

Engaging in meaningful virtual exchange

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Highlights from ASEM Education Draft Strategy Paper

- ❖ Recognition of how **inequalities** have been exacerbated with Covid-19
- ❖ Importance placed on building **people to people connectivity**
- ❖ Focus on **inclusive** and **balanced** exchange opportunities, based on principles of **reciprocity**
- ❖ The distinction between Virtual Exchange and Virtual Mobility
- ❖ The importance of **collaborative research** on education, and **research based policy recommendations**
- ❖ Fostering growth of **active, multilingual, responsible** and **engaged** citizens



What are 'meaningful virtual exchanges'?

Structured opportunities for **sustained** interaction and engagement amongst people from diverse **ethnic, religious, cultural** and/or **socio-economic** backgrounds which can lead to **greater openness** towards 'others' and better understanding of **relationships between societies** and of **global issues**, reduce prejudice and contribute to more **equitable** and **sustainable** societies.

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange - a European pilot project

2018-2020



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E Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Trailer

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Join the young people who are already part

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.

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Objectives

- Encouraging **intercultural dialogue** and increasing **tolerance** through online people-to-people interactions, building on digital, youth-friendly technologies
- Promoting various types of Virtual Exchange as a **complement to Erasmus+ physical mobility**
- Enhancing **critical thinking and media literacy**
- Fostering the **soft skills development of students**, young people and youth workers, including the practice of foreign languages and teamwork, notably to enhance employability
- to promote **citizenship** and the common values of **freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination** through education
- Strengthening the youth dimension of the **EU neighbouring policy with Southern Mediterranean countries.**

2018-2020 Results

33,541

Persons engaged in Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange training and exchanges

28,426

Young people participated in exchange activities

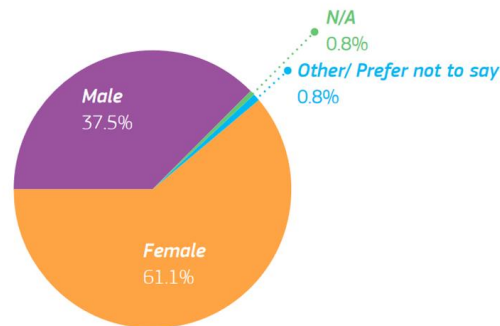
274

Partnerships created with institutions and organisations

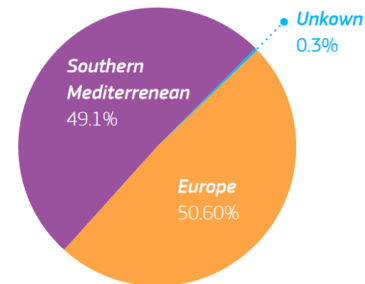
495

Members of the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Facilitator community

Gender



Region



2018-2020 Impact – perceived improvements

- **85%** satisfaction among young people, **99%** among facilitation trainees
- **91%** active listening skills
- **89%** ability to work in a culturally diverse place
- **86%** improved knowledge of global events
- **84%** critical thinking
- **79%** English and/or foreign language skills
- **73%** improved their digital competencies
- **73%** built meaningful relationships with peers from other countries/regions

Different models of virtual exchange for HE

- ‘ready made’, facilitator-led, dialogue-based exchanges
 - Administered by NGOs
 - High quality – satisfaction of participants
 - Can cater to large numbers of participants from diverse contexts
 - Powerful impact on attitudes towards others and transversal skills
 - Retention may be challenge; not flexible to needs, groups, languages; cost
- ‘grassroots’, co-designed exchanges (COIL, blended, pre-mobility)
 - Designed and led by educators
 - small-scale, flexible,
 - build competence of educators and strengthen partnerships
 - Cater to specific needs, subjects, target groups, languages
 - Quality can be variable, takes time to scale-up, difficulty engaging educators

VE in Asia and Europe?



September 22,
2020

A cross-cultural dialogue: maintaining 'Physical distance' instead of 'Social distancing'...

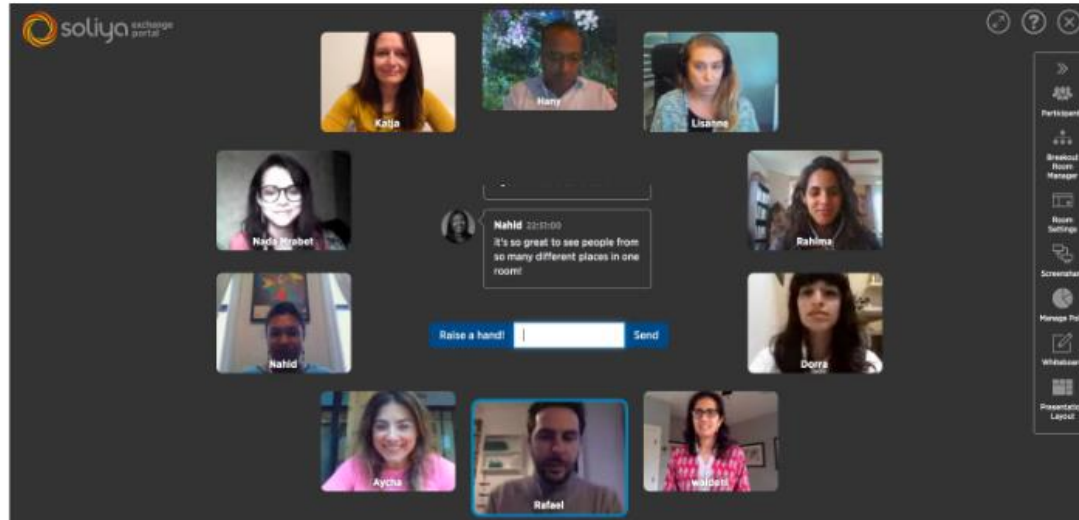
📁 [Awarded & submitted bids](#), [BU research](#), [COVID-19](#), [Fusion](#), [Global engagement](#), [Knowledge Exchange](#), [Knowledge Transfer Partnership](#), [Public engagement](#), [Student Engagement](#)
👤 [sshanker](#)

On 17th September 2020 students from DePaul University, USA; SSLA, India, and Bournemouth University engaged in an online dialogue exploring the effects of the current pandemic and their understanding of Psychology.



