INTERNATIONAL STAFF TRAINING WEEK
VIRTUAL EXCHANGE FOR INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

15-17 June 2020 – Online event

Why Virtual Exchange?

Virtual Exchange is expanding rapidly in Higher Education and is strongly supported by the European Commission within the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027. Rather than replacing physical mobility, it is often complementary to it, by preparing, deepening and extending physical exchange. Virtual Exchange is also recognized as an excellent tool to develop soft skills such as entrepreneurship, digital competence, foreign language competence, communication skills, group work, intercultural awareness and the ability to work in a diverse cultural context.

Virtual Exchange can also contribute to the internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions by enhancing internationalisation at home, enrich universities mobility offers, and enhance staff competencies to work in an intercultural and international setting.

Through the International Week, we would like to bring together International Officers, Academics, and other university staff engaged with or interested in Virtual Exchange. It is often still regarded as a ‘niche programme’ and we feel active discussion with stakeholders and practitioners is key for its further development.
## AGENDA

### OPEN SESSIONS

**DAY 1 - Monday, 15 June 2020**

**Link:** [https://unipd.zoom.us/j/97073320676](https://unipd.zoom.us/j/97073320676)

### Is virtual real?

**Chair:** Alessandra Gallerano, University of Padua

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<td>10:00 – 10:15</td>
<td><strong>Welcome &amp; Introduction</strong></td>
<td>Alessandro Paccagnella, Vice-Rector for International Relations, &amp; Dora Longoni, Head of the International Relations Division, University of Padua</td>
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<td>10:15 – 11:00</td>
<td><strong>Is virtual real? Galileo Online</strong></td>
<td>Tom Gorman, Coventry University</td>
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<td>11:00 – 11:15</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<td>11:15 – 11:45</td>
<td><strong>Virtual and blended mobility in the new Erasmus+ Programme</strong></td>
<td>Harpa-Sif Arnarsdottir, European Commission – DG EAC</td>
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<td>11:45 – 12:15</td>
<td><strong>Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange</strong></td>
<td>Francesca Helm, University of Padua</td>
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@ any time: Virtual Tour of Palazzo Bo, the Rectorate Building of the University of Padua

DAY 3 - Wednesday, 17 June 2020

Link: https://unipd.zoom.us/j/95361320370

Re-thinking student and staff mobility

10:00 – 11:00  Panel discussion

Chair: Veronica Costa, University of Padua

- Alessandro Paccagnella, Vice-Rector for International Relations
- Dora Longoni, Head of the International Relations Division, University of Padua
- Ludovic Thilly, Chair of the Coimbra Group Executive Board & Rector’s Delegate for European Networks, University of Poitiers
- Dorothy Kelly, Vice Rector for Internationalization, University of Granada & Coordinator of the Arqus European University Alliance.
- Kostis Giannidis, Erasmus Student Network President

11:00 – 11:15  Break

11:15 - 12:00  Recognition of virtual exchange

Chair: Sarah Guth, University of Padua

- A competence framework for Erasmus+ virtual exchange, Mirjam Hauck, Open University
- Open Badges for Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange, Teresa McKinnon, University of Warwick
- Awarding ECTS for virtual exchange, Case Studies from European Universities in the EVOLVE Project, Gerdientje Ogge & Juan Alba, University of Groningen
**SPEAKERS**

**Alessandro Paccagnella, University of Padua**

Alessandro Paccagnella is full professor of electronics at the Department of Information Engineering (DEI) of the University of Padua. He is also honorary professor of the Institute of Microelectronics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing. After serving as Director (Chair) of DEI in the years 2008-2014, since 2015 A. P. is serving as Vice-rector for international relations of Unipd. His institutional activity aims to promote and intensify international collaborations and networks involving Unipd and to foster the attraction of international students and scholars, in tight connection with the newly formed International Relations Division of Unipd. In the scientific field he has been studying the reliability and the ionizing radiation effects on electron devices and integrated circuits, within large international collaborations. A. P. is author of more than 300 papers published on international peer-reviewed journals.

**Dora Longoni, University of Padua**

Dora is Head of the International Relations Division at University of Padua (Università degli Studi di Padova) in Italy and a member of the EAIE’s Conference Programme Committee. She holds a Master’s in modern languages and literature from the University of Milan and a second-level specialising Master’s in management of university and research from MIP-Politecnico di Milano. As Head of Division, Dora is responsible for all activities concerning internationalisation, from international marketing and recruitment, international admissions, to strategic partnerships and networks, international agreements, as well as international mobility, and the promotion and management of EU-funded projects. She has been working in the field of international relations since 1996 and has been active as a lecturer on internationalisation at MIP-Politecnico di Milano, as a trainer in various EAIE courses and as a presenter at various conferences.

