

Reading and Resources for Virtual Exchange

Robert O'Dowd has curated this list of resources and readings to get you started on learning about the use of virtual exchange in higher education. If you have additional questions or otherwise wish to connect with Robert, you can use email (robert.odowd@unileon.es) or social media (@robodowd). This list is updated regularly. Suggested additions are welcome.

Robert's new book '[Internationalising Higher Education and the Role of Virtual Exchange](#)' was published by Routledge in December 2022.

Information documents for International Offices and University Management

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange: Handbook for International Relations Officers

https://europa.eu/youth/sites/default/files/eyp/eve/attachments/eve_-_handbook_for_iros_1.pdf

Stevens Initiative: Virtual Exchange Guide for Senior International Officers

<https://www.stevensinitiative.org/resource/guide-for-sios/>

Example of a university's internationalisation strategy incorporating Virtual Exchange

https://www.fu-berlin.de/international/profile/Strategiepapier_FU_2025_deutsch_english_final_korr.pdf

Joint position paper by the European Students' Union and the Erasmus Student Network on Virtual Exchange and Blended Mobility: <https://t.co/kxe663hTi6>

DAAD Research brief: Introducing Virtual Student Exchange in international university education - by Robert O'Dowd

https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/pdfs_nicht_barrierefrei/der-daad/analysen-studien/daad_forschung_kompakt_4_odowd_en.pdf

Strategic framework for the integration of Blended Mobility and Virtual Exchange in Higher Education Institutions by The Frames project

https://zenodo.org/record/7781343#.ZFnw_XZBy5c

**University webpages promoting and explaining Virtual Exchange to students and staff -
Examples from different institutions:**

Florida International University

<https://global.fiu.edu/coil/>

DePaul University, Chicago, USA

<https://offices.depaul.edu/global-engagement/partnerships/programs-for-partner-institutions/Pages/Virtual-Exchange,-Online-Collaboration,-Global-Learning-Experience.aspx>

Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis

<https://international.iupui.edu/global-learning/virtual-exchange/index.html#nav-vertical>

CEU Cardenal Herrera University, Spain

<https://www.uchceu.com/en/about-us/coil>

Universidad de Castilla la Mancha, Spain

<https://www.uclm.es/noticias/noticias2022/febrero/toledo/redcoil>

KIBBUTZIM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, Israel

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oWW4COSfYH3p-diA6mqX5xOG4oLD8XOD/view>

The Center for Global Engagement at University Of Maryland, Baltimore County

<https://t.co/XNmZA6QSqK>

Support documents for teachers of Virtual Exchange

The FRAME's project's Toolkit for integration of Virtual Exchange in Higher Education

<https://zenodo.org/record/7215694#.Y2oxfXbMI2w>

Mentoring Handbook for Virtual Exchange Teachers

<https://www.stevensinitiative.org/resource/mentoring-handbook-for-virtual-exchange-teachers/>

EVALUATE Training manual for teachers

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y4U-HpWGD5S3Yb132wZvUH0XUXkXIMPI/view?usp=sharing>

The UNIC Handbook on Physical and Virtual Mobility

<https://www.pedocs.de/volltexte/2021/23567/pdf/unic-tweak.pdf>

Faculty Guide for COIL Course Development

https://www.stevensinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Faculty_Guide_for_COIL_Course_Development_v1_5-1.pdf

International Courses Guidelines for Implementation of Collaborative Online International Learning developed by Susana Galant and Anya Glikman for the Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology & Arts

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H3wsRfe7uSSxaW3qM0_EKugz468UEhk0/view?usp=sharing

A Guide for Mediators in Synchronous Online Zoom Breakout Rooms developed by the ViVEXELT (Viet Nam Virtual EXchange for English Language Teaching) project.

<https://vivexelt.com/breakout-room-guide/>

Blended Mobility & Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs):

Blended mobility can be defined as the strategic combination of both physical mobility and structured online collaboration (i.e. Virtual Exchange). The new Erasmus+ programmes offers funding for a form of blended mobility called “Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs).

