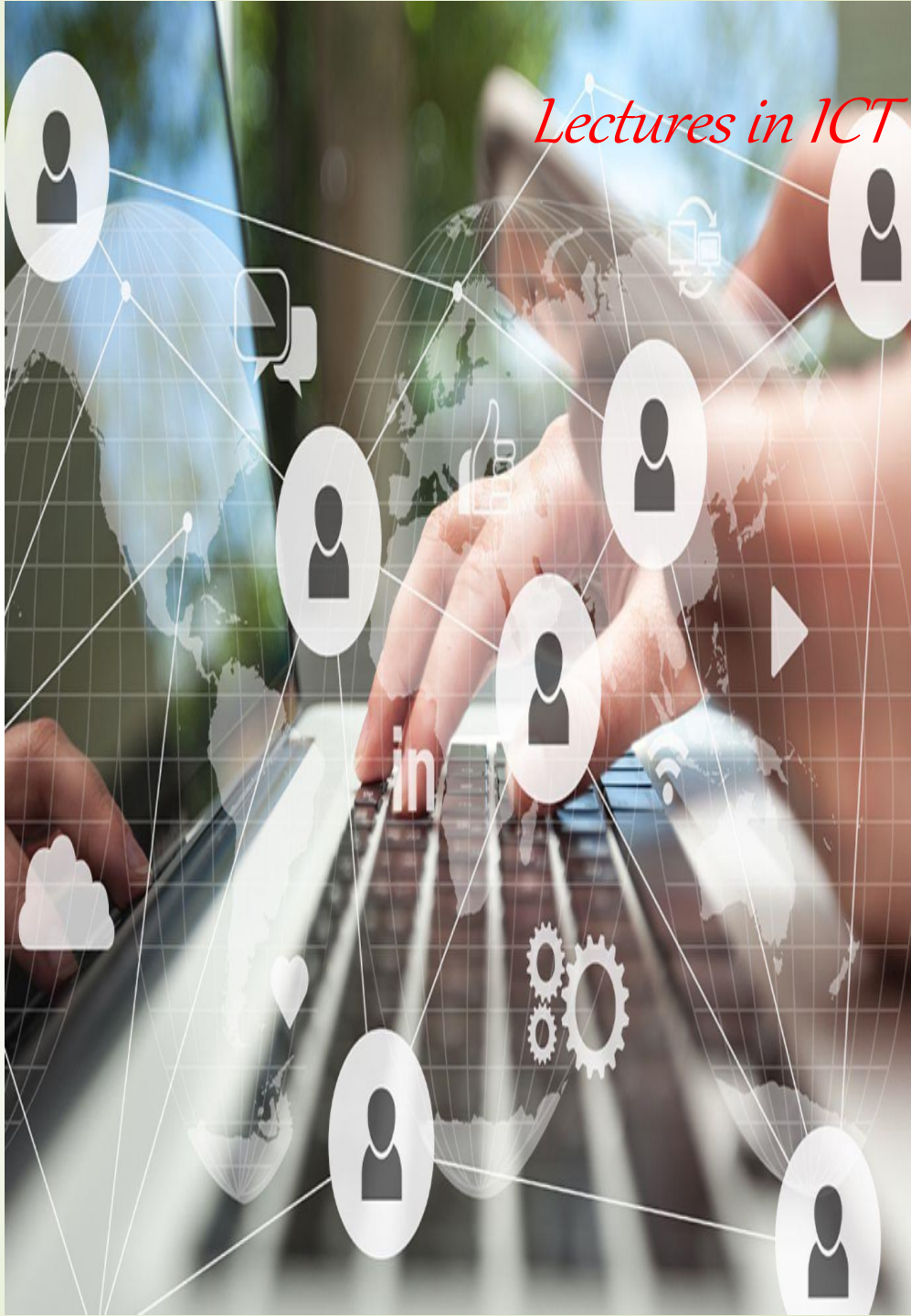
جامعة الشهيد حمه لخضر - الوادي
Université Echahid Hamma Lakhdar - El-Oued

VIRTUAL EXCHANGE



Dr. CHOUCHANI ABIDI Med

At the end of this lecture, you are going to know:

- What does virtual exchange mean?
- What is the value of virtual exchange?
- How is Virtual Exchange different from other forms of online learning and from Virtual Mobility?
- How does virtual exchange work in practice?
- The use of virtual exchange in ELT

POLYCOM

Introduction

Most students want to be able to grow within a complex and rapidly changing world.

How can they achieve the best employment opportunities while developing themselves as human being who are respectful of others?

