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CLUVEX
CLIMATE UNIVERSITY FOR VIRTUAL EXCHANGES



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

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TREnD Staff Training Program 20. April. 2026



CLUVEX
CLIMATE UNIVERSITY FOR VIRTUAL EXCHANGES



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

TREnD Staff Training Program 20. April. 2026

AGENDA

- **Overview of CLUVEX & UNAVEX ERASMUS+ Virtual Exchange projects & concept (e.g Moderators & staff training program & guidelines)**
- **Climate Horizon Exercise (CLUVEX) & Sustainable Action Task (UNAVEX)**
- **Education platform "DigiCampus" for moderators & students (e.f. reports & credits)**
- **Video-demo of Miro Boards**
- **Q&A**



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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**

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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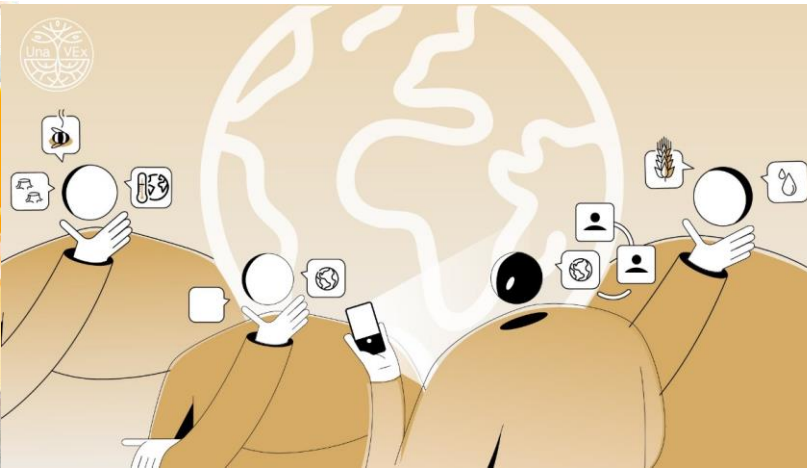


VIRTUAL BRIDGE
BETWEEN EUROPEAN & AFRICAN STUDENTS
FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES



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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VIRTUAL BRIDGE
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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.

