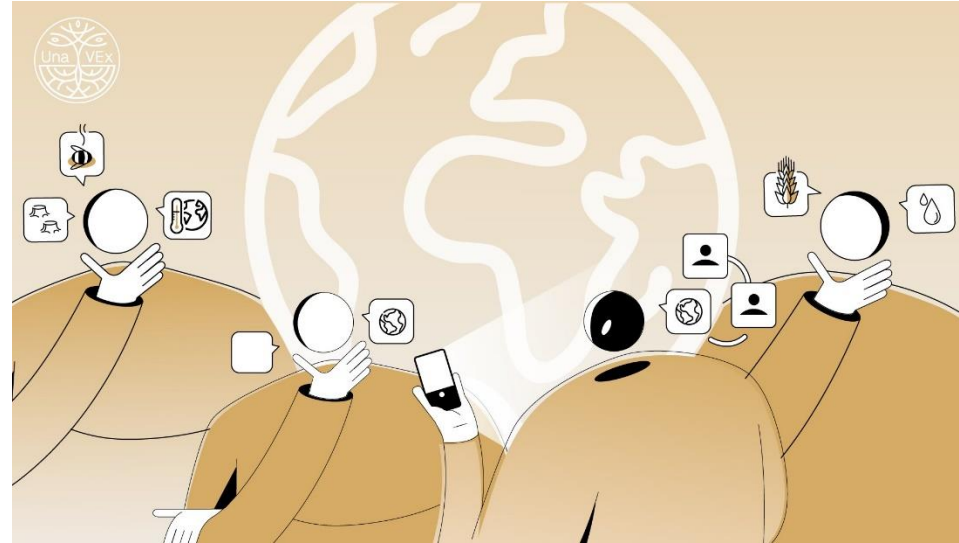


Una Europa - Virtual Exchanges for Sustainability — UnaVEx —

EU Programme Erasmus+
UnaEuropa Africa WG meeting 26.June.2024
On-line



Virtual Exchange - Definition

<https://evolve-erasmus.eu/about-evolve/what-is-virtual-exchange/>



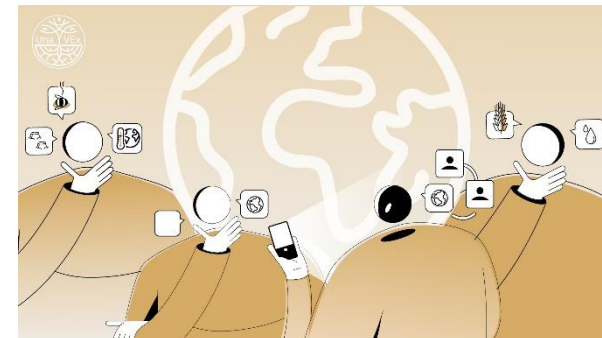
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VIRTUAL BRIDGE
BETWEEN EUROPEAN & AFRICAN STUDENTS
FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

- **Interaction**: ongoing with frequent and deep engagement
- **Tech-supported**: utilizing modern media/technologies with real-time meetings using interactive platforms (like Zoom)
- **Interpersonal**: promoting dialogue across cultures and positive action for lasting relationships
- **Learner-driven**: participants take the lead in knowledge exchange and creation through dialogue, drawing from personal experiences
- **Moderated**: guided by trained moderators / educators
- **Educational**: integrated into formal / informal learning to enhance skills, knowledge, and attitudes fostering positive behaviors
- **Promotes mutual understanding**: covering topics such as identity, empathy, and critical reflection to enable conversations amidst cultural differences

- Concept of traditional education is changing (COVID-19 !)
- Being physically present in a 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 is a tool to increase interaction in distance education

