

# ***Virtual Exchanges and Climate Education as a Tool for European Partnership Development for SDGs***

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and the Erasmus+ CLUVEX, UnaVEx and ClimEd projects teams\****

*Session EOS2.5 "From real-world data and perception to climate change education: A call to action"  
EGU-2025, 2 May 2025, Vienna, Austria*

1 - University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

2 - Finnish Meteorological Institute, Helsinki, Finland

3 - Mechnikov's Odessa National University, Odessa, Ukraine

\* <https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU25/EGU25-15778.html>

# Erasmus+ ongoing projects with Virtual Exchanges (VEs):

- ❖ **CLUVEX** – *Climate University for Virtual Exchanges (2023-2026)*

<https://www.atm.helsinki.fi/cluvex>



- ❖ **UnaVEx** – *Una Europe for Virtual Exchanges for Sustainability (2024-2027)*

<https://www.atm.helsinki.fi/unavex>



- ❖ **ClimEd** – *Multilevel Local, Nation- and Regionwide Education and Training in Climate Services, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (2020-2026)*

<http://climed.network>



These projects are coordinated by the University of Helsinki



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



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# Partners of the Projects / Consortia:

## CLUVEX project Partners (budget: 474.359 €)



## UnaVEX project Partners (budget: 499.878 €)



## ClimEd project Partners (budget: 893.692 €)



**In sumup, Partners from Europe (Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Spain),  
Africa (South Africa, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo),  
Armenia, and Ukraine incl. 2 Ministries of Ukraine  
plus, 16 Associated Partners**



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# Online Learning - the Future of Education?

- Concept of traditional education is changing (COVID-19 !)
- Being physically present in classroom isn't the only learning option anymore - not with the rise of the internet and new technologies, at least
- Online learning - access to a quality education whenever and wherever you want, as long as you can get online
- Challenges of distance learning can be little interaction!
- Virtual Exchange (VE) is a tool to increase interaction in distance education!



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**CLUVEX**  
CLIMATE UNIVERSITY FOR VIRTUAL EXCHANGES



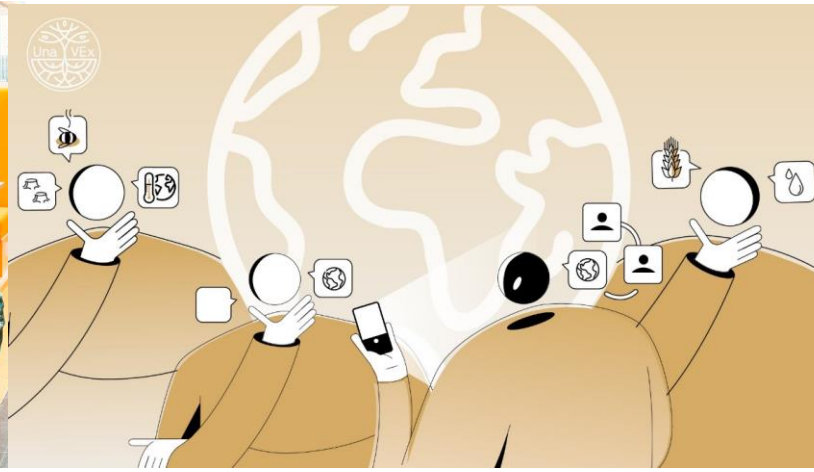
**VIRTUAL BRIDGE**  
BETWEEN EUROPEAN & AFRICAN STUDENTS  
FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES





# General Aims: CLUVEX & UnaVEx

- to design Virtual Exchange (VE) concept for **climate change** & for **sustainability** education
- to bridge students from **European**, **Neighborhood East**, and **African** universities;
- to engage and educate students with competencies in **climate and green agenda together with interdisciplinary, green and soft skills & sustainability**
- to train moderators for **climate change** & for **sustainability** education
- to educate up to 500 students in each 1 VE Week (5 VE Weeks in total, per project)
- to educate altogether **2500** & **2500** students as the “**Climate Messengers**” & the “**Global Sustainability Advocates**” in 3 years
- to upscale VE concept to various networks and partnerships internationally



