDR in 2022. The Delegation has expanded its engagement with a few dynamic youth groups to support their campaigns and activities at a central and local level – especially those related to climate change and gender equality. These included Youth Action on climate change (including a drawing competition); Clean Up Vientiane; Youth for SDGs; International Youth Day; a Tree Planting Day; participation of youth organisations in the ASEAN Youth Forum in Vietnam and mobilisation of singers, models and influencers to contribute to the 16-day campaign to eliminate violence against women and girls (EVAW).





# MALAYSIA



1980

Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force

## FOCUS AREAS



Trade and Investment



Environment and Climate Change



Human Rights



Support to Civil Society Organisations

## KEY PROJECTS

EU Malaysia Cooperation Facility

2023-2027

€ 5.2 million

To support EU-Malaysia policy dialogue, outreach and strategic partnerships.

Global Gateway

2023-2024

€ 1.9 million

Developing a roadmap on connectivity within Malaysia, with a particular focus on the Port of Lumut in Perak. Partner: Port of Antwerp-Bruges International.

CSO and Human Rights

2019-2028

€ 8.3 million

Environment & climate change mitigation action, gender equality, capacity building for media and indigenous people organisations.

- ✓ In 2021, Malaysia benefited from regional and thematic projects
- ✓ The ARISE plus Malaysia project on trade-related technical assistance was officially launched in early 2021
- ✓ From 2021 to 2027, a Cooperation facility will support the EU-Malaysia partnership

## KEY RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ On 14 December 2022, Malaysia and the European Union officially signed the Malaysia EU Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.
- ★ The EU-MY Cooperation Facility will be used to support many activities to help Malaysian smallholders to adapt to the new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) before the compliance will be in effect by the new year of 2025. In addition, the Facility also helps support the Global Gateway initiative by financing the feasibility study for the Port of Lumut to be a green industrial port and an important gateway to Malaysia for the next decade.



# MYANMAR



Supporting the resilience of Myanmar people

2013

EU Delegation opened in Yangon

## FOCUS AREAS



Sustainable Livelihoods, Food and Nutrition Security



Education and Skills Development for Youth



Resilience and Peacebuilding

## FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES



Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus Response Mechanism in support to the people of Myanmar

From 2020



Providing access to basic, technical and tertiary education for vulnerable children and youth

## KEY RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ Beyond the humanitarian assistance provided to the most vulnerable groups, the EU continues to support the efforts of Myanmar civil society to build the resilience of populations most affected by the current crisis, working together with all those willing to support democracy, the rule of law and human rights in Myanmar. No EU resources are directed towards state structures.







# PHILIPPINES



2024 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the EU and the Philippines

2018

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the European Union (EU) and the Philippines entered into force on 1 March 2018, signed in 2012.

## FOCUS AREAS



Inclusive Growth through Access to Sustainable Energy and Job Creation



Green, Resilient Economy and Green Jobs



Strengthening the Rule of Law



Peaceful and Just Society, Good Governance

## FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES



Green Economy Programme



Peace and Security in Mindanao



PH also part of regional and thematic programmes supporting various thematic sectors such as safe migration, trade facilitation, women's economic participation



Digital Connectivity



Access to Justice and Good Governance

## KEY RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ Launching of the National Copernicus Capacity Support Action Programme for the Philippines "CoPhil" (€10M) which is the first space cooperation programme in the region. This will help PH agencies to utilise earth observation satellite data to create better disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation strategies.
- ★ Remains as a long standing partner for building lasting peace and development, specifically in Mindanao with more than €140M funding which focuses on institution building and socio-economic development.
- ★ The EU is a predominant partner in supporting the Justice sector.
- ★ Implementation of the Bangsamoro Agri-Enterprise Programme (BAEP) (€20M) which will help boost local agricultural production and help farmers and fisherfolk through a value-chain approach in the BARMM, Mindanao region.
- ★ Completion of numerous solar power plants and solar powered homes systems through the Access to Sustainable Energy Programme (ASEP) (€66M) helps the country to address rural electrification through renewable energy sources.
- ★ The Governance in Justice (GOJUST) programme (€19M) enabled, "11 Justice Zones" to be established all over the country – where justice sector actors such as attorneys and police work together to improve access to justice.



