Virtual Exchange/COIL Practices and Policy: Digital Internationalization Between the USA and Norway

- Veronica Onorevole, American Council on Education
- Synne Lysberg, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills - HKdir
- Charles Reilly, Gallaudet University
Norwegian International Education Forecast and Implications

Synne Lysberg
Contact: synne.lysberg@hkdir.no
Higher Education in Norway

- Small country, big resources
- Educational system characterized by quality and inclusiveness
- World class education and research
The Panorama strategy (2021-2027)

- Norway's strategy for bilateral cooperation on higher education and research with nine countries of strategic importance to the knowledge sector outside of the EU/EEA area
  - Brazil, Canada, India, Japan, China, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, and USA
- The purpose is increased quality and relevance in higher education, research and innovation in Norway through internationalisation and cooperation within the knowledge triangle – education, research and the business sector.
- Financial instruments: UTFORSK and INTPART
White paper (2020-2021): A world of opportunities – International student mobility within higher education

More student mobility
Cultural change
Comprehensive study programs with integrated mobility
International study environment in all study programs
Strategy for digital transformation of the Norwegian higher education sector (2021-2025)

• Strategy for digital transformation in close collaboration with the university and college sector

• Strategy must be seen in connection with other initiatives from the government to strengthen the quality of research and higher education
VE/ COIL collaboration with ACE
Digital Transformation U.S. Higher Education

**Employment systems** (Jobs of the Future)

**Quality management systems** (Recognized Accreditation)

**Competitiveness** (Rankings, Degree Mobility, R&D Outputs)

**Internationalization** (Mobility, Curriculum, Faculty, Partnerships)

**Institutional Structures** (Governance, Staffing, Teams)

**Research Integrity** (Academic Freedom, Intellectual Property)
ACE Transformation Labs

To develop long-term strategies, invest more resources into collaborations and partnerships, and create innovative delivery models to advance learner success, workforce development, and internationalization goals in higher education.
Virtual Exchange (VE) consists of sustained, technology-enabled, people-to-people education programs with constructive communication and interaction between individuals or groups who are geographically separated and/or from different cultural backgrounds.

Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) is a research-based pedagogy of virtual exchange.

COIL usually involves professors in two or more nations collaborating to develop a co-taught module that meets shared learning objectives in which both groups of students work together online in multicultural teams.
VE/COIL Transformation Lab Approach

- Collaboration as core activity
- Students, faculty, & staff as equal learners
- Institutional partnership co-dependency
- Intentional goals & outcomes to increase access & equity to global learning opportunities for students, faculty, & staff
  - Diversification of institution-types from U.S. and global partner countries
  - Multicultural, multilingual subject matter expertise
  - American Disabilities Act compliance of online course materials and resources

Partnership Program with North America (2020-21)

21 - Faculty & Coordinators
13 - Administrators
9 - Institutions
5 - Partnerships
3 - Month Lab
Rapid Response VE/COIL Transformation Lab

Month 1
Online Training & Mentored Guidance Commences

Month 2
Online Training Concludes
Mentored Guidance Continues

Month 3
- Mentored Guidance and Webinar Resources

VE/COIL Course/Program Implementation

AIEA: Leaders in International Higher Education
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

International

Instructional Designer

Academic Affairs

Faculty Instructor

AIEA: Leaders in International Higher Education
Synchronous Time Zones
Check-in Multiple Languages
Sessions Peer-to-Peer Learning

Rapid Response VE/COIL U.S.-Norway Lab: ASL and Norwegian SL Simultaneous Interpreters

Rapid Response VE/COIL U.S.-Japan Lab: Japanese Consecutive Interpreter

AIEA: Leaders in International Higher Education
Increased Opportunities for Research

"Do you plan to conduct and/or publish research based on your VE/COIL partnership?"

Yes

Maybe

No

We are already conducting such research
Research Collaboration Outputs

Types of research and project outputs being pursued or considered

- Journal publications
- Conference presentations
- Campus website, magazines, or other institutionally promoted materials
- Internal institutional research
- Confidential research to support course/project improvement and expansion
Maintaining Partnership Resilience

"How likely do you think you will continue to..."
Faculty and Staff Development

“To what extent did your participation in the ACE Lab affect your..”
## Impact on Student Learning

### VE/COIL Impact on Student learning

*(Listed Skills in order of Greatest Prevalence)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>Impact is Moderate to Great</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of global and intercultural issues</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of engagement or participation in course Activities</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural intelligence</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest in global peers beyond the module/course</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional intelligence</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second language competency</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Communication</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Awareness</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital media literacy</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“The [Norwegian] students learned a lot about the U.S. healthcare system. They also, at the same time, had a greater awareness and appreciation for their own healthcare system. [It was a] great learning process socially and academically.”

-Lovisenberg Diaconal University College (LDUC)
Institutional Support

“What resources do you think are most needed to help support your continued work with VE/COIL?”
Virtual Exchange COIL Transformation Lab

www.acenet.edu/VECOILTransformation

Contact Veronica Onorevole at virtualexchangecoil@acenet.edu