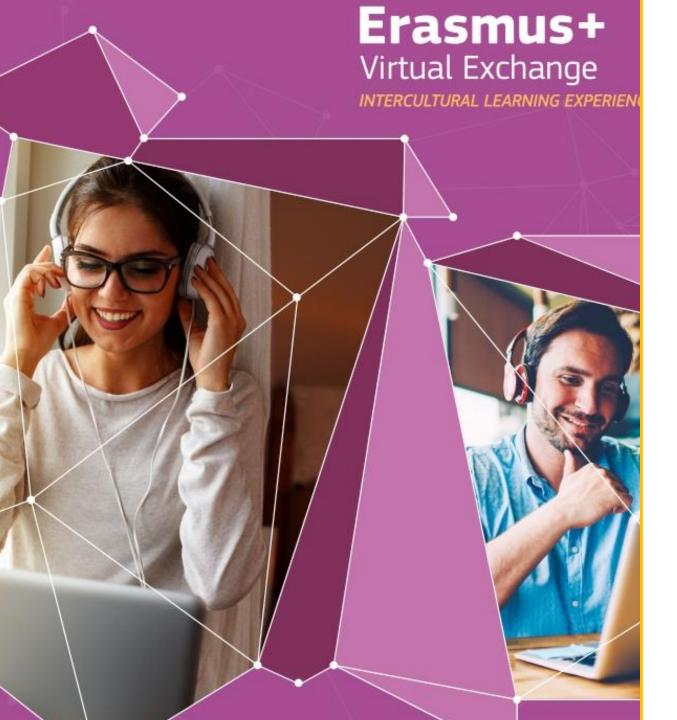


Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges InfoDay – 30 November 2021

Policy Context, Objectives & Expected Outcomes of the Call





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Germán Bernal Ríos

DG Education & Culture





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



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)



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)



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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