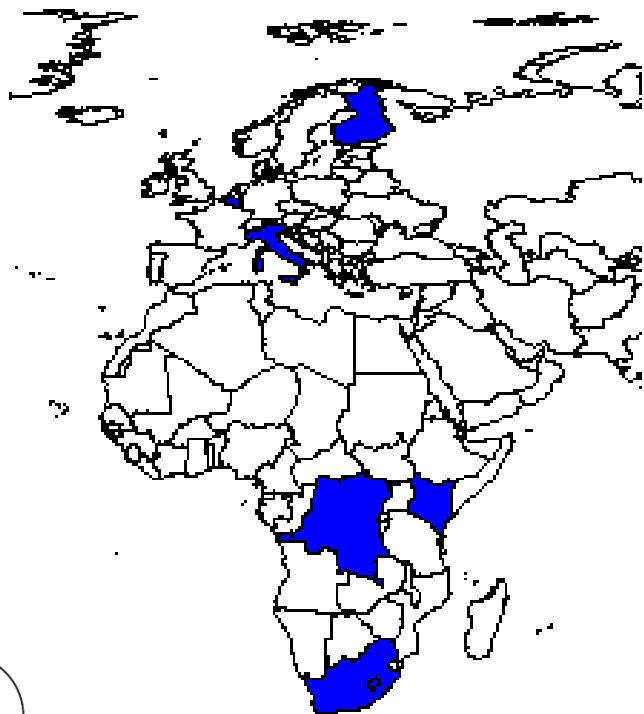


<https://www.educations.com/articles-and-advice/5-reasons-online-learning-is-future-of-education-17146>



European Union Aims for Virtual Exchange

- to bridge students from European and African higher education institutions
- to engage students with sustainability competences together with interdisciplinary, green and soft skills
- to bridge students coming from different disciplines, backgrounds, regions to UnaEuropa education



In our project “UnaVEx” we aim to educate altogether 2500 students as “Global Sustainability Advocate” in 3 years : one of biggest VE projects !

Action Type: Virtual Exchanges in Higher Education and Youth
Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals
Project Number: 101139159
EU Grant: 499 878.00 €
Project duration: 17 Jan 2024 – 17 Jan 2027 – 3 years project (Gant Agreement signed 17.Jan)
Coordinator: Institute for Atmospheric and Earth System Research (INAR) at the University of Helsinki,
Website: <https://www.atm.helsinki.fi/unavex/>

Partners

1. HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO FI Coordinator (*Una Europa partner university*)
2. ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA IT (*Una Europa partner university*)
3. KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN BE (*Una Europa partner university*)
4. UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG ZA
5. UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI KE
6. UNIVERSITE DE KINSHASA CD



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

UNIVERSITÉ PARIS 1
PANTHÉON SORBONNEUniversiteit
LeidenUNIVERSIDAD
COMPLUTENSE
MADRIDJAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY
IN KRAKÓW

Associated Partners

1. UNA EUROPA BE
2. UNIVERSITE PARIS I PANTHEON-SORBONNE FR
3. UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID ES
4. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IE
5. FREIE UNIVERSITAET BERLIN DE
6. UNIVERSITEIT LEIDEN NL
7. UNIWERSYTET JAGIELLONSKI PL





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UnaEuropa for Virtual Exchange (UnaVEx)



