

***Teacher training in Tartu:***  
*What digital & communication tools to use in your Virtual Exchange*

Building virtual exchange capacities  
in the Baltic Sea Region

October 24  
University of Tartu



# Agenda

**Venue: Liivi 2, room 523**

**9:45 - 10:00** Welcome coffee

**10:00 - 11:00** What digital and communication tools to use in your Virtual Exchange? (Anna Beitane, University of Tartu)

**11:00 - 12:00** How to address intercultural problems in online intercultural collaboration. (Dr. Ana Beaven, University of Bologna)

**12:00 - 13:30** - Lunch



# Agenda

**Venue: Liivi 2, room 523**

**13:30 - 15:30** Introduction to EnVision Virtual Exchange Scenario template. Finding team members for your Virtual Exchange project. Working in groups (Anna Beitane, University of Tartu)

**15:30 - 16:00** Conclusions and next steps (Anna Beitane, University of Tartu)

**16:30 - 18:00** Farewell dinner at Vilde ja Vine



## Finding the “hub” for your VE course/project

Your VE course would need a hub or a platform for a collaboration with another partner university.

The role of the hub or basecamp for your Exchange could be used by:

- teachers to introduce the tasks and timetable
- teachers to provide background information about the partner classes
- students to post their introductions
- students to post their final results / projects



# Examples of hubs for VE



Tool	Description	Pros/cons
Learning management system: - Moodle - Canvas - Blackboard - Ilias	(free*) open-access learning management systems, which are integrated with the Study Information System of high ed institutions, and which include various interactive tools (quizzes, forums, H5P, etc.)	Pro: -familiarity with the system -variety of tools  Con: -compatibility with other partners, accessibility
Browser-based platforms: - Schoology	Works in the similar way as LMS but could be also used independently from already existing and used platforms such as Moodle, Canvas.	Pro: -easy to use -includes free subscription option -compatibility  Con: -transfer of grades/material
Standalone programs: - MS Teams	Comprehensive collaborative and video-conferencing programs.	Pro: -variety of tools and possibility for direct video-conferencing  Con: -compatibility, costs

# Elements of VE

VE platform  
“Hub”



Present partner  
institutions & student,  
teacher introductions

Overview of VE process  
in the course

Tech introduction to the  
tools to be used in VE

Group division

Tools for group work  
and collaboration

Brief description of partners,  
who are participating in VE

Description of how VE will  
be organized in the VE  
course (detailed plan)


Description and manual of  
the tools that will be used in  
VE. Links to instructions.

Description of group  
work/collaboration. Table  
with group divisions

Insert the tools that would  
be needed for group work  
and collaboration



# Examples of hubs for VE (Schoology)



▼ Course Options

Materials ▼

Updates


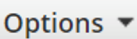
Gradebook

Grade Setup

## Visions of Europe 2019: Spain\_Finland\_Poland







University of Leon

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 Add Materials ▼  Options ▼

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All Materials ▼ —

- >  **Project Background and Introductions**   
Background information about our project and who is participating
- >  **Task 1: Getting to know each other**   
Forums and materials for task 1
- >  **Task 1- Part 2: Meeting your partners via Videoconference**   
Forums and materials for task 1 Part 2.

Source: example has been taken from the Utrecht Network training "Virtual Exchange and Blended Mobility in the Humanities: An Introductory Course for University Educators" conducted by Dr. Robert O'Dowd (University of León, Spain).

# Examples of hubs for VE (Moodle)

Project Administration



Announcements

Project Overview

Zoom Instructions Spain Sweden USA

What working group are you in?

All students will be working in small international groups. Make sure your name is in one of these groups in this table. If not, check with your course instructor.

What does it mean to be a task leader?

