Erasmus+
Virtual Exchanges

Virtual Exchanges in higher education and youth

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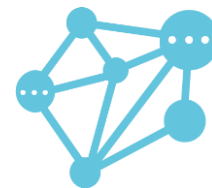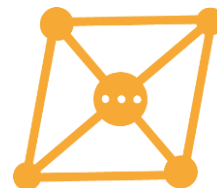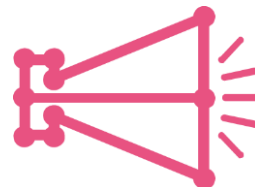*European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)*

What are 'virtual exchanges'?

Online people-to-people activities that promote intercultural dialogue and soft skills development. They make it possible for every young person to access high-quality international and cross-cultural education without physical mobility.

They take place in **small groups** and are always **moderated by a trained facilitator.**

They should be **easily integrated into youth (non-formal education) projects or higher education courses** – involve participants from either only one or from both sectors.

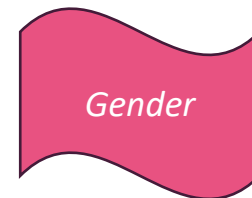Participant organisations must arrange **virtual exchanges for people in the 13-30 age range.**

Objectives, activities and expected outcomes

Specific objectives of the call

- Encourage **intercultural dialogue** with third countries not associated to the Programme and increase tolerance through online people-to-people interactions

- Promote various types of virtual exchanges, allowing more young people to **benefit from intercultural and international experience**

- Enhance **critical thinking and media literacy,** particularly in the use of internet and social media

- Foster the **digital and soft skills development** of students, young people and youth workers (*including practice of foreign languages, teamwork, enhance employability*)

- Promote **citizenship and the common values** of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education

- Strengthen the **youth dimension** in the relations of the EU with third countries

Gender

Socially and economically vulnerable

Activities and expected outcomes

Wide variety of activities and topics possible, but all projects are expected to have a **learning dimension** and to report on it.

- ➢ On-line facilitated discussions (as part of youth projects or as part of higher education courses)

- ➢ Training courses for youth workers for virtual exchanges

- ➢ Training courses for university professors/staff for virtual exchanges

- ➢ Interactive open on-line courses (community interactions among participants)

*Rely as much as possible on **existing tools and platforms***

*Foresee a **method of recognition of participation***

Participants** must be **based in the countries of the participating organisations
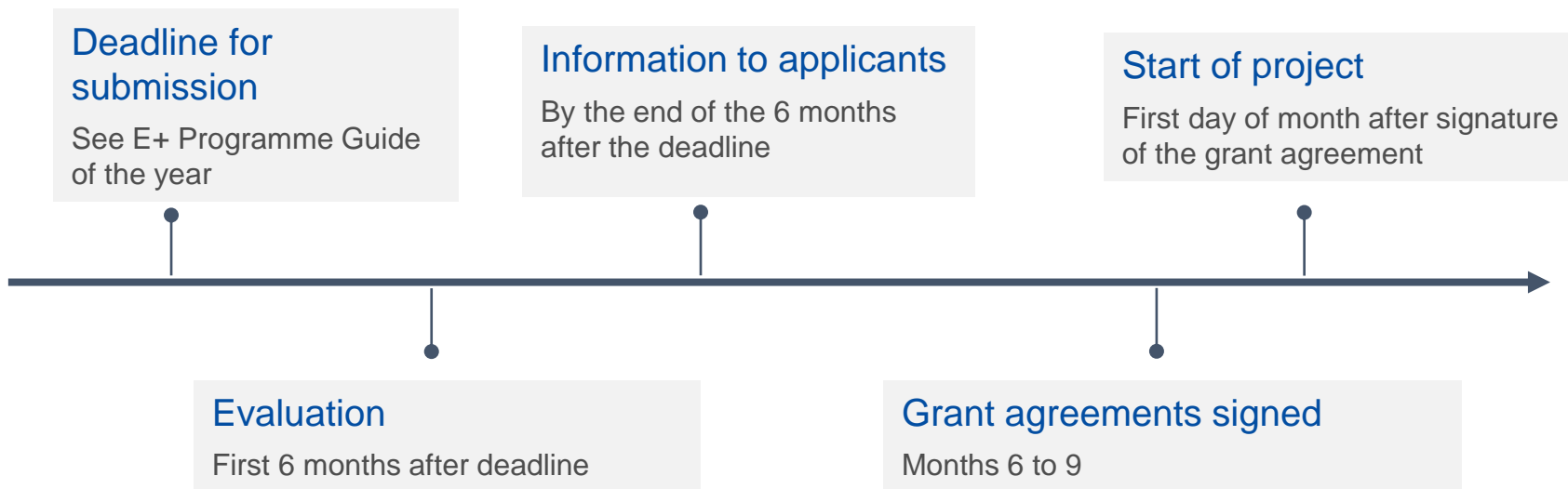
Activities** must take place **in the countries of the participating organisations

