Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges (EVE): Policy context

- **New Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027**: Objective of boosting international cooperation with third countries, being more inclusive, and supporting the green and digital transitions
- **European Education Area**: Ambitious geopolitical dimension, including contributing to the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
- **Digital Education Action Plan**: A call for action to make education and training systems fit for the digital age, including global cooperation around these issues
- **COVID-19**: Enormous impact upon education and training systems across the world, whose resilience the programme seeks to support
- **EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027**: “Engage, Connect, Empower”
- Call addresses certain policy regions → EU’s regional policy papers

→ Annual calls in the new Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027
Specific objectives of the call (2021)

• Encouraging **intercultural dialogue** with Partner Countries and increasing tolerance through online people-to-people interactions.
• Promoting various types of virtual exchanges, allowing more young people to **benefit from intercultural and international experience**
• Enhancing **critical thinking and media literacy**, particularly in the use of internet and social media
• Fostering **digital and soft skills development** of students, young people and youth workers
• Promoting **citizenship and the common values** of freedom, tolerance and nondiscrimination through education
• Strengthening the **youth dimension** in the relations of the EU with Partner Countries
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 (13–30 years of age) to access high quality international and cross-cultural education (both formal and non-formal) 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.
• **Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges 2018-2020 pilot** can be used as a source of inspiration for new projects!
Expected outcomes

• Wide variety of activities and topics possible, but all projects are expected to have a **learning dimension** and to report on it
  • Online facilitated discussions (as part of youth projects)
  • Training of youth workers for virtual exchanges
  • Online facilitated discussions (as part of higher education courses)
  • Training for university professors/staff for virtual exchanges
  • Interactive open online courses (strong focus on cross-border exchanges)

• The aim is not to fund infrastructure → rely as much as possible on existing tools and platforms

• Projects can be in either in youth or HE sectors, or both → funding has not been earmarked for the sectors
Approaching calls 2021 & 2022

Call 2021

- Deadline 22.2.2022
- Published separately in the Funding & Tenders Portal

**Budget ca. 4 M EUR**

- **Western Balkans** (1 M EUR)
- **Eastern Neighbourhood** (750 000 EUR)
- **Russia** (500 000 EUR)
- **Southern Neighbourhood** (750 000 EUR)
- **Sub-Saharan Africa** (1 M EUR): Applicants are encouraged to involve partners from a wider range of countries in their proposal, including least developed countries and/or partners that have less experience in Erasmus+.

Call 2022

- Deadline 20.9.2022
- Published in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2022 & Call for Proposals

**Budget ca. 6.3 M EUR** (Geographical indicative targets to be confirmed)

- **Western Balkans**
- **Neighbourhood East**
- **Russian Federation**
- **South-Mediterranean countries**
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**: Priority will be given to least developed countries; a special emphasis shall also be put on migration priority countries; no country will access more than 8% of funding foreseen for the Region.
Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges (EVE)

Project duration: 3 years

Eligibility Criteria: What must the partnership look like?

- A minimum of 2 higher education institutions and/or 2 youth organisations from 2 or more different Erasmus+ Programme Countries
- The number of organisations from the Programme Countries may not be higher than the number of organisations from the Partner Countries.

Participants must be located in the countries of participating organisations.
(Call 2021)

**Deadline**
22 February 2022
(17:00 - Brussels time)

**Information to applicants**
August 2022

**Start of project**
November 2022

**Evaluation**
March – July 2022

**Grant agreements signed**
September – November 2022
## Award criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award criteria</th>
<th>Maximum points</th>
<th>Minimum pass score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relevance</td>
<td>30 p.</td>
<td>15 p.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality – Project design and implementation</td>
<td>20 p.</td>
<td>10 p.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality – Partnership and cooperation arrangements</td>
<td>20 p.</td>
<td>10 p.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>30 p.</td>
<td>15 p.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall score</td>
<td>100 p.</td>
<td>60 p.</td>
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Further information & assistance

These calls are managed centrally by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency EACEA. EACEA’s email related to this call: EACEA-EPLUS-VIRTUAL-EXCHANGES@ec.europa.eu

Other information sources (links):
• Call information on EDUFI website
• Call information in Funding & Tenders Portal
• EACEA’s recorded info event of 30 Nov 2021
• Virtual Exchanges in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2022

Applications are submitted through the Funding & Tenders Portal. Technical assistance for Funding & Tenders Portal: IT Helpdesk Contact Form
More information available on the EDUFI website oph.fi/erasmuskorkeakoulutukselle

Thank you!
erasmus.korkeakoulutus@oph.fi