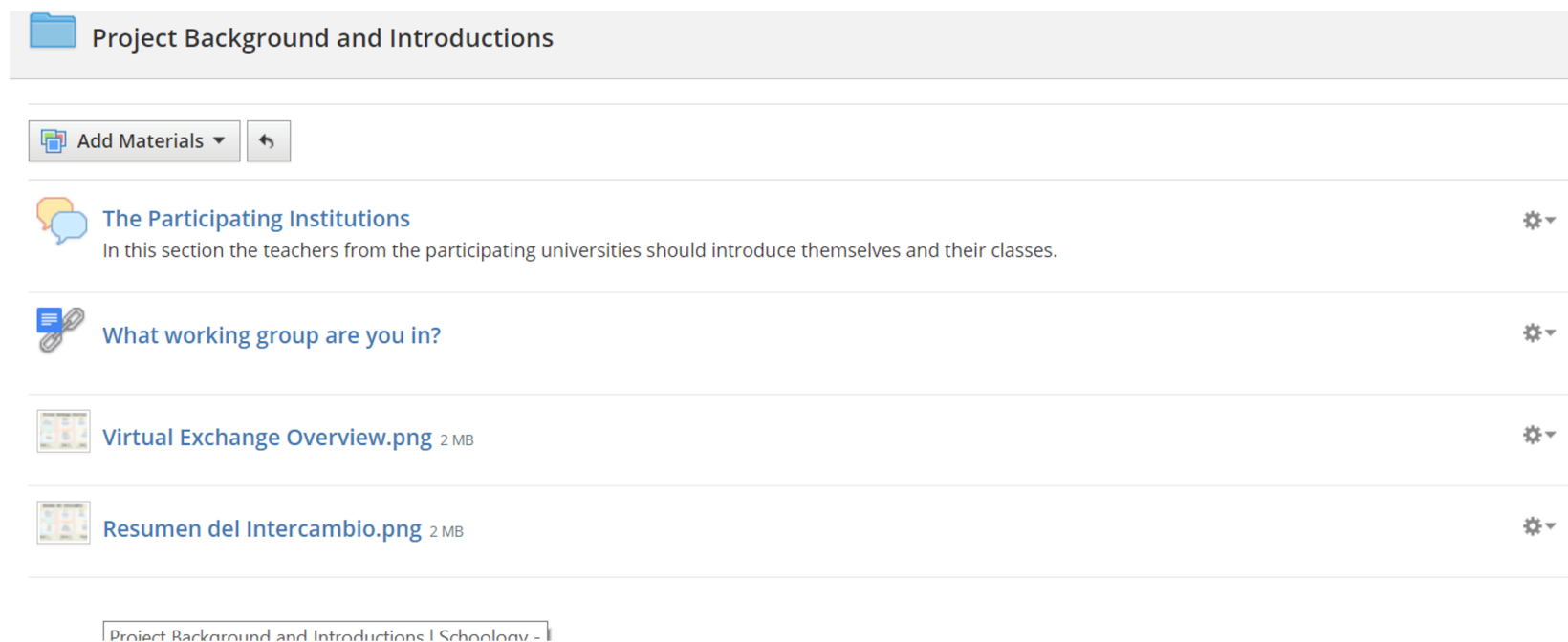
About the Partnership

Task 1.1 (November 11-17) & Task 1.2 (18-24 Nov)





Source: example has been taken from the Utrecht Network training "Virtual Exchange and Blended Mobility in the Humanities: An Introductory Course for University Educators" conducted by Dr. Robert O'Dowd (University of León, Spain).



# Examples of VE overview process (Scholology)



A screenshot of a Schoology project page titled "Project Background and Introductions". The page has a light gray header with a folder icon and the title. Below the header is a toolbar with an "Add Materials" button and a refresh icon. The main content area lists four items, each with an icon, a title, a description, and a settings gear icon on the right. The items are: 1. "The Participating Institutions" with a speech bubble icon, description "In this section the teachers from the participating universities should introduce themselves and their classes.", and a settings gear. 2. "What working group are you in?" with a document and paperclip icon, and a settings gear. 3. "Virtual Exchange Overview.png" with a thumbnail icon, "2 MB" size, and a settings gear. 4. "Resumen del Intercambio.png" with a thumbnail icon, "2 MB" size, and a settings gear. At the bottom, there is a breadcrumb trail: "Project Background and Introductions | Schoology -".



Project Background and Introductions

Add Materials ↕

 **The Participating Institutions**   
In this section the teachers from the participating universities should introduce themselves and their classes.

 **What working group are you in?** 

 **Virtual Exchange Overview.png** 2 MB 

 **Resumen del Intercambio.png** 2 MB 

Project Background and Introductions | Schoology -

Source: example has been taken from the Utrecht Network training "Virtual Exchange and Blended Mobility in the Humanities: An Introductory Course for University Educators" conducted by Dr. Robert O'Dowd (University of León, Spain).

