MOBILITY – PHYSICAL, VIRTUAL, BLENDED

Explore the evolving landscape of academic mobility in this practical session. What are the benefits and challenges of physical, virtual, and blended mobility formats, and how each can support diverse learning and teaching goals.

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EU4Dual

invest
A European University Alliance
The Competitive University for a Sustainable Society

OPETUSHALLITUS
UTBILDNINGSSTYRELSEN

YUFE

Workshop, 1 h 30 min (10-11.30)

1. Warm-up activity

2. Discussion (1 h)
- Examples of good practices (15 min):
  - Niina Huovinen, Metropolia, U!REKA alliance
  - Mobility windows, Arqus alliance
- Group discussions (45 min)

3. Wrap-up (15 min)

Why a jointly developed embedded course?

→In the application we promised to embed at least one co-created compulsory course on sustainable development in the curriculum of all bachelor and master students in U!REKA partner universities to ensure that all students, irrespective of their field of education,

- →get the basic knowledge and skills related to sustainability,

- →develop a U!REKA mindset and attitude of belonging to the larger alliance as well as to their own individual universities and

- →get low-threshold exposure to an international learning experience.

Contributes towards 50% mobility target

→We consider completing the jointly developed online course a virtual mobility -> Our main tool for reaching the 50% student mobility target!

→Naturally we also encourage and develop other mobility opportunities:

COILs, BIPs, hackathons, semester exchanges, an open online course offer, internship programme, joint degree programmes

Where are we now?

→A group of teachers from all partner universities worked together to create a 1 ECTS online course called "Sustainability in the European Urban Context". The bachelor-level course is now ready. The course

→can be completed at own pace

→doesn't have interaction between students or teachers (not virtual *exchange*!)

→can be embedded into a larger module or offered as a standalone course (each institution finds a solution that works for them)

→has been integrated as a compulsory part of all Metropolia AMK degree programmes as of autumn 2025

→Teachers are now working on a solution for master-level. Not a one-size fits all, but somethign more flexible.

Benefits   and   challenges

→A low-threshold glimpse of international learning for everyone

→Students also learn about the alliance

→If successful, can lead to high numbers

→Fairly easy to collect numbers for reporting

→Far from a transformative exchange experience

→No interaction between participants

→Some partners struggle to embed due to e.g. high autonomy of faculties

→Requires constant teacher and admin resources to keep the course running and contents up to date

MOBILITY WINDOWS AT ARQUS ALLIANCE

Arqus alliance example:

- aim to support new forms of structured mobility via mobility windows
- annual call to support creation of mobility windows
- 9 projects funded à 3000 €
- to be used for organizational support (e.g. staff costs, travel etc)

More information: https://arqus-alliance.eu/call/mobility-windows/