Circle U.
European University Alliance

University of Oslo

Aarhus University

King's College London

University of Louvain

Université de Paris

Humboldt University Berlin

University of Belgrade

333,388 Students
199,165 Bachelor students
95,364 Master students
36,369 Ph.d. students
50,967 Staff
29,173 Academic and scientific
21,794 Administrative
79 Faculties
2,216 Study programmes

Our Vision
By 2025,
Circle U. is an **inclusive, research-intensive and interdisciplinary** European university.
Students, staff and partners from civil society, businesses and the public sector collaborate to jointly develop competencies and solutions
for keeping Europe and our planet healthy,

peaceful, democratic and prosperous.

Our Mission
Empowering our students and staff
to mobilize knowledge for impact
in order to make the world a better place.

Inclusion and social contacts

- Our students worry that virtual mobility becomes "second-rate mobility"
- Current COVID-19 experience
  - IT gap in terms of skills and equipment
  - Lack of social contacts

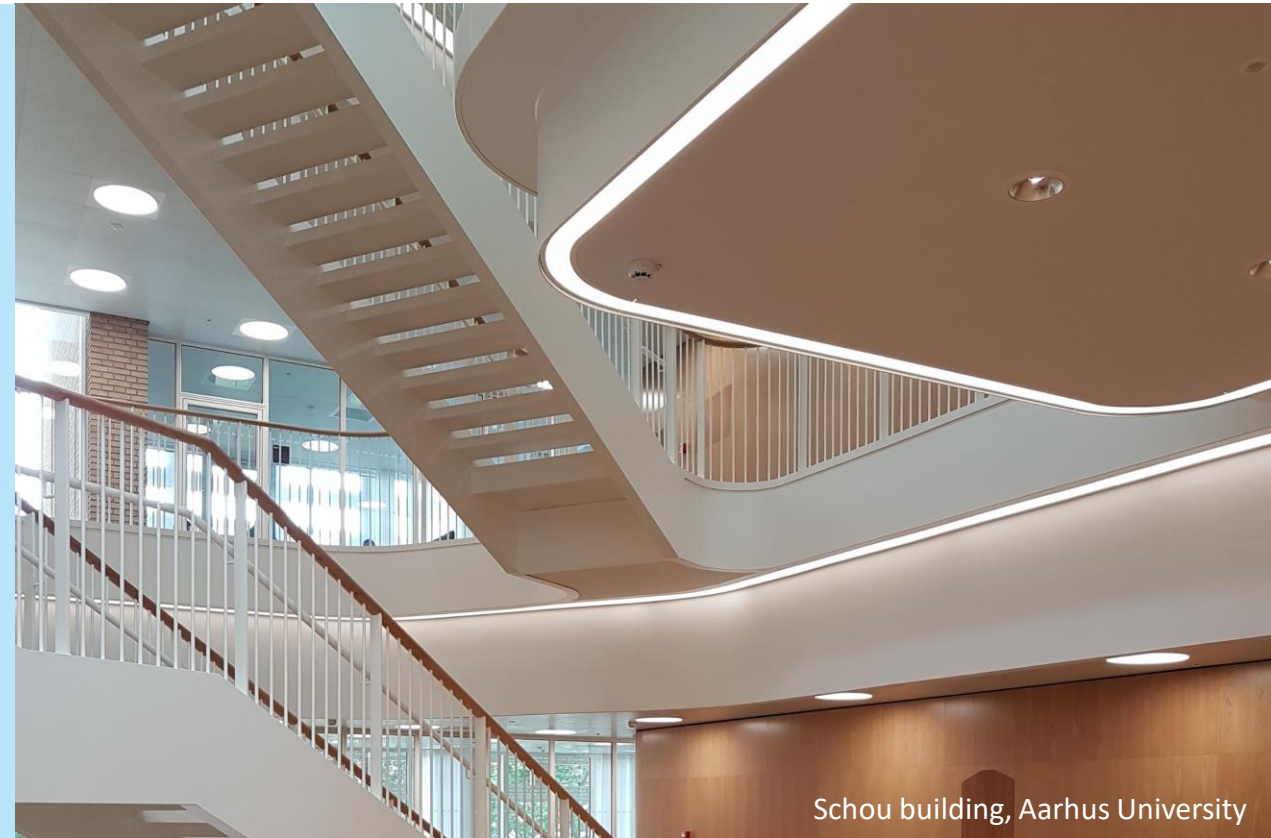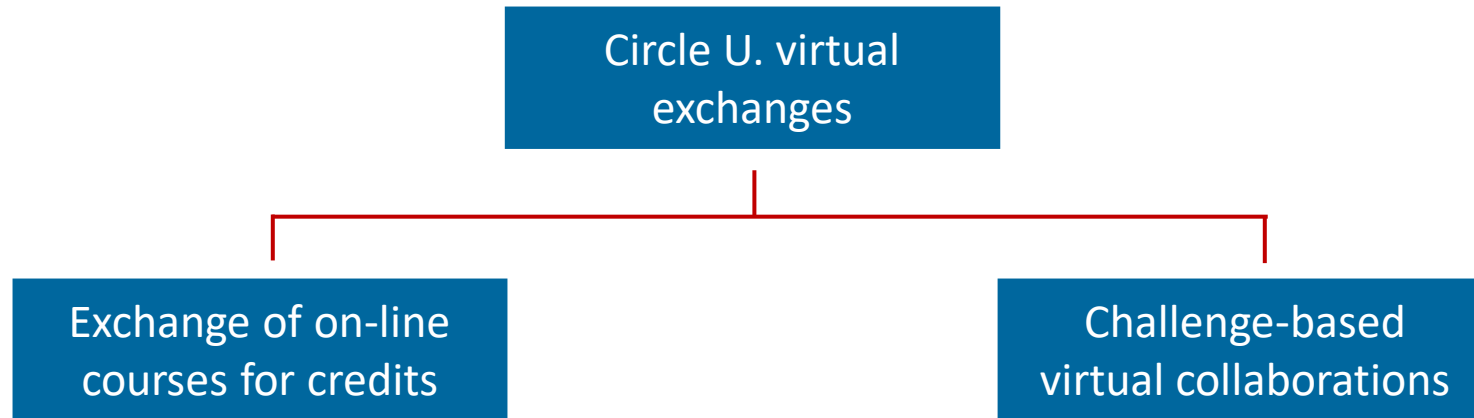➔ **How to develop a positive and socially rich virtual experience?**