[More information on Blended Intensive Programmes.](#)

[Blended mobility implementation guide for Erasmus+ higher education mobility KA131](#)

[A Registry of Blended Intensive Programmes](#)

Example of Blended Mobility Programmes:

Co-creating Urban Futures: Citizen Participation in Local Governance

<https://civis.eu/en/civis-courses/co-creating-urban-futures-citizen-participation-in-local-governance-1>

Innovation in Foreign Language Education - A Blended Intensive Programme organised by the University of León, Spain. This document serves as an overview of the programme for teachers and students. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E6L8nIFgOH60Fzj1J-L ta q6HmUMwUSRuNMWJ2syHU/edit#heading=h.af294ctmlh7y>

Democratic Memories in Global Perspective

<https://civis.eu/en/civis-courses/democratic-memories-in-global-perspective>

Winter School- International & Comparative studies in Adult Education & Lifelong learning

<https://epale.ec.europa.eu/en/content/winter-school-international-comparative-studies-adult-education-lifelong-learning>

NICE (Network for Intercultural Competence to facilitate Entrepreneurship)

<https://www.nice-eu.org/>

Idea challenge: Biomedical engineering for global health

<https://www.eugloh.eu/events/idea-challenge-biomedical-engineering-for-global-health>

CIVIS European University alliance offer a wide variety of blended courses

<https://civis.eu/en/civis-courses?format%5B%5D=Blended#courses>

Example of a University explaining the BIP process to teaching staff:

<https://international.univie.ac.at/en/international-cooperation-and-networks/blended-intensive-programmes/>

Reports with case studies of Virtual Exchange in universities

Frames Project (2022). Scenarios for the integration of Virtual Exchange in Higher Education

<https://zenodo.org/record/5573614#.YZIXamDMI2x>

EVOLVE Project Team (2020). Key drivers' perspectives on the institutional uptake of virtual exchange. Case Studies from 9 European HEIs.

https://www.rug.nl/research/portal/files/151946440/EVOLVE_Case_Studies_Report_Final_2012_23.pdf

Universities UK International (2021). Internationalisation at Home – developing global citizens without travel.

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/UUKi%20reports/Internationalisation-at-home%20report.pdf>

Study of Virtual Exchange Schemes in ASEAN (2022). Prepared by Dr. Keiko IKEDA & Dr. Abdul Latiff AHMAD. <https://share-asean.eu/news/study-virtual-exchange-schemes-asean>

Funding opportunities involving Virtual Exchange at national and European level:

Norwegian Panorama Virtual Exchange/COIL Partnerships Initiative: U.S., Japan and South Korea

<https://hkdir.no/program-og-tilskot/norwegian-panorama-virtual-exchange-coil-partnerships-initiative-u.s.-japan-and-south-korea>

DAAD Germany: International Virtual Academic Collaboration (IVAC)

<https://www.daad.de/en/information-services-for-higher-education-institutions/further-information-on-daad-programmes/ivac/>

Dutch Ministry of Science, Education and Culture: Virtual International Collaboration Projects

<https://www.dus-i.nl/subsidies/virtuele-internationale-samenwerkingsprojecten>

Erasmus+: Virtual Exchanges with other Specific Regions (The call for funding is published each year) <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-1/virtual-exchanges>

Erasmus+: Blended Intensive Programmes (See p.52 of the new programme guide)

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/erasmus-programme-guide-2021>

U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Office of English Language Programs: Virtual Exchange Programs

https://solicitations.fhi360.org/Files/RFA_Virtual%20Exchanges%20for%20EFL%20Teachers_2022-23_637812118072850953.pdf