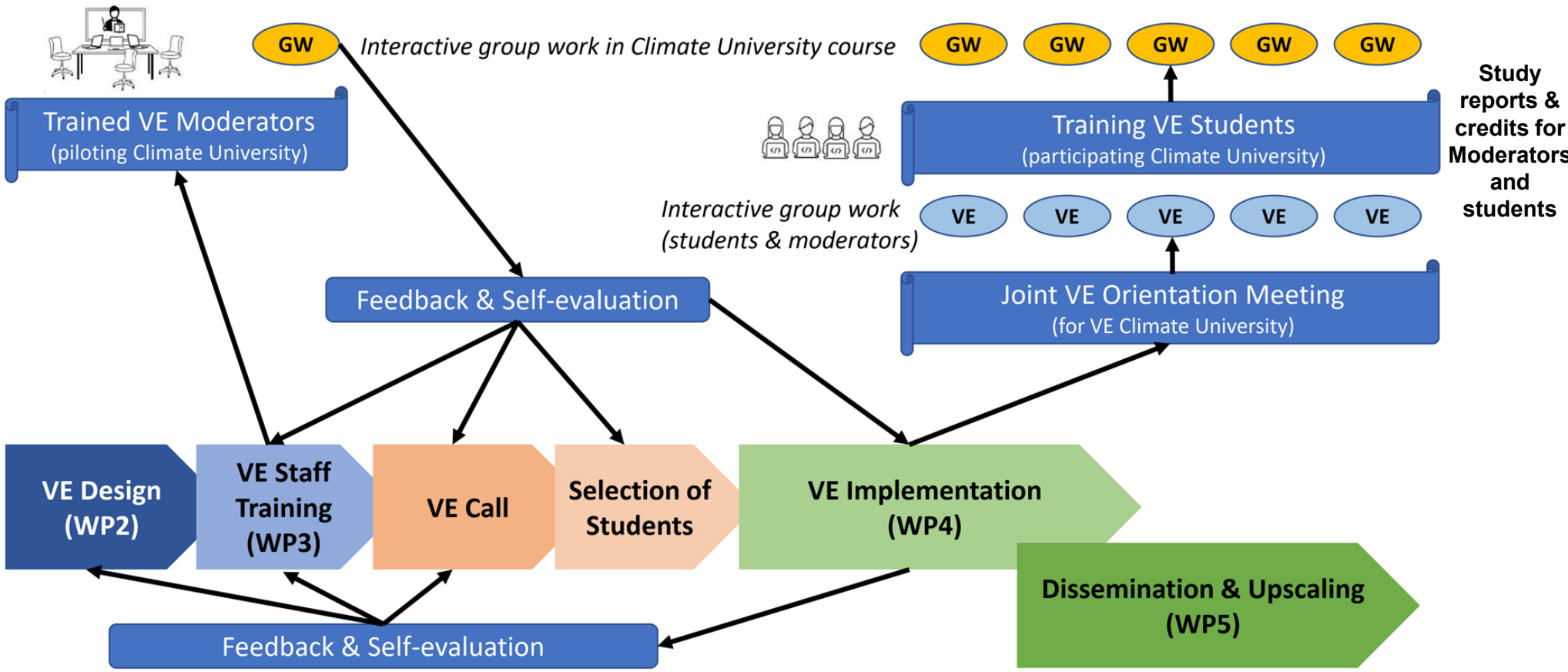


Virtual Exchange (VE) concept



UnaEuropa Online Courses Running...

Climate University Online Courses Running Lectures & Group Work



"Global Sustainability Advocate"

Building on the Una Europa Micro-credential in Sustainability

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



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

"Global Sustainability Advocate"

Seven/Eight weeks per cohort

Core

One day

Induction

30%

Two/Three Weeks

Introduction to sustainability

30%

Four days

Virtual Exchanges



UnaEuropa
for virtual exchanges

Electives

Plus any two of the following

20%

2 Weeks

Climate.Now



20%

2 Weeks

Biodiversity.now



20%

2 Weeks

Political economy
of sustainability



20%

2 Weeks

Sustainability
and the arts



Global Sustainability Advocate

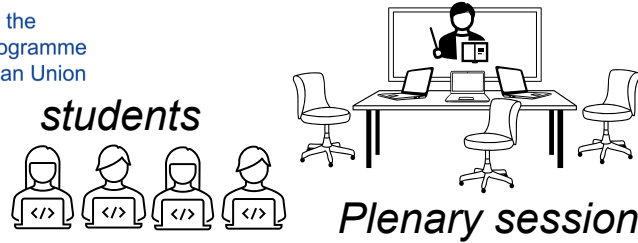


Virtual Exchange Week

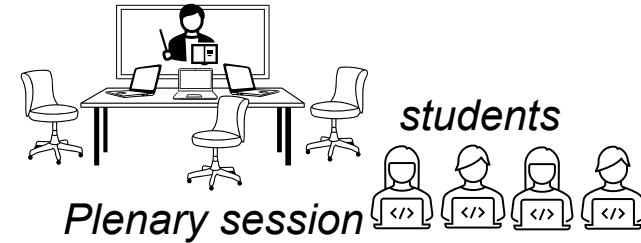
Up to 500 students



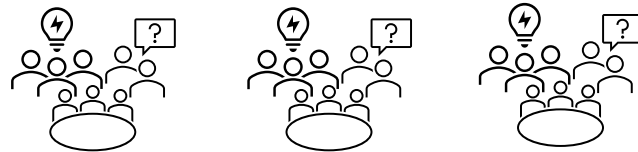
Up to 500 students + up to 50 moderators + tech. support staff



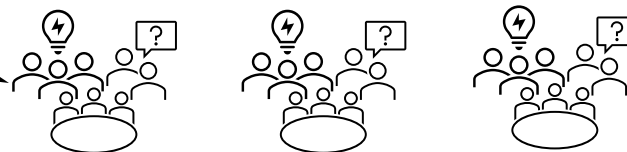
Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



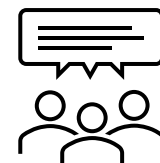
*work in groups
(1 moderator
& 10 students)
on e-platform
on groups' projects*

