



UNICollaboration



Universitat de Girona



Final Event

Framing Virtual Exchange and Blended Mobility in Higher Education: looking ahead

30 March 2023, 9:30-16:30
University of Siena
Aula Magna Storica, Rectorate

BACKGROUND

Many universities in Europe and globally are exploring tools and methods that can guarantee students' ongoing engagement and their active participation online, as well as complementary ways to provide them with an intercultural and international experience, in addition to physical mobility, and with the today much required transversal competences and soft skills. 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 exploring blended mobility and VE for the first time and those already experienced 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 VE activities as a stable component of their educational offer.

In this context, the FRAMES "Fostering resilience through Accredited Mobility for European Sustainable Higher Education innovation" project is working to foster a harmonised implementation and accreditation of VE, 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

- To present the key results developed by the FRAMES consortium, namely the scenarios, the toolkit, and the strategic framework for integrating VE in Higher Education
- To explore the constraints and opportunities related to the implementation and accreditation of VE in Higher Education

TARGET AUDIENCE

The event will be of interest to academic staff 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 VE can offer to innovate mobility in higher education.



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VENUE

University of Siena

Aula Magna Storica, Rectorate
Via Banchi di Sotto, 55 - Siena, Italy

HOW TO ATTEND

Participation is free of charge. More information and the registration form are available here:

<http://www.congressi.unisi.it/frames/>

LANGUAGES

The event will be held in **English**.

PROGRAMME

9:30 *Registration and welcome coffee*

10.00 *Welcome*

Roberto Di Pietra, Rector of the University of Siena
Simone Borghesi, Vice Rector for International Relations
Luca Verzichelli, University of Siena
Marcello Scalisi, UNIMED

10.30 *Keynote: Virtual Exchange in Higher Education: looking back and moving forward*

Francesca Helm, University of Padova & UNICollaboration

11.10 *Coffee break*

11:30 *FRAMES in a nutshell*

Cristina Stefanelli, UNIMED

11:40 *Roundtable conversation about integrating Virtual Exchange in Higher Education*

This session is structured as an interview, where the moderator asks some questions and the panellists reply by illustrating the main findings of the FRAMES project results and reflecting on the wider role and value of Virtual Exchange integration within the Higher Education context.

Moderator:

Ana Beaven, UNICollaboration & University of Bologna

Panellists:

Marta Giralt, University of Limerick
Sara Pittarello, UNICollaboration
Casper van der Heijden, Sharing Perspective Foundation
Luca Verzichelli, University of Siena

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12:40 Virtual Exchange and Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) at the University of Siena

After introducing the relevance of VE and BIPs in the educational offer of the University of Siena, the successful experience with the Aeneas' Route BIP will be presented from the point of view of a teacher as well as that of a student, to then look at the most recent BIP proposals.

Francesca Torlone, University of Siena

Filomena Giannotti, University of Siena

Agnese Colarizi Graziani (student testimonial), University of Siena

13.15 Networking Lunch

14:45 Parallel working groups on the integration of Virtual Exchange in Higher Education

Discussion in parallel sessions about key issues linked to the integration of Virtual Exchange in Higher Education and resulting from the FRAMES Strategic Framework

VE as a tool for internationalisation: strategic coordination and resources

Moderator: Alicia Betts, Jordi Serra and Àngels Xabadia, University of Girona

Quality, Accreditation and Recognition of VE

Moderator: Anita Barmettler, University of Limerick

Sustainability of VE

Moderator: Casper van der Heijden, Sharing Perspective Foundation

16:00 Reporting from parallel session

Brief reports from the breakout sessions, and closing remarks

16:20 Q&A & closing

17:00 Cocktail

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