EAIE Community Summit: 16 June 2020
Forging pathways for virtual exchange and online international learning

Additional reading and resources
Guest speaker Robert O’Dowd has pulled together a list of useful resources and readings to get you started on virtual exchange in higher education.

If you have additional questions or otherwise wish to connect Robert, feel free to reach out via email or social media @robodowd.

Virtual Exchange Initiatives

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange
Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange is a ground-breaking project enabling youth in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean to engage in meaningful intercultural experiences online, as part of their formal or non-formal education.

X-Culture
X-Culture is a large-scale international experiential learning project that involves over 3,500 MBA and business students from 100 universities from 40 countries on six continents every semester. The students are placed in global virtual teams of about seven, each student coming from a different country.

Conversifi
Conversifi connects foreign language learners with native speakers for on-demand language practice and cross-cultural exchange over video chat.

Solinya
The Connect Program—Solinya’s flagship virtual exchange initiative—is an online cross-cultural education program integrated into curriculum that provides young adults with a unique opportunity to: ... Develop 21st Century skills such as critical thinking, cross-cultural communication, and media literacy.

Sharing Perspectives
The Sharing Perspectives Foundation has developed a Virtual Exchange pedagogy for students at higher education institutions and other youth that promotes discussion and study of current socio-political issues that go beyond national and/or cultural boundaries.

TELETANDEM
The online language learning tandem project by UNESP - Universidade Estadual Paulista, Brazil.

Cultura
Cultura is an intercultural project that connects groups of students online to help them understand each other's culture. A Cultura exchange is typically based in a language class and involves two partner teachers and two groups of students from two different cultures.
Platforms, Projects and Organisations

UNICollaboration
The cross-disciplinary professional organisation for telecollaboration and virtual exchange in Higher Education. The organisation offers training, consultancy as well as a conference and journal.

EVOLVE
EVOLVE (Evidence-Validated Online Learning through Virtual Exchange) is an Erasmus+ KA3 project which aims to mainstream Virtual Exchange (VE) as an innovative form of collaborative international learning across disciplines in Higher Education (HE) institutions in Europe and beyond.

The Stevens Initiative
The Stevens Initiative is an international effort to build global competence for young people in the United States and the Middle East and North Africa by growing and enhancing the field of virtual exchange: online, international, and collaborative learning.

SUNY COIL Center
The SUNY Center for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) is one of the leading international organizations focused on the emerging field of Globally Networked Learning (GNL).

Research and Reading
NAFSA article: Virtual Exchange 101
A short introductory article to steps to keep in mind when introducing Virtual Exchange.

Journal of Virtual Exchange
The open-access academic journal of the UNICollaboration organisation.

From telecollaboration to virtual exchange: state-of-the-art and the role of UNICollaboration in moving forward
An article by Robert O'Dowd on the origins of Virtual Exchange and its different models

This is the full report of the EVALUATE project which examined the impact of Virtual Exchange on students of Initial Teacher Education.

Online Bibliography of Virtual Exchange research by UNICollaboration
An online collaborative bibliography of research publications on Virtual Exchange.

Virtual Exchange Typology by Stevens Initiative
This typology and glossary of terms is shared in an effort to improve mutual understanding among virtual exchange practitioners and enable further development of the field.
Online Training Courses
Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange: Basic Training course
The next online training course begins in September.

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange: Advanced Training course
The next advanced online training course begins in November.

Short videos
- What is Virtual Exchange?
- What is X-Culture?
- Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange: What did you learn from Virtual Exchange?
- EVOLVE and Dr. Shannon Sauro: Critical Incidents in Virtual Exchange
- What was the EVALUATE project?