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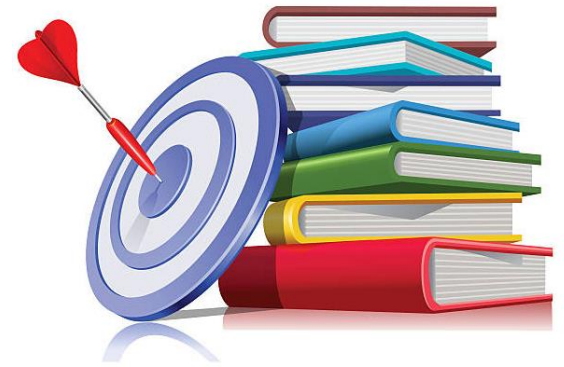
# Welcome to act as a Moderator

The VEs organized by the CLUVEX & UnaVEx projects (led by Univ Helsinki) are currently the largest EU VEs projects in their field **offer a unique opportunity to learn about remote working and teaching in an international environment.**

**Moderators' central role** is ONLINE to support and motivate international and interdisciplinary interactions, discussions, and learning in small groups of students.

## Moderators will

- get the necessary ECTS credits from the University of Helsinki/ Open University,
- get a certificate related to studies and moderator's activities,
- try pedagogy and language skills in international small groups of students,
- learn technical remote working and interaction skills needed in the working life,
- increase personal network with the organizing/hosting/collaborating universities,
- have a unique experience that broadens world view.



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# Calls for Virtual Exchange (VE) Weeks for Students

## Main Activity

- To announce **5 + 5** VE Calls and organize and carry out online in Zoom the interactive trainings called “VE Weeks-for-students” in 2024-2026
- CLUVEX**: VE Week program includes: attendance of plenary sessions (lectures on climate related topics and demo of tools for visualization and analysis of climate related data) + online work (in break-out-rooms) in small groups of students (guided by educated CLUVEX moderators) discussing specific topics of climate change + working on Individual and **Collaborative “Climate Horizon” exercise**.
- UnaVEx**: VE Week program includes: attendance of inspiring guest speakers and discussions on different perspectives on sustainability (sustainable development as a concept and in politics, ecological, social, economic, cultural sustainability) + online work online in small group of students with peers and moderators (guided by educated UnaVEx moderators) discussing and developing a collaborative, **Sustainability-themed Action Task** + self-studying the “Introduction to sustainability” online course.



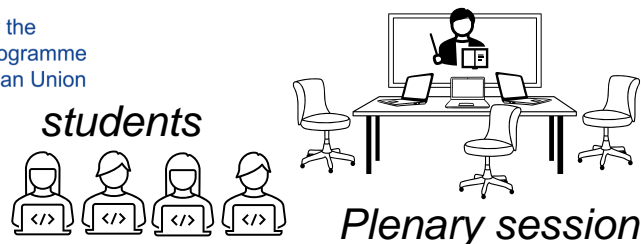
# Virtual Exchange Call for Students

Up to 500 students



## Virtual Exchange Week

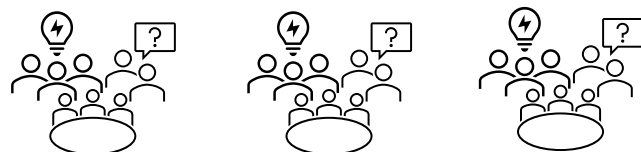
Up to 500 students + up to 50 moderators + tech. support staff



➡ **Monday** ⬅

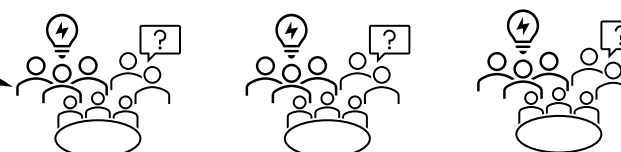


➡ **Tuesday** ⬅



work in groups  
(1 moderator  
& 10 students)  
on e-platform  
on groups' projects

➡ **Wednesday** ⬅



work in groups  
(1 moderator  
& 10 students)  
on e-platform  
on groups' projects

