

Call for participation

Would you like to offer your students the opportunity of to internationalise their curriculum by taking courses from other universities? Are you interested in opening up your courses to an international audience? Are you looking for partners to build a Virtual Erasmus network? Then visit the EPICS website at www.eadtu.eu/epics/ or contact us at secretariat@eadtu.eu.

EPICS is one of the key initiatives in bringing virtual mobility out of the pilot phase and into the mainstream.

Consortium of the EPICS-project:

European Association of Distance Teaching Universities (NL), EuroPACE (BE), Linköping University (SE), Open Universiteit Nederland (NL), Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (ES), Open University United Kingdom (UK), Estonian Information Technology Foundation (EE), Università Telematica Internazionale Uninettuno (IT), Universidade Aberta (PT), FernSchweiz (CH), Anadolu University (TR)

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Do you need more information? Please contact the EADTU (project coordinator): www.eadtu.eu, secretariat@eadtu.eu or by phone +31-455762214.

The EADTU is a membership organisation and is Europe's institutional network for open and flexible higher education.

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Virtual Erasmus

New opportunities for International Student Mobility

Background

The Virtual Erasmus initiative's main objective is to increase student mobility throughout Europe and to support the realisation of a European Higher Education Area. It has been set-up against the background of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) which has as one of its key objectives increasing participation in lifelong learning and international student mobility by people of all ages. This includes those who are not physically mobile due to work, family and/or physical reasons.

Currently only 1% of the European student population is participating in international academic mobility and the only way in which the ambitions of the Bologna process and the Lifelong Learning Programme can be realised is through a supplement scheme to the physical mobility models. This supplement is Virtual Erasmus.

From physical Erasmus to Virtual Erasmus!

With Virtual Erasmus, universities can enhance the quality of their curricula as well as their international profile. Participating students benefit from easily accessible high quality European courses, enabling them to further individualise and specialise their learning portfolio.

The overall concept of Virtual Erasmus is similar to that of physical Erasmus: a student enrolled in a university degree programme leaves the home university for one or two terms to study a portion of the degree at a foreign university. This university must be part of the same Erasmus network. In Virtual Erasmus universities select online courses from another university via the EPICS database, which fit into one (or more) of their degree programmes and match their quality criteria. If a student acquires ECTS points in one of these pre-assessed courses it is guaranteed that those points will be recognized towards the degree at the home university.



Building on former initiatives on virtual mobility

Several projects on virtual mobility have shown its benefit as a supplement to physical mobility. In the European project EPICS these initiatives on virtual mobility have been gathered together to build mainstream, institutional scheme of virtual mobility, Virtual Erasmus.

The centralised Virtual Erasmus web portal EPICS

The backbone for Virtual Erasmus is the European Portal for International Courses and Services (EPICS). It contains a searchable database of all distance and e-learning courses available to an international audience as well as a range of useful information and supporting tools for Virtual Erasmus. The database is regularly updated and serves as a matchmaking facility for future Virtual Erasmus networks.