

ETANDEM VIRTUAL EXCHANGE PROJECT

The eTandem project is organized twice a year, **prior to international and exchange students' arrival**.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

With the **"eTandem Learning - Pre-Mobility Project"**, the University of Padua is among the 15 winners of the **European Language Label 2016**, a prestigious prize awarded by the European Commission to the most innovative projects that can contribute to language learning through effective didactic practices.

The eTandem project has also been recognised as part of **E+VE Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange** (<https://europa.eu/youth/erasmusvirtual>), a pilot initiative of the European Commission (2018-2020)

WHO INVOLVES

ETandem is intended as a **pre-mobility project**. It involves **domestic students** of the University of Padova and **international and exchange students** who are going to come to Padova for the following Autumn/Winter and Spring/Summer semesters.

OBJECTIVES

- enhance and foster **SOFT SKILLS**
- facilitate the Erasmus/Mundus students' **integration**
- cultivate **curiosity** towards other's culture and **active listening**
- practice **English, Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German as linguae francae** in a Facebook/Moodle community and various other **target languages**
- promote **inclusive multilingualism**
- develop **linguistic, digital and intercultural** competences
- boost **critical thinking**
- stimulate interest in **global issues**
- create cohesion among participants
- boost **students' mobility**

COMMUNICATION MODES AND ACTIVITIES

It foresees 3 types of communication:

- **many-to-many in a Facebook/Moodle community** where Italian, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German will be used as **linguae francae**;
- **one-to-one** communication where the time must be equally split between Italian and other target languages (in this way both students can benefit from the exchange)
- **few-to-few** communication where **some collaborative activities** should be carried out.

DURATION

It lasts **8-10 weeks**. After their arrival in Padova, international students can finally meet their eTandem partners and will be asked if they want to continue a **face-to-face exchange**.

International and incoming students will be paired with domestic ones by the eTandem team. Each group will be composed of 50 dyads at maximum.

Students will be given their partner's contact information and **will get in touch autonomously**. The subsequent sessions will be decided, in terms of timing and tools, by the students themselves. During these sessions, partners can share personal information, discuss topics of their choice or suggested by the tutors in the Facebook/Moodle community **in their target language**.

PLATFORMS

All students could also join a **Facebook/Moodle community** where intercultural topics are addressed either in **Italian, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese or German** used as *linguae francae*. This social area implies an exchange on a wider basis: it serves to put all participants in touch with other students and cultures involved in the eTandem project so that they can experience an enriching multilingual and multicultural context.

Info about how to move the first steps in an eTandem project will be given in our **Moodle** platform, while an access on **Facebook community** will be granted through a direct link to a secret group.

Students are also asked to keep a **diary** where to track what they discussed in every session (both individual and collective), highlight problems and positive aspects, and note what they have been most fascinated by, both on a linguistic and cultural basis. **Zoom** will be used to carry out synchronous online meetings where **global and intercultural issues** will be addressed and participants will enjoy a friendly and multicultural atmosphere.

RECOGNITION:

Students are asked to:

- hand in at least **1 diary**
- participate to **at least 8 Facebook discussions**
- write **1 final small essay** collecting their reflections on the overall exchange
- participate to at least **4 synchronous online sessions**
- participate to at least **2 or 3 collaborative activities (creation of infographics)**
- fill in an **online feedback form** and **some self-assessment questionnaires**

Students who are punctual in returning the feedback forms, the diaries and the essay will be given a **certificate of participation** and a **badge**¹.

¹ A digital badge is an online representation of a skill you have earned.