

# Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

*For educators, higher education institutions and youth organizations*

## Interactive Open Online Courses

*Ready-made topical virtual exchanges*

Interactive Open Online Courses provide youth with the opportunity to learn both with and from their peers across cultural contexts and national boundaries in facilitated online meetings alongside relevant skill-building activities and dynamic content provided by expert academics and practitioners.

These courses combine the deep impact of intercultural exchange with the broad reach of online learning to allow more young people to have meaningful intercultural learning experiences as part of their formal or non-formal education. Interactive Open Online Courses are part of Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange. This project provides an accessible, ground-breaking way for young people to engage in intercultural learning.

Participants in Interactive Open Online Courses are provided with the opportunity to:

- Discuss the course themes with cultural others to learn about the viewpoints of others while critically reflecting on their own;
- Learn from expert academics and practitioners;
- Improve (English) language and communication skills;
- Build 21st-century skills that improve employability, including the ability to work in a virtual and intercultural environment;
- Build confidence, empathy and stimulate curiosity;
- Gain an Erasmus+ digital badge and become part of an international network of Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange alumni.

**VIDEO EXPLAINER >** This video explains how the course works and what students can expect when participating.

## Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange is part of the [Erasmus+ programme](#), providing an accessible, ground-breaking way for young people to engage in intercultural learning. Working with Youth Organisations and Universities, the programme is open to any young person aged 18-30 residing in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean.

Through a range of activities, Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange aims to expand the reach and scope of the Erasmus+ programme through Virtual Exchanges, which are technology-enabled people-to-people dialogues sustained over a period of time. After successful completion of this course, participants are awarded an [Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Badge](#). For more information, visit the [Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange hub here](#).

# Engage Students and Youth in Your Network

For a full list of course resources see the [Coordinator Portal](#)

## 2020 COURSES

### 'Cultural Encounters: The Big Climate Movement'

- Dates: 12 October - 11 December 2020
- Duration: 9 weeks
- Language: English
- Total hours: Weekly time investment: 7 hours weekly activity + (8.5 hours/week) assignments

'Cultural Encounters' is our flagship 9-week, 5 ECTS, current affairs course, engaging young people from all over Europe and the Southern Mediterranean. The autumn iteration of 'Cultural Encounters' will focus on key debates around climate change. Participants will explore the impact of climate change on the planet, political action and the movement of people. They get access to an original lecture series with audiovisual materials from expert academics and practitioners. In addition, they will meet online in their intercultural dialogue groups to discuss the themes and engage in interactive skillbuilding activities.

This intensive course provides the opportunity for deeper development of transversal skills such as self-esteem, curiosity and cross-cultural communication skills and will be awarded [Erasmus+ digital Badges](#) highlighting the skills achieved. See the [course outline](#) here.

**Workload at a glance:** For more information see the course outline.

Activity for 5 ECTS	Hours
Weekly online group dialogue	18 hours (2 hours x 9 weeks)
Weekly video lectures	13.5 (1.5 hours x 9 weeks)
Weekly preparation lecture comment	9 hours (1 hour x 9 weeks)
Weekly reflection journal	13.5 hours (1.5 hours x 9 weeks)
Weekly further reading	18 hours (2 hours x 9 weeks)
Final reflective piece	8 hours (8 hours x 1 week)
"Videologue" community dialogue project	64 hours (16 hours x 4 videos)

### Contact

For more information or support in offering this opportunity to students or youth members, please contact: [partner@sharingperspectivesfoundation.com](mailto:partner@sharingperspectivesfoundation.com)

## **'Social Circles'**

Social Circles are short, taster dialogue exchange opportunities, bringing together young people from various backgrounds, interested to participate in a series of online small group discussions about key issues that matter to youth in the world today.

- Duration: 12 days
- Weekly time investment: 2.5 hours weekly prep

This activity takes two weeks in total, including 2 online live group meetings, activities and assignments. The live online sessions are led by trained online dialogue facilitators and take 2-hours each. Here participants will get to know each other and discuss the theme of the Social Circle.

This opportunity is open to all individuals aged 18-30 currently residing in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean. Participation is free of charge and you don't need prior experience with Virtual Exchange. Eligible individuals that want to take part can apply independently. They can apply to join as many topical Social Circles as they want, or just try it once to get a taste of virtual exchange. Social Circles therefore is a great activity to pilot Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange and can serve as an introduction to other Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange activities.

For more information see this [web page](#).

### **Topics and Dates**

#### **"How to balance local culture and globalization?"**

- 3 - 14 August 2020
  - Live sessions: 7 & 14 August 2020
  - Application deadline: **19 July 2020**
  - Language(s): English, French, Arabic
- [Please apply here >](#)

### **Contact**

With any questions, please contact: [socialcircles@soliya.net](mailto:socialcircles@soliya.net)