Research has identified a set of competencies that are key to reaching these important goals:

These are:

1. Being able to collaborate with others,
2. Being able to communicate in different languages with people from other cultural backgrounds,
3. Being able to use digital technologies efficiently.

- Virtual exchange is a teaching and learning practice that precisely addresses these key competencies.
- In virtual exchange, learners in countries or cultural backgrounds connect through digital technologies and work together online (in pairs or small groups) on learning tasks developed by their teachers.

What does virtual exchange mean?

Developed over the past 30 years from experience in the field of educational exchange and study abroad, and evolving rapidly with the growth of ICT, Virtual Exchange is defined as **technology-enabled, facilitated, people-to-people education programs sustained over a period of time .**

By employing a wide variety of technologies and educational pedagogy, Virtual Exchange makes it possible for every young person to have meaningful, transnational, and intercultural experiences.

Education exchanges and study abroad programs are among the best means to prepare young people for our contemporary world, increasing their inclination and capacity to deal effectively with a difference and to communicate and collaborate across cultures.

Virtual Exchange is uniquely placed to expand the scope and reach of traditional physical exchange programs, thanks to its inclusive and scalable character.

- Virtual exchange is a technology enabled sustained people-to-people educational program.
- It is a practice that consists of new media and digital technologies, person-to-person interactions, and teachers who create curriculum-based activities.
- It is the opportunity to interact and talk with different people and different backgrounds,
- It is also an encounter between two or more groups that work together and a portal that allows people to connect with others.
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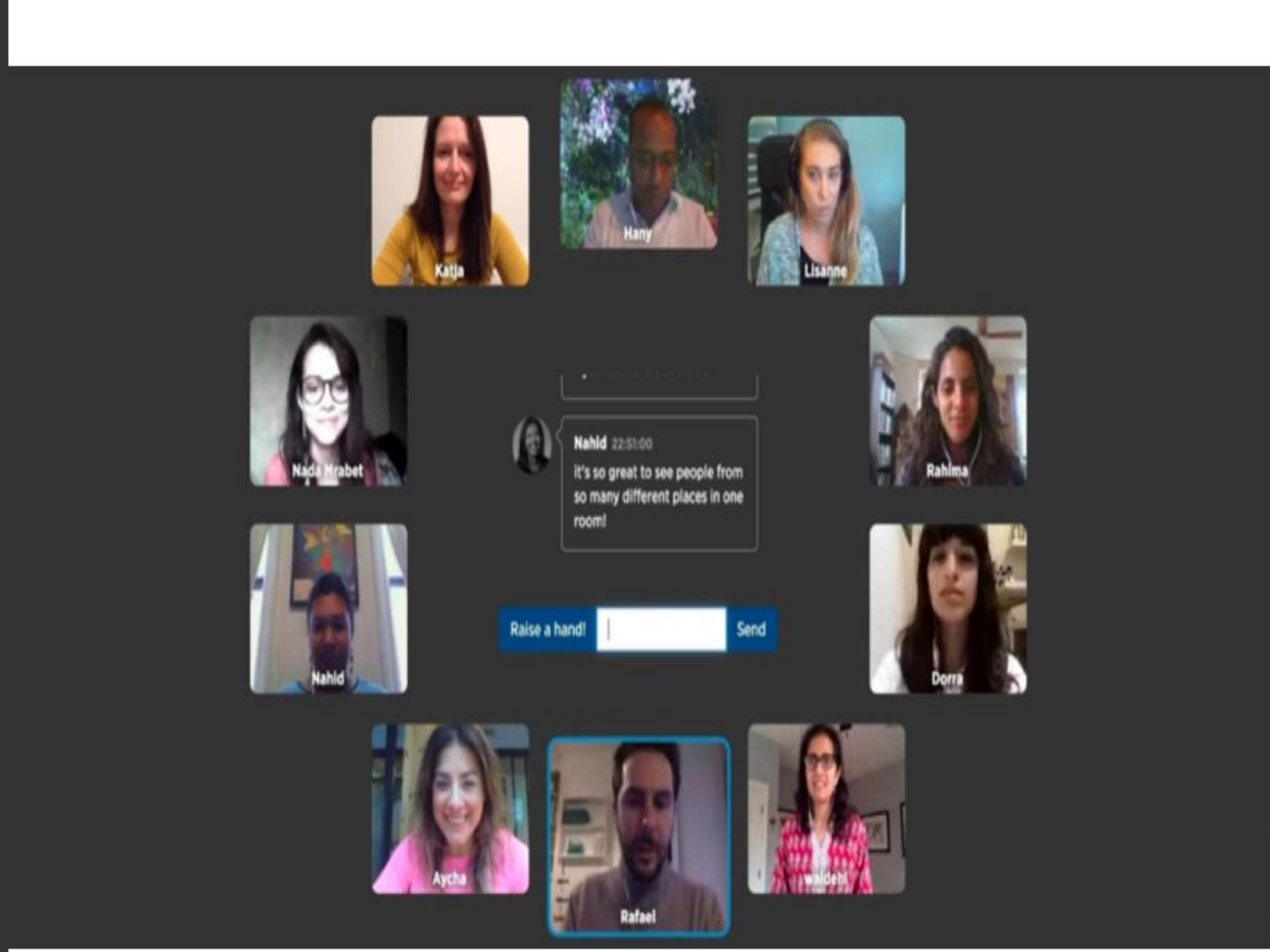

