

Developing intercultural competence and work-related skills of alumni thanks to a virtual exchange project

Hana Delalande - Masaryk University Marta Kobor - University of Pécs / Dativus Translation Marie Beillet - Paris Nanterre University



Presentation outline



- What is COIL?
- About our COIL: an EDUC course of 4 universities over 5 years Career project preparation for French-speaking students and intercultural differences linked to labour market in different European countries
- Feedback management: challenges and adjustments > mobility
- Cooperation with alumni & career and study opportunities
- Evolution from COIL to CHILL

Context



VE (Virtual Exchange):

"[...] the engagement of groups of learners in extended periods of online intercultural interaction and collaboration with partners from other cultural contexts or geographical locations as an integrated part of their educational programmes and under the guidance of educators and/or expert facilitators. (O'Dowd 2018, p. 5. quoted by Knorr 2023)

• Umbrella term : COIL, telecollaboration, e-tandem, etc.





- ➤ 'virtual mobility' (in the EU)
- ➤ 'online course' (some teachers/instructors)
- ➤ 'online teaching' (response to COVID pandemics)
- ➤ 'not a technology, or a technology platform, but a new approach to teaching and learning which provides faculty and students the ability to communicate directly and immediately with their peers far away' (Rubin 2016, p. 134, cited in Nixon et al. 2021, p. 31)





- 1. Cross-border collaboration and interaction with students and staff
- 2. Interdisciplinary perspectives
- 3. Asynchronous and synchronous collaborative online interaction
- 4. Learning outcomes aims at developing global perspectives and/or foster students' intercultural competences



Our project :

COIL Career project preparation for French-speaking students and intercultural differences linked to labour market in different European countries

European Digital University (EDUC)

Since 2021

4 universities of EDUC alliance

- Masaryk University (Hana Delalande)
- University of Pécs (Márta Kóbor)
- University of Rennes (Hélène Muscat)
- University of Paris Nanterre (Marie Beillet)
- + French HR specialist (Delphine Guillot)

Since 2025

 University of Economics and Business of Bratislava (Andrea Tureková)





Cohort composition



Autumn 2021: 40 students (14 CZ, 15 FR, 11 HU)

Autumn 2022: 16 students (9 CZ, 3 FR, 4 HU)

Autumn 2023: 18 students (6 CZ, 4 FR, 8 HU)

Autumn 2024: 18 students (6 CZ, 4 FR, 8 HU)

Autumn 2025: 21 students (11 CZ, 5 FR, 5 SK)



Principles



Goals:

Intercultural competence development

International teamwork / cooperation

Gain confidence when speaking about career projects and one's experience

Motivate students to study or/and work abroad

Timetable:

Online workshops (synchronous) Mondays 8:00 – 10:30

Asynchronous project work: mixed groups of students from all universities

Topics/tasks:

Intercultural communication (French and English)

Teamwork management

CV + cover letter preparation + Job interview simulation

Team project management and final presentation





Independent work in small groups, creativity, cooperation, task & time management, negotiation...

Examples of project topics:

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'Girl power – gender equality';
'Covid 19 – sanitary pass';
'Impact of Covid 19 in society (psychological consequences, at university, at work)';
'Working online';
'Culture and students' life';
'Effects of energetic crisis on educational systems';
'Attitudes towards EU'; Daily routine of European students;
'University internships as a lever for professional integration'
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Students' feedback and overall evaluation



Interviews and questionnaires (students' feedback surveys)

Identification of strengths and weaknesses of the course

Students' needs analysis

Tracking alumni employability/success & Cooperation with alumni

Research topic identification

Challenges

Time issues

150 min of online presence on Monday (early) mornings

Timetable collision

Digital issues & fatigue

Technical problems with wi-fi connection, camera, micro

Too many tools and platforms, difficult to follow all of them

Lack/loss of motivation

Too much theory

Long periods of silence & passivity during plenary sessions / group meetings

Motivation of students from French universities

Linguistic difficulties

Dominance & loss of motivation for native French speakers

Difficulties for non-native speakers of French

Course adjustments based on feedback



More practical seminars and group activities

More interaction and development of soft skills

Giving the students the tools to overcome moments of silence

Workshops and activities in English as the common language

Equal conditions for all participants

Fostering empathy (what it's like to express themselves in a non-native language)

Better marketing of the course (at French Universities):