**Francesca Helm, University of Padua**

Francesca Helm is assistant professor of English language and translation at the Department of Political Science, Law and International Studies. Her research is in the area of Applied Linguistics, particularly in applications of computer-mediated communication (CMC) and the socio-cultural context of Web 2.0 for language and intercultural learning. In the past years, her research has become more and more about international education, in particular virtual exchange, and she has therefore been involved in the evaluation of the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange pilot project. She is a member of the executive board of the association EUROCALL and vice-chair of the Working Group in Education Innovation in the Coimbra Group of Universities.
Tom Gorman, Coventry University

Tom Gorman is an academic and theatre director currently based at Coventry University. Tom studied English Literature and Language at Queen's University Belfast before going on to complete a PhD in Theatre at the University of Ulster researching the history of non-naturalistic dramaturgy especially the concept of the ‘play within a play’. From 1997 onwards, he worked as Strand Leader in Drama at the University of Birmingham, moving on to become Course Director of the BA Drama Studies degree at Bath Spa University. From 2007 he has been working as Senior Lecturer on the BA Theatre and Professional Practice Degree at Coventry University. He is currently engaged in a research project in conjunction with the Tampere University, Finland, using videoconferencing technology, projections and sound design to create immersive virtual rehearsal spaces. This project, now in its fifth year, was the recipient of the Gold Award for most innovative Arts and Humanities project at the 2016 Reimagine Education Awards. In December 2018 it received the Gold Award for best Arts and Humanities project and the Gold for Hybrid Learning at the 2018 Reimagine Education awards, was one of the 10 highest scoring projects and was highly commended at the 2018 Times Higher Education Awards. He is a member of the organising committee of Network Performing Arts Production workshop and sits on the board of the Nordic Centre for Digital Presence.

Harpa-Sif Arnarsdottir, European Commission – DG EAC

Harpa Sif Arnarsdottir worked at the International Office of the University of Iceland from 2011 until 2017 when she was seconded to the European Commission as a national expert. Harpa is currently working on the development of the next Erasmus+ programme and the European Education Area. She is driving work forward on the European Student Card initiative, which aims at simplifying and digitising processes around student mobility for students and higher education institutions and establish a visual European Student Identity. Harpa has an educational background in Political Science and Public Administration.
Ludovic Thilly. University of Poitiers
Ludovic Thilly is Full Professor at the University of Poitiers, France. Since 2012, he is Executive Vice-Rector in charge of European affairs. Member of the Coimbra Group Executive Board since 2015, he was elected Chair in June 2017.
Ludovic Thilly is a Physicist and works on the deformation mechanisms of (nano-) materials. He has co-authored 80 publications in international peer-reviewed journals (incl. 4 book chapters) and given 60 invited lectures at international conferences and institutions.

Dorothy Kelly. University of Granada
Dorothy Kelly is a Professor of Translation at the University of Granada, where she has been Vice Rector responsible for internationalization since 2008. She was Chair of the Executive Board of the Coimbra Group from 2010 to 2017, is a former member of the Spanish national Bologna Experts Team, a former Executive Secretary of the Internationalization Committee at the Spanish Rectors’ Conference (CRUE), and currently coordinates the Arqus European University Alliance.

Kostis Giannidis. Erasmus Student Network
Kostis Giannidis is a 27-year-old active citizen, born in Crete, Greece. Currently, he is finalising his MA in Scientific Study of Religion at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Kostis discovered the world of Erasmus back in 2013, when he undertook his first exchange experience at the Durham University, United Kingdom. Before joining the Board, he was the President of the National branch of the Erasmus Student Network in Greece for two years. In addition, he has been working for the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agencyl (EACEA) of the DG EAC (European Commission). He is now the President of Erasmus Student Network AISBL where he is responsible for advocating for the improvement of student mobility around Europe and beyond. Kostis is passionate about travelling and meeting people from different cultural backgrounds.
Mirjam Hauck, Open University
Dr. Mirjam Hauck is Associate Head for Internationalisation, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the School of Languages and Applied Linguistics at the Open University/UK and a Senior Fellow of the UK’s Higher Education Academy. She has written numerous articles and book chapters on the use of technologies for the learning and teaching of languages and cultures, in virtual exchange contexts in particular. She presents regularly at conferences, seminars and workshops worldwide. She is the President of the European Association for Computer Assisted Language Learning (EUROCALL), serves as Associate Editor of the CALL Journal and is a member of the editorial board of ReCALL and LLT. From 2014-2016 she spent 18 months at the Centre for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) at SUNY in the US as professional development lead. She is also a trainer and co-investigator in the EU-funded EVOLVE and ERASMUS PLUS Virtual Exchange projects which link teachers and learners from Higher Education Institutions and Youth Organisations around the world in virtual exchange initiatives across the curriculum.