Platforms

Name	Description	URL
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<p><u>X-Culture</u></p>	<p>X-Culture is a large-scale international experiential learning project that involves over 3,500 MBA and business students from 100 universities from 40 countries on six continents every semester. The students are placed in global virtual teams of about seven, each student coming from a different country.</p>	<p>https://x-culture.org/</p>
<p>Conversifi</p>	<p>Conversifi connects foreign language learners with native speakers for on-demand language practice and cross-cultural exchange over video chat.</p>	<p>https://www.conversifi.com /</p>
<p>Soliya</p>	<p>The Connect Program – Soliya's flagship virtual exchange initiative—is an online cross-cultural education program integrated into curriculum that provides young adults with a unique opportunity to develop 21st Century skills such as critical thinking, cross-cultural communication, and media literacy.</p>	<p>https://soliya.net/</p>
<p>Sharing Perspectives</p>	<p>The Sharing Perspectives Foundation has developed a Virtual Exchange pedagogy for students at higher education institutions and other youth that promotes discussion and study of current socio-political issues that go beyond national and/or cultural boundaries.</p>	<p>https://sharingperspectivesfoundation.com/</p>
<p>Teletandem</p>	<p>The online language learning tandem project by UNESP - Universidade Estadual Paulista, Brazil.</p>	<p>http://www.teletandembrasil.org/</p>

Cultura	Cultura is an intercultural project that connects groups of students online to help them understand each other's culture.	https://cultura.mit.edu/
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Research and Innovation Projects on Virtual Exchange

Name	Description	URL
Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange (EVE)	EVE was 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. The website contains many great resources.	https://europa.eu/youth/erasmusvirtual_en
VALIANT (Virtual Innovation and Support Networks)	VALIANT (Virtual Innovation and Support Networks) is an Erasmus+ KA3 European Policy Experiment which explores the impact of Virtual Exchange programmes which bring together teachers, student teachers and experts in facilitated online collaboration around real-world educational issues.	https://valiantproject.eu/

EVOLVE (Evidence-Validated Online Learning through Virtual Exchange)	EVOLVE (Evidence-Validated Online Learning through Virtual Exchange) was an Erasmus+ KA3 project which aims to mainstream Virtual Exchange (VE) as an innovative form of collaborative international learning across disciplines in Higher Education (HE) institutions in Europe and beyond	https://evolve-erasmus.eu/
Integrating Telecollaborative Networks in Higher Education (INTENT)	The Integrating Telecollaborative Networks in Higher Education (INTENT) project was financed by the European Commission (2011-2014) to achieve greater awareness of telecollaboration around the academic world and to look for ways for its integration into university education. The project led to the foundation of the UNICollaboration organisation.	https://www.unicollaboration.org/

Organisations

NAME	Description	URL
UNICollaboration	The cross-disciplinary professional organisation for telecollaboration and virtual exchange in Higher Education. The organisation offers training, consultancy as well as a conference and journal.	https://www.unicollaboration.org/
The Stevens Initiative	The Stevens Initiative is an international effort to build global competence for young people in the United States and the Middle East and North Africa by growing and enhancing the field of virtual exchange: online, international, and collaborative learning.	https://stevensinitiative.org/
The SUNY Center for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)	The SUNY Center for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) is one of the leading international organizations focused on the emerging field of Globally Networked Learning (GNL).	https://coil.suny.edu/

COIL Connect	COIL Connect is a project of the COIL Virtual Exchange Foundation specifically designed to support higher education institutions that have developed, or are in the process of developing COIL VE programs, and which appoint a COIL coordinator/administrator to manage their program.	https://coilconnect.org/
The Virtual Exchange Coalition	The Coalition brings together various VE stakeholders and has actively lobbied on behalf of virtual exchange across the globe.	http://virtualexchangecoalition.org/
Asia Pacific Virtual Exchange Association (APVEA)	Asia Pacific Virtual Exchange Association (APVEA) has been established to promote virtual exchange initiatives in Asia.	https://apvea.org/
Latin American COIL Network	The Latin American COIL Network aims to promote practice and research on Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) in higher education in Latin America.	https://www.uv.mx/en/coil/