Katja
Hany
Lisanne
Nada Mrabet
Nahid 22:51:00
it's so great to see people from so many different places in one room!
Rahima
Nahid
Raise a hand!
Send
Dorra
Aycha
Rafael

What is the value of virtual exchange?

- Virtual exchange enables you to transform your classroom;
- You're given the tools to melt away the walls and miles;
- Your classroom becomes a world where students learn from each other today so tomorrow when they design a global future they begin with the wisdom of another's culture.
- It is an initiative to extend opportunities to those for whom mobility is problematic, and also to help prepare those going abroad

How is Virtual Exchange different from other forms of online learning and from Virtual Mobility?

- It is primarily **learner-led : following the philosophy of dialogue where participants are the main** drivers of knowledge.
- Virtual Exchange is different with respect to Virtual Mobility, since Virtual mobility does not necessarily include student-to-student dialogue, and usually refers to distance and eLearning learning courses (for example students taking one course at another university without actually going there, and having these international credits recognized through a learning agreement between universities).

Virtual Exchange distinguishes itself from other forms of online learning in several ways:

The focus is primarily on **people-to-people interaction and dialogue whereas the primary focus** in many e-learning programs is on content.

Learning is **experiential, with participants experiencing first-hand how to communicate and** collaborate with their peers from different backgrounds and cultures.

The learning goals or outcomes include **soft skills that are key for employability and that are** often not formally recognized, such as the development of intercultural awareness, media and digital literacy, teamwork, etc.

How does virtual exchange work in practice?

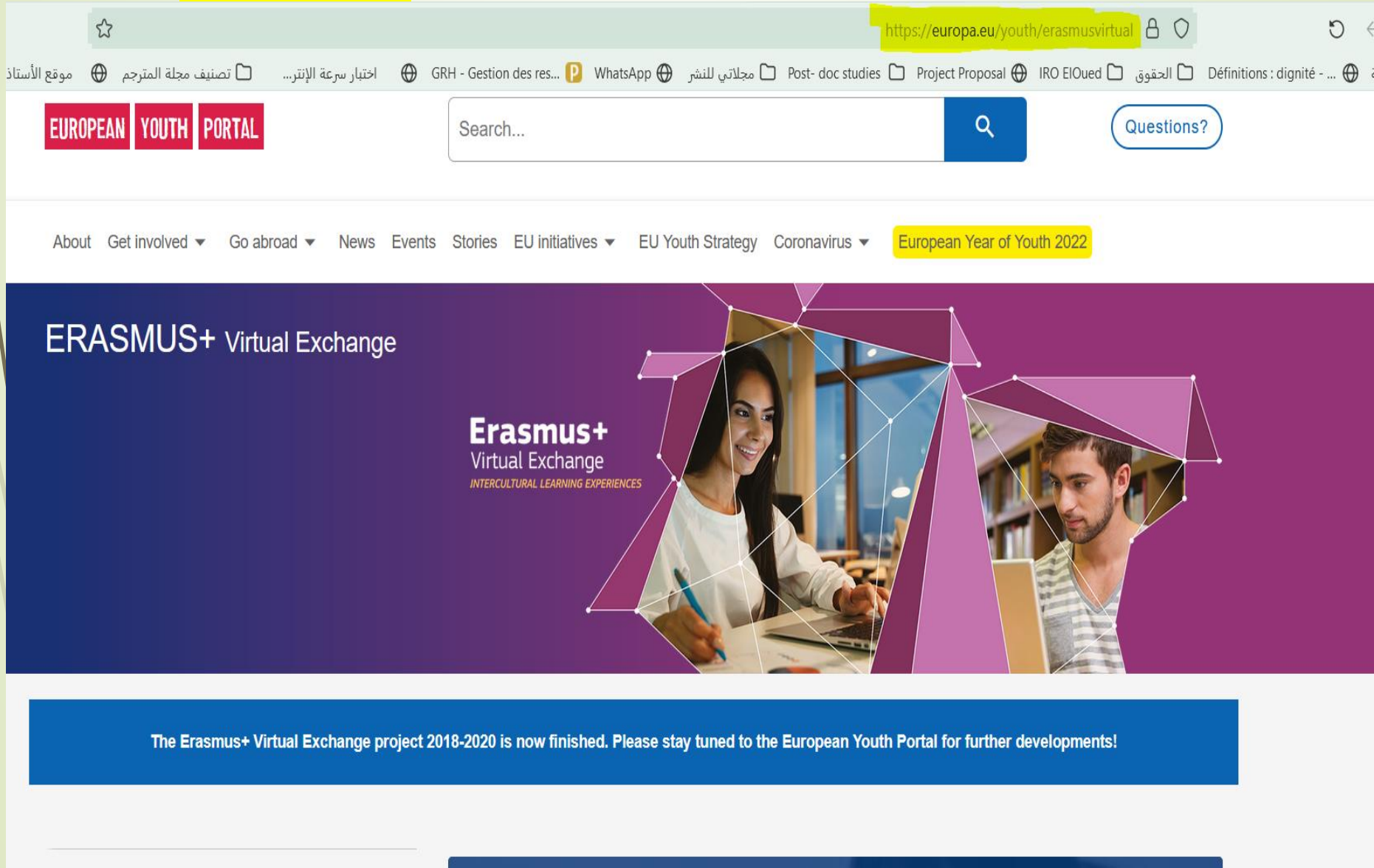
- Virtual Exchange sessions take place on the **Exchange Portal**, a custom-designed online platform, based on best practices in conflict resolution to optimize cross-cultural communication among participants.
- The platform includes video-conferencing rooms for online dialogue sessions, a stream section for participants to engage asynchronously, and an extensive resources section on all programmatic and technical elements of participation.
- During Virtual Exchange facilitated sessions, participants meet in real-time to discuss a variety of themes with peers from different cultural backgrounds, learn about the viewpoints of others while critically reflecting on their own, learn from experts and practitioners, and improve their language and communication skills as well as their confidence, empathy, and curiosity.

