

Following the first webinar on Virtual Exchange, the first training “Introduction to Virtual Exchange”, organised by UNICollaboration_for the ERUA’ partners, will be held online, **on June 1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th from 09:00 to 13:00 CET.**

Participants will be introduced to different models of Virtual Exchange (class-to-class and ready-made) and how these can offer their students an international and intercultural experience, and help them develop soft skills such as digital literacies, collaboration skills and critical thinking.

The aim of the training is to continue to discover the potential of VE for the alliance, to introduce professors and staff to Virtual Exchange (VE) through experiential learning. Participants will understand the requirements to successfully integrate VE into existing courses and curricula, and will gain experience in online collaboration, communication, teaching and learning.

The training course is addressed to all teaching, technical and administrative staff of the alliance, interested in implementing and/or coordinating VE projects. The training requires no previous experience with VE.

Content in brief:

MODULE 1 (June 1st, 9-13h)

Models and practices of VE

MODULE 2 (June 3rd, 9-13h)

Evaluating your capacity to implement and sustain Virtual Exchange

MODULE 3 (June 8th, 9-13h)

Keys to a successful collaboration

MODULE 4 (June 10th, 9-13h)

Considerations for setting up a Virtual Exchange project

The detailed program will be available soon.

Participants who successfully complete the trainings will receive open badges by UNICollaboration.

The training will be run in English and via Zoom. Participants need to be free the four mornings.

A further advanced training for professors who want to develop their own Virtual Exchange: Collaborative Class-to-Class VE Design, will be held later in the academic year, priority will be given to those who have participated in this first training.

Please register here by May 20th, 2022: <https://forms.gle/RScQyjoF8jxYP25V8> - Limited number of participants.

For further information do not hesitate to contact Chloé Le Moal (chloe.le-moal@univ-paris8.fr)

Who are the trainers?

Sarah Guth is the president of UNICollaboration, 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 programme. 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 was the project manager for UNICollaboration's participation in the pilot project Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange led by the European Commission.

Lorenza Bacino has a background in teaching English as a second/foreign language and journalism. She has worked in radio, print and online for a variety of outlets in her 20+ years journalistic career. More recently she trained as an online dialogue facilitator with Soliya and has been working in Virtual Exchange both as a facilitator and trainer for UNICollaboration and in particular during the European Commission-funded Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Project (2018-2020). She speaks Italian and French fluently and loves facilitating cross-cultural exchanges where relationships flourish among the participants and their minds open up to other cultures and customs

Ana Beaven teaches English at the University of Bologna Language Centre. Her main research interests are intercultural foreign language teaching and learning, Study Abroad and Virtual Exchange, and has taken part in many European projects in these areas.

She is a trained Dialogue Facilitator for Soliya, and was a trainer in the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange initiative from 2018 to 2020, in charge of the Introductory course for HEI academic and administrative staff. She is now a trainer for UNICollaboration. Her working languages are English, Italian, French and Spanish.

Sara Pittarello is a Freelance Conference Interpreter and Expert in EU Higher Education and Training projects, and is currently Project Manager for UNICollaboration. She contributed to Outreach and Monitoring & Evaluation activities in the framework of the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange initiative. She is also tutor of expert evaluators and has been Expert Evaluator of EU projects on Higher Education for the Italian National Agency since 2016. Sara has also been co-tutor for the eTandem E+VE project carried out by the Padova University Language Centre. She worked for the International Relations Office of the University of Padova for 10 years (2009-2019) as project manager and advisor in most of the EU programmes and initiatives. She has recently participated as trainer and speaker on VE in major national and international events and taught EU project management and implementation at Master and Doctoral level and to teaching and administrative staff at the University of Padova. From 2015 to 2017, she was Vice Chair of the Academic Exchange and Mobility Working Group for the Coimbra Group. As conference interpreter and translator, she has expertise especially in the fields of medicine, scientific research and academic papers, university websites, business and management, legal contracts, web marketing, architecture and urban planning, green technologies, tourism and veterinary.