➡ **Thursday** ⬅



Group's projects/ presentations & discussions

➡ **Friday** ⬅



Group's projects/ presentations

**Each VE Week**  
**includes: 3 h**  
**of online work**  
**from Monday-**  
**to-Friday**







**CLUVEX**  
CLIMATE UNIVERSITY FOR VIRTUAL EXCHANGES



# 1st CLUVEX & UnaVEx Virtual Exchange Weeks

## Lecturers and Guest Speakers



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**Sustainable Development as  
a Concept and in Politics**  
President Tarja Halonen



**Ecological Sustainability**  
Prof. Daniel Olago



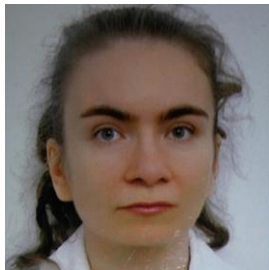
**Social and Economic Sustainability**  
Prof. Evans Njewa



**Cultural Sustainability**  
Prof. Ezio Manzini



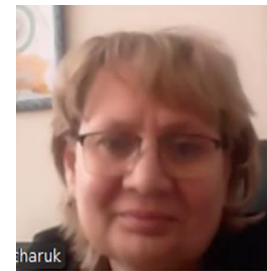
**Climate Change, Disasters, Carbon-neutrality and UN SDGs**  
Prof. Alexander Baklanov



**Navigating Planetary Boundaries**  
Assoc. Prof. Inna Khomenko



**Climate Change Impact on Water Resources**  
Prof. Olga Shevchenko & Sergiy Snizhko



**Nature Hazards – Floods**  
Prof. Valeriya Ovcharuk

**Artistic Research and Critical Thinking**  
Yvonne Billimore



**Impacts of Climate Change and Future Outlook**  
Prof. Hasmik Movsesyan

**Towards Sustainable Future Utopia**  
Prof. Antti Rajala



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# VE Week – Work in Groups on Climate Horizon

*Learning + Communication + Collaboration Platforms (★)*

Example of  
CLUVEX

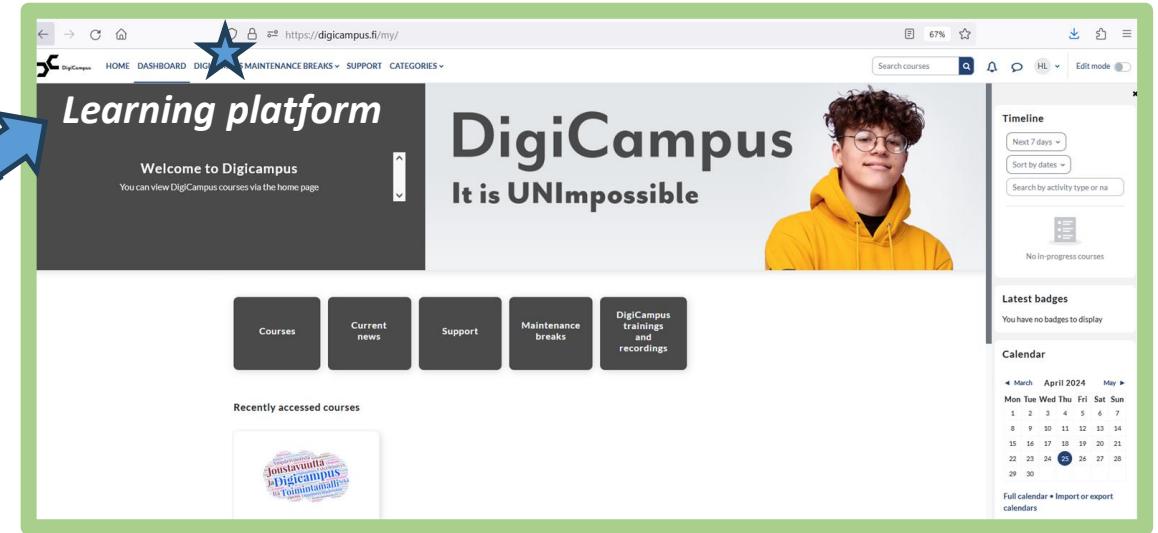


Communication platform

**zoom**



Collaboration platform



## DigiCampus for sharing materials for students & moderators:

- VEG – Virtual Exchaneg Guidebook
- CLG – Climate Literacy Guidebook
- CMC – Climate Messenger Code of Conduct
- Videos+slides of 8 lectures & 3 tools for data analysis
- Group Exercise "Climate Horizon"  
& linking to SDGs
- Questionaries



