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Transforming Teacher Training Programs and School Curricula by Integrating Virtual Exchange: The E-LIVE (Engaging Languages in Intercultural Virtual Exchange) Erasmus + Project (2022 to 2024)

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The E-LIVE project aims to address the evolving needs of education in a digitalized and diverse society. E-LIVE focuses on enhancing the digital pedagogical competencies of language (trainee) teachers to promote intercultural communication and cooperation through virtual exchange (VE). By integrating VE into teacher training programs and school curricula, the project seeks to achieve several objectives. Firstly, it aims to innovate language teacher training by embedding VE projects into the curriculum. This approach fosters experiential and reflective learning, equipping future educators with the necessary digital, pedagogical and intercultural skills and competences to be able to innovate and enrich their future teaching at schools. At the same time, E-LIVE strives to forge stronger bonds between schools and teacher training institutions, while coaching teachers at schools in pedagogical innovation processes and providing school learners with valuable opportunities for VEs with peers from diverse cultural backgrounds. By doing so it nurtures intercultural communication skills and digital literacy among both students and teachers, preparing them for a globally interconnected world. Furthermore, E-LIVE aims to be at the forefront of innovation, exploring the integration of cutting-edge technology such as Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence to enrich VE activities, making those VE experiences even more engaging and immersive. Lastly, recognizing the increasing diversity in today's classrooms, E-LIVE places a strong emphasis on fostering inclusion by promoting intercultural dialogue and creating an environment where different backgrounds are seen as an asset and not as a challenge.

E-LIVE aims to have a broad impact on language education by engaging teacher trainers, trainee teachers, and school teachers in a large array of training opportunities, including online workshops, webinars with experts, interactive digital multimodal materials. Furthermore, the project offers a coaching path to those teachers willing to innovate and enrich their teaching by providing their learners with the possibilities that VE offers.

This presentation will provide an overview of the rich training materials (Open Educational Resources) and VE tasks developed in the first two project years, as well as an overview of the virtual exchange projects conducted so far both in teacher training programs and schools. Our focus is on the lessons learned so far, the challenges faced and the positive outcomes achieved.