



EMPOWERING DIGITAL LITERACY AND FOSTERING CROSS-CULTURAL CONNECTIVITY: THE IMPACT OF THE VIRTUALLYEDU PROJECT ON MODERN EDUCATION

VIRTUALLYEDU: Sharing Opinions and Experience

The ultimate goal of the Erasmus+ virtual exchange program VIRTUALLYEDU is to include approximately 2,500 HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) students and youth from EU State Members and Eastern Neighborhood Countries in cybersecurity and digital savvy activities.

The initiative supports HE institutions' growth strategies by creating a digital skills environment and enhancing virtual cooperation capabilities. By the end of the training program, all participants in this environment are well-equipped to meet the needs of digital education and global communication, including academic staff, youth groups, and trainers in addition to students. Recently, the project hosted the first round of student exchanges, where participants had the opportunity to share their knowledge and enrich their awareness on the variety of the modules, such as Multi Literacy and Multimodality, Cybersecurity, Digital Hate Speech and et cetera.

Kateryna Puhachova, Project Manager, Educator & Facilitator of the exchange program highlights that *“the VIRTUALLYEDU Project is the great and innovative initiative which is addressing significant issues in contemporary education, the VIRTUALLYEDU project plays a critical role in supporting digital literacy and fostering cross-cultural connectedness. Its goals are in perfect harmony with what the rapidly changing world requires, especially in higher education”*.

Anastasiia Kuchuk, the VIRTUALLYEDU online exchange student, states that *“the project is an amazing opportunity to acquire digital skills and gain a broad understanding of topics like digital learning environments. It offers practical tips on improving online learning and highlights beneficial tools while addressing the crucial issue of cybersecurity in our daily lives. The emphasis on cross-cultural communication, a key project objective, helped us engage extensively during the sessions. Through this, we not only learned valuable skills but also enhanced our ability to think critically, listen, understand others, and make inclusive decisions”*.

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