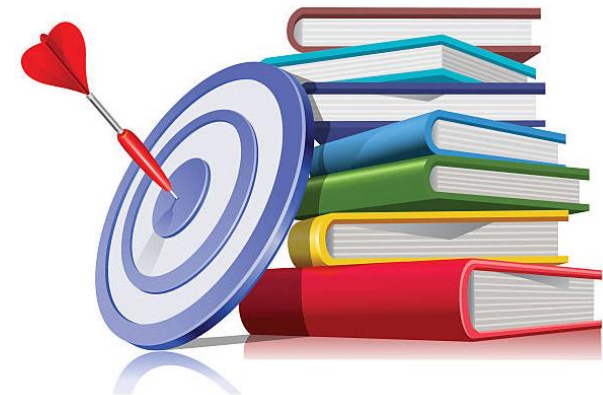


# VE Week – Earned Bonuses for CLUVEX & UnaVEx Students



## Students awarded the following:

- **1 & 1(+3)** ECTS credits by University of Helsinki/ Open University
- **CLUVEX & UnaVEx** Certificate
- Status of **Climate Messenger & Global Sustainability Advocate**
- Welcome to Online Courses of **Climate University & Una Europa and Climate University**





# Welcome to Climate University Online Courses

**Students** (BSc, MSc, PhD, PostDocs)  
who participated in CLUVEX VE Weeks  
and became the **Climate Messengers**



are also encouraged to take the Climate University online courses

<https://climateuniversity.fi>

# Climate University

- brave forerunner in educating  
active sustainability makers for  
the society and business -



## Courses

2-5 ECTS each  
50+ ECTS in total  
CC-BY-SA

[www.climateuniversity.fi](http://www.climateuniversity.fi)



# Welcome to Una Europa & Climate University Online Courses



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BETWEEN EUROPEAN & AFRICAN STUDENTS  
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**Students** (BSc, MSc, PhD, PostDocs)  
who participated in UnaVEx VE Weeks  
and became the **Global Sustainability Advocates**

are also encouraged to take the Una Europa & Climate University online courses

## Building on the Una Europa Micro-credential in Sustainability

<https://www.una-europa.eu/study/microcredential-sustainability/programme-information>



CLIMATE  
UNIVERSITY



Introduction to  
sustainability, 3 ECTS  
University of Helsinki



Climate.now, 2 ECTS  
University of Helsinki



Biodiversity.now, 2 ECTS  
University of Helsinki



Political economy of  
sustainability, 2 ECTS  
Jagellonian University



Sustainability and the  
arts, 1 ECTS  
University of Bologna





# ClimEd Trainings – Approach in VEs



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- Development **programme** with specific focus of training
- **Announcement** of the training & opening web-page (at <http://climed.network/events/climed-trainings>)
- **Web-applications/** evaluation/ informing & assigning **successful applicants** to groups/ granting access to Moodle system
- **Training event** (lectures, home-work-assignments as group's projects, presentations/ defences)  
*lecturing materials (slides & videos) are asap publicly available at web-page of the training*
- **Evaluation** of group's presentations (by lecturers & organizing committee) & awarding certificates
- **E-evaluation** of the training & of own (participants) learning outcomes
- **Self-evaluation** (by ClimEd project) of the completed training





Because **covid19 pandemic**, the originally planned face-to-face trainings were required to be converted into **online trainings**

- (i) **Online lecturing**
- (ii) **Home-work-assignments (HWAs) as groups' projects**
- (iii) **Final oral presentations (projects' defences)** of HWAs with **evaluation** and feedbacks, discussions, and **awarding certificates** (corresponding to ECTS credits)

