

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

Get Your University Involved

"One can even say that online intercultural exchange combines the best of internationalization at home and abroad and certainly in a blended learning form that contributes to the realization of global citizenship for all students and academic staff" (Hans de Wit, 2015).

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange is a ground-breaking project enabling youth in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean to engage in meaningful intercultural experiences online as part of their formal or non-formal education. There are several activities available for universities in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean to involve students and staff in virtual exchange and thus enhance their internationalization-at-home strategies. Virtual Exchange within universities is particularly successful when it becomes part of a university's strategy, with the support of high level decision-makers.

Training to Develop a Virtual Exchange Project

Application deadline is May 6th

Embedding Virtual Exchange components into existing courses is one way to enrich existing programmes and promote internationalisation at home. In order to prepare educators to design and implement a Transnational [Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Project](#) (TEP) several training courses are available that provides participants (ideally lecturers and technical and administrative support staff) with the knowledge, experience and tools needed to successfully design and embed Virtual Exchange into existing courses. Support in finding partner educators is available, and applicants for the training should indicate this in the application form. The [training courses](#) run in May-July 2018 and the TEPs must be implemented in the fall/winter semester 2018.

Suggestions: Information about training courses could be sent to University Centres for Professional Development, directors of joint Master's programmes, University Language Centres, International Offices, Heads of Departments, for dissemination.

Online Facilitated Dialogue

Application deadline is May 30th

Express your institution's interest in having students enrol for [Online Facilitated Dialogues](#) that will take place in autumn 2018. Space is limited. Your institution should identify interested professors who can integrate the Connect Program into an existing course as a required/graded part of your course by substituting an assignment. They should fill out this [form for expressions of interest](#) and staff will come back to them. The professors will then have their students enrol and ensure incentives for their participation, while the project promoter will provide the platform, registration facility, the facilitators, the curriculum, reporting and evaluations. Alternatively, a stand-alone course can be created around a Connect Program.

Suggestions: The International Office, University Language Centre, Student Support/Inclusion offices may be good starting points for identifying interested staff and students.

Interactive Open Online Course on Nationalism and Diversity

Application deadline: 18th May 2018

This online course will start in October 2018, aiming to engage students from Europe and the Southern Mediterranean to consider the perspectives of newcomers in Europe and those that are moving towards a more nationalistic and anti-European sentiment. This Interactive Open Online Course will be composed of three elements: video lectures by experts; facilitated online seminars where students from a wide range of national and cultural backgrounds discuss their views, experiences and ideas; and an outreach assignment where they learn more about sentiments in their own communities.

The programme takes 10 weeks. If you are interested in offering this programme to your students, please email: sophie@sharingperspectivesfoundation.com before May 18 2018.

Recognition

Students and professors completing the different Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange activities will be awarded Open Badges and/or Certificates.

Internships

Facilitation training can be offered as opportunities for virtual internships, as indeed several of our university partners have done. All Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange activities will include small group discussions facilitated by young people trained as Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange facilitators. Facilitators are multi-partial and neutral process leaders. They seek to elicit self-group awareness and understanding by providing a safe and effective learning environment. Facilitators aim to arm participants with tools to hold an effective cross-cultural dialogue where participants learn about one another and themselves and are inspired to take this understanding beyond their participation in the project and into their communities. Learn more [here](#).

If you are interested in adding Virtual Exchange opportunities to your portfolio of internships, contact us at eve@unicollaboration.org

Inclusion

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange is an important international opportunity for students who are not able to have a physical mobility experience, including students with special needs. We strongly recommend disseminating information about the opportunities available to university centres/offices that support students with special needs and/or those that address social inclusion.

Keep Connected on Social Media

Last but not least, we suggest you follow the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange project on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#) to be kept updated of all the upcoming opportunities.