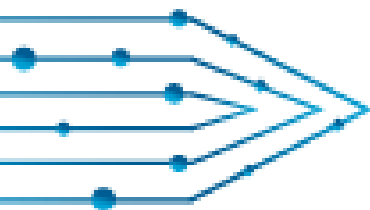




**February 2025**

**NEWSLETTER 2**

# **VIRTUALLYEDU**



**VIRTUAL EXCHANGES  
AND EDUCATION ON  
DIGITAL SKILLS**



**PROJECT AGREEMENT NUMBER:  
PROJECT 101111952 – VIRTUALLYEDU**



**ERASMUS-EDU-2022-VIRT-EXCH**



**Co-funded by  
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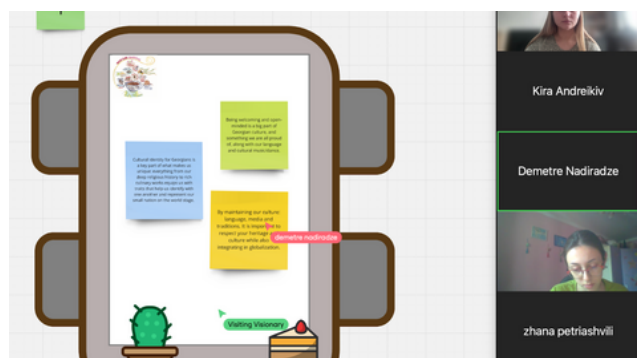
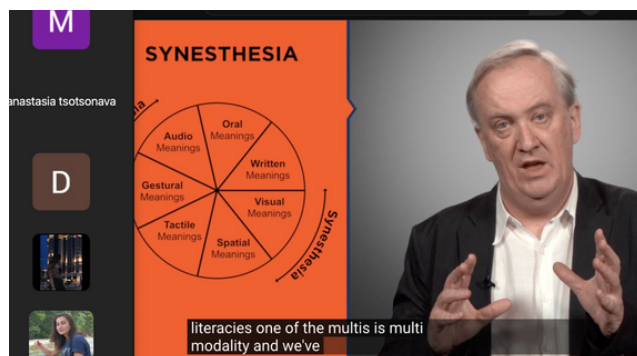
# UPDATES FROM THE FIRST CYCLE

**THE FIRST CYCLE OF VIRTUAL EXCHANGES IN THE VIRTUALLYEDU PROJECT HAS SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED, BRINGING TOGETHER STUDENTS FROM EU MEMBER STATES AND EASTERN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNTRIES FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE. THROUGHOUT THE EXCHANGE PROGRAMM, STUDENTS COMPLETED **ONLINE SESSIONS** FACILITATED BY TRAINED EDUCATORS VIA METROPOLITAN COLLEGE'S ONLINE PLATFORM AND ZOOM. THESE INTERACTIVE SESSIONS COMBINED ENERGIZING ACTIVITIES, DISCUSSIONS, AND GROUP WORK, ALLOWING PARTICIPANTS TO EXPLORE CRITICAL TOPICS RELATED TO ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP. ADDITIONALLY, **OFFLINE ACTIVITIES** ENCOURAGED FURTHER STUDY AND COLLABORATION, WITH STUDENTS WORKING ON EXERCISES AND MINI-PROJECTS WHILE MAINTAINING ONLINE COMMUNICATION WITH THEIR PEERS.**

BEYOND COURSEWORK, STUDENTS ENGAGED IN **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**, INCLUDING CROSS-CULTURAL VIRTUAL GATHERINGS SUCH AS VIRTUAL BREAKFASTS. THESE INFORMAL EVENTS FOSTERED INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING, ALLOWING PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE TRADITIONS, BELIEFS, AND WAYS OF LIFE IN A RELAXED SETTING. THE VIRTUAL WORLD CAFÉ, A HIGHLIGHT OF THIS EXCHANGE, ENCOURAGED MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS AND STRENGTHENED CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PARTICIPANTS.

ALL THE SESSIONS INCLUDED INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS, GROUP WORK, AND PROBLEM-SOLVING ACTIVITIES, USING PLATFORMS SUCH AS **MIRO BOARD, JAMBOARD, YOUTUBE, ZOOM, AND OTHER DIGITAL TOOLS** TO PROMOTE ENGAGEMENT.

WITH THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS FIRST CYCLE, VIRTUALLYEDU CONTINUES TO EMPOWER STUDENTS WITH DIGITAL SKILLS, ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP KNOWLEDGE, AND CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCES, LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE EXCHANGES IN THE PROGRAM. STAY TUNED FOR UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NEXT CYCLE!



# DIGITAL HACKATHON

THE DIGITAL HACKATHON, HELD ONLINE ON DECEMBER 18, 2024, WAS THE FINAL ACTIVITY IN A SERIES OF VIRTUALLYEDUCOURSES, ENGAGING YOUTH (18-30) FROM EU AND EASTERN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNTRIES. PARTICIPANTS COLLABORATED IN TEAMS TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE DIGITAL SOLUTIONS, FOCUSING ON DIGITAL LITERACY, CYBER SAFETY, AND ONLINE EDUCATION. UNDER THE MENTORSHIP OF EXPERTS, TEAMS PRESENTED THEIR PROJECTS TO A **JURY BOARD** COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM **METROPOLITAN COLLEGE (GREECE)**, **FOLKUNIVERSITETET (SWEDEN)**, AND **YEREVAN STATE CONSERVATORY (ARMENIA)**.

