UNICollaboration

VALIANT
Virtual Innovation and Support Networks

Exploring the Impact of Virtual Exchange on Teacher Education

8 - 9 February 2023

University of León, Spain

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE

This conference brings together teachers, researchers and policy makers who are interested in how Virtual Exchange can be used in professional development programmes as well as Initial Teacher Education. Virtual Exchange refers to the different educational approaches to connecting people from different cultural backgrounds in online collaborative learning.

The conference is organised by the Erasmus+ project consortium VALIANT in collaboration with the academic organisation UNICollaboration. VALIANT was an Erasmus+ KA3 European Policy Experiment project (2021-2024) which developed Virtual Innovation and Support Networks. These are defined as Virtual Exchange programmes which bring together teachers, student teachers and experts in facilitated online collaboration around real-world educational issues. UNICollaboration is an organisation that supports telecollaboration and virtual exchange in Higher Education. It promotes practice, research and further policy development in this area.

This conference will provide a venue to explore what research-based studies and practical reports can tell us about how different approaches to Virtual Exchange can contribute to the professional development of teachers and student teachers. It will also provide insights on the perspectives and experiences of teachers using Virtual Exchange in higher education or non-formal educational contexts. We will have the opportunity to listen to the voices of teachers and student teachers who have organised and who have participated in these innovative learning initiatives, and we will also hear from researchers who are carrying out academic studies in this area. Furthermore, we will reflect on the role of policy making and how public authorities can contribute to promoting Virtual Exchange as well as helping to overcome the barriers to the integration of these activities in Initial Teacher Education and Continuous Professional Development.

With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The programme included in this document is provisional and may change due to cancellations. An updated version will be made available closer to the time of the conference on the conference website. This will include abstracts of all presentations.
- All presentations (except for the keynotes) are **20 minutes long with 5 minutes for questions** and 5 minutes for switching rooms.
- All parallel sessions will take place in the **Faculty of Education** at the University of León. Plenary sessions, coffee breaks and poster presentations will take place in the faculty of Economics. Both buildings are next to each other and are on the main campus which is approximately 20-25 minutes walk from the city centre.
- **Coffee will be available for free** in the mornings and afternoons. The receptions on Wednesday and Thursday night are also free to attend and will have tapas and drinks. However, participants are expected to pay for their own lunches in the campus cafeterias.
- It is **NOT possible to have co-presenters participate online** during the conference.
- We are exploring having a special issue of the Journal of Virtual Exchange including a small number of articles coming from the conference. This will be confirmed and more details offered at a later date.
- We have negotiated **special prices** at two good hotels in León for the days of the conference. You can see the details of how to book with these special offers in this document. Keep in mind León also has plenty of accommodation in AirBnB and on Booking.com. We recommend you book accommodation in the town centre for the event. More information on accommodation and how to get to León can be found here.
- You should aim to arrive in León on Wednesday afternoon (7 February) in order to attend the welcome **reception** at the Conde Luna hotel at 20.00 that evening. If you have signed up for the introductory workshop on Virtual Exchange run by UNICollaboration, you should aim to be in León on Wednesday morning.
- Please keep in mind that this conference has **no registration fee**. All the organisational costs are being covered by the VALIANT project and the UNICollaboration organisation. Furthermore, there is also a waiting list for presentations and for registrations. It is therefore **vital that colleagues inform us if their plans change and they are no longer able to come to the conference**. Please let us know so we can delete your presentation/registration and adjust accordingly.
- Participants are expected to cover all their own travel and accommodation costs.

With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

UNICollaboration is offering a free pre-conference workshop on the Wednesday afternoon before the conference.

Time: 14.00 - 18.00

Title: Workshop: An introduction to Virtual Exchange

Target audience: Anyone (including academic staff, school teachers or decision makers) interested in exploring the opportunities VE can offer teachers, students and staff at HEIs. Level: Beginners.

Location: Faculty of Education, University of León.