# SINGAPORE



1980

Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force

## FOCUS AREAS



Trade and Investment



Regional and Global Security



Economic Development

## HIGHLIGHTS OF EU COOPERATION



The EU supports private sector development through the implementation of the EU-Singapore Administrative Arrangement on Cluster Cooperation signed on 3 December 2020.



In November 2021, the first EU-Singapore clusters matchmaking event took place - with the involvement of around 100 representatives of clusters organisations.

## KEY RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ The EU and Singapore are exploring options to step up cooperation in the areas of digital economy and research & innovation, as announced in September 2021 in the EU Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- ★ The comprehensive EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (EUSFTA) has been in force since November 2019. A joint statement to strengthen the bilateral partnership on digital trade was issued in December 2021 at the inaugural Trade Committee meeting under the EUSFTA. The EU-Singapore Investment Protection Agreement (EUSIPA) and Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (ESPCA) – signed in October 2018 - will enter into force once the ongoing ratification by all EU Member States has been completed.
- ★ The ESCPA will strengthen political dialogue with Singapore and enhance cooperation in a broad range of areas, while the EUSIPA will further foster the strong investment ties between the EU and Singapore.
- ★ The EU has been stepping up its security engagements with Singapore and like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific. In early 2021, it extended the Enhanced Security Cooperation In and With Asia (ESIWA) project to the city-state offering collaboration in cyber security, counterterrorism, maritime security and crisis management.





# THAILAND



1980

Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force

## FOCUS AREAS

- Sustainable Growth and Development
- Human Development and Migration
- Environment and Climate Change
- Support to Civil Society Organisations

## KEY PROJECTS

EU Thailand Cooperation

€6.5 million

to support EU-Thailand Policy dialogue, outreach and strategic partnerships.

Strengthening SDGs localization in Thailand project

€1.4 million

is to strengthen the EU-Thailand partnership towards the goals of Agenda 2030 and achieving the SDGs in Thailand.

Support to encamped Myanmar Refugees in Thailand 2023-202

€12 million

to fund six projects to support refugees from Myanmar and host communities at Thailand-Myanmar border in Education, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Livelihood, Assistance to People with Disabilities, Child Protection and Durable Solutions to Refugees.

- ✓ In 2021, Thailand benefited from regional and thematic projects
- ✓ Projects focusing on Thailand were mainly implemented by national and international NGOs and are covering a wide range of sectors
- ✓ From 2021 to 2027, a Cooperation Facility will support the EU-Thailand partnership
- ✓ A new budget allocation of EUR 12 million, to ensure support to encamped Myanmar refugees in Thailand was adopted at the end of 2021.

## KEY RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ On 14 December 2022, Thailand and the European Union officially signed the Thailand-EU Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.
- ★ The EU Thailand Cooperation Facility supported an impact study of the new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) in Thailand. The result of the study showed details of possible impacts in Thailand for relevant EUDR commodities and sectors. The study also indicated how Thai stakeholders should prepare themselves in response to the new compliance of the regulation. The result will also be one of the key factors in determining the next steps of partnership between the EU and Thailand in the forestry and agriculture sectors.



# VIET NAM



1999

Cooperation Agreement between European Economic Community (EEC) and ASEAN Member States came into force

€210 million

2021-2024

TOTAL FUNDING SUPPORT

## FOCUS AREAS

- Energy Transition
- Governance and Rule of Law
- Trade-Related Assistance
- Sustainable Consumption and Production

## KEY PROJECT

EU-Viet Nam Sustainable Energy Transition Programme

2022-2027

€142 million

## KEY RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ Formulation and adoption of the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for EU-Viet Nam Cooperation 2021-2027.
- ★ Formulation and adoption of the EU Gender Action Plan III (GAP III) Country-Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) 2021-2025.
- ★ The EU's bilateral grant support programme to the energy sector in Viet Nam is among the largest in the world, with a total commitment of €250 million. The programme focuses on providing access to a reliable source of power, energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- ★ In December 2022, Viet Nam and the International Partners Group (IPG) including the European Union, Denmark, France, Germany and Italy agreed to a Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP). The EU is currently the largest grant provider with €176 million, which includes a €142 million Sustainable Energy Transition Budget Support Programme.