Moving to face-to-face or onsite events (and combining also with online participation) – hybrid

- (i) **Lecturing** (*combined onsite & online teaching*)
- (ii) **Work in groups** (*onsite vs. online groups OR mixture of online/onsite participants in groups*)
- (iii) **Final oral presentations** of work done in groups with **evaluation** and feedbacks, discussions, and **awarding certificates** (corresponding to ECTS credits)





# Spain & Estonia - ClimEd Trainings 4-7 in 2024-2025



<https://peexhq.home.blog/2024/05/24/climed-training-on-developing-learning-courses-in-climate-services-2/>



<https://peexhq.home.blog/2024/10/16/climed-5th-training-applying-different-technologies-of-blended-online-learning-in-education/>



<https://peexhq.home.blog/2025/02/22/sumup-about-6th-climed-training/>



<https://peexhq.home.blog/2025/02/21/7th-climed-training/>



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# ClimEd Trainings, LOs, Groups, Participants

**Tr#1 : Competence-Based Approach to Curriculum Development for Climate Education (10 LOs)**

**12 Groups – 46**

*(19 April – 12 May 2021) / Online – completed*

**Tr#2 : Adaptation of the Competency Framework for Climate Services to conditions of Ukraine (5 LOs)**

**12 Groups – 56**

*(29 June – 26 August 2021) / Online – completed*

**Tr#3 : Digital tools and datasets for climate change education (12 LOs)**

**12 Groups – 45**

*(26 October – 12 November 2021) / Online – completed*

**Tr#4 : Learning courses' development in climate services considering needs of different users (7 LOs)**

**12 Groups – 50 persons**

*(6-10 May 2024) / Onsite-Hybrid (Spain) – completed*

**Tr#5 : Applying different technologies of blended/on-line learning in education (5 LOs)**

**8 Groups – 34 persons**

*(30 Sep – 4 Oct 2024) / Onsite-Hybrid (Estonia) – completed*

**Tr#6 : Mastering technologies of massive open on-line courses development for general public (6 LOs)**

**15 Groups – 58 persons**

*(10-14 Feb 2025) / Onsite-Hybrid (Estonia) – completed*

**Tr#7 : Skills to use climatic information and services for climate-dependent branches of economy (9 LOs)**

**16 Groups – 79 persons**

*(7-11 Apr 2025) / Onsite-Hybrid (Spain) – completed*





# Acknowledgements

- To all **guest speakers, lecturers, moderators** – for their professionalism, enthusiasm and commitment to the trainings & To all **organizers** and **hosts** of the CLUVEX, UnaVEx and ClimEd training events
- To all **colleagues/ participants** of the Erasmus+ CLUVEX, UnaVEx and ClimEd projects teams:
  - *Olga Schevchenko, Sergiy Snizhko, Inna Khomenko, Natalia Kriuchkova, Natalia Bulat, Arsen Aproyan, Alexander Markarov, Karen Chazaryan, Yvonne Billimore, Eliisa Suvanto, Piritta Puhto, Alexander Baklanov, Roman Nuterman, Maher Sahyoun, Oleh Shablii, Sergiy Stepanenko, Anna-Stina Sinisalo, Melissa Plath, Francesco Maria Spampinato, Ana Beaven, Alessia Marchi, Francesca Primi, Katrien Pype, Julie Metta, Anneleen Cosemans, Allison Dunne, Jan Van Ongevalle, Laure Van Hoecke, Lee-Ann Modley, Isaac Rampedi, Anisa Khan, Solomon Derese, Justus Munyoki, Anne Kamau, Margaret Jesang Hutchinson, Raphael Tshimanga Muamba, Cush Ngonzo, Gode Bola, Lisette Bonso, Felly Ngandu, Emmanuel Tsadok Mihaha, Kalev Sepp, Volha Kaskevich, Veljo Kabin, Anton Shkaruba, Tetyana Kryvomaz, Jon Xavier Olano, Enric Aguilar, Anna Boqué, Manola Brunet, Gisella Cebrian, Iryna Bashmakova, Yuri Rashkevych, Marek Frankowicz, Inna Osadchuk, and Markku Kulmala*
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