

# Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

## Get Your Youth Organisation Involved

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 project 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. Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange offers a safe online community to participate in facilitated discussions, increasing intercultural awareness and building 21st Century skills through Virtual Exchange. The project encourages and promotes intercultural dialogue, employability, and citizenship, strengthening the youth dimension of the EU neighbourhood policy.

We are particularly keen to engage youth organisations in this project through non-formal education opportunities, which will be recognised through open badges. There are several activities advertised on the [European Youth Portal's Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange](#) page which are relevant to youth organisations.

## Facilitation Training for youth workers

### What?

Over the course of 2018, a dedicated and highly qualified community of facilitators will be formed and as they engage in various models of Virtual Exchange.

Facilitators are multi-partial and neutral process leaders. Facilitators seek to elicit self-group awareness and understanding, by providing a safe and effective learning environment. They seek to equip participants with tools to hold effective intercultural dialogue where participants learn about one another and themselves and are inspired to take this understanding beyond their participation in the project and into their communities.

### When?

The next training sessions will run as follows:

- Introduction to dialogue facilitation
  - **13 August to 10 September 2018** - Deadline to apply: **12 August 2018**
  - [Sign up here](#)
- Advanced Facilitation Training
  - **7 October to 13 December 2018** - Deadline to apply : **17 September 2018**
- Arabic Facilitation Training
  - **3 September to 28 September 2018** - Deadline to apply : 17 August 2018
- French Facilitation Training
  - A training session in French may be re-organised during the fall, depending on interest.

## How?

If you or youth workers in your organisation are interested in qualifying to be a facilitator [please click here](#) to find out more and send your expression of interest through the online form. You will then be contacted about the modalities for participation.

## Online Facilitated Dialogue

### What?

Organisations working with youth aged 18-30 can offer Online Facilitated Dialogue as an opportunity for youth to develop essential employability skills and engage in meaningful dialogue with peers from around the world. Youth organisation can take part in the Connect Programme to enable youth from their community to discuss important global and social challenges with peers from around the world. Key to the dialogue process is youth participants' commitment to the full duration of the program, and the presence of 1-2 facilitators in each group who are trained to ensure that dialogue remains respectful, meaningful and that all group members feel heard. Participants who successfully complete participation will receive a certificate of completion and an Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Badge. This opportunity is free for youth in Europe and Southern Mediterranean countries. All they need is access to a computer, internet, a headset, and intermediate level conversation English.

### When?

The next available programme will run between **15 October and 6 December 2018**. The deadline to apply is **31 August 2018**.

### How?

Read more about [Online Facilitated Dialogue](#) activities and as an organisation express your interest before 31 August through the [online form](#). You will then be contacted about the registration modalities.

The project promoter for the Connect Programme will work with your organisation to set up a feasible integration model into your existing programmes, and an appropriate incentive structures for youth participation. The project promoter will lead the Online Facilitated Dialogue by providing the technical platform for youth's synchronous and asynchronous engagement, the curriculum and facilitation for the dialogue, and finally monitoring and evaluation reporting submitted to your organisation weekly and end of programme.

## Training to develop an Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Project for youth

### What?

If your organisation already collaborates with international partners in projects, you could enhance this activity by developing a Transnational Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Project (TEP)

of your own. The TEP would be designed to involve young people in your partner organisations in some non-formal educational activity either online or at your centres, and have them participate in small-group online dialogues with their distant partners under the guidance of trained Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange facilitators. Erasmus+ offers:

- free online training for you and your partners where you will learn more about Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange and design your TEP;
- Recognition of this training with Open Badges;
- Mentoring throughout the design and implementation of the TEP;
- a secure online platform for the implementation of your exchange;
- Three 2-hour facilitated synchronous dialogue sessions led by qualified Erasmus+ facilitators, on a synchronous video platform promoted by Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange.
- Recognition of youth participants' engagement in the project with Open Badges.

### When?

The next available training session will run from **23rd September to 20th October 2018**. The deadline to apply is **10 September 2018**.

### How?

If you are interested in applying for training, please complete this [application form](#), or if you would like to hear more about future opportunities please send your expression of interest [here](#).

## Advocacy Training: Debate Facilitator Training and Online Debates

### What?

Advocacy Training brings together young people from diverse backgrounds to meet online and debate topics, with the support of a regional resource network of trained facilitators. The training will focus on a parliamentary model of public debate and an approach whereby participants are first taught to listen, understand, and absorb what others in the group are saying before responding to the messages being relayed.

Our **online debate programme** is open to debate clubs across Europe and the Southern Mediterranean interested in piloting online debates across borders. The debates will see intercultural teams working together to debate relevant topics across the region. This ground-breaking initiative will see participants working together with youth from other countries in order to develop critical thinking skills and explore subjects that can lead to advocacy impact.

The aim of the **Online Facilitator Training** is to support in the development of debate clubs and specifically our online debate programme. In order to take part in the online debate programme it is expected that at least one facilitator is trained prior to the debate event taking place.

### When?

The online debate programme and debate facilitator trainings will take place **between June and December 2018**.

### How?

Find out more about [Advocacy Training](#) and express your interest through the [online form](#). You will then be contacted about modalities for participation.

## Interactive Open Online Course on Nationalism and Diversity

### What?

This online course aims at engaging students from Europe and the Southern Mediterranean to consider the perspectives of newcomers in Europe and those that are moving towards a more nationalistic and anti-European sentiment. This Interactive Open Online Course will be composed of three elements: video lectures by experts; facilitated online seminars where students from a wide range of national and cultural backgrounds discuss their views, experiences and ideas; and an outreach assignment where they learn more about sentiments in their own communities.

The programme takes 10 weeks.

### When?

The course will run from **1 October to 7 December 2018**. Deadline to apply: **3 August 2018**

### How?

Learn more about this course and other opportunities for [Interactive Open Online Courses](#) which will be available in the future, and send your expression of interest through the [online form](#).