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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.

Collaborative Online International Learning



- '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)



Four principles of COIL (O'Brien 2018)

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



Students' group projects

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

Examples of project topics:

- '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'

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



Prilákaly mě oborové stáže v double degree programu

Vyrůstal v Paříži, bakaláře začal studovat nejdříve v Le Havre a potom v Rennes, ale na magistra se nechal zlákat do ciziny. Francouzského studenta Jeana-Marca Sorbéa Domerguea zaujal nově otevřený francouzsko-anglický double degree program mezi Masarykovou univerzitou a Université de Rennes.

TEXT: IRENA NEPOVIMOVÁ, DIATELOVA
FOTO: ARCHIV STUDENTA

Na unikátním meziniverzitním studijním programu Veřejná správa (Administration Publique) spolupracuje ekonomicko-správní fakulta s Université de Rennes už 25 let, program se zatím ale vyučoval jen ve francouzsko-české verzi. Vloni však obě univerzity otevřely i francouzsko-anglickou variantu programu Public Administration (Administration Publique) a Jean-Marc byl prvním studentem, který se do programu zapnul.

„Do Brna jsem se dostal díky mé vyučující z Rennes, která už dlouhé roky vyučuje v double degree programu. Zmínila jsem se jí, že bych chtěl jet studovat magistra do zahraničí, a ona mi hned navrhl, ať zkusím Masarykovu univerzitu. Tak jsem pečlivě prostudoval obsah studia, popsal jsem se pár známých z Česka. Ti mi MUNI i Brno doporučili. Lákalo mě mít dva diplomy a žít uprostřed Evropy,“ říká francouzský student.

Začátky na Masarykově univerzitě pro něj ale nebyly jednoduché. V úzce specializovaném studijním programu byl jediný zahraniční student. Začal se proto přátelit se studenty z českého programu a se zahraničními spolužáky, které potkal na anglicky vyučovaných přednáškách. Vypomáhal s výukou francouzštiny na pedagogické fakultě a další spolužáky poznal i v meziniverzitním online kurzu z aliance EDUC.

„V Brně se mi od začátku líbilo, a když jsem v jarním semestru nastoupil na stáž na Jihočeský kraj na oddělení vnějších vztahů, byl jsem ještě

naděšenější. Přesně tyhle mezikulturní zkušenosti mě moc lákaly. Organizovali jsme návštěvy zahraničních delegací, zúčastnil jsem se významných akcí jako URBS Smart City Fair a navíc jsem zbláznil viděl, jak funguje veřejná správa v Česku. Zvažuji práci ve francouzském státním sektoru nebo přímo v Evropské unii, takže možnost vidět rozdíly v samosprávách byla velmi cenná.“

Kromě stáže se student zapojil jako dobrovolník do organizování Brno Expat Fair pro cizince, na kterou přišlo téměř dva tisíce účastníků. Momentálně má za sebou dva semestry studia v Brně, v září začal třetí semestr v Rennes a na něj v posledním semestru naváže povinná zahraniční stáž a diplomová práce.

Do Brna se plánuje 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 včetně sočích autobusů, chybí. A taky mu prý chybí české jídlo včetně smaženého sýru a chlebičky a české pivo.

„Brno mi opravdu přirostlo k srdci a klidně bych se tam, nebýt jazykové bariéry, i přestěhoval. Kromě meziniverzitního programu Veřejná správa studuji také ještě druhý magisterský program Evropské správy veřejných věcí kompletně online. Docela mě totiž láká i kariéra v diplomacii. Spolu s kombinací Veřejné politiky na MUNI a absolvovaných stáží věřím, že je to dobrý začátek. Tak uvidíme, kde skončím,“ směje 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.



Alumni feedback: Jean-Marc



"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

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