Abstract: Virtual Exchange (VE) allows students and staff in geographically distant institutions to collaborate, interact with one another and learn together. This workshop begins with a brief presentation on VE and is then followed by practical examples of how different models of VE have been successfully integrated by Higher Education Institutions. The second half of the workshop engages participants by having them do activities in small groups to discuss possible approaches to integrating VE in their own institutions. Further information: training@unicollaboration.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Shannon Sauro

University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA & President of UNICollaboration

Building Community for Virtual Exchange

Yuliana Lavrysh

National Technical University of Ukraine

Virtual Exchange in times of crisis

Anastasia Economou

Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Self-reflection as a learning process to promote teachers' agency towards their professional development

With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

7 FEBRUARY

15.00-18.00	PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP – Run by UNICollaboration
20.00-22.00	WELCOME RECEPTION AT THE BARCELÓ CONDE LUNA HOTEL, LEÓN

8 FEBRUARY

	AULA MAGNA	SALÓN DE GRADOS	ROOM 28	ROOM 27	ROOM 26
08.30-09.15	REGISTRATION				
09.15-10.30	WELCOME AND KEYNOTE 1 (SHANNON SAURO)				
10.30-11.00	COFFEE and Poster session				
11.00-13.00	**Strand: Research studies of Virtual Exchange in Initial Teacher Education**	**Strand: Promoting Virtual Exchange in Higher Education - *chaired by Liz Dovrat***	**Strand: Practical reports of Virtual Exchange in Initial Teacher Education (1)**	**Strand: Virtual Exchange in other educational contexts**	**Strand: Practical reports of Virtual Exchange in Initial Teacher Education (2)**
11.00-11-30	Ciara R. Wigham & Kristi Jauregi-Ondarra *Trainee teachers' engagement in initial synchronous virtual exchange interactions*	Anisa Vahed & Divinia Jithoo *Expanding the Community of COILers through an Asia/Africa Partnership*	Tara Mathien & Renata Castillo *Rethinking VE Practices: An Opportunity to Enhance Current and Planned VE Projects*	Katarzyna Radke & Aurelija Ceglyte *Clearing Hurdles: The Transition from Virtual Exchange to Blended Intensive Programmes*	Francisco Javier Palacios-Hidalgo & Cristina A. Huertas-Abril *eTwinning for raising awareness about the SDGs: A telecollaborative international experience*
11.30-12.00	Hanne Juel Solomon & Elana Spector-Cohen *But can they actually do it? Exploring graduate teachers' self-reported readiness to implement Virtual Exchange in their classrooms.*	Zoe Petropoulou, Abraham Stefanidis & Maria Mello *Creating International Learning Communities through Virtual Exchange*	Tamilla Mammadova *Analysing Virtual Exchange Case Studies in Higher Education: Practical Experiences over Positive Methodological Implications*	Steinar Mathisen *Global Vocational education with Virtual Exchange*	Frida Citlali Jaime Franco, Claudia Paulina Navarro Núñez & Octavio Flores Orozco *Experiences of COIL projects applied in two Mexican Higher Education Institutions to boost trainee teachers' transdisciplinary critical literacy and a second language acquisition.*