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COORDINATOR

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IN KRAKÓW



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DE KINSHASA

KU LEUVEN

UnaVEx virtual exchange(s) aims

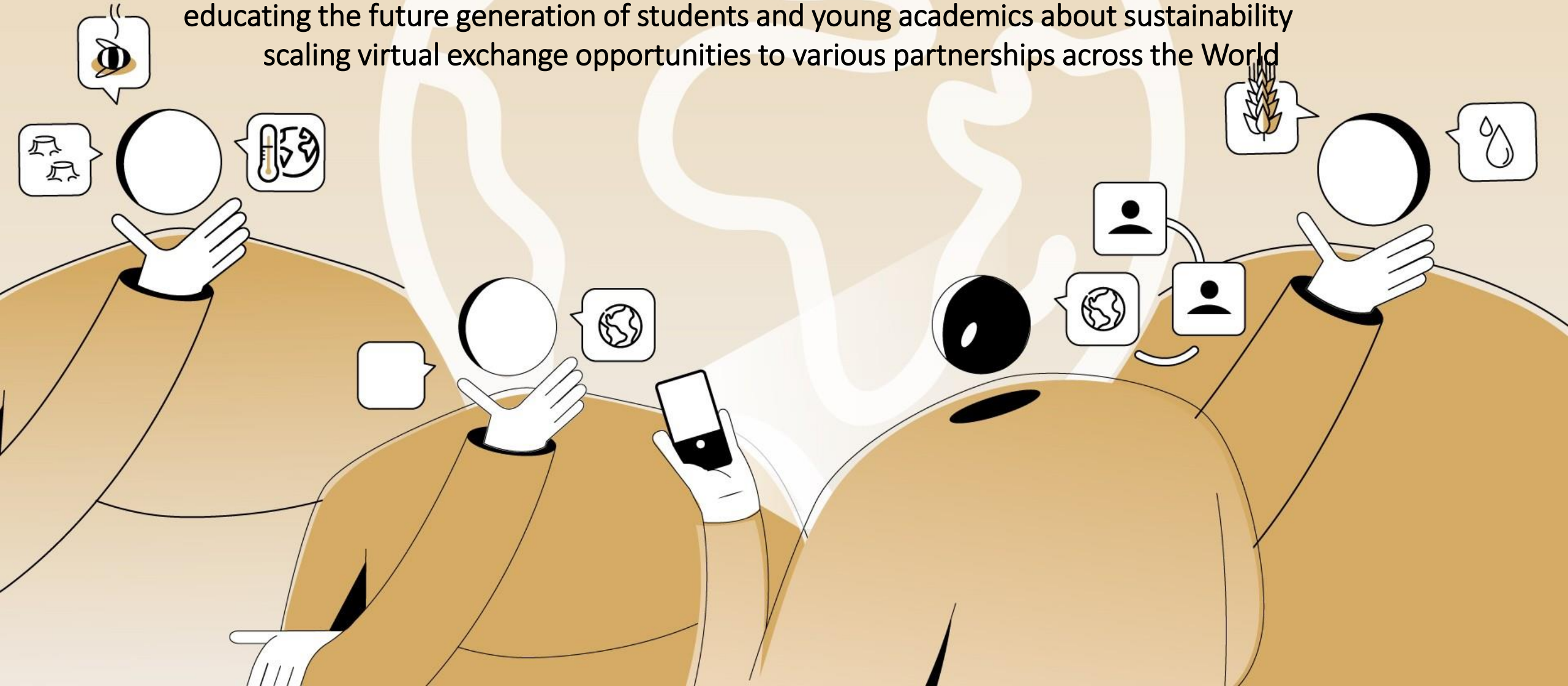
equipping students across the globe with high-quality sustainability education

design of impactful virtual exchange framework for sustainability education

training international facilitators for sustainability education in a European and African context

educating the future generation of students and young academics about sustainability

scaling virtual exchange opportunities to various partnerships across the World



UnaVEx virtual exchange(s) concept



- 500 students on-line (50% -50%) x 5 VE workshops; focus on early career students
- 50 groups :1 moderator & 10 students
- educate altogether 2500 students as *”Global Sustainability Advocate”* in 3 years
- 5 x organizing Virtual Exchange (VE) Weeks

PARTNER	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	NUMBER OF MODERATORS (50 MODERATORS PER VE-WS)
University of Helsinki FI	416 (83 per VE)	8-10 moderators per VE
Universita di Bologna IT	416 (83)	8-10 moderators per VE
Katholieke Univer. Leuven BE	416 (83)	8-10 moderators per VE
University of Johannesburg ZA	416 (83)	8-10 moderators per VE
University of Nairobi KE	416 (83)	8-10 moderators per VE
Universite de Kinshasa CD	416 (83)	8-10 moderators per VE



UnaVEx Bodies & their roles



- **UnaVEX Steering Committee / Project partners:**
 - Coordinator, project manager & WP leaders : project implementation
- **UnaVEx Collaborators / Associated partners:**
 - distribution of the calls: Call(s) for moderators / Call for virtual exchange week
 - support for recruiting moderators and students
- **Expert Advisory Board (Advisory Board) / The UnaEuropa – Africa Working Group:** U-Edinburgh, U-Bologna, Ucollage Dublin, Eduardo Mondlane Univ., U Ghana, U Helsinki, Jagiellonian U., U. Johannesburg, Kampala Int. U-., Leiden U., KU Leuven U., Mekerere U., U Nairobi, U. Witwaterstrand
 - CR will provides regular updates on an annual basis for feedback & advice
 - Support for districbuting the calls & recruiting moderators and students
 - Support for recruiting plenary speakers to VE weeks
- **Student Advisory Board**
 - Students who have participated the UnaVEX VE can join the SAB

UnaEuropa – Africa Working Group: Suggestions for practical actions

- Each university could have a contact person who could assist with recruiting moderators and disseminating virtual exchange call
 - It is important that we get the leaders of master's and doctoral programs involved in the network, as they have direct contact with students.
- It would be beneficial to discuss virtual exchange regularly in the Africa working group meetings so that we can hear the group's views and advice. Students participating in the virtual exchange come from different cultures and have different practices, which are important to consider during the planning and implementation phase.
- We also need suggestions for inspiring plenary speakers for the virtual exchange week. The speakers should represent the values and community of UnaEuropa. We are eager to hear the working group's suggestions and to utilize the group's opportunities to invite speakers.
- Perhaps the members of the working group could serve as UnaVEX ambassadors within their own networks. We can create a short promotional material for this purpose.