Juan Alba, University of Groningen
Juan Albá Duran works as lecturer of Spanish proficiency for students at the University of Groningen, mainly from the program of European Languages and Cultures and International Relations and International Organizations.
He is a Virtual Exchange (VE) practitioner (with experience in the fields of Teacher Training, Foreign Language and Cultural & Literary Studies), and has developed projects that connected students in The Netherlands with students in Spain and Chile. He also works as teacher and researcher in the EU-funded project EVOLVE, which aims at mainstreaming Virtual Exchange in Higher Education Institutions in Europe and beyond by offering training programs on VE and researching the impact of VE at student, teacher and institutional level. At the institutional level, EVOLVE is researching how different universities are supporting VE, VE practices and formally recognising it as means for internationalization at home and for internationalizing the curriculum.
Gerdientje Oggel, University of Groningen

Gerdientje Oggel works as a teacher/coordinator of Spanish Proficiency at the Department of European Languages and Cultures at the University of Groningen and as an Erasmus exchange coordinator in the same department. She has been involved with Virtual Exchange as a practitioner and later as a trainer/researcher for the European EVOLVE and the University of Groningen ENVOIE project. Both projects aim to mainstream VE as a common practice at the European and local levels respectively, mainly through training and research.

Teresa McKinnon, University of Warwick

Teresa is an award winning language teacher and Certified Member of the Association for Learning Technology based at Warwick University, UK. She is experienced in technology enhanced learning design in secondary and higher education. She researches and designs to find solutions supporting student-centred pedagogy. She curates professional development resources for language tutors and is resident on twitter as @warwicklanguage. An active advocate of computer-mediated communication and open educational practice. Chair of the Open Education Special Interest Group she is a board member of UNICollaboration responsible for Communications and is currently involved in the EVOLVE project supporting the mainstreaming of virtual exchange.
### CHAIRS

**Alessandra Gallerano, University of Padua**

Alessandra is the Head of the Projects & Partnerships Unit of UniPD International Office, where she coordinates EU-funded projects, international partnerships, and joint programmes. Before joining UniPD in 2016, Alessandra served as a project manager for Sapienza University of Rome, International Office, as well as for the Directorate General of Higher Education, Portugal and the Council of Europe, France. Alessandra obtained an Erasmus Mundus joint Master’s degree in European Studies.

**Veronica Costa, University of Padua**

Veronica Costa is the Head of the Mobility Unit at the University of Padua. After her Erasmus in England at the University of Birmingham, she joined the ESN network, became President of Padova’s section and took part in activities and events on local, national and international level. In 2012 she started collaborating with the international Office of UNIPD first as a buddy, then as an intern and finally as a member of the staff. Over the years she has covered different roles within the office: she worked with incoming mobilities, then with Erasmus Mundus Action 2 till she became the Erasmus Officer of the Political Sciences Department in 2015, moved to the School of Human Sciences in September 2018 and in 2019 started coordinating the Mobility Unit. She represents the University of Padova in the Academic Exchange and Mobility (AEM) working group of the Coimbra Group.

**Sarah Guth, University of Padua**

Sarah Guth is the president of UNICollaboration, a Cross-Disciplinary Organisation for Telecollaboration and VE in HE and teaches English as a foreign language at the University of Padova, Italy. She was the Program Coordinator at the Center for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) at the State University of New York (SUNY) and designed their Professional Development Program. Her initial research and practice focused on investigating the use of technologies for the learning and teaching of languages and cultures and this led her to start engaging with telecollaboration, COIL and virtual exchange (VE). She currently focuses on the role of professional development in VE and the integration of VE into internationalization-at-home strategies. She is the project manager for UNICollaboration’s participation in the consortium that is leading the European Commission’s pilot project Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange and is co-editor with Jon Rubin of the upcoming Guide to COIL Virtual Exchange.