8 FEBRUARY

	AULA MAGNA	SALÓN DE GRADOS	ROOM 28	ROOM 27	ROOM 26
12.00-12.30	Asuman Aşık & Müge Satar *Intercultural Sensitivity in Language Teacher Education: a UK-Türkiye Virtual Exchange Utilizing Digital Cultural Artefacts*	Jennice McCafferty-Wright & Andrew M Baker, Ximena Uribe-Zarain *The Global Teacher Education Exchange: Development, Growth, and Outcomes of a Mainstreamed Virtual Exchange*	Elena Mizrahi & Konstantinos Petridis *IMPACT: Fostering Intercultural Dialogue and Virtual Exchange in Higher Education Through Innovative Pedagogies and Technologies*	Marni Manegre & Piyumi Udeshinee *A synchronous and asynchronous telecollaboration between students in Spain and Sri Lanka using video applications*	Isabel López Cirugeda & José Jaime Pérez Segura *Identity, know-hows, art and concerns for international virtual exchange*
12.30-13.00	Ángela M. Alonso *Virtual Exchange as a pre-mobility tool to enhance sojourners' intercultural competence*	Malgorzata (Gosia) Kurek & Elke Nissen *Refining the teachers' perception of their own and learner roles through Virtual Exchange - research findings.*	Belén Labrador & Cristina Gómez Castro *Combining different types of virtual exchanges in EFL teacher education*	Ana Chapman, Nazli Ceren Isikligil, & Tuncer Can *Transnational Virtual Exchange between Spanish and Turkish EFL Students at Tertiary Level: Benefits and Challenges*	Kristi Jauregi, Maria Christoforou & Juul Meijerink *Unlocking the Potential of High Immersion Social Virtual Reality for Intercultural Learning in Virtual Exchange Projects*
13.00-14.00	LUNCH				
14.00-15.00	KEYNOTE 2 (Anastasia Economou)				
15.00-15.30	Ciara R. Wigham & Begoña Clavel-Arroitia; Barry Pennock-Speck *In-service teacher attitudes to coaching in the E-LIVE (Engaging Languages in Intercultural Virtual Exchange) Erasmus + Project*	Lisa Griggio & Rudi Cassini, Giorgio Marchesini, Augusto Faustino, Anna Maurizio, David Arney, Maria Carlos De Carvalho Goncalves Pereira & Graca Lopes *Bridging cultures and veterinary disciplines: a blended intensive program case study across three countries*	Anna Nicolaou & Melinda Dooly, Maria Victoria Soule, Savvi Antoniou, Maria Christoforou, Xiaoting Yu, Xavier Fontich *Developing a Collaborative Problem-Based Learning Model for Teacher Education in the Context of Virtual Exchange*	Alexandra Delgado López & Andrea Kratzer and Anita Cvetkovic *Insights into a Plurilingual-Inspired Virtual Exchange Project between Two Rural Primary Schools in Spain and Germany*	Elena Martín-Monje & M. Dolores Castrillo *Enhancing intercultural communication and oral interaction with eTandemMOOC*
15.30-16.00	Margarita Vinagre *Students' perceptions of transversal competence development in virtual exchange*	Beatriz Cabrera Fernández & Cristina Pascual Aibar *Learning Spanish and Learning to teach it through Cultural (Self-)Reflections*	Meei-Ling Liaw & Sabrina Priego *Virtual exchange for designing culturally-sensitive multimodal VR-based CLIL learning materials*	Stephanie Salkay *Building Diverse Student Interactions Through A Virtual Exchange: A Case Study*	Francesca Drago *The Virtual Exchange: a model for the Vocational Education and Training*

8 FEBRUARY

	AULA MAGNA	SALÓN DE GRADOS	ROOM 28	ROOM 27	ROOM 26
16.00-16.30	Lynn C. Hartle & Luciana Cabrini Simões Calvo *Developing Intercultural Communicative Competence through Virtual Exchange of Brazil and US Preservice Teachers*	Raquel Sánchez Ruiz & Rosa María López Campillo *eTwinning in the Degree of Primary Education in English (bilingual education)*	Shannon Sauro & Anna Wärnsby *"What bothered me…": Critical voices from a VE on diversity and inclusion*	Kelly Arispe *Fostering Open Educational Practices for Rural and Urban In-Service Foreign Language Teachers through Virtual Exchange*	Mia Cirkveni *Encouraging Self-Directed Learning in Higher Education: Insights into the Virtual Exchange*
16.30-17.00	COFFEE and Poster session				
17.00-18.00	**VALIANT METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW**	**Strand: Research studies of virtual exchange in initial teacher education**	**Strand:Diversity and inclusion in Virtual Exchange programmes**	**Strand:Practical reports of Virtual Exchange in Initial Teacher Education**	**Strand:Practical reports of Virtual Exchange in Initial Teacher Education**
17.00-17.30		Anna Turula *Training language teachers for digital citizenship education through task design in virtual exchange*	Francesca Helm & Kyria Finardi *Identifying and interrogating coloniality in virtual exchange*	Mengdi Wang *"As a Teacher, When Should I Step in Telecollaboration Communication?"- A Study of Telecollaboration for Adolescent Learners of Chinese as a Foreign Language in Irish Secondary Schools*	Jorge Martí-Contreras, Beatriz Cabrera Fernández & Dayane Mónica Cordeiro *Three-way collaboration in the university training of future language teachers and Spanish as a Foreign Language students*
17.30-18.00		Mihaela Markovic & Petra Klimaszyk *Virtual Cooperation and Interaction of pre- and in-service Teachers of German as a Foreign Language*	Mirjam Hauck *Introducing Critical Virtual Exchange-based CPD*	Judit Hahn & Katarzyna Radke *There's more to it than meets the eye: Co-teaching in virtual exchange*	Dieu-Ngoc Nguyen & Alex Ho-Cheong Leung *Promoting Citizenship Education Through Virtual Exchange: Lessons From A Global South Context*
Free Time					
20.00-22.00	UNICOLLABORATION SOCIAL EVENT IN HOTEL REAL COLEGIATA SAN ISIDORO				

