

## Being Mobile

# Virtual Mobility: Need, types, benefits

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## EuroPACE ivzw

International network of Higher Education institutions in the field of ICT-based education and training.

Fields of interest:

- Networked eLearning
- Internationalisation
- Knowledge creation and sharing
- Lifelong Learning
- **Virtual Mobility**

## ***Real Mobility: facts***

### Current situation

- 97,7% of European students stay at home
- 2,3% Erasmus students

### Goal E.C. by 2011

- 20% of students have Erasmus exchange

**But what about remaining 80%???**

# Solution

## **Virtual Mobility**

*The use of information and communication technologies to obtain the same benefits as one would have with physical mobility but without the need to travel.*

# Being Mobile

- EC – Socrates – Accompanying Measure – 1 year
  - Being Mobile Project Activities:
    - Collection of best-practise Virtual Mobility activities in Higher Education
    - Collection of existing outcomes of other European Virtual Mobility projects (manuals, articles, tools)
- => Dissemination of these through website, Vilnius workshop, Berlin Conference and publication of Handbook

# Types of virtual mobility

Virtual Mobility can include

- Taking courses at foreign university while staying at home and vice-versa (teacher and/or student exchanges) cfr. example
- Complementing existing physical Erasmus exchange programmes
- Virtual internships in companies abroad

# Example: Cinema & Literature

- Simultaneous course at Leuven & Granada
- Online course & contact hours
- Total of 10 to 20 students per partner
- Didactic strategies:
  - Face-to-face discussion on the basis of online course
  - Viewing films and analysis in class discussions
  - Interactive learning: groups of 4 students (mix of Leuven and Granada students) write together paper using WIKI
  - 2 videoconferences between Leuven & Granada (start & end)
- Technologies: online syllabus at platform, e-mail, chat, discussion forum, WIKI, videoconferencing)
- Multilingual approach (NL, EN, FR, ES)

# Virtual Mobility: benefits

For students and teachers

- Access to experts and high quality learning materials
- Access to an international community of learners  
=> wide linguistic and cultural diversity
- Exchange opportunities for non-Erasmus students

For higher education institutions

- Finding a working environment for cooperation
- Staying competitive and attractive
- Enrichment to regular educational environment

## More information?

[www.being-mobile.net](http://www.being-mobile.net)

- Virtual Mobility Handbook (see conference bag)
- Case-studies of Virtual Mobility activities
- Descriptions of Virtual Mobility projects
- Articles, manuals on Virtual Mobility developed in current and previous Socrates projects

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## Thanks from the Being Mobile Team !

- EuroPACE (BE) [www.europace.org](http://www.europace.org)
- ATiT (Belgium) [www.atit.be](http://www.atit.be)
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