

Teacher training in Vilnius:

Evaluating virtual exchange possibilities and integration into social science curricula at Nordic-Baltic universities

Building virtual exchange capacities
in the Baltic Sea Region

April 24
Vilnius University

EnVision network

The EnVision network brings together **four innovation-oriented universities in the Nordic-Baltic region** (University of Tartu, Vilnius University, Uppsala University, University of Helsinki) with a range of experiences in designing and running Virtual Exchanges (VEs) in order to

- Facilitate **the sharing of knowledge and best-practices** and
- **co-design VEs course scenarios and produce shared guidelines for implementing VEs**. The network will strengthen cooperation channels in the region, creating a hub of excellence in innovative digital teaching methods and VEs.

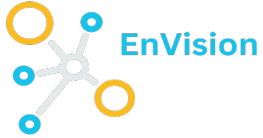




EnVision network

The network addresses the need of social sciences departments to

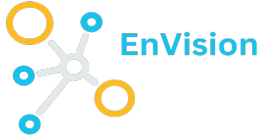
- 1) **expand the scope of international and intercultural opportunities** offered to students to create competitive, inclusive, and diverse study environments and
- 2) integrate **digital competencies and transferrable skills** (intercultural communication, critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork) into course curricula to enhance graduate employability.



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The network will produce the following tangible outcomes, which can be used after the conclusion of the project:

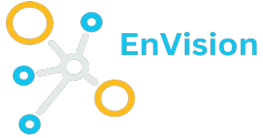
- **VE training seminars**, including slides, training syllabus, practical activities, case studies of best practices
- **VE Toolkit** with practical guidelines on VE design, implementation, and facilitation, sample VE course design scenarios, and a glossary of VE terminology in partners' national languages to be circulated among teaching staff
- **Dissemination of the project activities** and results on social media to raise awareness of the innovative concept of VEs among teaching staff and students.



Seminar in Tartu

“Introduction to virtual exchanges in the social sciences: tools, methods, processes, and challenges” (host–Tartu)

- 2-day training (plus additional day for travel) for at least 12 participants (3 lecturers per partner institution).
- Lectures on theoretical aspects and practical exercises will introduce teaching staff to VE terminology and didactics, tips, and case studies of effective implementation.
- Discussion sessions will allow participants to get to know one another and the courses they teach. Working groups will be created, consisting of pairs of teaching staff who will design VE scenarios for their courses.



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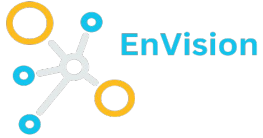
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Between seminars – mobility + Consultations (April 5, 10)

- In the 4–5-month interval between Seminars 1 and 2, lecturers will work with their fellow colleague on VE course design.
- The time can be used for additional teacher and student mobility between the institutions to further develop the courses and strengthen institutional cooperation.
- Tartu, in collaboration with the Uppsala and Helsinki project managers, will hold an online clinic to check on the progress of groups and provide additional didactic assistance.
- Prior to Seminar 2, the groups will fill in at least 75% of the template.



Seminar in Vilnius

“Evaluating virtual exchange possibilities and integration into social science curricula at Nordic-Baltic universities” (host–Vilnius)

- 2-day training (plus additional day for travel) for at least 12 participants (3 lecturers per partner institution).
- During the seminar each working group will present their VE course scenarios, get feedback from the partners, and discuss challenges and opportunities of integrating VEs into existing courses.
- Students from Vilnius will be invited to provide additional feedback on the course scenarios from a learners’ perspective.
- After the event, lecturers will finalize their VE scenarios and submit the templates for final review by the consortium members for inclusion in the toolkit.



Agenda

Venue: Vokiečių g., 10, room 401

9:45 – 10:00 Registration & coffee break

10:00 – 10:10 Opening words by host institution and EnVision coordinators
(Anna Beitane, UT; Lina Strupinskienė and Anastasiia Tkachuk)

10:10 – 12:00 Keynote lecture: student voices and experiences in virtual exchange (Dr. Ana Beaven, University of Bologna)

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch (venue: Casa Della Pasta, Vokiečių st. 13)



Agenda

Venue: Vokiečiu g., 10, room 401

13:30 – 15:00 Brainstorming session: presentation of the VE toolkit and collection of feedback (Anna Beitane, University of Tartu)

15:00 – 15:30 Group presentation #4: Joanna Veinio (Helsinki) & Suzanne Pathkiller (Uppsala) → reviewer Group 3

18:00 – Welcome reception + museum tour (MO Muziejus, Pylimo g., 17)

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