The use of virtual exchange in ELT

- First teachers on each side collaborate to design the virtual exchange. Together they match calendars and design online activities intended to help students achieve the learning goals of their courses.
- In their respective classes, the teachers prepare students for the virtual exchange. Each class is split into small working groups which are paired with a group from the other university and these smaller groups. They prepare to start working together on the project.
- Starting with an ice-breaking activity, the students get to know each other and establish a meaningful relationship that enable them to work towards a common goal during the virtual exchange.

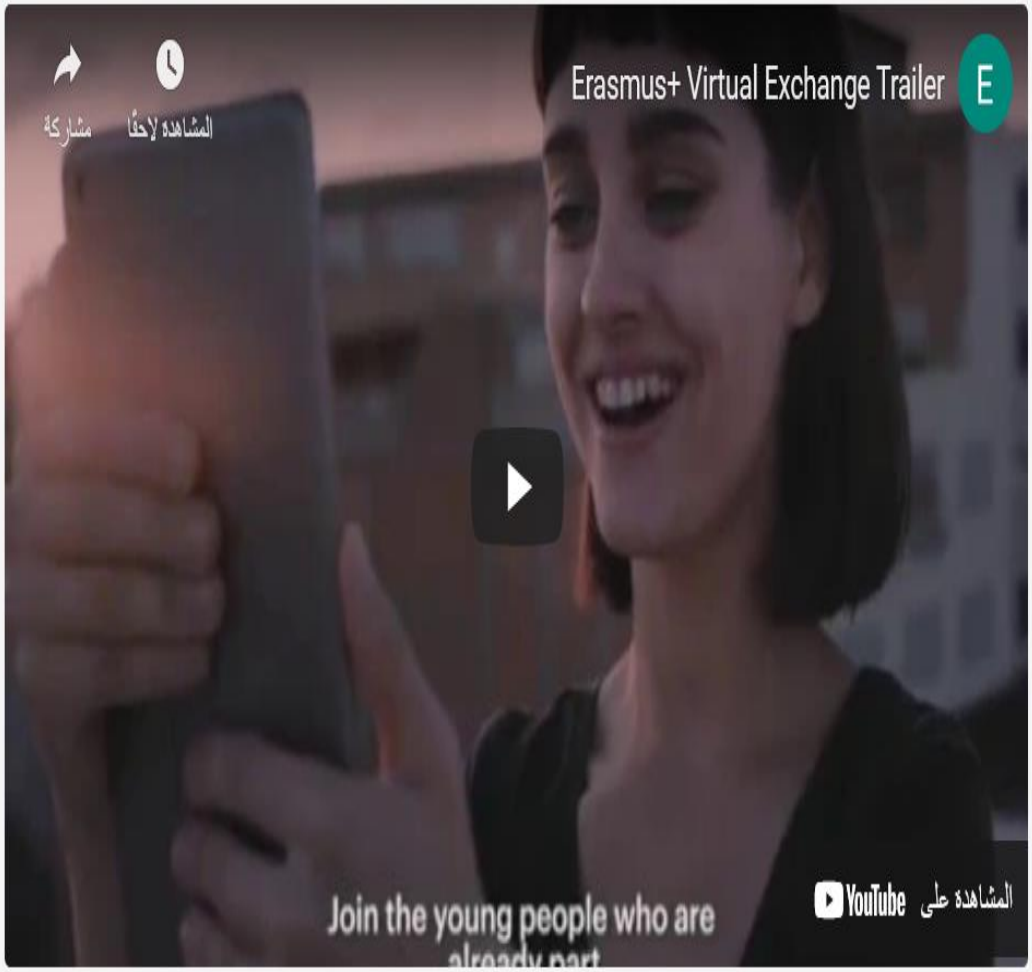
- In the first activity, students also get familiar with the digital tools or tools they will be using,
- After each online activity, the students in each group can share their experiences with their own classmates and reflect on the process.
- The teacher supervises the students' progress and makes sure the international collaboration is going smoothly.
- During the following online encounters the students keep collaborating autonomously towards the completion of the final task with some degree of supervision from the teacher.
- Depending on the course discipline and the learning goals, this final task can have multiple forms and contents.
- At the end of the project students share the outcomes of their work and reflect upon what they have learned.

