



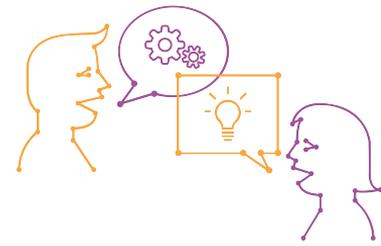
Erasmus+

Virtual Exchange

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

26 March 2020 h 11.00 CET

Agenda of the Masterclass



11.00: Welcome

11.05: Francesca Helm, What is Virtual Exchange

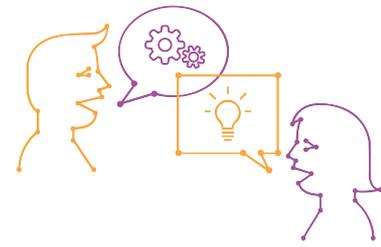
11.15: Stephanie Siklossy, the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Programme

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

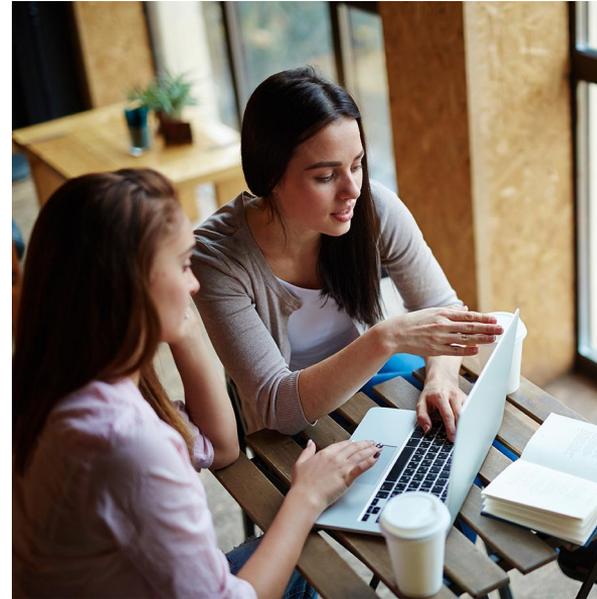


What is Virtual Exchange

Francesca Helm

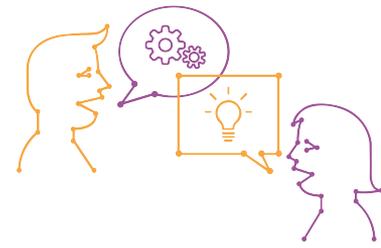
“Technology-enabled, sustained, moderated, people-to-people educational programmes”

- **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**

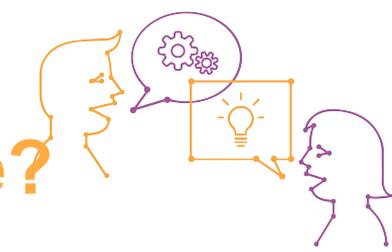


What makes it unique

- Scalability and inclusivity
- Experiential learning
- Community of trust
- Learner-led approach

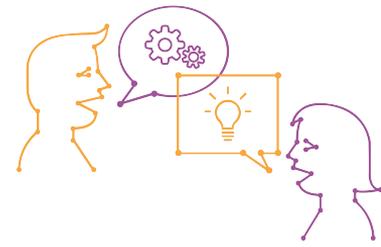


Can VE be integrated within a HE course?



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.

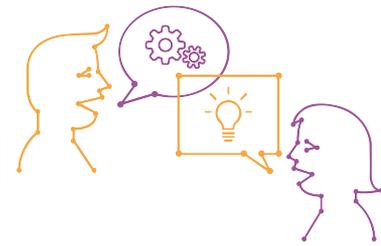
- Have your students participate in a 'ready made' virtual exchange as a component of a course
- Follow short training and develop a collaborative virtual exchange with a colleague in another country.



The Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange project

Stephanie Siklossy

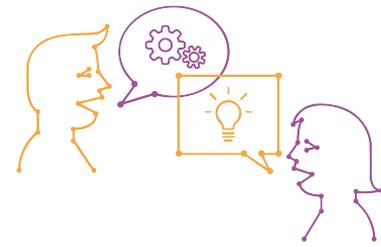
Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange in a Nutshell



- 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

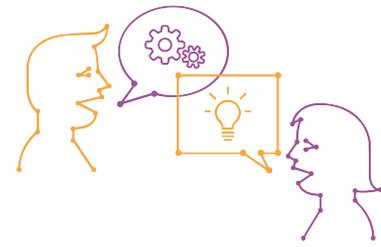
FOR STUDENTS

- 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

18678

Persons engaged in Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

~350

Members of the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Facilitator community

16210

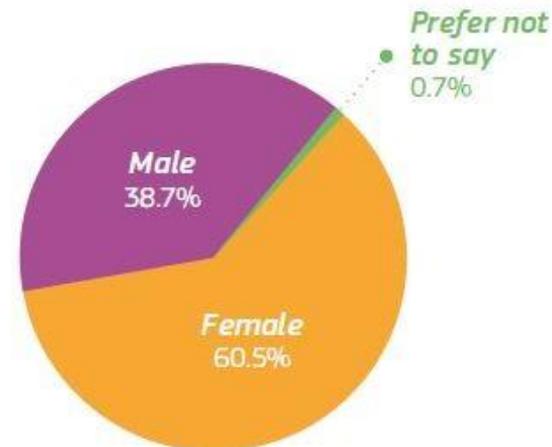
Young people participated in exchange activities

44

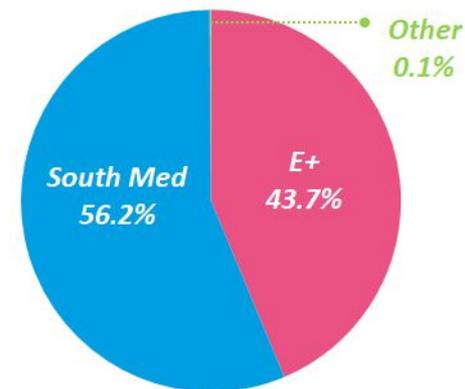
Countries across which connections were built

199

Partnerships created with institutions and organisations



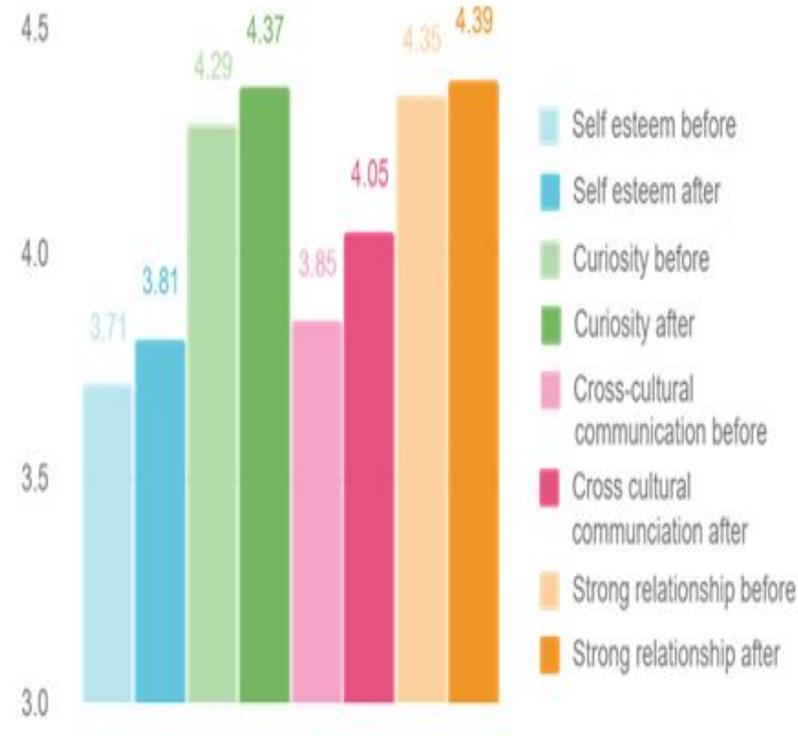
Breakdown of Exchange participants by Gender