9 FEBRUARY

	AULA MAGNA	SALÓN DE GRADOS	ROOM 28	ROOM 27	ROOM 26
09.00-10.00	KEYNOTE 3 (YULIANA LAVRYSH)				
10.00-11.00	THE VALIANT PROJECT: FINDINGS AND IMPACT ON POLICY				
11.00-11.30	COFFEE and Poster session				
11.30-13.00	**Strand:Research studies of Virtual Exchange in Initial Teacher Education**	**Strand:Virtual Exchange in other educational contexts**	**Strand:Virtual Exchange in Higher Education**	**Strand:Virtual Exchange in other educational contexts**	**Strand:Virtual Exchange in primary and secondary education**
11.30-12.00	Dr. Saskia Schabio *Towards Critical VE in Intercultural Exchange: From Literary Response to Meta-Cognition*	Keith Cozine *Global On-line Learning Exchange (GOLE) as a tool for developing counterterrorism strategies across cultures.*	Kyria Finardi, Asuman Aşık & Marina Orsini-Jones *Integration of VE in ELT Teacher Education Curriculum: Insights from Teacher Educators from Turkey, Brazil and the UK*	María Victoria Guadamillas Gómez *Sustainability and Language for Specific Purposes (LSP): An E-Portfolio Virtual Exchange Experience in Higher Education*	Lhoussine Qasserras *"Exploring Teachers' Experiences in Virtual Exchange: Insights from Moroccan Context"*
12.00-12.30	Joe Cunningham *Telecollaboration at the crossroads of teacher education and multiliteracies instruction*	Grażyna Duda *Developing teaching and learning strategies using online collaboration*	Maja Kerneža *The role of rhetoric in teacher virtual exchanges: Navigating digital communication in educational contexts*	Breffni O'Rourke, Gillian Martin & Sina Werner *What does Social Virtual Reality have to offer in a language-focussed online exchange?*	Alfredo Ibáñez Gilabert *Conditions favouring SLA in two telecollaboration settings: BBB videoconferencing vs VR Frame.*
12.30-13.00	Fabian Krengel *Tackling Tough Topics Through Telecollaboration: Exploring the Role of Controversiality in VE Projects in Initial English Language Teacher Education*	Jacqueline Buerki & Susanne Walheim *A Sustainable Swiss Global Competence Certificate: defining the potential of virtual exchange*	Tognazzo Alessandra & Lisa Griggio *A Remarkable Journey Through a Transdisciplinary and Multicultural Virtual Exchange Program*	Marcelo Concário *Virtual exchange as a driver for action research: rethinking instructors' and students' roles in international encounters*	Mary Risner *Globalizing Primary and Secondary Curriculum through Virtual Exchange*
13.00-14.00	LUNCH				
14.00-14.30	Marina Orsini-Jones & Carlos Hildeblando Junior *Exploring the decolonisation of the ELT curriculum through Virtual Exchange as a Third Space: challenging novice and experienced teachers' beliefs through intercultural dialogue*	Işıl Günseli Kaçar *Turkish EFL Pre-service teachers' reflections on their engagement in a collaborative professional development experience with international mentors in virtual exchange project (VALIANT): Highlights from a multiple case study in the tertiary context*	Ingrid Hortin, Sirkka Ivakko, Cajsa Grenner, Liz Dovrat & Orna Hori *Challenges and Insights of a VE Process*	Malin Reljanovic Glimäng, Cecilia Magadán, Katarzyna Radke *Negotiating teacher and student beliefs and practices in a transnational VE on sustainable cities*	Ricardo Casañ Pitarch & Miguel Ángel Candel Mora *Developing Self-Awareness of Cultural Intelligence in the Foreign Language Learning Classroom: A case study with Spanish engineering students participating in a telecollaborative project*

