

**Erasmus+**  
Virtual Exchange  
*INTERCULTURAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE*



**Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges**  
InfoDay – 30 November 2021

# **Policy Context, Objectives & Expected Outcomes of the Call**

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# Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges: Policy Context, Objectives and Expected Outcomes

Online Info Session  
30 November 2021

Germán Bernal Ríos  
European Commission  
DG EAC





# Current EU education and youth policy context

**New Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027:** Objective of boosting international cooperation with third countries, being more inclusive, and supporting the green and digital transitions

**European Education Area:** Ambitious geopolitical dimension, including contributing to the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

**Digital Education Action Plan:** A call for action to make education and training systems fit for the digital age, including global cooperation around these issues

**COVID-19:** Enormous impact upon education and training systems across the world, whose resilience the programme seeks to support

**EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027:** “Engage, Connect, Empower”

# Current EU external policy context

EU **Western Balkans** Agenda on Innovation, Research, Culture, Youth and Sport (2021)

Recovery, Resilience and Reform: post 2020 **Eastern Partnership** priorities (2021)

Renewed Partnership with the **Southern Neighbourhood**: A New Agenda for the Mediterranean (2021)

EU-**Russia** relations: Push back, constrain and engage (2021)

Towards a comprehensive Strategy with **Africa** (2020)

# What are 'virtual exchanges'?

**Online people-to-people activities that promote intercultural dialogue and soft skills development.** They make it possible for every young person to access high-quality international and cross-cultural education (both formal and non-formal) without physical mobility.

They take place in **small groups** and are always **moderated by a trained facilitator**

They should be **easily integrated into youth (non-formal education) projects or higher education courses**

# Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges pilot 2018-2020

Origins of the project: **Paris Declaration** of 2015

Promotion of **social, civic and intercultural competences**, and enhancement of **critical thinking and media literacy**

Focus on the **Southern Mediterranean region** (DZ, EG, IL, JO, LB, LY, MO, PAL, SY, TN)

Project led by a **consortium of organisations**

Total budget **6 million EUR**

**30,000 participants** (half from Europe / half from the South Med)

**Topics** current affairs; religion; culture; racism; gender; environment

Detailed information about the pilot available in

[Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange | European Youth Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)

# 2021 call: main features

**Similar objectives and activities as the pilot**

## **Regional coverage and foreseen budgets for 2021**

Western Balkans (1 M EUR)

Eastern Neighbourhood (750,000 EUR)

Russia (500,000 EUR)

Southern Neighbourhood (750,000 EUR)

Sub-Saharan Africa (1 M EUR)

**Maximum contribution per project 500,000 EUR**



# Specific objectives of this call

Encouraging **intercultural dialogue** with Partner Countries and increasing tolerance through online people-to-people interactions

Promoting various types of virtual exchanges, allowing more young people to **benefit from intercultural and international experience**

Enhancing **critical thinking and media literacy**, particularly in the use of internet and social media

Fostering the **digital and soft skills development** of students, young people and youth workers

Promoting **citizenship and the common values** of freedom, tolerance and nondiscrimination through education

Strengthening the **youth dimension** in the relations of the EU with Partner Countries.

# Expected outcomes

Wide variety of activities and topics possible, but all projects are expected to have a **learning dimension** and to report on it

On-line facilitated discussions (as part of youth projects)

Training of youth workers for virtual exchanges

On-line facilitates discussions (as part of higher education courses)

Training for university professors/staff for virtual exchanges

**Interactive** open on-line courses (strong focus on cross-border exchanges)

Rely as much as possible on existing tools and platforms!

# Questions?



# Thank you!



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