Virtual Exchange impact reports

Year	Title of Report	Organisation / Project	URL
2017	SUNY COIL Stevens Initiative Assessment	SUNY COIL	http://coil.suny.edu/sites/default/files/2018-01/SUNY%20COIL%20Stevens%20Initiative%20Assessment.pdf
2018	Evaluating Digital Student Framework Global Education: Outcomes	Global Cities Inc.	https://www.oecd.org/pisa/evaluating-global-digital-education-student-outcomes-framework-paper.htm
2019	Erasmus+ Exchange Report 2018 Virtual Impact	Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange	https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/a6996e63-a9d2-11e9-9d01-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF
2020	Erasmus+ Exchange Report 2019 Virtual Impact	Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange	https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/0ee233d5-cbc6-11ea-adf7-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-181006410

2021	Erasmus+ Exchange Report 2020.	Virtual Impact	Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange	https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/new-publication-erasmus-virtual-exchange-2021-11-30_en
2019	Evaluating the Impact of Virtual Exchange on Initial Teacher Education: A European Policy Experiment		The EVALUATE Group	https://doi.org/10.14705/rpnet.2019.29.9782490057337
2019	Virtual Exchange as Innovative Practice across Europe Awareness and Use in Higher Education		EVOLVE: Evidence-Validated Online Learning through Virtual Exchange	https://evolve-erasmus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Baseline-study-report-Final-Published-Incl-Survey.pdf
2020	The Impact of Virtual Exchange on Student Learning in Higher Education: EVOLVE Project Report.		EVOLVE: Evidence-Validated Online Learning through Virtual Exchange	http://hdl.handle.net/11370/d69d9923-8a9c-4b37-91c6-326ebbd14f17

2020	The Impact of Virtual Exchange on Teachers' Pedagogical Competences and Pedagogical Approach in Higher Education.	EVOLVE: Evidence-Validated Online Learning through Virtual Exchange	http://hdl.handle.net/11370/bb89998b-c08b-41f4-ae66-08faf1208433
2019	Virtual Exchange Impact and Learning Report 2019	Stevens Initiative	https://www.stevensinitiative.org/resource/virtual-exchange-impact-and-learning-report/#:~:text=The%20Steven%20Initiative's%202019%20Virtual,and%20common%20challenges%20for%20implementers.
2020	Virtual Exchange Impact and Learning Report 2020	Stevens Initiative	https://www.stevensinitiative.org/resource/virtual-exchange-impact-and-learning-report-2/
2021	Virtual Exchange Impact and Learning Report 2021	Stevens Initiative	https://www.stevensinitiative.org/resource/2021-survey-of-the-virtual-exchange-field-report

Research and Reading

NAFSA article: Virtual Exchange 101 A short introductory [article](#) to steps to keep in mind when introducing Virtual Exchange.

Virtual exchange: What are students signing up for? Another [nice introductory article](#) to Virtual Exchange - authored by Hiba B. Ibrahim.

Virtual exchange and Internationalisation at Home: navigating the terminology - An EAIE [blog entry](#) by Robert O'Dowd and Jos Beelen.

Virtual Exchanges Promote Equity in Global Learning: An article on the added value of Virtual Exchange by Susan D'Agostino in Inside Higher Education.

From telecollaboration to virtual exchange: state-of-the art and the role of UNICollaboration in moving forward: An [article](#) by Robert O'Dowd on the origins of Virtual Exchange and its different models

Benefits of Collaborative Online International Learning Projects by Deniz Gokcora. A short article outlining the advantages for teachers to use Virtual Exchange in their classes.

Online Bibliography of Virtual Exchange research by UNICollaboration: An online collaborative [bibliography](#) of research publications on Virtual Exchange.

Virtual Exchange Typology by Stevens Initiative: This [typology and glossary](#) of terms is shared in an effort to improve mutual understanding among virtual exchange practitioners and enable further development of the field.

Journal of Virtual Exchange: The open-access academic [journal](#) of the UNICollaboration organisation.

Publications about the International Virtual Exchange project:
<https://iveproject.org/mod/page/view.php?id=911>

Short videos

[What is Virtual Exchange?](#)

[What is X-Culture?](#)

[What is the VALIANT project?](#)

[Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange: What did you learn from Virtual Exchange?](#)

[EVOLVE and Dr. Shannon Sauro: Critical Incidents in Virtual Exchange](#)

[What was the EVALUATE project?](#)