2023-2024 SYLLABUS

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT YOUR VIRTUAL CO-DESIGNED INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

VIRTUELE INTERNATIONALE SAMENWERKING IN HET **HOGER ONDERWIJS**

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT YOUR VIRTUAL CO-DESIGNED INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

A VIRTUAL TRAINING FOR TEACHING STAFF IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Syllabus

INTRODUCTION

This virtual training for teaching staff in higher education is offered to support your virtual international collaboration, or *VIS,* project(s). This is part of the programme 'Virtuele Internationale Samenwerking in het Hoger Onderwijs', offering activities in support to higher education professionals who are developing VIS projects.

'How to successfully design and implement your virtual co-designed international collaboration' is an advanced training designed for those who already have previous experience in designing and implementing international virtual collaboration, COIL, Virtual Exchange in any shape or form.

The training consists of four online synchronous sessions, 2 per week, of four hours each. In addition, preparatory and follow-up asynchronous activities are available on the course Moodle platform where the course is hosted. The synchronous sessions focus mainly on plenary discussions on specific topics such as task design, as well as hands-on activities which the participants engage with in small groups. The total training time is therefore estimated at 20/24 hours (16 hours for synchronous sessions and 4/8 hours for asynchronous work). The approach is based on "experiential modelling" where participants experience Virtual Exchange from a student's point of view, in other words while taking part in the training educators will be "walking the talk" of a virtual international collaboration.

By the end of the training, participants will have a good understanding of the process of designing and implementing a virtual international collaboration project, by considering the importance of good partnerships, careful task design, pedagogically informed choice of tools and assessment.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

By taking this training, participants will:

- Deepen their understanding of the Virtual Exchange pedagogy as the guiding principle of their VIS project;
- Understand the role of virtual international collaborations in supporting intercultural exchange, collaboration and the development of students' transversal skills;
- Consider the main features and components of co-designed virtual international collaborations and select the appropriate approach for their own projects;
- Understand the process (and steps) of creating and implementing co-designed virtual online collaboration projects, including defining learning outcomes, designing different types of tasks and task sequences, selecting appropriate tools, and considering forms of assessment ;
- Understand the potential challenges of creating and implementing co-designed virtual online collaboration projects, and be able to work out approaches to these during the implementation phase of the virtual online collaboration projects;
- Experience and have a better understanding of the importance of collaborative work between educators during the preparatory phase of co-designed virtual collaboration projects and between educators and among students during the implementation of co-designed virtual collaboration projects.

TASKS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1) Training materials (asynchronous, on Moodle)

The training materials available on the Moodle platform support the learning process, and consist of readings, short videos and case studies. Participants are expected to review the module's training materials in their own time, but ahead of the synchronous sessions.

2) Discussion points & activities (asynchronous, on Moodle)

The training content also includes discussions on fora, in which participants have to share reflections and possible solutions, and activities to be carried out individually (contributing to a Padlet, completing tasks online, etc). These activities are crucial to the learning process, and will be the focus of the online sessions.

3) Online group sessions (synchronous, ZOOM)

Participants meet online for a four-hour session with fellow practitioners and their trainer twice a week for two consecutive weeks. This training consists of four synchronous sessions in total over a period of two weeks. These virtual group meetings will take place on ZOOM. This is the time to deepen your understanding of the training content, learn from your colleagues, and put theory into practice through interactive exercises. Therefore, timely attendance and active participation using both video and audio is expected.

PARTICIPATION AND ASSESSMENT

To successfully complete this training and receive a certificate of completion, participants are required to:

- Participate actively in **at least 3 out of 4 synchronous sessions**[1];
- Complete **80% of the asynchronous tasks and assignments** detailed above; through contributing to the discussions in fora, asynchronous activities and the assignments.

CONTACT

Questions about participation can be emailed to: visinhetho@unicollaboration.org

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[1] Active participation includes joining the session with working video and audio, contributing to discussions, and attending the full meeting.

MODULE BREAKDOWN

Module 1: Introduction to Virtual Exchange Pedagogy

Objectives

- Get to know the other participants in the course
- Gain an understanding of Virtual Exchange pedagogy and its implementation in VIS projects
- Identify the main elements in the design of a VIS project though analysing case studies of actual projects
- Gain an understanding of the importance of intercultural awareness and identity work in the context of VIS .

Asynchronous training content & tasks

- ➔ VE Pedagogy
  - ◆ Analysis of case studies (vignettes) of virtual international collaborative projects
  - ◆ The importance of identity work and intercultural awareness
- ☐ Introductions through Padlet
- ☐ Forum: What does VE mean to you?
- ☐ Forum: Main takeaways from the case studies/vignettes analysed
- ☐ Start working on project plan using a template provided

Module 2: Setting up a virtual co-designed international collaboration (VIS project)

Objectives

- ➔ Understand the concept of backward curriculum design
- ➔ Acquire an understanding of the design process of a VIS project.
- ➔ Recognise the importance of pedagogical choices in designing an educational intervention
- ➔ Develop an understanding of the concept of Student Learning Goals and Outcomes

Asynchronous training content & tasks

- ☐ Continue working on project plan template
- ☐ Sharing and discussing first ideas for VIS projects
- ☐ Drafting, providing feedback and refining student learning goals/outcomes

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Module 3: Tasks and Tools to support co-designed international collaborations

Objectives

➔ Acquire knowledge of task types and sequences in VIS projects
➔ Understand the importance of ice-breakers to promote positive group dynamics and intercultural awareness
➔ Find out about the importance of pedagogically informed technology/tool choices including the importance of technologies that promote meaningful interaction and collaboration among students
➔ Understand the importance of motivation and recognition

Asynchronous training content & tasks

☐ Forum: Working on a Group Agreement
☐ Forum : Tech Tools: your recommendations
☐ Continue working on project plan template

Module 4: Towards a complete project plan

Objectives

➔ Reflect on factors that promote equitable partnerships within VIS
➔ Describe potential challenges common in VIS projects
➔ Provide trialled and tested solutions to common challenges
➔ Consider ways to assess and provide acknowledgement of student engagement and learning

Asynchronous training content & tasks

☐ Continue working on and finalise project plan

This training is designed and implemented by UNICollaboration, one of the consortium members of 'Virtual International Collaboration in Higher Education'. UNICollaboration is a not-for-profit cross-disciplinary professional organisation promoting telecollaboration and virtual exchange in Higher Education. UNICollaboration has two main objectives:

● *to promote the development and integration of research and practice in telecollaboration and virtual exchange across all disciplines and subject areas in higher education.*
● *to actively engage in awareness raising of telecollaboration and virtual exchange at institutional and policy making level.*