# CONTACTS EU Member States Accredited to ASEAN



## European Union

Delegation to ASEAN  
Menara Astra, 38<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Jl Jend Sudirman Kav 5-6, Jakarta 10220

T | +6221 2554-6200  
F | +6221 2554-6201  
E | delegation-asean@eeas.europa.eu



## Denmark

Royal Danish Embassy  
Menara Rajawali, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Jl. DR Ide Anak Agung Gde Agung #5.1  
Kawasan Mega Kuningan, Jakarta 12950

T | +6221 866-55100  
F | +6221 576-1535  
E | jktamb@um.dk



## Belgium

Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium  
Deutsche Bank Bldg. 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Jl. Imam Bonjol No. 80, Jakarta 10310

T | +6221 316-2030  
F | +6221 316-2035  
E | jakarta@diplobel.fed.be



## Germany

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Jl. MH Thamrin No. 1, Jakarta 10310

T | +6221 3985-5000  
F | +6221 390-1757  
E | info@jakarta.diplo.de



## Bulgaria

Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria  
Jl. Imam Bonjol No. 34-36, Jakarta 10310

T | +6221 390-4048; 391-3130  
F | +6221 390-4049  
E | embassy.jakarta@mfa.bg



## Ireland

Embassy of Ireland, Ireland House  
Word Trade Center Tower 1, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Jl. Jend Sudirman Kav. 29-31, Jakarta 12920

T | +6221 2809-4300  
F | +6221 521-1622  
E | jakartaem@dfa.ie



## Czech Republic

Embassy of the Czech Republic  
Jl. Gereja Theresia No. 20, Jakarta 10350  
PO BOX 1319

T | +62811 924-5663 / +62811 924-5664  
F | +6221 390-4078  
E | jakarta@mzv.gov.cz



## Greece

Embassy of the Hellenic Republic  
Plaza 89, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 1203  
Jl. HR Rasuna Said Kav. X-7 No. 6, Jakarta 12940

T | +6221 520-7776 / +6221 520-7761  
F | +6221 520-7753  
E | gremb.jrt@mfa.gr



## Spain

Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain  
Jl. Haji Agus Salim No. 61, Jakarta 10350

T | +6221 3193-5136; 314-2355  
F | +6221 3193-5134; 3192-5996  
E | emb.yakarta@maec.es



## Cyprus

Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus  
Menara Astra, 38<sup>th</sup> floor,  
Jalan Jend. Sudirman Kav. 5-6, Jakarta 10220

T | +6221 2554-6221  
E | cyprusinjakarta@mfa.gov.cy



## France

Embassy of France  
Jl. MH Thamrin No. 20, Jakarta 10350

T | +6221 2355-7600  
F | +6221 2355-7601  
E | contact@ambafrance-id.org



## Hungary

Embassy of Hungary  
Jl. HR Rasuna Said Kav. X/3 No. 1, Jakarta 12950

T | +6221 520-4643  
F | +6221 520-3461  
E | mission.jkt@mfa.gov.hu



## Croatia

Embassy of the Republic of Croatia  
Menara Mulia, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor - Suite 2801  
Jl. Jend Gatot Subroto Kav. 9-11, Jakarta 12930

T | +6221 525-7822  
F | +6221 525-6711  
E | jakarta@mvep.hr



## Netherlands

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
Jl. HR Rasuna Said Kav. S-3, Jakarta 12950

T | +6221 524-8200  
F | +6221 520-0734  
E | jak@minbuza.nl



## Italy

Embassy of the Republic of Italy  
Jl. Diponegoro No. 45, Jakarta 10310

T | +6221 3193-7445  
F | +6221 3193-7422  
E | ambasciata.jakarta@esteri.it



## Austria

Embassy of Austria  
Jl. Diponegoro No. 44, Jakarta 10310

T | +6221 2355-4005  
F | +6221 3190-4881  
E | jakarta-ob@bmeia.gv.at





# CONTACTS EU Delegations in ASEAN Member States



## Poland

Embassy of the Republic of Poland  
Jl. HR Rasuna Said Kav. X Block IV/3  
Jakarta 12950

T | +6221 252-5939 / +6221 252-5940  
F | +6221 252-5958  
E | dzakarta.amb.sekretariat@msz.gov.pl



## Finland

Embassy of Finland  
Menara Rajawali, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Jl. DR Ide Anak Agung Gde Agung #5.1  
Kawasan Mega Kuningan, Jakarta 12950