Thursday

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



Friday



Group's projects/ presentations & discussions

Group's projects/ presentations

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





Moderators & Staff

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.**

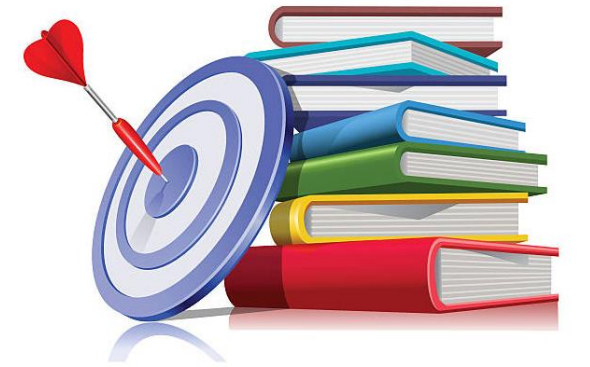
Moderators' central role is ONLINE to support and motivate international and interdisciplinary interactions, discussions, and learning in small groups of students.

Moderators (doctoral students) 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.

Staff (team members)

- are experts in technical implementation, teaching and international cooperation
- provide guidance and organize the technical environment for virtual exchanges (Zoom)
- define study objectives and prepare teaching materials, assignments and lectures
- are also people with a wide international network, for example to spread the Call-for-virtual-exchange-week





Code of Conduct – Being Together Online



What we welcome:

- Be on time (plan 5' in advance) so we can start our meetings in a relaxed manner.
- Leave your camera on - if possible- so that we do not speak to black tiles. Especially in online formats it is important to see each other.
- Get involved in the encounters to create a space of personal exchange and trust. This includes closing distracting apps and putting your phone aside. By doing this, you will support yourself and the group to listen actively and participate in the discussion. This will make our exchange a better experience for you and everyone else.
- Be brave: Think about your own prejudices, privileges, norms and assumptions. Stay open to new ideas and to challenges to hegemonic concepts of social and cultural power relations in which you may be embedded. This might include reflecting on the relationship between knowledge and power, not assuming someone's pronouns.
- Treat each other with kindness and engage in discussions with respect so we can spend a memorable time together.
- Make use of the raise your hand Zoom button before speaking, mute yourself when not (unless agreed otherwise).
- Let other people finish when they speak while at the same time be mindful as not to overtake the meetings so that everybody has a chance to express themselves.

What we don't welcome:

- No discriminatory behaviour will be accepted. This includes inappropriate jokes, sarcasm, and irony.
- No form of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, ageism, xenophobia and other forms of discriminatory and abusive behaviour will be tolerated.
- No patronizing, condescending or humiliating behaviour is accepted.
- Mansplaining, bullying and harassment is not welcomed.
- Neither external sharing of private information of our participants is allowed nor social media posts that include this kind of information nor photos of our group without prior consent



Climate Messenger Code of Conduct (CMC)

- ✚ To follow the moderator's instructions and guidelines regarding active and respectful participation in discussions during VE Week.
- ✚ To open (if required and when agreed) the camera to demonstrate personal attendance to the VE Week. If there are any internet connection issues, to comply with the moderator's alternative suggestions for confirming attendance.
- ✚ To respect the timing agreed for personal talking turns, as well as giving the other participants their own speaking turns.
- ✚ To complete all activities and tasks personally (by yourself), not copying and submitting others' answers, as well as not to give personal answers to be copied by others.

- ✚ Listen to each other and treat others' opinions with an open mind, kindness, and respect. Without prejudice.
- ✚ Do not assume the identity, sexuality, gender, pronoun, health or sickness, ability, or background of others. Respect the diversity of experiences and cultures in your group.
- ✚ Be aware of your prejudices, privileges, behaviour, and the space you occupy. Humbly accept if your comments have been hurtful and/ or offensive and apologise when needed.
- ✚ Motivation in fully online courses is a key attitude for maximising your experience in CLUVEX. Please, do not hesitate to ask for small breaks or different ways of participating in discussion more suitable for your case.