European project, experience of intercultural project management

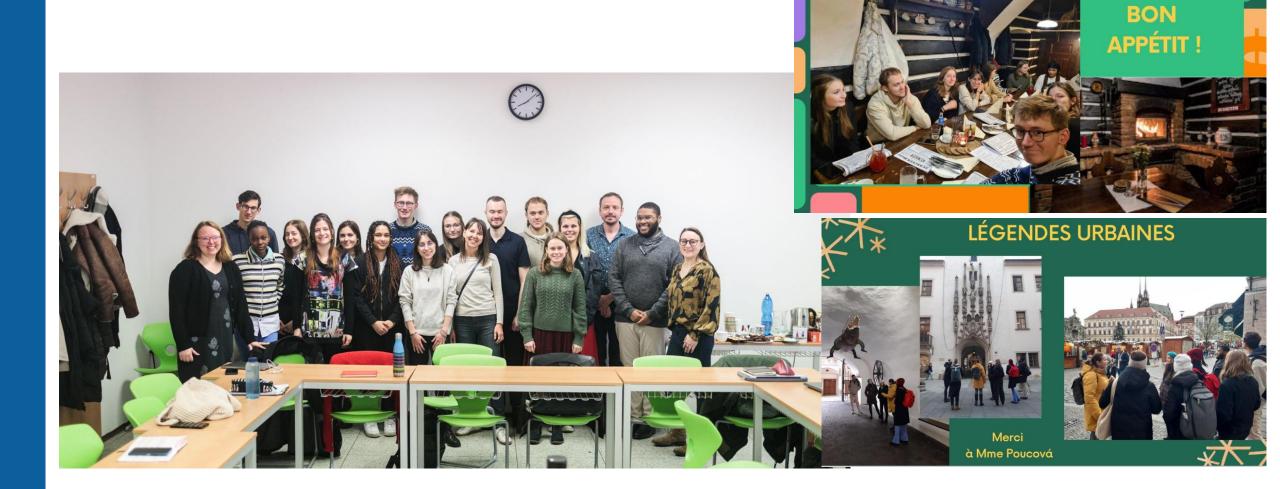
One-week mobility, with HR-coaching and final project presentations in person

Hosted each year by a different partner university: Brno (2023), Pécs (2024), Rennes (2025)

Bridging the gaps between students and alumni: a round table during the in-person sessions

Physical mobility and final presentations Brno 2023





Physical mobility and final presentations Pécs 2024





Physical mobility and final presentations Rennes 2025







Physical mobility and final presentations Rennes 2025





Students' feedback



"The workshop on the job interview really allows you to understand this important stage of entering the labour market. In a much more relaxed manner thanks to the preparation."

"Conducting a project and group work online enables students to develop new collaborative strategies (working tools, respecting deadlines, tasks management within the group, new meeting methods, etc.)."

"Taking the EDUC course confirmed my desire to develop professionally in diverse environments. This course helped me feel more comfortable and confident during an internship in an administration abroad. Thanks to the tools provided by the professors during the course, my integration was made easier."

"This EDUC virtual mobility encourages me to consider physical mobility in the near future."

Cooperation with alumni & career and study opportunities



Internships in the Czech Republic

2-month internship in Brno / Masaryk University

Selective Master's programme integration

Attractiveness of student profiles with experience participating in European projects

Double-degree studies

Potsdam-Rennes

Brno-Rennes

EDUC gap semester and EDUC summer schools

Discovery of EDUC alliance's partner universities

Alumni as ambassadors

Motivating new students, feedback, information on career opportunities

Internships in Brno: Eve (2023)









Internships in Brno: Malo et Alban (2024)







Internships in Brno: Loevan et Annwenn (2025)









Double degree studies: Alban and Jean-Marc





Na unlkátním mezduniverzitním studijním programu Veřejná správy (Administration Publique) spolupracuje (ekonomicko-správní fakulta s Université de Remes už 25 let, program se zatím ale vyučoval jen ve francouzsko-české vezt. Vloní však obě urjety otevřely i francouzsko-anglickou variantu programu rubite Administration (Administration Publique) a Jean-Marc byl prvním studentem, který se do programu zapase.

"Do Braa jsem se dostal dídy mé vyučující z Rennes, která úž dlouhé roky vyučuje v double degree programu. Zmírali jsem se jí, že bych chtěl jet studovat magistra do zahraniči, a ona mi hned navrhla, ať čakusím Masarykovu miverzitu. Tak jsem pešlivě prostudoval obsah studia, poptal jsem se páz radmých z česka. Ti mi MUNI j Bran odporučili. Lákalo mě mít dva díplomy a žit uprostřed Evropy," říká francousných student.

Začátky n Masarykově univerzitě pro něj ale nebyly jednoduché. V úzce specializovaném studijním programu byl jediný zahraniční student. Začal se proto přáčelit se studenty z českého programu a se zahraničními spolužíky, které potkal na anglicky vyučovaných předmětech. Vypomáhal s výukou francouzátiny na pedagogické fakultě a další spolužíky poznal i v meziuniverzitním online kurza z allance EDUC.

"V Brně se mí od začátku líbilo, a když jsem v jarním semestru nastoupil na stáž na Jihomocavský kraj na oddělení vnějších vztahů, byl jsem ještě nadšenější. Přesně tyhle mezikulturní zkušenosti mě moc iškaly. Organizovali jsme návštívy ashrančních delegac, zúčastní jsem se významných akcí jako URBIS Smart Čity Pair a navíc jsem zblítak viděl, jak funguje veřejná správa v Česku. Zvažují práci ve francouzském státním sektoru nebo přímo v Evropské unii, takže možnost vidět rozdíly v samosprávách byla velmí cenná."

