



UNICollaboration



Universitat de Girona



## Launch Event

### Scenarios for the integration of Virtual Exchange in Higher Education

10 December 2021, from 11:00am to 1:00pm CET

Register [here](#)

#### BACKGROUND

Due to current challenges and limitations affecting onsite teaching and physical mobility, the great majority of universities in Europe and globally are exploring tools and methods that can guarantee continuous engagement of students and their active participation online, as well as complementary ways to provide them an intercultural and international experience, in addition to physical mobility. One approach that can help deliver online learning is Virtual Exchange (VE), a distinctive e-solution to enable deep, interactive intercultural learning through online facilitated discussions.

Universities that are exploring blended mobility and VE for the first time and those that already have experience in these activities, typically face two main challenges:

- i) to design and implement blended mobility and VE schemes that are inclusive and intercultural, and
- ii) to integrate and accredit blended mobility and virtual exchange activities as a stable component of their academic offer.

In this context, the FRAMES “Fostering resilience through Accredited Mobility for European Sustainable Higher Education innovation” project is working to foster an harmonised implementation and accreditation of Virtual Exchange, as an integral part of (blended) mobility approaches, among European Higher Education Institutions, making the European Higher Education Area more innovative, intercultural and resilient. The project is funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and spans over 2 years (March 2021 - February 2023).

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

- Present the new report “Scenarios for the integration of VE in Higher Education” developed by the FRAMES consortium;
- Explore the constraints and opportunities of the implementation and accreditation of VE in Higher Education, with a specific focus on the European Higher Education Area, and the Irish, Italian, and Spanish Higher Education systems.

#### TARGET AUDIENCE

The online event will be of interest to academic staff, lecturers interested in VE, officers in charge of mobility and internationalisation, IT staff, as well as top management, senior staff with internationalisation roles, and anyone interested in exploring the opportunities Virtual Exchange can offer to innovate mobility in higher education.

#### LANGUAGES

The event plenary sessions will be held in **English**. Parallel sessions will be in **English, Italian, and Spanish**.

 [info@frames-project.eu](mailto:info@frames-project.eu)

 [www.frames-project.eu](http://www.frames-project.eu)





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## HOW TO ATTEND

The event is free and open to everyone. To join the online session on Zoom, kindly register [here](#). Registrations will remain open until the day of the event. We recommend you to check your time zone [here](#).

## PROGRAMME

Moderator: **Ana Beaven**, UNICollaboration

### 11.00 Welcome

**Marcello Scalisi**, UNIMED

### 11.10 Why Virtual Exchange in Higher Education

**Francesca Helm**, University of Padova & UNICollaboration

### 11.40 The FRAMES project in a nutshell

**Cristina Stefanelli**, UNIMED

### 11.50 Scenarios for the integration of Virtual Exchange in Higher Education

**Sara Pittarello**, UNICollaboration

### 12.00 Parallel sessions

The objective of this session is to breakout in parallel sessions to discuss national accreditation issues, and international issues at EU level, addressing the following questions:

- *How do you think VE should be integrated in HEI strategy/strategies?*
- *How to expand internationalisation at home through Virtual Exchange?*
- *What are the opportunities and challenges of the integration of Virtual Exchange in Higher Education?*

#### Irish room

**Marta Giralt**  
University of Limerick

#### Italian room

**Anna Pratesi,**  
**Francesca Torlone,**  
**Luca Verzichelli**  
University of Siena

#### Spanish room

**Alicia Betts**  
University of Girona

#### International room

**Casper van der Heijden, Juliet Mühlbauer**  
Sharing Perspective Foundation  
  
**Anita Barmettler**  
University of Limerick

### 12:40 Reporting from parallel session & closing

*Brief reports from the breakout sessions, and what is next in the project*

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