. Instructions for unexpected situations (remote disconnection)

- ✚ at first, try to re-connect to Zoom again in a while
- ✚ at second, try to restart your computer and connect to Zoom again
- ✚ at third, if these above are not successfully working, please, contact the VE Week technical manager: Mikko Kulmala mikko.kumala(at)Helsinki.fi
- ✚ at fourth, if it is still not working, please, contact the moderator of your group and inform about your situation.
- ✚ Note that VE Week **educational materials and tutorial videos are on the DigiCampus** platform. You can familiarize yourself with these and study independently until the remote connection is re-established or restored.



Welcome to **UnaVEx** Moderators' Training Program

IMPORTANT DATES !

Thursday 21. Nov 2024

Training 1: UnaEuropa VE concept & practicalities

Thursday 5. Dec 2024

Training 2: UnaEuropa MOOCs and Q&A

Thursday 23. Jan 2025

Training 3: Soft skills for communication and supporting the discussion

Thursday 6. Feb 2025

Training 4: UnaVEx Group Exercise and other tasks

Thursday 13. Feb 2025

Training 5: Orientation for the VE and Q&A

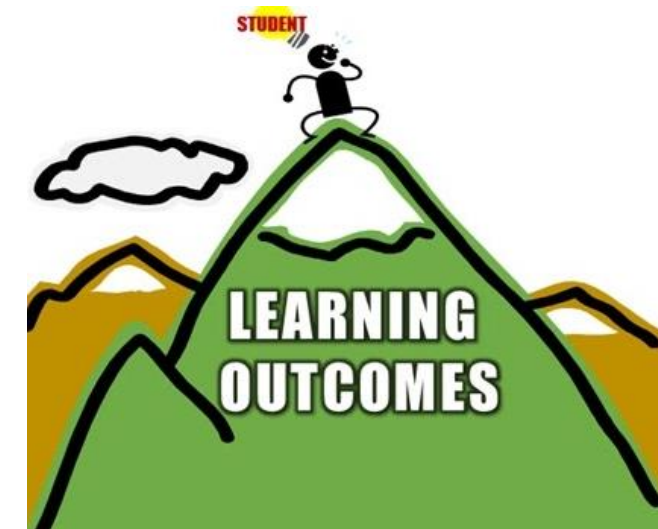
at 14-16 Helsinki / Johannesburg time
at 15-17 Nairobi time
at 13-15 Kinshasa / Bryssel / Bologna
time

VE Week – Learning Outcomes for 1 credit point

/Certificate/

CLUVEX

- Basics of the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and anthroposphere interaction and feedbacks.
- Basics of climate change based on latest science: Planetary boundaries concept, Last methodological tools used in observing the Earth System.
- Understanding of the human role from different perspectives like ethical, social, different cultural backgrounds in climate change, adaptation, and mitigation advances.
- Critically reflect owns views on climate change, sustainability, and create new visions.
- Reflect different international and intercultural perspectives on climate change and sustainability.
- Reflect about global versus local challenges in finding adaptation and mitigation solutions.
- Work together in different online working environments.
- Work and be part of an international teams and manage small joint projects.
- Communicate and present their work in English.
- Learning basic study skills such as use of open data, literature search, critical reading and thinking.



CLUVEX & UnaVEx Virtual Exchange Weeks



Lecturers and Guest Speakers



Sustainable Development as a Concept and in Politics
President Tarja Halonen



Ecological Sustainability
Prof. Daniel Olago



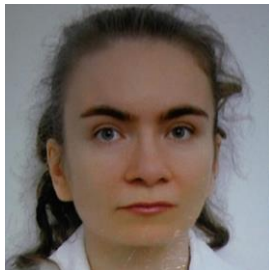
Social and Economic Sustainability
Prof. Evans Njewa



Cultural Sustainability
Prof. Ezio Manzini



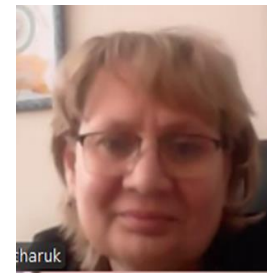
Climate Change, Disasters, Carbon-neutrality and UN SDGs
Prof. Alexander Baklanov