Kromě stáže se student zapojil jako dobrovolník do organizoviní Brne Expat Fair pro cixince, na kterou přišlo téměř dva stisice účastníků. Momentšíně má za sebou dva semestry studia 8 Prně, v zář scala třetí semestr v Řennes a na něj v posledním semestru naváže povinná zahraniční stáž a diglomová práce.

Do Brna se plámuje vrátit v červnu na státní závěrečné zkoušky, už teď mu ale prý město, které má ideální velikost, skvělé bary a restaurace i záviděníhodnou veřejnou dopravu věteně nočních autoburů, chyří. A taky mu prý chybí české jidlo větně smaženého sýru a chlebíčků a české pivo. Brno wije zavadelišti.

"Brno mi opravdu přírostlo k srdcí a klidně bych se tam, nebýř jazykové bartéry, i přestěhoval. Kroně meziuniverstítho programu Veřejná správa studují také ještě druhý magisterský program Drvopské správy veřejných věci kompletné online. Docela mě totži láká i kartéra v diplomacií. Spolu s kombinací totži láká i kartéra v diplomacií. Spolu s kombinací věřejné politiky na MUNI a abatovovaných stáží věřím, že je to dobrý zažátek. Tak uvidíme, kde skončím, **měje se student. **

EDUC gap semester and summer schools









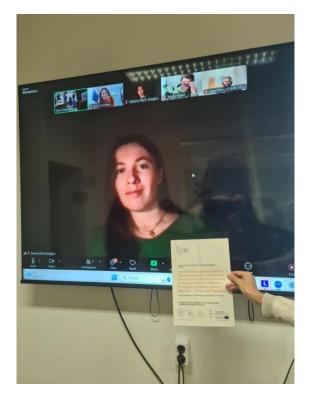
Attractiveness of students at labors market / selective programme



Master's programme with limited places.

Where academic results are equal, preference will be given to candidates with experience of participating in European

projects.









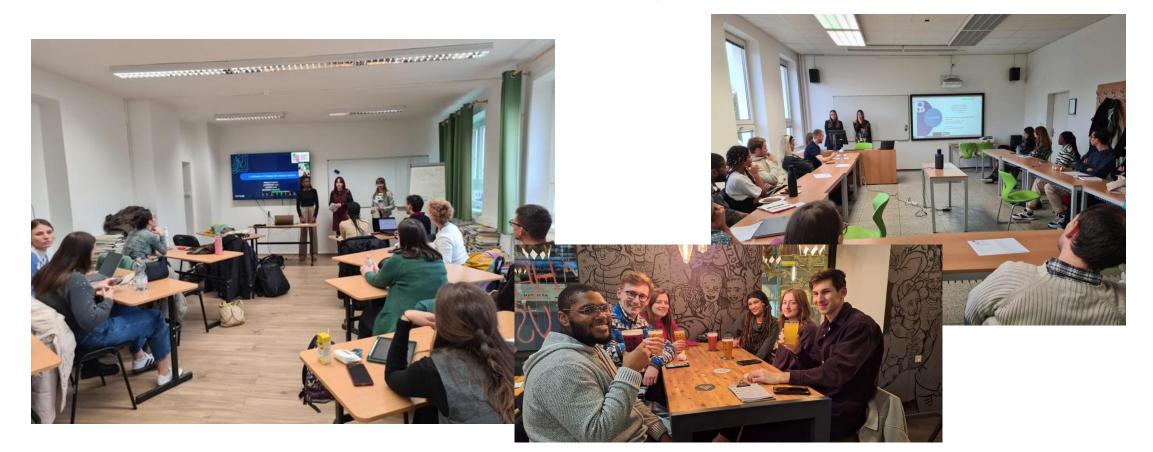


"In a globalized professional world, it can be reassuring for an employer to know that they can count on employees with intercultural skills, especially when it comes to management positions. This can be the key to working well together and increasing productivity. This EDUC course is a way to obtain real certification of our intercultural skills."

"Today, as an asylum specialist, having taken the EDUC course on interculturality allows me to be better prepared psychologically and open to the cultural differences, sometimes significant, that I may encounter during interviews."

An evolving definition

Against the challenges of COIL: CHILL Collaborative Hybrid Intercultural & Language Learning



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Thank you for your attention

Hana Delalande: <u>delalande@ped.muni.cz</u>, Department of French language and literature, Faculty of Education, Masaryk University

Marta Kobor: kobor.marta@dativus.net, Dativus Translation & Publishing Bt., Pécs/Budapest

Marie Beillet: mbeillet@parisnanterre.fr, Department of Language Science, PHILLIA Faculty, Paris

Nanterre University