"Global Sustainability Advocate"

Seven/Eight weeks per cohort

Core

One day

Induction

30%

Two/Three Weeks

Introduction to sustainability

30%

Four days

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



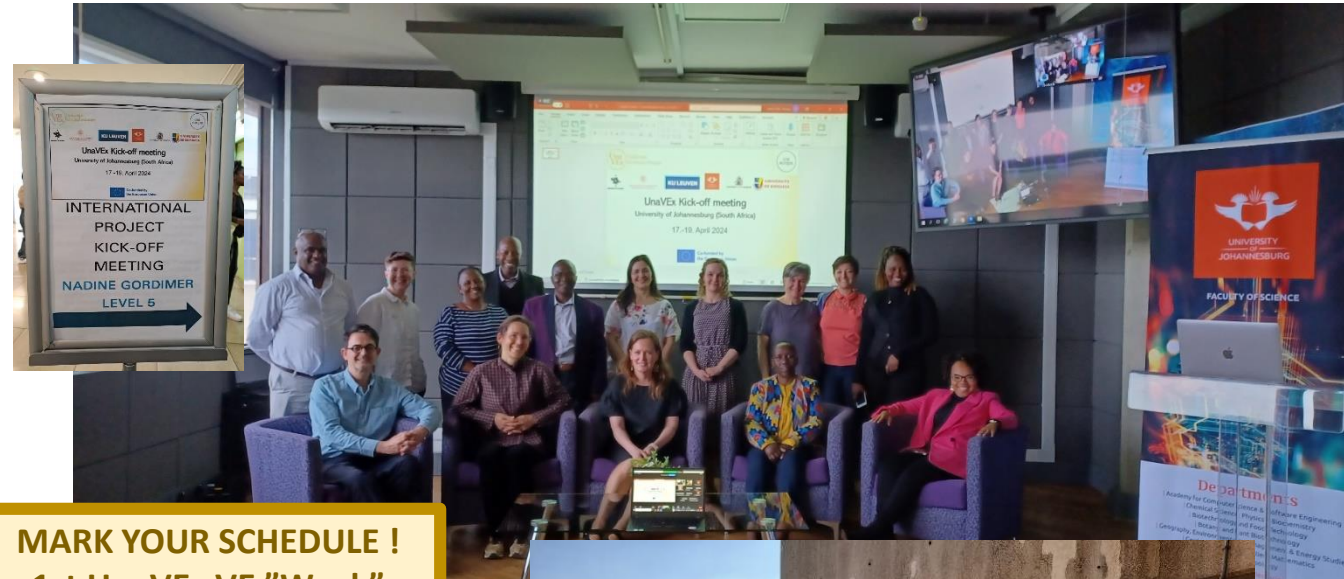
Building on the
Una Europa
Micro-credential
in Sustainability
<https://www.una-europa.eu/study/microcredential-sustainability/programme-information>

Global Sustainability Advocate



UnaVEx Schedules

- Kick Off in Johannesburg 17-18 Apr.2024
- Organization of calls, preparation of DigiCampus e-platform in Apr-Oct 2024
- Training of moderators; end of 2024 / early 2025)
- 1st Virtual Exchange Week
Feb/Mar 2025 (4 x VE week(s)
dates tbc)
- Mid-term in Kinshasa, June 2025
- Final meeting (on-line) Dec 2026 / Jan 2027



MARK YOUR SCHEDULE !
1st UnaVEx VE "Week"
Mon 24.Feb.2025
Fri 7.Mar.2025
Fri 14.Mar.2025
Fri 21 Mar .2025
Fri 28 Mar.2025



Una Europa - Virtual Exchanges for Sustainability – UnaVEx –

Key Message

We aim to engage 2,500 students over the next three years by actively promoting virtual exchanges at partner and associated universities. Also the support from the networks like UnaEuropa-Africa WG is crucial for the successful implementation of the project.



THANK YOU !



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