

TRIP

Training and Realising Innovations in Internationalisation at Home Pedagogies

NEWSLETTER NO. 8: Autumn Semester 2024

Dear Reader,

In this eighth newsletter, we bring you further updates on our progress as our project draws to a close and we make final improvements to enhance the quality of our outputs. The student-focussed **Intercultural Virtual Societal Challenge E-Module** is running successfully again across many of our campuses, and in different language – English, French, German and Spanish! The TRIP Professional Development Programme has also been further piloted and final refinements have been made. A snapshot is provided next from Rennes 2 on the final edition of the IVSC E-Module.

REPORTING FROM RENNES 2: TRIP'S LAST IVSC

As the autumn semester begins, the **Intercultural Virtual Societal Challenge (IVSC)** is back! This semester, students from Rennes 2 University, the University of Limerick (UL), the Europa-Universität Flensburg, Complutense University of Madrid, and Matej Bel University in Slovakia have had the opportunity to improve their English, intercultural and digital skills while working in inter-institutional teams.

Together, they are developing projects focused on our four recurring themes: “Inclusion,” “Race,” “Gender,” and “Environment.” They are joined for the first time by students from Lampung (UNILA) and Bengkulu (UNIB) universities in Indonesia and students from Abou



Bekr Belkaid University (UABT) in Tlemcen, Algeria, which reflects our vision to make TRIP truly global and involve partners from Global South countries.

TWO ITERATIONS OF THE IVSC TO ENSURE FLEXIBILITY:

This semester, two inter-university teams have been formed:

Group 1: The first group, consisting of Rennes 2 University, the Europa-Universität Flensburg, and Matej Bel University, is offering a shorter version of the challenge, which includes six group sessions over a five-week term. Around 35 students are participating in this format, divided into five mixed teams: one “Gender” team, one “Environment” team, one “Inclusion” team, and two “Race” teams. At Rennes 2, the students participating are those from the bilingual section of the Master’s program in Language Didactics. The participants will be supported and guided throughout the challenge by their teamchairs: **Leonie Hensel** and **Michiel-Christiaan Eloff** from Germany, as well as **Océane Rivaollan** and **Gwendoline Renaud** from France.

Group 2: A second group, comprising of the University of Limerick and the Complutense University in Madrid, accompanied by the Universities of Lampung and Bengkulu in Indonesia and students from the Abou Bekr Belkaid University in Algeria, is offering an eight-session format, and as such has a very large number of students: no fewer than 199! They are divided into twenty-three mixed teams and supervised by **Michelle Daly** and **Xiana Sotelo**.

THE CHALLENGE

The IVSC has been launched, and the sessions are in full swing. As with every semester, the students must work together in intercultural teams to focus on a specific aspect of the theme they’ve chosen. Under the guidance of their teamchairs and with the help of the Training Guide (a **new version** of which will be available soon- keep an eye out for it!), participants must develop a project aimed at improving life in their communities. After coming up with a team name, creating a logo, designing their project, and drafting surveys in accordance with the project guidelines, participants will present their project in a video of about three minutes, which will be showcased during the final event.

WHAT'S NEW THIS SEMESTER?

Building on the success of last semester's flexible program options, we have reintroduced them once again. Participating universities can choose between a **6-session format** (UMB, R2, and EUF) or an **8-week format** (UCM and UL), allowing them to engage with the content at their own pace. In addition, we have significantly enhanced the resources available to participants. Alongside the expansion of the resource bank for the "Inclusion" topic, we've introduced a new section focused on **AI integration**, aimed at providing more personalised support and enriching the overall learner experience.

Furthermore, we are testing two new reporting tools designed to give teamchairs in-depth information on participants' progress. **Laura Dupont** from R2 University, who has been a mentor and a teamchair during the past semester and has been a mentor during the last IVSC pilot project, has developed a progress chart which is now available to this semester's team members and teamchairs. In Limerick, **Michelle Day** has set up a tracking document enabling participants to record what they have done in each session and the tasks they plan to do in the next session. This reporting document is supplemented by a memorandum of understanding signed by the members of the mixed teams for the 8-session version of the IVSC. The purpose of this is that all participants understand the stakes of the project and are involved. Altogether, these updates aim to make this edition of the IVSC more flexible and resource-rich, improving the experience for both learners and teachers.

THE FINAL EVENT

For the Flensburg, Rennes 2, and Matej Bel group, the challenge will culminate in an online event, much like the one held on 9th April (see the previous newsletter) which will mark the conclusion of this IVSC. This event is scheduled for **27th November at 2 p.m.** (time and day to be confirmed) and will take place in the virtual world **Rennes2D**. Participants and guests will be invited to wander around the virtual session room, view the participants' projects, rate them, and vote for their favourite. A Q&A session with the students and teamchairs will follow.

UL, UCM, UNIB, UNILA, and UABT will hold multiple panels, with the first one scheduled for **11th November 2024** from **12:00 to 2:00 PM**, where video presentations from participants will be showcased.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The end of TRIP certainly doesn't mean the end of the IVSC. Based on what we've learned from these early versions of the challenge, we will continue to improve and expand it, so that we can keep offering our students this fascinating form of Internationalisation at Home. At Rennes 2, we are already considering additional editions of the IVSC, in collaboration with consortium members and our partners, drawing on feedback from the current version. Future adjustments may include improving the flexibility and resources mentioned earlier and exploring new languages and new themes for future iterations. One possibility is a **Business English** component, which would respond to the growing demand for professional language skills. Another potential theme is **Global Citizenship**, which could offer content that engages participants with civic issues, rights, and responsibilities. These themes, among others, will allow us to expand the IVSC in meaningful and relevant directions.

CLOSING REMARKS

That's all for this edition's update on the launch of the IVSC! We look forward to seeing you in the next newsletter, where we'll share the latest news about the final event and introduce you to our students' projects, which will be featured on a brand-new YouTube channel.

OTHER VERSIONS OF THE IVSC

Elsewhere in the TRIP consortium, the IVSC stand-alone version has been running once again in Flensburg. Starting earlier this month, groups of students from Rennes2 University, Matej Bel University and Europa-Universität Flensburg have been busy working together, supported by their teamchairs, on brand new IVSC projects. This time, each of the four foci are being represented in the students' projects: race, gender, environment and inclusion. The challenge will ultimately run for eight weeks, during which the groups will have six sessions

in which to produce a version of their chosen topic. At the end of November, a final session will be held in which the different groups will present their work to their fellow students and answer questions posed by mentors from the three universities.

DISSEMINATING THE IVSC

The fruits of the IVSC participants' labour can be enjoyed on the IVSC's very own YouTube channel. We are in the process of collecting all of the videos made across the consortium universities, but there are currently eight already uploaded on the TRIP website for perusal. These videos afford an insight into the valuable process of the IVSC but also represent a finished product which reflects the importance of both the challenge's topics and its educational objectives.

Please follow our progress on the TRIP Project website <https://www.trip-project.eu/> and our social media accounts:

LinkedIn : <https://www.linkedin.com/in/trip-project-525615295/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/t.r.i.p.project/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/people/TRIP-Project/61552247900270/>

Meta/Twitter : https://x.com/TRIP_Project_EU

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8jdVdG0UIPf71zHsLvc9yA>

