

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

NEWCOMERS AND NATIONALISM: Exploring the Challenges of Belonging in Europe

Overview

This NEWCOMERS AND NATIONALISM interactive open online course invites refugees and non-refugee students from all over Europe and the Southern Mediterranean to learn together in an interactive, online classroom.

Students of this intercultural exchange will explore belonging from the perspectives of newcomers in Europe and those that moving towards a more nationalistic and anti-European sentiment. Asking: What attracts newcomers to Europe? What makes others want to move away from the European Union?

Stimulated by video lectures from expert academics and practitioners, students exchange ideas and perspectives in a video-conference room and participate in an interactive assignment that brings the online experience to the offline reality. Students develop transversal skills such as self-esteem, curiosity and cross-cultural communication skills and will be awarded Erasmus+ digital Badges highlighting the skills achieved.

Programme

Integration and diversity

WEEK 1: Setting the scene

This opening week sets the context for the recent migration into Europe, giving an historical perspective of migration in and out of Europe and an introduction to the terms: migrant, asylum seeker and refugee.

WEEK 2: Open identities

How are identities shaped in pluralised societies? In this week we unpack notions of identity and explore how the movement across borders affects our own understandings of belonging.

WEEK 3: Who can come in?

Here we look at the rules that restrict migration. Including how the movement of people across borders is politically framed and physically contained.

WEEK 4: Integration and diversity

What makes successful integration? How can we know if integration is working? In this week we explore different ways of belonging to a society and the best practices for cultivating diverse societies.

Nationalism

WEEK 5: Forced migration and membership

This week explores the complexity and grey areas of nation-state membership such as stateless peoples, undocumented migrants, dual citizens and 'failed' asylum seekers. What are the rules and realities of belonging?

WEEK 6: Politics of belonging

Where and with whom do you feel you belong? Here we consider how the politics of nationalism, racism, gender, citizenship and other identities construct and shape our belonging and our place within society.

WEEK 7: Globalization to tribalism

Fast flows of information, ideas, money and goods has made the world open and more connected. At the same time there are growing trends to strengthen national and local identities. Where will these forces lead us?

WEEK 8: Symbols of a nation and 'homeland'

What role do the symbols and memories of homeland play in shaping our belonging and identity? Can a nation survive without stories and symbols?

Brexit

WEEK 9: Brexit: Why did Britain vote to leave?

The voices of public and experts are presented on the motivations and implications of Britain voting in a national referendum to leave the EU. How will this affect the strength of the EU? Could this trigger other nations to withdraw too?

WEEK 10: Future outlook

In our closing week we turn the platform over to you. What ideas do you have for cultivating integration together?

Learning Outcomes

- **Knowledge:** Students gain a multi-disciplinary understanding of the European refugee situation and the politics of EU and nation state membership. The programme will consider the issues faced by refugees and newcomers when integrating as well as how European host societies deal with diversity.
- **Community engagement:** Opportunity not only to learn and explore the subject matter from experts across Europe, but also to conduct primary research in the form of interviews to contribute to the European-wide video narrative project. Together these dialogues present the diversity of voices from communities around Europe.
- **Cross-cultural:** Students build confidence in speaking honestly and respectfully on controversial and complex issues in a cross-cultural environment. Equally they learn how to listen receptively and value contrasting perspectives.
- **Interpersonal:** Develop bonds of trust, understanding and support for their fellow peers through a process of getting to know each others' views and experiences as individuals.
- **Technology:** Gain experience in virtual communication and essential technical capabilities.
- **Transversal skills:** Our evaluation indicates that students who participate in our programme develop a set of skills that are considered highly valuable to employment, academic achievement and personal growth. These competencies include increased self-esteem, curiosity, tolerance of ambiguity, decisiveness and resilience.