T | +6221 2939-3000  
F | +6221 576-1631  
E | sanomat.jkt@formin.fi



## Portugal

Embassy of Portugal  
Jl. Indramayu No. 2A, Jakarta 10310

T | +6221 3190-8030  
F | +6221 3190-8031  
E | jakarta@mne.pt



## Sweden

Embassy of Sweden  
Menara Rajawali, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Jl. DR Ide Anak Agung Gde Agung #5.1  
Kawasan Mega Kuningan, Jakarta 12950

T | +6221 2553 5900  
F | +6221 2553 5941  
E | ambassaden.jakarta@gov.se



## Romania

Embassy of Romania  
Jl. Teuku Cik Ditiro No. 42A, Jakarta 10310

T | +6221 390-0489  
F | +6221 310-6241  
E | jakarta@mae.ro



## Slovakia

Embassy of the Slovak Republic  
Jl. Prof. Moh. Yamin, SH No. 29  
Jakarta Pusat 10310, PO BOX 13680

T | +6221 310-1068; 315-1429  
F | +6221 310-1180  
E | emb.jakarta@mzv.sk



## Delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom of Cambodia

No. 100 A, Preah Norodom Boulevard  
Khan Daun Penh, 12207 Phnom Penh  
PO Box 2301, Cambodia

T | +855 (0) 23 216996 / 211102 / 220611 / 220612  
F | +855 (0) 23 216997  
E | DELEGATION-CAMBODIA@eeas.europa.eu



## Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia

Unit 1-23, Level 23 Naza Tower,  
Platinum Park, No. 10 Persiaran KLCC,  
50088 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

T | +603 2723 7373  
F | +603 2723 7337  
E | DELEGATION-MALAYSIA@eeas.europa.eu



## Delegation of the European Union to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam

Menara Astra, 38<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Jl Jend Sudirman Kav 5-6  
Jakarta 10220, Indonesia

T | +62-21 25546200  
F | +62-21 25546201  
E | DELEGATION-INDONESIA@eeas.europa.eu



## Delegation of the European Union to Myanmar

Kantharyar Centre Office Tower, 22nd Floor,  
Corner of Kan Yeik Thar Road and U Aung Myat Road,  
Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township, Yangon 11221, Myanmar

T | +95 (0) 99 7707 9991  
F | +95 (0) 1 937 6226  
E | DELEGATION-MYANMAR@eeas.europa.eu



## Delegation of the European Union to Lao PDR

Europe House  
Unit 19, Hom 2, Setthathilath Road, Haisok Village,  
Chanthabouly District, Vientiane, Lao PDR.  
P.O. Box: 9325;

T | +856 (21) 255 575  
F | +856 (21) 255 576, 255 577  
E | DELEGATION-LAOS@eeas.europa.eu



## Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines

30/F Tower II, RCBC Plaza  
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200  
Philippines

T | +63 2-8595100  
F | +63 2-859 5109  
E | DELEGATION-PHILIPPINES@eeas.europa.eu





### Delegation of the European Union to Singapore



250 North Bridge Road  
#38-03 Raffles City Tower Singapore 179101  
Singapore

T | +65 6336 7919  
F | +65 6336 3394  
E | DELEGATION-SINGAPORE@eeas.europa.eu



### Delegation of the European Union to Viet Nam



Lotte Centre, West wing, 24<sup>th</sup> floor  
54 Lieu Giai Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, Viet Nam

T | +84 4 39 41 00 99  
F | +84 4 39 46 17 01  
E | DELEGATION-VIETNAM@eeas.europa.eu



### Delegation of the European Union to Thailand



Athenee Tower, 10<sup>th</sup> floor  
63 Wireless Road,  
Bangkok 10330, Thailand

T | +66 (0) 2305 2600 / 2700  
E | DELEGATION-THAILAND@eeas.europa.eu



### EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership





## Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN

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**EUinASEAN**

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Menara Astra, 38th Floor,  
Jl Jend Sudirman Kav 5-6,  
Jakarta 10220 Indonesia

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T : +62 21 2554 6290

F : +62 21 2554 6201

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E : [DELEGATION-ASEAN@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:DELEGATION-ASEAN@eeas.europa.eu)

W : <http://eeas.europa.eu/asean>



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