



With the support of the
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Online Symposium
November 18, 2021:

Online Learning and
Virtual Exchange-
The Future is Now.

CHALLENGES TO VIRTUAL INTERNATIONALIZATION

Eva Janebová, Ph.D.
Christopher Medalis, Ph.D.

Institute for Excellence in
Internationalization
Palacký University Olomouc, Czech
Republic, www.iei.upol.cz



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VIRTUAL TEACHING AND LEARNING FATIGUE

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HUGE TIME INVESTMENT INTO:

Finding **international partners**, and **co-instructors** (COIL)

Recruiting international students and interns

Synchronizing academic schedules, requirements

The design of a international course with **Internationalized Learning Objectives**

Use diversity inclusive **teaching methods**

Work on **language skills** to teach comfortably (EMI)

More **IT skills** to learn (social media, new platforms...)

...**No remuneration from COVID depleted university budgets** 😞



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COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES ALL THE TIME

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- **Multiple sources of misunderstandings**
- In physical classroom/office much information is conveyed „on the side“ – „**learning just happens while people are around**“
- Much more intentional, **more instruction** to be provided, much more attention to details to prevent misunderstandings
- **Emails** without reading the other's faces, but so many incorrect „reading between the lines“
- **English** – lingua franca (full comprehension and expression)
- **Time zone differences** (interns work in different working hours than mentors and rest of the team)





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HOW TO BUILD A „SENSE OF COMMUNITY“

Include **synchronous and asynchronous components** and opportunities for students to connect and work with each other in various modalities that they are comfortable with

Virtual classroom is now the world where **curricular and extracurricular** community and student life needs to happen

Include **Student cafes, familiarization activities** early on: ice-breakers

Student **engagement activities**: small group discussions, projects,..

Asynchronous exchanges: written assignments, blog posts, videos, incorporate external social media





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HOW TO INCLUDE EVERYONE?

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- Provide PPTs or videos **in advance**
- Give **audio** descriptions of **visual** elements
- **Clear design**: not too many bullets, use high contrast colors
- Read comments in **chat box**
- Include dial-in info for those with low bandwidth
- Make sure all have access to materials
- Use text captioning and other platform features for those with disabilities

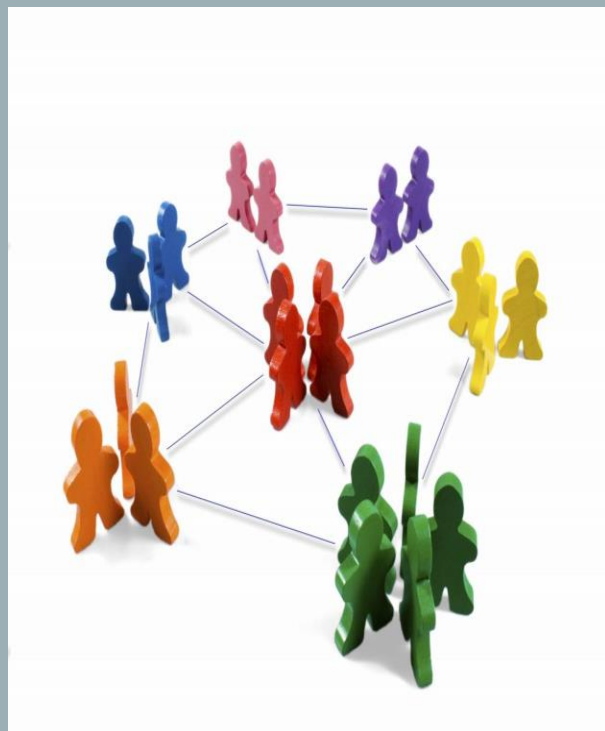




INTERDISCIPLINARY CROSS-INSTITUTIONAL **COLLABORATION** REQUIRED

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In order to create and execute quality virtual exchanges you should seek collaboration of your university's:

- **IRO** – cultivating and maintaining university partnerships and the intercultural dimension
- **Academic/Pedagogical Centers** – teaching support and Professional Development
- **Centers for Student with Special Needs** - inclusion and well-being
- **IT** – tech support
- **Instructors** – trainings and support on how to create and deliver an international online classroom
- **Students** – provide motivation to them, get feedback from them