Assignments

- **Watch and give feedback on the video lectures:** The video lectures on the 10 themes are designed to provide participants with food for thought for their seminars. These stimulating videos are presented by academics, practitioners and the public. Participants watch the video lectures on the weekly theme and then fill out a short form with their comments and thoughts.
- **Active participation in, and preparation for, weekly seminars:** Seminars will be held at the same time and day each week for the 10-week programme and last 2 hours. The seminars are in small groups that balance a diversity of nationalities and backgrounds. Members of the groups will stay together throughout the programme and will be hosted by the same facilitator. All participants are expected to have watched and reflected on the video presentations prior to their seminars so that they can share their ideas and perspectives with each other.
- **Conduct short video interviews to contribute to European-wide video dialogue project:** In seminar groups, participants will think up questions that they deem important to ask the wider public. They will take these questions out to their communities and invite neighbours, friends, family or a member of public to give a 1-minute answer. Collectively, participants can expect to collect 100s video interviews that are designed to present a broad spectrum of European perspectives to the refugee situation.
- **Individual reflection diary:** After each seminar participants are encouraged to reflect on the issues, ideas and feelings that arose during the week by filling in a short online form/diary. Over the 10-weeks this will create a record of their development on both the issues and the virtual exchange process.

- **Final reflection piece:** Using their personal reflection diaries as a starting point, participants can then choose from a number of creative options to express their learning experience.
 - Option 1 is a reflection essay of 1500-2000 words.
 - Option 2 is a creative output such as a photo essay, piece of music, drama script, comic strip, sculpture, dance performance, 'infographic', or self-interview. Along with a short reflection piece of 500-1000 words.

Assessment

- **Assessment** is based on the satisfactory participation in, and completion of, the above assignments.
- **Grading:** Pass/Fail grading system is used.
- **Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange Badge:** Students completing the programme will be awarded Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange badges indicating their achievements. There are three element badges: Participation, Videologue and Assignments. There is a final Milestone badge awarded for the achievement of these three element badges.

ECTS

- **Teaching:** video-lectures and seminars (4hrs/week).
- **Preparation and assignments:** preparation for seminars; presentation; survey contribution; video narrative assignment; final reflection piece (9hrs/week)
- **130 hours:** 20 hours contact teaching time. The hours are not reflective of the weekly workload but rather it is given as an average over the 10-week programme which allows longer preparation time for the assignments.

Participants

Participants in this programme come from across Europe and the Southern Mediterranean. We value the high level of diversity in our programmes as strength and therefore welcome enrolment for all students interested in discussing themes related to refugees across the world.

We have worked over the past years with the following educational institutions and welcome further participation of other universities and schools.

- ✓ BELGIUM - Vesalius College Brussels
- ✓ ESTONIA - University of Tartu
- ✓ FINLAND - Network for European studies at the Helsinki University
- ✓ FRANCE - Bordeaux University
- ✓ FRANCE - Paris Descartes University
- ✓ GERMANY - Kiron Open Higher Education
- ✓ GERMANY - Osnabrück University
- ✓ GERMANY - University of Bamberg
- ✓ GREECE - Aristotle university of Thessaloniki
- ✓ HUNGARY - Corvinus university in Budapest
- ✓ IRELAND - Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin
- ✓ IRELAND - University of Limerick
- ✓ ITALY - Bologna University
- ✓ ITALY - Next generations Global Studies group, University of Padova
- ✓ NETHERLANDS - Utrecht Centre for International Studies
- ✓ NETHERLANDS - University of Groningen

- ✓ POLAND - SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw
- ✓ PORTUGAL - ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa
- ✓ NORWAY - University of Oslo
- ✓ SLOVAKIA - Comenius University of Bratislava
- ✓ SPAIN - University of Granada
- ✓ UK - University of East London

Join our autumn 2018 programme

For further information, please contact:

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Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange is part of the Erasmus+ programme, providing an accessible, ground-breaking way for young people to engage in intercultural learning. Working with Youth Organisations and Universities, the project is open to any young person aged 18-30 residing in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean.

Through a range of activities, Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange aims to expand the reach and scope of the Erasmus+ programme through Virtual Exchanges, which are technology-enabled people-to-people dialogues sustained over a period of time.

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange offers a safe online community to participate in facilitated discussions, increasing intercultural awareness and building 21st Century skills through Virtual Exchange. The project encourages and promotes intercultural dialogue, employability, and citizenship, strengthening the youth dimension of the EU neighbourhood policy.

This flagship project is established under a contract with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, financed by the European Union's budget, and it is implemented by a consortium composed of Search for Common Ground, Anna Lindh Foundation, UNIMED, Sharing Perspectives Foundation, Soliya, UNICollaboration, Kiron Open Higher Education, and Migration Matters.