Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

How to enrich online teaching activities in higher education through Virtual Exchange

26 March 2020 h 11.00 CET
11.00: Welcome

11.05: Francesca Helm, What is Virtual Exchange

11.15: Stephanie Siklossy, the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Programme

11.25: Sophie Millner, How to integrate Virtual Exchange in university courses

11.35: Sara Pittarello, Practical steps to make this happen

11.45: Questions and answers

12.00: End of Masterclass
What is Virtual Exchange
Francesca Helm
“Technology-enabled, sustained, moderated, people-to-people educational programmes”

- **People-to-people** real time dialogue
- Interactions are **facilitated** to ensure they are meaningful
- A virtual exchange is a **sustained** designed pedagogical process
- It is **technology-enabled**
What makes it unique

● Scalability and inclusivity

● Experiential learning

● Community of trust

● Learner-led approach
Can VE be integrated within a HE course?

Virtual Exchange can be integrated in higher education in many different ways. Educators have now moved all classes online - VE can add an international and intercultural dimension.

- Have your students participate in a ‘ready made’ virtual exchange as a component of a course
- Follow short training and develop a collaborative virtual exchange with a colleague in another country.
The Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange project
Stephanie Siklossy
Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange in a Nutshell

- European Commission **pilot project**, expanding the reach and scope of the Erasmus+ programme through Virtual Exchange
- An accessible, innovative way for **young people** to engage in meaningful intercultural experiences online
- Goal: foster **mutual understanding** and **skills development**
- **Target** of 25,000 youth in 2018-2020, future upscale
- Implemented by a consortium of 8 organisations
Target Audiences

Exchange activities are open to any young person aged 18-30 residing in Erasmus+ programme countries and the Southern Mediterranean.

But also targeting:
- Higher education professors
- University managers/administrators
- Educators
- Youth workers
What Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange offers

FOR STUDENTS
● Develop transversal competencies
● Offer opportunities to build diverse personal relationships
● Prepare students for work and civic engagement in a global context
● Foster greater student interest in Erasmus mobility programmes
● Offer a recognised skill-building experience

FOR EDUCATORS and UNIVERSITIES
● Provide professional development and learning opportunity
● Implement new pedagogic approach
● Internationalisation of the curriculum
● Offer a 'Portfolio' of Virtual exchanges to students and professors
● Collaborate and build partnerships with other institutions
Recognition System

- Recognition of participation through a system of Open Badges
- Ecosystem of badges linked to competencies
- Importance of institutional recognition and value
2018-2019 Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18678</td>
<td>Persons engaged in Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16210</td>
<td>Young people participated in exchange activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>199</td>
<td>Partnerships created with institutions and organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~350</td>
<td>Members of the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Facilitator community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Countries across which connections were built</td>
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Impact

- **87%** satisfaction among young people
- **88%** reported increased ability to work in a culturally diverse place
- **76%** improved their digital competencies
- **76%** improved their teamwork and collaborative problem-solving skills
- **71%** built meaningful relationships with peers from other countries/regions
- **91%** described what they learned about people from other cultures as (very) positive
How to integrate Virtual Exchanges in education programmes

Sophie Millner
Exchanges: Interactive Courses & Dialogues

*integrated across disciplines • global skills and attitudes*

Why now?

**Continuity** of education during disruption.

**Fill the gap** in international mobility.

**ECTS**: Fulfil 1, 3 or 5 ECTS.

**For you**: in this challenging time, take some workload off your shoulders.
**Exchanges: Interactive Courses & Dialogues**

*socio-political issues • facilitator-led, small group dialogue • different options for integration*

### What are the Interactive Courses?

- **Interactive Open Online Courses (iOOCs)**
  - Original Lecture series by expert academics and practitioners.

- **Dialogue**
  - Small, facilitator-led sessions and interactive assignments.

- **Socio-political issues**
  - Topical themes on current affairs.

- **Upcoming spring/summer courses**:
  - 'Youth, Peace and Conflict', ‘Countering Hate Speech’, ‘Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective’

### What are Dialogue Exchanges?

- **Dialogue Exchanges**
  - Focus on skill-building

- **Dialogue**
  - Encourages thoughtful discourse in facilitator-led sessions

- **Global issues**
  - Menu of global topics.

- **Upcoming fall/winter**:
  - ‘Connect Global’, ‘Connect Collaborate’, ‘Connect Express’
Exchanges: Interactive Courses & Dialogues

*integrated across disciplines • global skills and attitudes*

Who can participate?

**Students** at university and other HEIs.

**Young professionals** and members of youth organisations.

**Professors** and educators offering the course.

How do I implement iOOCs & CP?