# Virtual Exchange Overview

## Stage 1:

Introduce yourself  
using Adobespark  
& meet your peers

## Stage 2:

Local presentations  
about ecological  
habits & views

## Stage 3:

Group name &  
philosophy

## Task 1

Getting to know each other

## Stage 1:

Questionnaires  
Comparison and  
reflexion

## Stage 2:

Interviews:  
comparing global  
issues  
affecting both  
communities

## Task 2

Comparing and analyzing

## Stage 1:

Design your  
collaborative  
product

## Stage 2:

Promote your  
product and  
prepare a report  
!

## Task 3

Working on a collaborative product



## Examples of introducing students/teachers



Adobe Spark - integrated web and mobile solution for creating and sharing visual stories.



Padlets are visual boards for organizing and sharing content



# Examples of introducing students/teachers

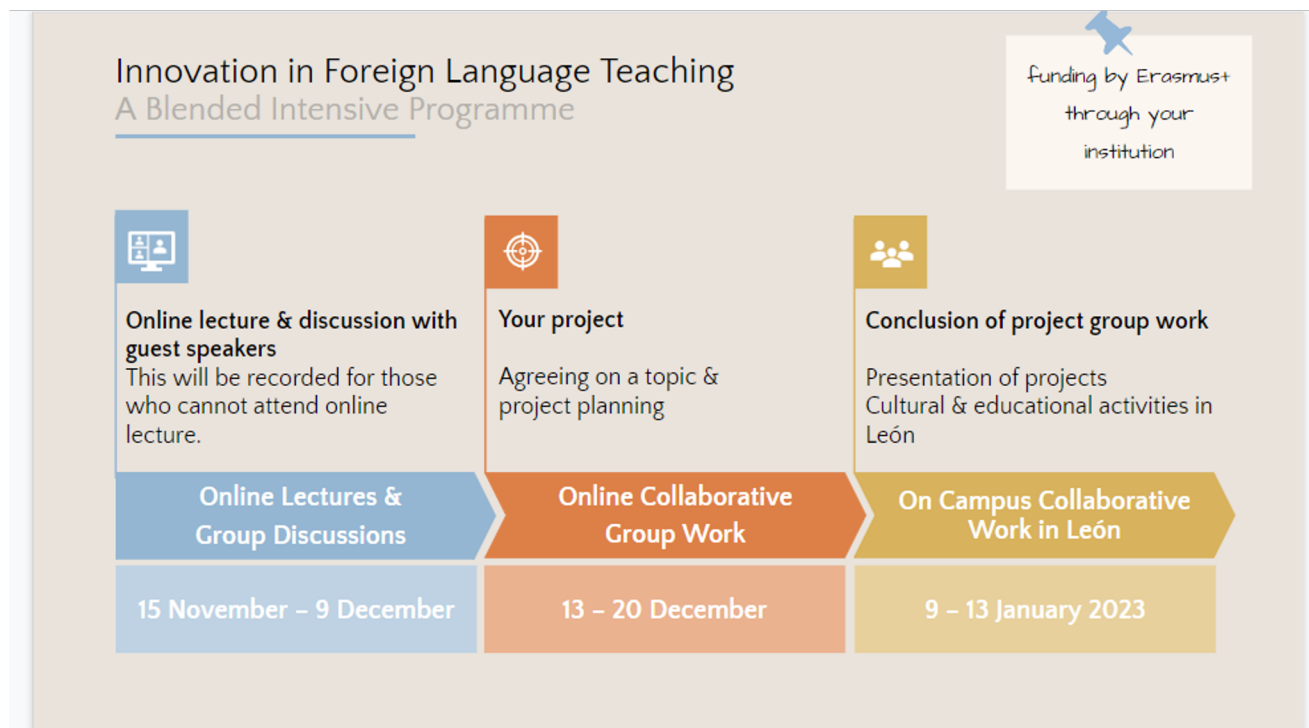
You can use the **Pecha Kucha** method style of presentation to introduce yourself. **Pecha Kucha** – is a presentation method that calls for telling a story using images rather than reading text from slides during a PowerPoint presentation.

