



Virtual Exchange in the Internationalization of Higher Education

12th International Week.

2nd – 7th June, 2025, Hellenic Mediterranean University Chania,
Crete

<https://12iw.hmu.gr/>

Kyria Rebeca Finardi – UFES/AILA/AIALA



Why Internationalization Needs Rethinking

- Traditional models rely heavily on physical mobility
- Only a small percentage of students benefit
- Need for more inclusive, relevant, and sustainable strategies



VIRTUAL EXCHANGE (VE)

Facilitating and global classrooms
to international digital connections and
collaborative learning



What is Virtual Exchange (VE)?

Also known as COIL, Telecollaboration or OIL, VE is an umbrella term for

- Technology-enabled, people-to-people learning
- Collaborative, sustained, intercultural engagement
 - Connecting people and classrooms through collaborative projects, dialogue, and intercultural learning—without travelling

VE and Internationalization at Home (IaH)

IaH aims to offer global perspectives to all students, not just those who study abroad (Beelen & Jones, 2015)

- IaH: International and intercultural learning for all
- VE makes IaH possible beyond the mobile elite
 - Democratizes access to global learning

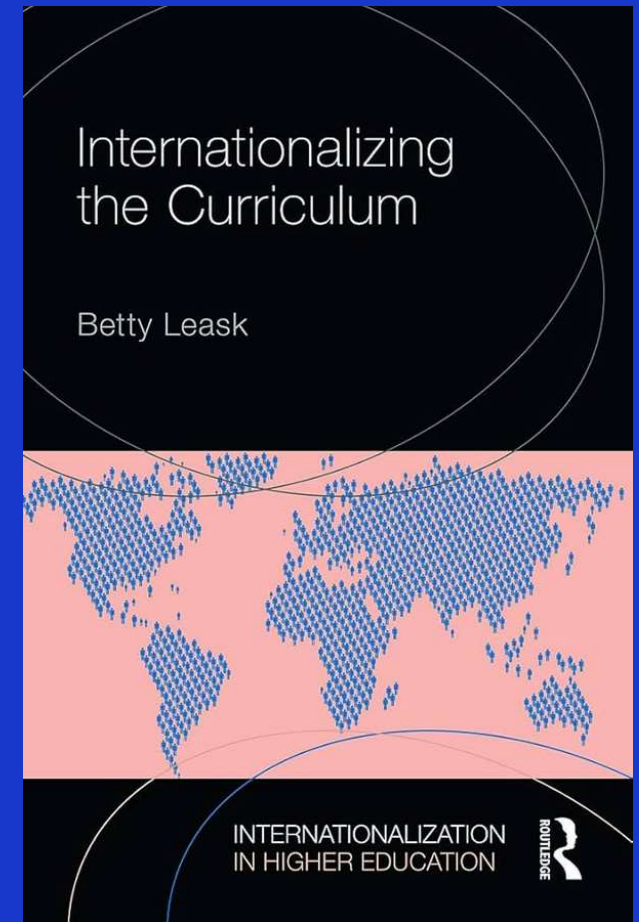


VE and Internationalization of the Curriculum (IoC)

According to Leask (2015), Internationalization of the Curriculum (IoC) is defined as:

"the incorporation of international, intercultural, and/or global dimensions into the content of the curriculum as well as the learning outcomes, assessment tasks, teaching methods, and support services of a program of study."

- IoC: Transforming what and how we teach
- VE encourages co-created, diverse perspectives
- Moves beyond content to pedagogy and values



Global Citizenship Education (GCE)



According to UNESCO (2015) (GCE) is defined as:

"an empowering education that aims to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes needed to address global challenges and to become active contributors to a more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, secure, and sustainable world."

- GCE: Awareness of interdependence, responsibility
- VE fosters empathy, dialogue, ethical action
- Supports UN goals for education and peace

Why JEDI Matters in Internationalization

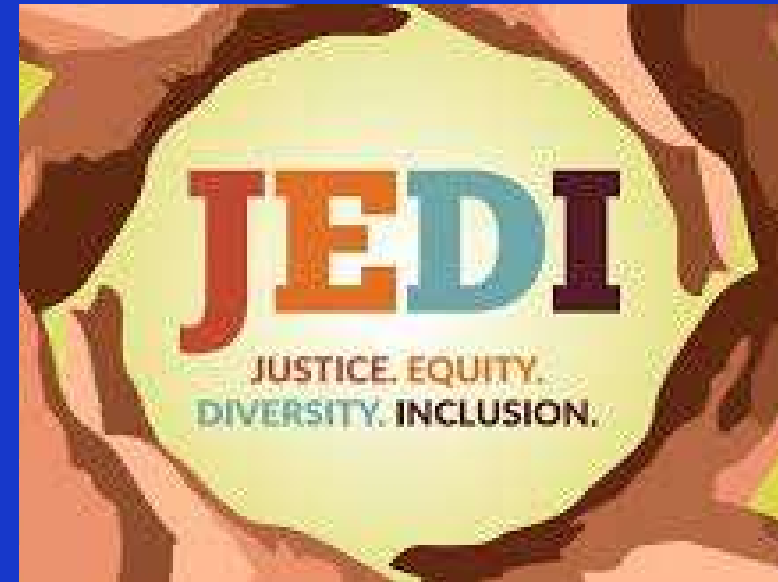
Key Points:

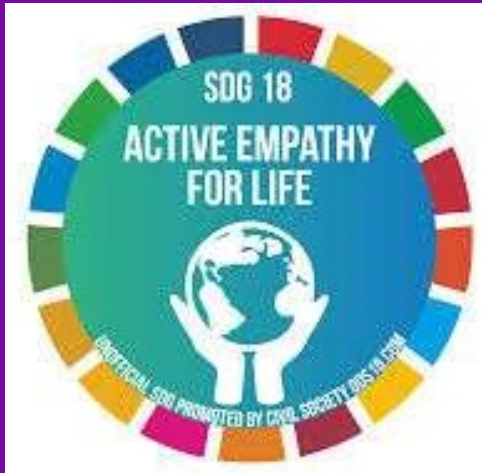
- Traditional IHE can reinforce inequality
- VE can challenge hierarchies—if designed ethically
 - Centering Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion



What Makes VE JEDI-Compliant?

- Traditional IHE can reinforce inequality
 - VE can challenge hierarchies—if designed ethically
 - Centering Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
-





The Transformative Potential of VE

- Builds peace, empathy, and solidarity
- Bridges Global South and Global North
- Supports socially relevant higher education





Take aways

- Builds peace, empathy, and solidarity
- Bridges Global South and Global North
- Supports socially relevant higher education

References (Condensed)

- Beelen & Jones (2015)
 - Leask (2015)
 - O'Dowd (2018)
 - Stein (2021)
 - UNESCO (2015)
 - de Wit & Altbach (2021)
-

Thank You

Questions - kyria.finardi@gmail.com
www.kyriafinardi.com