Timetable and budget

Indicative timetable
ERASMUS-EDU-20XX-VIRT-EXCH

Deadline for submission
See E+ Programme Guide of the year

Information to applicants
By the end of the 6 months after the deadline

Start of project
First day of month after signature of the grant agreement

Evaluation
First 6 months after deadline

Grant agreements signed
Months 6 to 9

Fixed duration of the projects: **36 months**

Budget

Lump sum based

MAX. EU GRANT PER PROJECT
500 000 €

(with 200 € as maximum investment per participant, i.e. a project of 500 000 € would have to reach at least 2 500 participants)

MAX. EU
CO-FINANCING RATE
95%

Budget available
See E+ Programme Guide

- ❑ *Financial support to third parties in the form of grants or prizes is not allowed*
  - ❑ *Volunteer costs and SME unit costs for SME owners are allowed*
    - ❑ *See section Eligible costs in the Programme Guide Part C*

Geographical target, participating organisations and consortium composition

Which regions of the world can participate?

✓ **EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme** (i.e. Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye)

Third countries not associated to the Programme, eligible regions:

✓ **Western Balkans** (Region 1)

✓ **Neighbourhood East** (Region 2)

✓ **South-Mediterranean countries** (Region 3)

✓ **Sub-Saharan Africa** (Region 9): *geographical target priority for least developed countries and special emphasis on migration priority countries in this region*

The list of countries of these regions can be found in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide

Role of participating organisations

Coordinator: A participating organisation that submits the project proposal on behalf of all the partners.

Full partners: Participating organisations which contribute actively to the accomplishment of the virtual exchanges. They are listed in the financial budget table.

Associated partners: Organisations which contribute to the activities of the virtual exchanges but for contractual management reasons aspects are not considered to be beneficiaries. They do not receive any funding from the Programme (they do not have the right to charge any costs). They are not included in any way in the financial budget table.

Who can apply as coordinator?

Youth organisation or
Higher education institution

Established in EU Member State or third country associated
to the Programme

(i.e. Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye)

Who can participate?

Applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities, if applicable) must be:

✓ established in EU Member State or third country associated to the Programme or in an eligible third country not associated to the Programme (Regions 1, 2, 3 and 9).

✓ legal entities (public or private bodies) and may fall under the following categories:

> **Applicants** must be from _**one**_ of the eligible Regions. Cross-regional projects are not eligible.

- Entities active in the field of higher education or youth (non-formal education),

- Youth organisations,

- Higher education institutions, associations or organisations of higher education institutions, as well as legally recognised national or international rector, teacher or student organisations.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners.

Consortium composition

Minimum 4 independent entities (beneficiaries, not affiliated entities)
from 4 different eligible countries, of which:

Minimum of 2 higher education institutions
or youth organisations
from 2 EU Member States and third
countries associated to the Programme

and

Minimum of 2 higher education institutions
or youth organisations
from 2 eligible third countries not associated to
the Programme
belonging to the same eligible region

The number of organisations from EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme
may not be higher than
the number of organisations from third countries not associated to the Programme

Affiliated entities and associated partners do not count towards the minimum eligibility
criteria for the consortium composition.

Contact

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Thank you!

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European Commission