**THE WINNING PROJECT, BY TEAM 1 (DEMETRE & ANASTASIIA)**, CREATED A MOBILE APP TO ENHANCE MULTILITERACY AND SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY, EARNING 65 POINTS. THE APP INCLUDES FEATURES SUCH AS A CONTENT-ID SYSTEM, PRIVACY PROTECTION MEASURES, AND MISINFORMATION DETECTION, WHICH PROMPTS USERS WITH THE OPTION, "WOULD YOU LIKE TO FACT-CHECK?"

ALL WINNING TEAMS RECEIVED **CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT, RECOGNITION ON VIRTUALLYEDU'S SOCIAL MEDIA AND UNIVERSITY WEBSITES, AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES** TO FURTHER DEVELOP THEIR IDEAS. THE HACKATHON SHOWCASED THE POWER OF EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN TACKLING DIGITAL CHALLENGES, SETTING THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE UPSKILLING INITIATIVES WITHIN VIRTUALLYEDU.

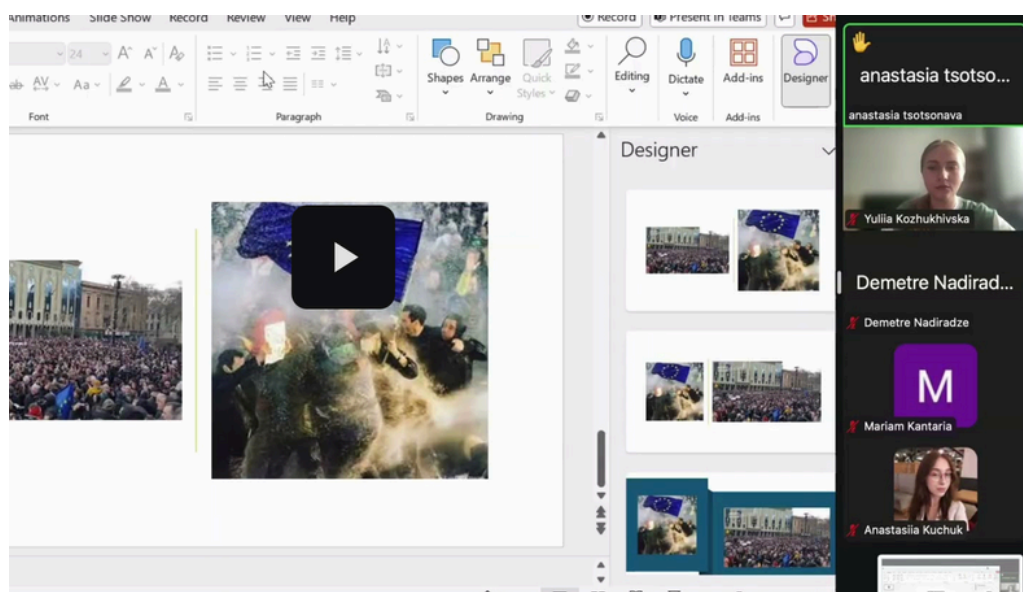
BUILDING ON THIS SUCCESS, VIRTUALLYEDU IS COMMITTED TO FURTHERING THE IMPACT OF THE HACKATHON BY EXPLORING WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THE WINNING SOLUTIONS.



# REGISTRATION FOR THE NEXT CIRCLE OF EXCHANGES

## BENEFITS FOR YOUTH AND STUDENTS:

- **PARTICIPATION IN ONLINE EXCHANGES:** ALL REGISTERED STUDENTS AND YOUTH CAN JOIN ONLINE VIRTUAL EXCHANGES DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE THEM TO DIFFERENT CULTURES WHILE ENHANCING THEIR KNOWLEDGE IN CYBERSECURITY, DIGITALISATION, AND ESSENTIAL DIGITAL SKILLS.
- **ENHANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE ON TRAINING MATERIAL:** STUDENTS WILL DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF KEY TOPICS SUCH AS DIGITAL LITERACY, COMBATING HATE SPEECH, MULTI-LITERACY, MULTIMODALITY, AND EFFECTIVE ONLINE LEARNING STRATEGIES.
- **NETWORK BUILDING:** PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH APPROXIMATELY 500 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, CREATING A GLOBAL NETWORK FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE, COLLABORATION, AND LEARNING.
- **DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL AWARENESS SKILLS:** THROUGH VIRTUAL EXCHANGES, STUDENTS ENGAGE WITH PEERS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES, GAINING EXPOSURE TO DIVERSE CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES, WHICH FOSTERS GREATER CULTURAL AWARENESS.
- **DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL SKILLS:** THE PROJECT LEVERAGES A VARIETY OF ONLINE INTERACTIVE TOOLS AND LEARNING PLATFORMS, ALLOWING STUDENTS TO BECOME PROFICIENT IN ESSENTIAL DIGITAL SKILLS NEEDED FOR SUCCESS IN THE DIGITAL ERA..
- **CERTIFICATE OF PROJECT COMPLETION:** UPON COMPLETING THE VIRTUAL EXCHANGES, STUDENTS RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE THAT ACKNOWLEDGES THEIR ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE OF DIGITAL SKILLS AND SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT.



Registration Form

# NEWSLETTER 2 February 2024

THIS MATERIAL WAS DEVELOPED BY FOLKUNIVERSITET UNDER THE PROJECT "VIRTUAL EXCHANGES AND EDUCATION ON DIGITAL SKILLS"

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