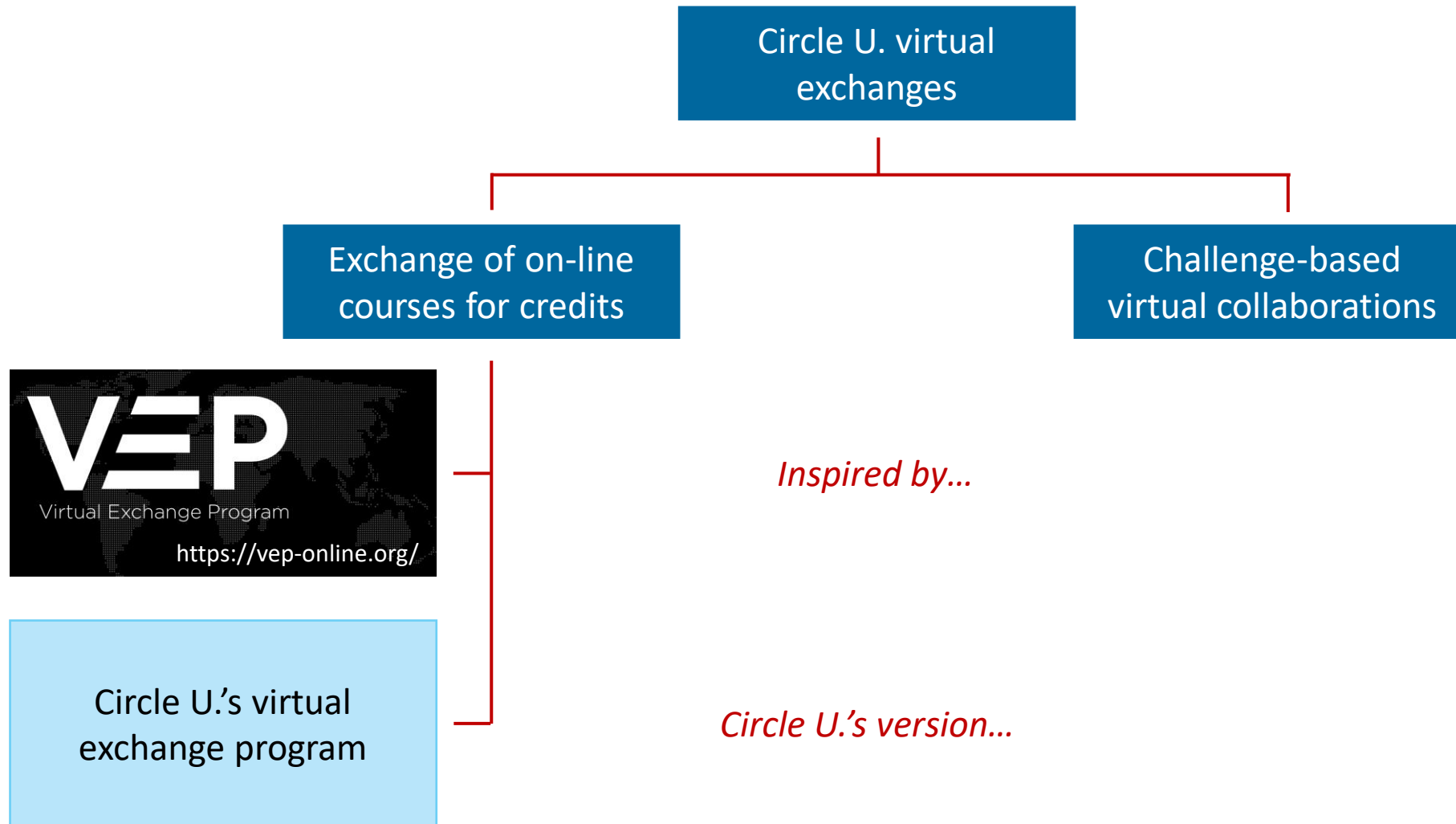Photo by Brooke Cagle on Unsplash

Integrating international virtual students

- Student support is key to the learning experience:
    - Academic & extra-academic events and calendar
    - IT support and access to learning environments
    - Codes for student-teacher relations
    - Assessment culture

➔ **How to rethink student support for virtual international students?**

Schou building, Aarhus University

Circle U.'s virtual exchange projects

Circle U.'s virtual exchange projects

Exchange of on-line courses for credits

Lessons learned so far

Aspects we will work on

Quality framework for virtual classrooms and digital learning:
- Choice of virtual courses
- Catalogue: centralised and detailed information
- Proactive student support
- IT system(s)

Testing Online Inter-Institutional Collaboration across the Globe:
The Virtual Exchange Program

Dr Anne S. Helsdingen, Ecole Polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
Gijs Elkhuizen, MSc, Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands
Françoise Docq, MEd, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium

LOUVAIN LEARNING LAB

DAAD conference, 11 December 2019
"Virtual Exchange: Borderless Mobility between the European Higher Education Area and Regions Beyond"

https://www.daad.de/kataloge/epaper-daadkonferenzband/epaper/ausgabe.pdf

Circle U.'s virtual exchange projects

Challenged-based virtual collaborations

Knowledge Hubs · Climate Hub · Global Health Hub · Democracy Hub · Future Knowledge Hubs
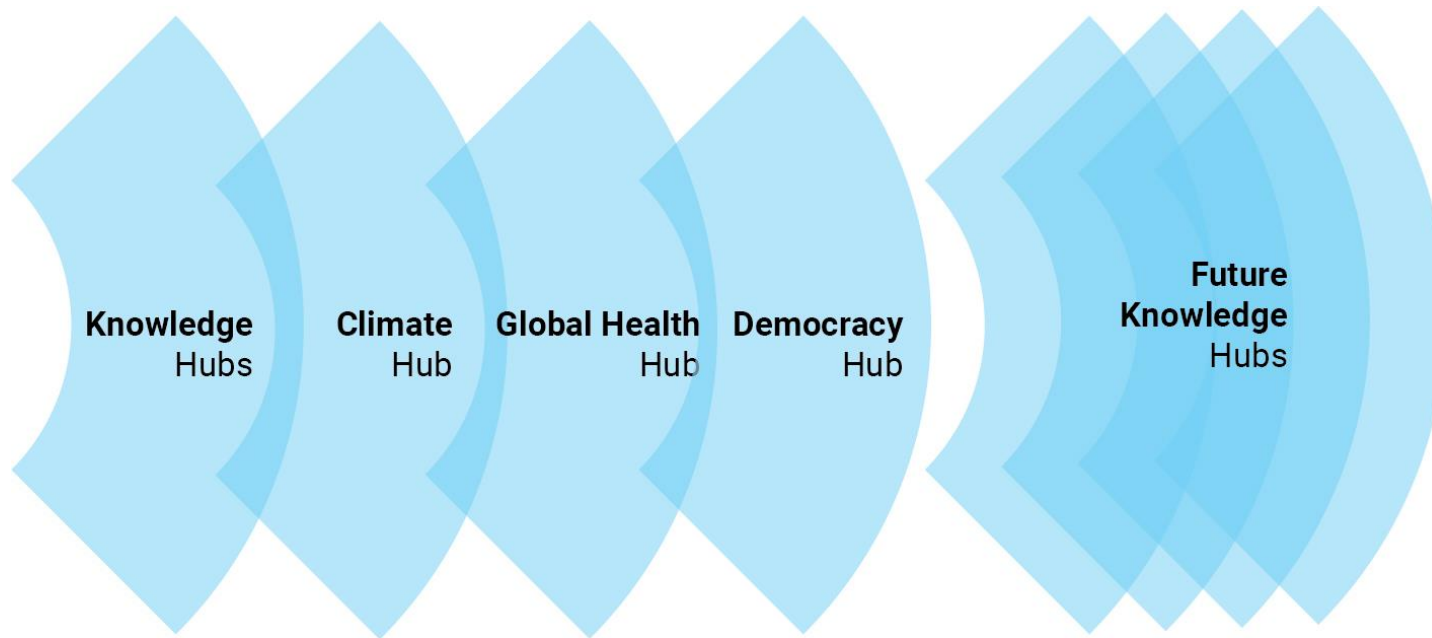
Students' case competition: **Circle U. challenges**

Aspects we will work on

- How to establish a quality hybrid collaboration format (physical/virtual exchanges)?
- How to recognise the activity in the training?
- How to ensure diversity in participants?

Conclusions

What we keep in mind…

1. Not all students are equal with digital tools and hence dedicated **inclusion measures** must be conceived intrinsically to the virtual exchange program,
2. Both **academic and extra-academic** exchanges are important when adding an intercultural dimension to virtual learning experiences,
3. **Student support** initiatives have to evolve and adapt to anticipate and solve problems that "virtual students" face when entering a campus remotely and,
4. Virtual exchanges should **complement, not replace** physical mobility.

Photo by Gabriel Benois on Unsplash