**Stand-alone course**: Just get students to register!

**Tailor-made**: choose a model of integration that works for you
Exchanges: Interactive Courses & Dialogues

*lecture series • socio-political issues • facilitator-led, small group dialogue •

**What do they gain?**

**ECTS** 1-3 credits (CP) 3-5 credits (iOOC)

**Badges:** Erasmus+ digital Badges

**Transversal skills:** self-esteem, curiosity, empathy, resilience, intercultural communication.

**International,** intercultural experience and...solidarity!

**Which languages?**

English, Arabic
Laura Hoskins: English as a foreign language teacher for Physics and Chemistry students. E+VE partner and iOOC pioneer since 2018. Model: replaces English course with a 10-week virtual exchange. How has it grown across Bordeaux? How much do you need to know about online learning for your students to join? Why engage now?

Dr. Marta Giralt: Lecturer of applied linguistics. E+VE partner and iOOC pioneer since 2018. Model: blended learning with ECTS. What benefits do students get out of it? What challenges and surprises have you faced? Why engage now?

Example of a Interactive Course integration?

lecture series • socio-political issues • facilitator-led, small group dialogue •

Bordeaux University

Limerick University
Handbook for International Relations Officers

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange
Handbook for International Relations Officers

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Practical steps to make this happen

Sara Pittarello
“It’s like climbing a staircase…”

by Jeanne Moreau

You decide

which step you want to take

or where to stop

based on your institution’s targets and policies
Trainings to design a Virtual Exchange project

For teaching & administrative staff to learn how to create a Transnational Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Project (TEP) (4/6 weeks, 2-3 h a week, in English or French), to enrich and expand existing courses and programmes.

Training Opportunities for HEIs:
https://europa.eu/youth/erasmussvirtual/activity/training-opportunities_en

- Basic Training: 10 May to 7 June 2020
- Advanced Training: 19 April to 31 May 2020
How to implement TEPs in HEIs: Examples

- As pre-mobility activity
- Integrating VE in already existing/future projects/network
- Innovating the educational offer: new joint and flexible curricula / challenge-based short term learning programmes
- Joint staff training strategies
- Online placements
### Recap: What can educators do with E+ Virtual Exchange

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Engage students in Exchanges</th>
<th>Develop a Transnational E+VE Project (TEP)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content</strong></td>
<td>Thematic focus &amp; transversal skills: video lecture series on socio-political issues, interactive assignments, e.g, ‘Youth, Peace &amp; Conflict’, ‘Countering Hate Speech’, ‘Connect Programme’ and more.</td>
<td>You will need to go through the training first, no need to have a partner already, any theme</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
<td>from 4 to 10 weeks</td>
<td>you decide (3 to 8 weeks)</td>
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<td><strong>Student Workload</strong></td>
<td>5-10 hours per week - depends on the activity</td>
<td>you decide, best if fits into normal workload expected</td>
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<td><strong>Educator engagement level</strong></td>
<td>Minimal or collaborative - depends if the course is integrated in your programme</td>
<td>High - you will be designing and implementing your own exchange</td>
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What about students?

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange offers a number of activities to which students can sign up independently without the need to involve teaching staff. Example of activities where students can apply directly are ‘Social Circles’ and the Interactive Open Online Courses, like ‘Youth, Peace and Conflict’, ‘Countering Hate Speech’, ‘Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective’.
Recap: upcoming opportunities

‘Youth, Peace and Conflict’ Interactive Open Online Course
13 April – 7 May 2020 (deadline 5 April)
4-week course. English/Arabic language

‘Countering Hate Speech’ Interactive Open Online Course
18 May – 19 June 2020 (deadline 10 May)
5-week course. English language

‘Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective’ Interactive Open Online Course
25 May – 24 June (deadline 17 May)
5 weeks. Language: English

‘Cultural Encounters’ Interactive Open Online Course
12 Oct - 11 Dec (deadline 4 Oct) & 1 June - 31 July (demand dependent)
9 weeks, 5 ECTS. Language: English

TEPS Training for HEIs:
Basic Training (English): 10 May - 07 June
Advanced Training (English & French): 19th April - 31 May

‘Connect Programme’ Dialogue exchange
15 October - 5 December (deadline 30 July)
4, 5, 8 weeks. Language: English
Recap: what to do next?

- Visit The Hub and read the Higher Education Handbook
- If you are ready to integrate an Exchange in your teaching, please contact <partner@sharingperspectivesfoundation.com>
- If you are interested in following the TEP training, please connect with <sara.pittarello@unicollaboration.org>
- If you still have questions, please join the next Drop In session (30 March, info on the hub) or the next online mini-lessons with examples (2 April, 9 April, 16 April)
Thank You

Find out how you can get involved:
www.europa.eu/youth/EU_env