Navigating Planetary Boundaries
Assoc. Prof. Inna Khomenko



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



Nature Hazards – Floods
Prof. Valeriya Ovcharuk

Artistic Research and Critical Thinking
Yvonne Billimore



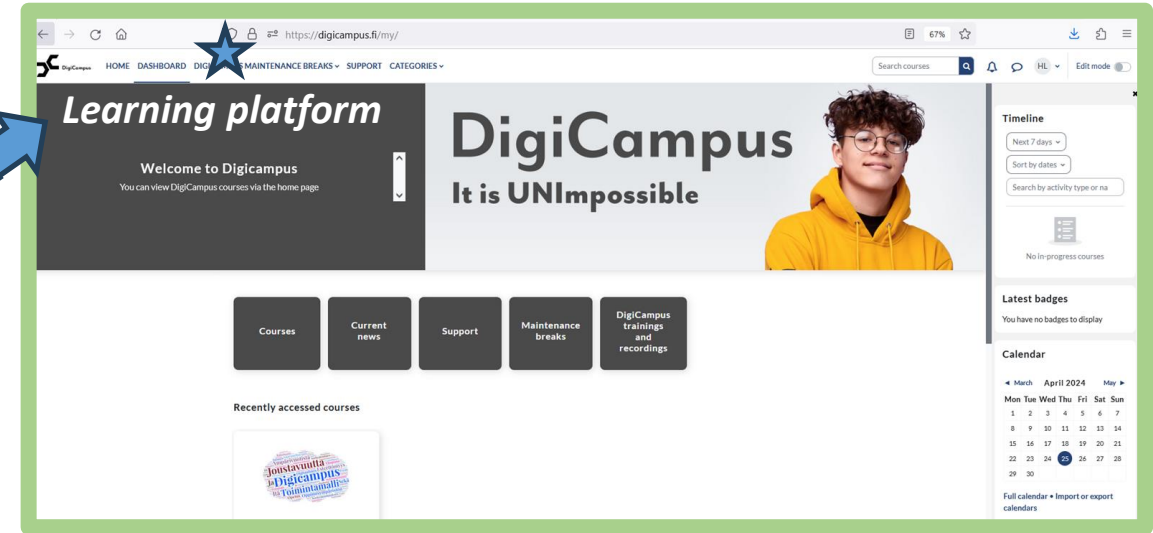
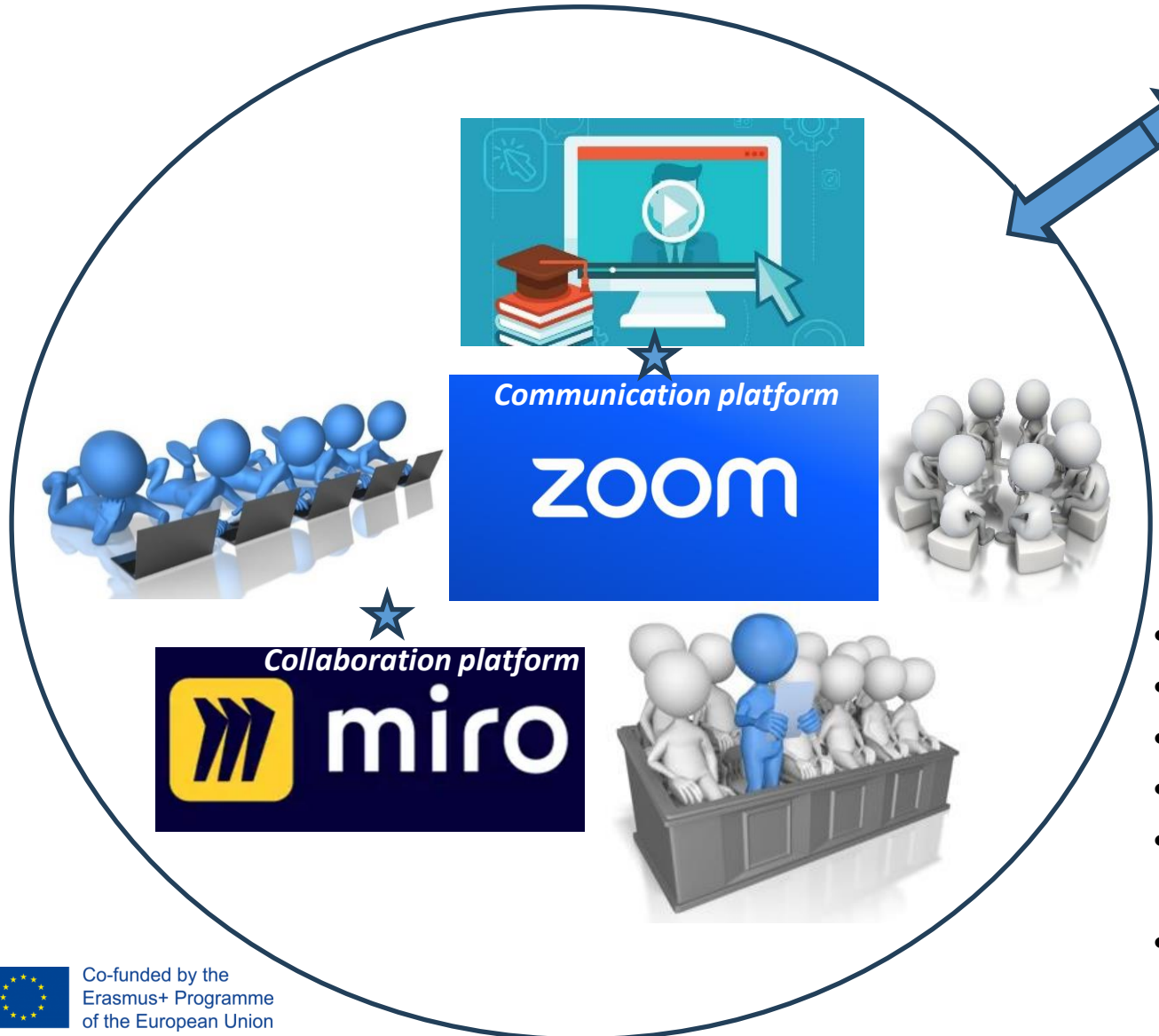
Impacts of Climate Change and Future Outlook
Prof. Hasmik Movsesyan