https://europa.eu/youth/erasmusvirtual



The Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange project 2018-2020 is now finished. Please stay tuned to the European Youth Portal for further developments!

- Experience Virtual Exchange
- Train in Virtual Exchange
- News
- Stories
- About the project
- Recognition and Competences Framework



Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange is a ground breaking project enabling youth in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean to

Experience Virtual Exchange

Train in Virtual Exchange

News

Stories

About the project

Recognition and Competences Framework

Resources

PAST ACTIVITIES

Countering Hate Speech

The Interactive Open Online Course "Countering Hate Speech" takes participants on an interactive, action-oriented journey on countering hate speech.

Online Debates

Online Debates bring intercultural teams together to work hand-on-hand on relevant debate topics across the region.

Sustainable Food Systems: A Mediterranean Perspective

Engage in intercultural dialogue during live online group sessions and learn about the challenges and opportunities of the agricultural sector in the Mediterranean

Cultural Encounters: The Big Climate Movement

Social Circles

About the project

Recognition and Competences Framework

Resources

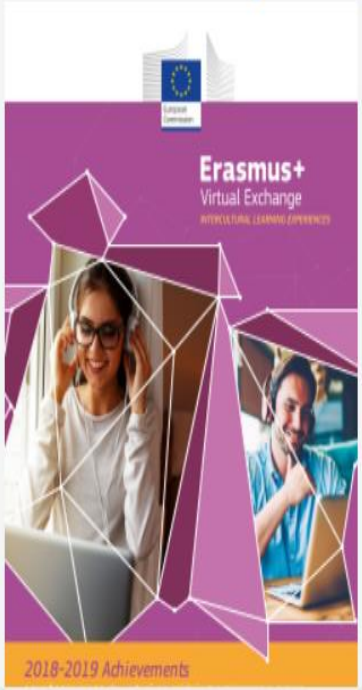
Webinars

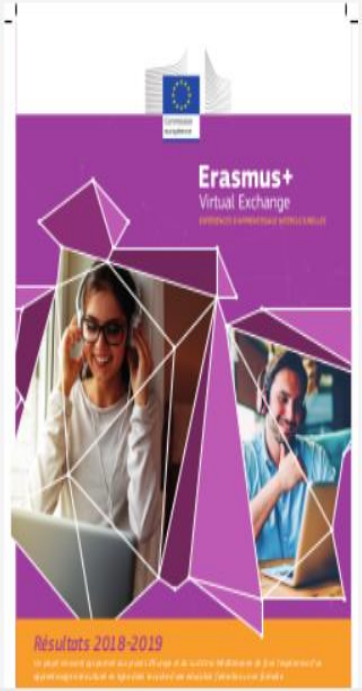
Impact

Contact

Press Corner

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange - 2020 Impact Report





Thank you