

2023-2024 SYLLABUS

**GUIDING AND SUPPORTING  
TEACHERS IN A VIS PROJECT**

**VIRTUELE INTERNATIONALE  
SAMENWERKING IN HET  
HOGER ONDERWIJS**



# GUIDING AND SUPPORTING TEACHERS IN A VIS PROJECT

A VIRTUAL TRAINING FOR EDUCATIONALISTS AND OTHER HIGHER  
EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

*Syllabus*

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## INTRODUCTION

This virtual training for educationalists, internationalization officers, coordinators and other higher educational professionals is offered to support the implementation and integration of 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.

'Guiding and supporting teachers in a *VIS* project' consists of three synchronous sessions, all taking place online. The training is designed for participants to learn with and from each other while engaging virtually in interactive practices and discussions. The total training time is estimated at 10–11 hours, weekly synchronous training time, over a period of 3 weeks and some small preparatory assignments.

There is plenty of room for exchanging experiences, so participants can learn a lot from each other. There are knowledge interludes in which participants will, for example, learn more about online pedagogy, international education, intercultural learning and stakeholder management, based on scientific research and practical examples. Most important in this training is the variety of activities and resources so that the participants can learn in a varied way. These activities and resources will strengthen the participants in their position where they support teachers in developing their *VIS* project.

## TRAINING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the basics of Virtual Exchange pedagogy;
- Understand VE pedagogy and its outcomes;
- Get inspired by the opportunities of *VIS* projects;
- Know the role of VE pedagogy within collaborations;
- Learn how to design intercultural learning according to Virtual Exchange pedagogy;
- Know more about cultural models and their connection to education;
- Be able to design culturally sensitive lessons;
- Become familiar with the student-centered approach in international education;
- Understand the importance of cultural sensitivity in a *VIS* project;



- Realize impact within international collaborations;
- Gain insight into internal and external stakeholder of a VIS project;
- Know how to disseminate a VIS project within your own educational institution;
- Learn to relate stakeholders to the intended impact.

## DESIGN OF THE TRAINING

The training consists of three synchronous sessions. Participants will meet online during a three-hour session. These sessions take place every week. These virtual sessions are held within Microsoft Teams. In these sessions, participants will be given theoretical background information about virtual learning. A key element of this training is the alternation between different didactic forms of work. Thus, there is plenty of room for mutual exchange of experiences, working with the newly learned principles and applying the learned knowledge within the context of one's own educational institution.

These virtual group meetings will take place on Teams, in a closed session. These sessions are highly interactive and therefore timely attendance and active participation using both video and audio is expected.

## PARTICIPATION AND ASSESSMENT

Trainees are expected to be available on the provided timeslots for the full duration of the training and join the online group sessions with working camera and audio.

Trainees are required to **attend and participate in all synchronous sessions (3 out of 3)**.

## CONTACT

Questions about participation can be emailed to [visinhetho@sharingperspectivesfoundation.com](mailto:visinhetho@sharingperspectivesfoundation.com)



## SESSION BREAKDOWN

### **Session 1: Introduction to virtual international collaboration**

During the first session, you become familiar with virtual learning. On the basis of case studies, you will get to work with the theme so that you quickly learn to apply it within your own context. Several inspiring best practices will be shared.

*Objectives:*

- Learn what virtual international collaboration is, and explore the different options for implementing and integrating VIS projects;
- Gain knowledge on the Virtual Exchange pedagogy and its benefits;
- Get inspired by the outcomes and opportunities of VIS projects;
- Identify the role of virtual exchange pedagogy within virtual international collaboration.

*Training content:*

- Your experience with online international collaborations
  - Discuss and reflect on your experiences when collaborating online
  - Exchange with peers
- Introduction to Virtual International Cooperation
  - Defining Virtual International Cooperation
  - Virtual Exchange and terminology
  - Aims of involving students in VE
- Example of a VIS project
  - Presenting a case of VE
  - Discussing the case with your peers
- Virtual exchange pedagogy
  - Premises of Virtual Exchange Pedagogy
  - The facilitators role within VE
  - Steps for development
  - Taks Sequence in a VE
- Tools within Virtual Exchange
  - Exercise: which tools would you use with different online activities



## Session 2: Cultural sensitivity and virtual collaboration

The second session revolves around cultural sensitivity within online international collaborations. You will experience what it is like to make collaboration agreements in an online environment and learn about the influence culture has on education. You will then apply these insights within your own context. You will also receive a number of (design) tools that can help you design a culturally sensitive learning environment.

### *Objectives:*

- Design intercultural learning according to virtual exchange pedagogy;
- Deepen your understanding of the different cultural models and their impact on education;
- Give advice on the development of culturally sensitive lessons, based on virtual exchange pedagogy and other cultural models;
- Increase insight in teaching from a learner led approach within international collaboration;
- Explore the importance of cultural sensitivity within VIS projects.

### *Training content*

- Exercise culture sensitivity
- Exercise: working together; a case study
- Case study and cultural bias
- Milestones for VE implementation
  - Milestones in relation to cultural experiences
- Knowledge interlude: culture and education
  - What is culture?
  - Defining culture
  - Culture and education
  - Culture and curriculum development
  - Cultural dimensions and their link to education
  - Exercise: working with cultural dimensions within your VIS-project
  - Exchange with your peers
- Virtual exchange and cultural sensitivity
  - Encouraging students to reflect
  - Magnifying exercise
- Homework assignment: vision of your educational institution and desired impact



### Session 3: Impact of international collaboration

The last session focuses on the impact of the VIS project. You will search within your educational institution for policy statements about for example internationalization and equal opportunities and explore the overlap this has with the VIS project. You will identify who is involved in developing and rolling out the VIS project and how you can strengthen your own position in this. Again, insights from practice and science will be shared.

#### Objectives

- Gain tools for making impact with international collaboration;
- Gain insight on internal and external stakeholders of a VIS project;
- Disseminate the impact of the VIS project within the educational institution;
- Relating stakeholders to the intended impact.

#### Training content

- Impact and your VIS project
  - Discussing your homework assignment
- VIS-ion and your educational institution
  - Link your vision of your VIS-project and the vision of your educational institution
  - Per theme: internationalization, digitalization, inclusion & diversity and didactics
- Knowledge interlude: stakeholders and VIS-projects
  - EVOLVE case study research
  - Driving forces for implementation
  - Key success factors
  - Trends within VIS implementation
- Stakeholder mapping
  - Making a stakeholder map of your current situation surrounding your VIS-project
  - Stakeholder map of your desired situation
  - Gaining insight: which changes could you make?
  - Exchanging in pairs

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*This training is designed and implemented by CINOP and University of Groningen, two of the consortium members of the support programme 'Virtuele Internationale Samenwerking in het Hoger Onderwijs'.*