Towards Sustainable Future Utopia
Prof. Antti Rajala



VE Week – Work in Groups on Climate Horizon

Learning + Communication + Collaboration Platforms (★)



DigiCampus for sharing materials for students & moderators:

- VEG – Virtual Exchange 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
- Questionnaires

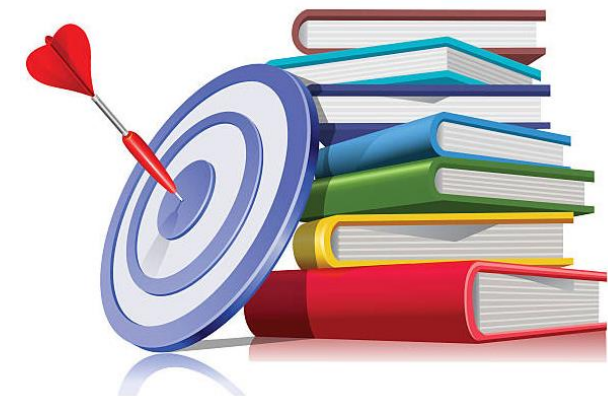


VE Week – Earned Bonuses for CLUVEX & UnaVEx Students



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



SUSTAINABLE NOW



CLIMCOMMS.NOW



SYSTEMSCHANGE.NOW



CIRCULAR NOW



CLIMATE.NOW



LUKIOLAISEN ILMASTO.NOW



STATISTICAL TOOLS



SOLUTIONS.NOW



LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE CHANGE



BIODIVERSITY.NOW



FORESTS AND CLIMATE



LIVING WITH CHANGING CLIMATE

Welcome to Una Europa & Climate University Online Courses

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>



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



- **Climate Horizon Exercise (CLUVEX)**
- **Sustainable Action Task (UNAVEX)**

- **Education platform "DigiCampus" for MODERATORS:**

<https://digicampus.fi/course/view.php?id=5313>

STUDENTS

<https://digicampus.fi/course/view.php?id=5314>

- **Video-demo of Miro Board (UNAVEX, CLUVEX)**

<https://www.helsinki.fi/fi/unitube/video/a52ce74f-d4a7-4e26-8279-84bc95c51f14>

<https://www.helsinki.fi/fi/unitube/video/d28d9261-d9f9-46a2-8116-dfc9bfb4e160>

Acknowledgements

Special Thanks

- 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:
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