9 FEBRUARY

	AULA MAGNA	SALÓN DE GRADOS	ROOM 28	ROOM 27	ROOM 26
14.30-15.00	Elaine Millar & Julia T. Williams Camus *A Virtual Exchange to Enhance Language Teacher Education: Results from an action-oriented approach to the use of the CEFR*	Dejan Zemljak & Helena Fošnjar, Maja Kerneža *Shaping the teacher's professional identity through participation in virtual exchanges*	Sarah Reader & María del Carmen Pérez Diez *The Chemnitz-León Exchange*	Brenda García Portillo & Alfonso Díaz Segura *The Journey of a Hero in the Virtual Exchange Process*	Jue Wang Szilas & Christelle Hoppe *Language MOOCs and language learning: From Massiveness to Individualization through e-Tandem?*
15.00-15.30	Cristina A. Huertas-Abril & Alina Slapac *Internationalizing Good Teaching Practices: Developing Intercultural Awareness through a COIL course between USA and Spain*	Luana Ferreira Lopes Silva, Arantza Arruti & Nerea Gutiérrez Fernández *Bringing together universities, schools and policy makers: reflections on a multi-stakeholder virtual exchange for pre-service teachers*	Hsin-Chou Huang *Virtual Exchange in CLIL Contexts: Voices from Pre-service Teachers*	Valerie Margrain, Nina Thelander, Hanna Räftegård and Jessica Ekberg *Internationalisation in Swedish teacher education: Policy, practice and research-in-action*	Patrycja Domaradzka *English and Spanish for the tongue-tied: collaborative online international learning with poetry*
15.30-16.00	Barbara Loranc & David Finbar Brett *How do student-teachers interact in the virtual exchange setting? Insights from Corpus Linguistics and Social Network Analysis*	Serdar Şen & Sultan Maviş *Designing a Telecollaboration Project for Developing ICC and Exploring Teacher Identity Formations of Pre-Service Teachers*	Anil Rakicioglu Soylemez & Asli Nur Yesiloglu *Affordances and Constraints of Virtual Practicum Experiences: A Phenomenological Exploration of Emergency Remote Teaching in EFL Teacher Education*	Kristi Jauregi, Silvia Canto; Ciara Wigham; Begoña Clavel-Arroitia & Barry Pennock-Speck *Transforming Teacher Training Programs and School Curricula by Integrating Virtual Exchange: The E-LIVE (Engaging Languages in Intercultural Virtual Exchange) Erasmus + Project (2022 to 2024)*	Mahnaz Shirdel *Identity formation in a virtual exchange*
16.00-17.00	**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION LED BY UNICOLLABORATION AND CLOSING REMARKS**				
19.00	WALKING TOUR OF LEON				

POSTER SESSIONS

Annika Malmsten & Kristin Ziegner-Llewellin	**Hubertus Weyer**	**Luciana Cabrini Simões Calvo & Lynn C. Hartle**	**Ricardo Casañ Pitarch**
Fostering Intercultural Competence Among Business Students through Virtual Exchange	Virtual Collaboration for Intercultural and Professional Exchange	Task Design To Support Virtual Exchange of Brazil and US Pre-service Teachers	Language Learning through the Integration of Fantasy Football Games in Virtual Exchange Programs

Rok Demič	**Nicola Beer**	**Omar Ezzaoua**	**Mary Waltie**
Thoughts on virtual teacher exchange-first hand experience	Stories about Collaborative Online International Learning: what can we learn from teacher's experiences?	Effects of Virtual Exchange Programs on Students' Intercultural Sensitivity.	EMI Teaching Practice Series: Practical Report on Virtual Exchange

8-9 February 2024
University of León, Spain
A conference organised by the VALIANT project and UNICollaboration

For more information, contact valiantprojecteu@gmail.com

With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.