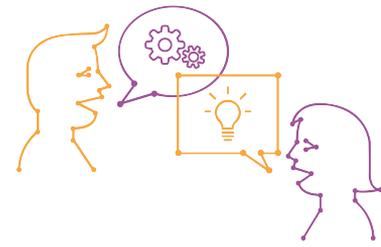


Breakdown of Exchange participants by Region

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



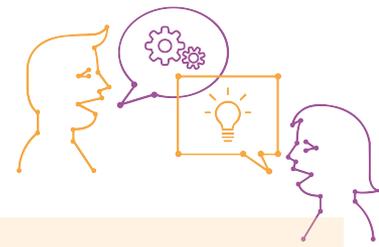


How to integrate Virtual Exchanges in education programmes

Sophie Millner

Exchanges: Interactive Courses & Dialogues

integrated across disciplines • global skills and attitudes



Why now?

Continuity of education during disruption.

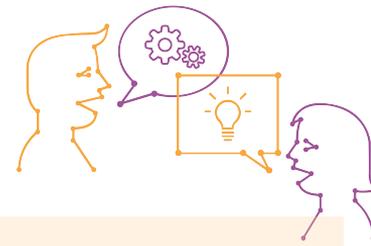
Fill the gap in international mobility.

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

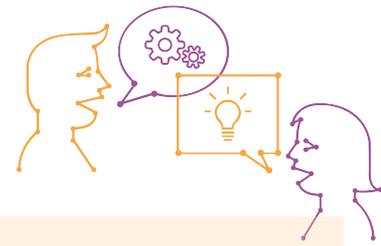
Dialogue: Encourages thoughtful discourse in facilitator-led sessions

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.

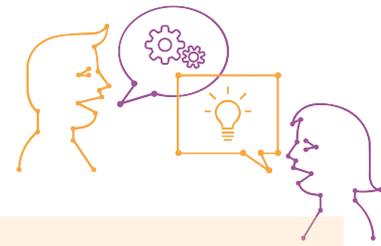
How do I implement iOOCs & CP?

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.

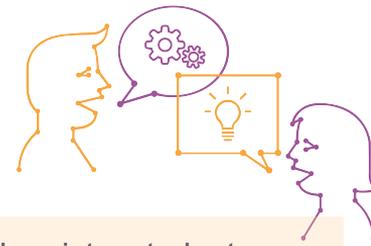
International, intercultural experience and...solidarity!

Which languages?

English, Arabic

Example of a Interactive Course integration?

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



Bordeaux University

Laüra 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 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?

Limerick University

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?

Handbook for International Relations Officers

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange
Handbook for International Relations Officers

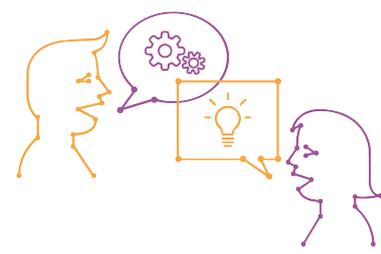
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Erasmus+ logo

www.europa.eu/youth/erasmusvirtual

> https://europa.eu/youth/sites/default/files/eyp/eve/attachments/eve_-_handbook_for_iros.pdf



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/erasmusvirtual/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**

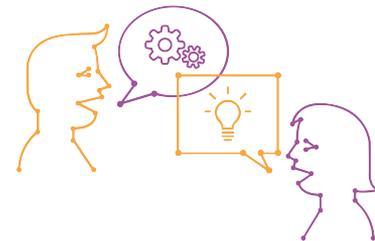
Recap: What can educators do with E+ Virtual Exchange

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

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

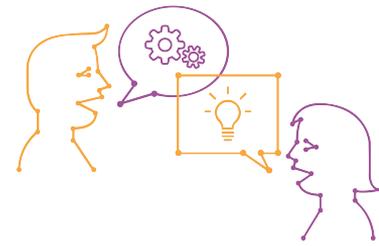
Advanced Training (English & French): 19th April - 31 May

'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>](mailto:partner@sharingperspectivesfoundation.com)
- If you are interested in following the **TEP training**, please connect with [<sara.pittarello@unicollaboration.org>](mailto: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