For example, you can ask each participant to present themselves using 3 IMAGES (slides).

- **The first image** - you will be introducing yourself with the first image. While thinking what you'll be saying during presentation - 20 seconds are too long for just name and occupation, think through what else would you like people to know about you: some fun facts, personality traits, unusual hobby, habit etc.
- **The second image** - introduce your organization. If the building you are working in is gray and dull, find an image that represents your working atmosphere, "soul" of the organization you are working for.
- **With the third image** you'll have an opportunity to present your project idea (if you have one) or explain, what kind of project you would be interested to take part in.



# Examples of Virtual Exchange walkthrough guide....



Source: example has been taken from the Utrecht Network training "Virtual Exchange and Blended Mobility in the Humanities: An Introductory Course for University Educators" conducted by Dr. Robert O'Dowd (University of León, Spain).

# Examples of tools for group work and collaboration



A screenshot of a course management interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation options: Course Options, Materials (selected), Updates, Gradebook, Grade Setup, Badges, Attendance, and Members. Below the sidebar is a green box containing an "Access Code" (85GC-N86N-2VHZB) and a "Reset" link. The main content area shows a task titled "Task 1 Part 1: Introducing ourselves" with a document icon. Below the task are eight "Working Group" entries, each with a speech bubble icon and the text "Task 1". The last three groups have message counts: Working Group 6 (13), Working Group 7 (21), and Working Group 8 (14). At the top of the main area are buttons for "Add Materials", "Options", and a refresh icon.

**For each task, provide a forum for each of the working groups where they can meet, share documents and coordinate videoconference meetings....**

Source: example has been taken from the Utrecht Network training "Virtual Exchange and Blended Mobility in the Humanities: An Introductory Course for University Educators" conducted by Dr. Robert O'Dowd (University of León, Spain).

## Considerations for synchronous or asynchronous tools

### Keep in mind:

- Synchronous meetings are biased against certain time zones
- Synchronous meetings are culturally unaware (national holidays etc.)
- Synchronous meetings are biased against families and busy people!
- Synchronous meetings that involve audio-visuals are elitist
- Synchronous meetings favour native speakers
- Asynchronous learning promotes deeper reflection
- Asynchronous communication allows non-native speakers time to prepare their messages and ideas, to review their language and to check their ideas with local partners and their teacher before sending them to their international team.

<https://hybridpedagogy.org/affinity-asynchronous-learning/>



## Tools for collaboration

Name of the tool	Description	Link
<b>Spatial Chat</b>	Spatial chat is a virtual space where people can form groups for conversations with different topics.	<a href="https://spatial.chat/">https://spatial.chat/</a>
<b>Speakpipe</b>	Record and share short voice messages.	<a href="https://www.speakpipe.com/">https://www.speakpipe.com/</a>
<b>Jamboard</b>	Jamboard is a digital interactive whiteboard which forms part of Google Workspace.	<a href="https://jamboard.google.com/">https://jamboard.google.com/</a>



## Tools for collaboration

Name of the tool	Description	Link
<b>Flipgrid</b>	FlipGrid is an easy way to pose a question and have people respond via videos. It can be used within many of the most widely used LMSs, so students do not have to set up a separate account on FlipGrid or navigate to a different place.	<a href="https://info.flipgrid.com/">https://info.flipgrid.com/</a>
<b>Voicethread</b>	A VoiceThread is a collaborative, multimedia slide show that holds images, documents, and videos and allows people to navigate slides and leave comments in 5 ways - using voice (with a mic or telephone), text, audio file, or video (via a webcam).	<a href="https://voicethread.com/">https://voicethread.com/</a>



## Tools for collaboration

Name of the tool	Description	Link
<b>Hypothesis</b>	is a simple online annotation tool which allows groups to comment on online texts together.	<a href="https://web.hypothes.is/education/">https://web.hypothes.is/education/</a>
<b>Perusall</b>	An online text annotation pool which can be integrated into your VLE.	<a href="https://perusall.com/">https://perusall.com/</a>
<b>Mindmeister:</b>	MindMeister is a web-based mind mapping software that runs in any standard web browser. Learn more about it here:	<a href="https://www.mindmeister.com">https://www.mindmeister.com</a>