This was one of the initiatives of the SSLA Psychology Association ([with inputs from Drs Anita Patankar, Dr Shweta Sinha Deshpande, Dr Gayatri Kotbagi, Athiya Fatima](#)) and most students who participated from BU were those who were part of the UKIERI ([Prof. Edwin van Teijlin-](#)

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A screenshot of the Soliya team in the Exchange Portal, our video conferencing platform.

Some suggestions

- Map the 'state of the art' of VE in ASEM
- Adopt a definition of VE and make reference to VE in relevant policy documents
- Explore research and lessons learnt from existing inter-regional initiatives
- Engage with active VE organizations for programmes with ASEM members (Soliya, SPF, UNICollaboration, COIL ...)
- Organize and share opportunities for professional development connecting ASEM educators

Some suggestions

- Provide opportunities and spaces for information and experience sharing
- Support the building of strong partnerships through sustained programmes and incentive schemes
- Promote a variety of VE models,
- Consider how to assure quality virtual exchanges
- Collaborate in the evaluation and research of VE initiatives

Some upcoming opportunities ...

professional development on VE

UNICollaboration



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Training

Whether you're looking for bespoke training for your organisation or general training open to anyone... whether you're looking for onsite or online training... whether you need consulting or training, our team of experts is ready to support your efforts to learn more about and promote virtual exchange.

ANNOUNCING A NEW TRAINING OFFER:

Introduction to Virtual Exchange

Online, asynchronous course: February 1 to February 28, 2021. Open to all.
[Click here for details about the course and information about how to register and pay to join.](#)

Expression of Interest

If you're interested in knowing more about our offer (please see below), please complete [this brief form](#) or contact training@unicollaboration.org.

'CLIMATE MOVEMENTS'

VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

In 2021 the 9-week flagship Virtual Exchange will focus on one of humanity's biggest questions: climate change.

Participants from diverse backgrounds come together weekly to discuss the themes of the course under the guidance of experienced dialogue facilitators; they learn from expert academics and practitioners through an original audiovisual lecture series and engage in interactive assignments which bring their online experience to their offline realities.

Spring: 15 March - 14 May 2021

Autumn: 11 October - 11 December 2021

Language: English

Hours: 160* (6 ECTS suggested)

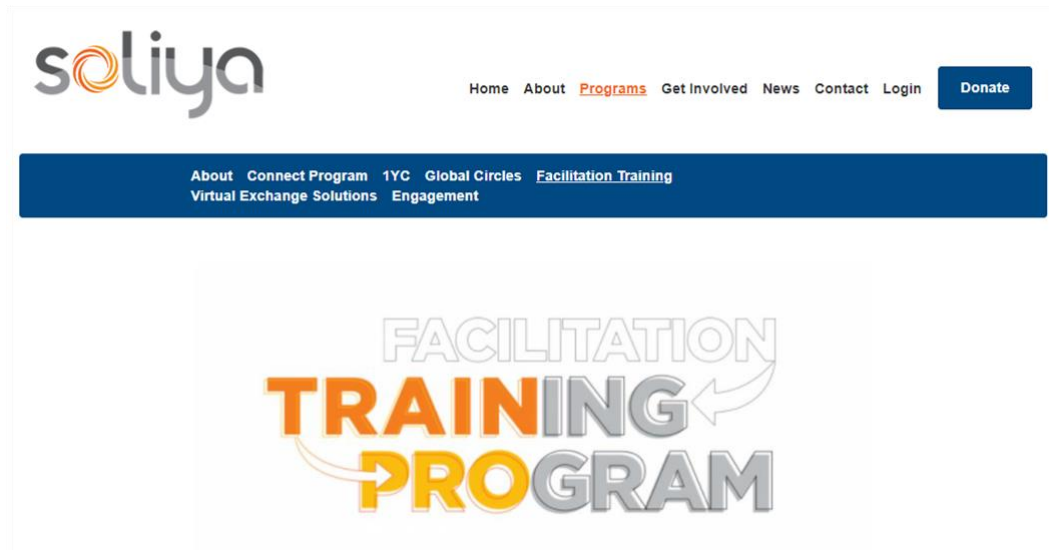
*contact hours + assignments

A 'ready made' virtual exchange programme



International Virtual Exchange Conference 2021 in New York

Facilitator training
programmes for virtual
exchange dialogue
facilitators



Useful links

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange <https://europa.eu/youth/erasmusvirtual>

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Impact Reports <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/a6996e63-a9d2-11e9-9d01-01aa75ed71a1>

IIGE at Kansai University <https://www.kansai-u.ac.jp/Kokusai/IIGE/about/>

IVEC <https://iveconference.org/>

Sharing Perspectives Foundation <https://sharingperspectivesfoundation.com/>

Soliya <https://www.soliya.net/>

Stevens' Initiative Resources <https://www.stevensinitiative.org/resources/>

UNICollaboration <https://www.unicollaboration.org/>

Thank you

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