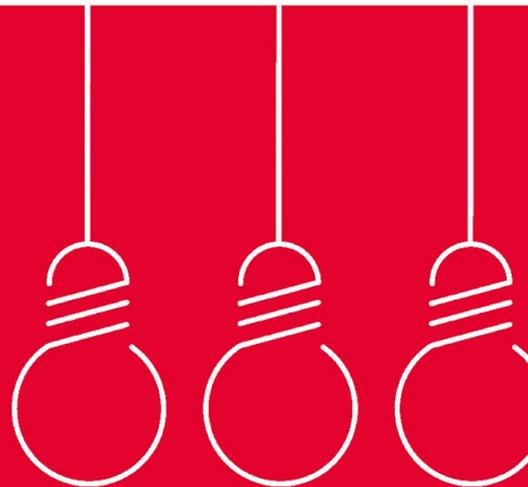# Virtual Exchange:
blended learning with an international perspective

Juan Albá Duran (EVOLVE, ENVOIE, Faculty of Arts)
Gerdientje Oggel (EVOLVE, ENVOIE, Faculty of Arts)
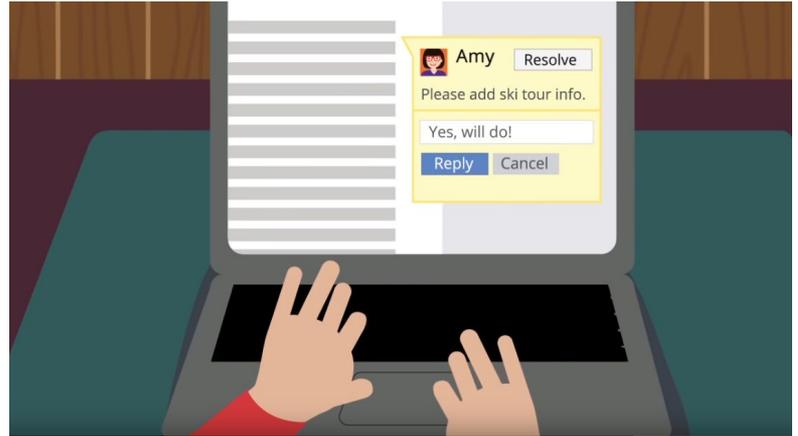**Angelos Konstantinidis (ESI, ENVOIE)**

Teaching Academy Groningen

rug.nl/tag

Outline

- Your experience with online international collaboration

- Virtual Exchange (VE), what is it (for)?

- Steps for designing class-to-class VE

- Drafting Tasks + Debriefing
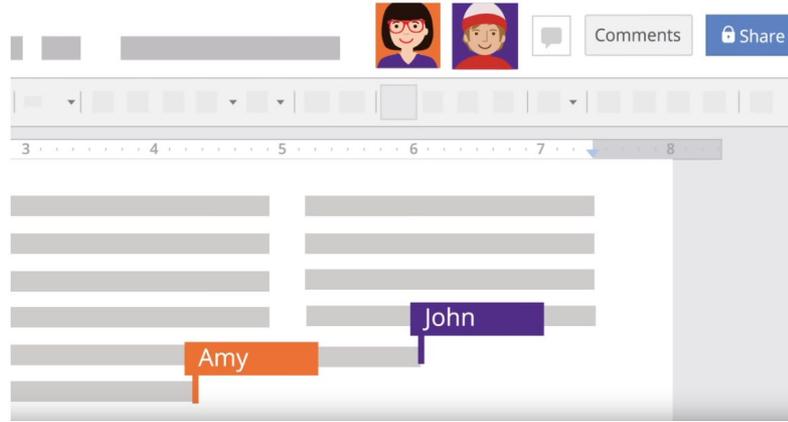
Source: YT "Google Drive: Working on the same file at the same time"

Your experience with online international collaboration

1.What was the **common goal** of your online international collaboration

2.How did you **interact and organize** the work, through which tools or social media?

3.How did you **feel having to comment** the other person's contributions?

4.Did you **encounter any problems**? For example, misunderstandings, work distribution, lack of trust, etc.

Virtual Exchange is...

...a form of computer-mediated learning whereby **students** from **geographically remote classes** work together **online** (in pairs or small groups) on learning tasks developed by teachers or educational facilitators.

(for a full description, see [What is Virtual Exchange](#))

Figure 1. An overview of terminology used to refer to virtual exchange initiatives
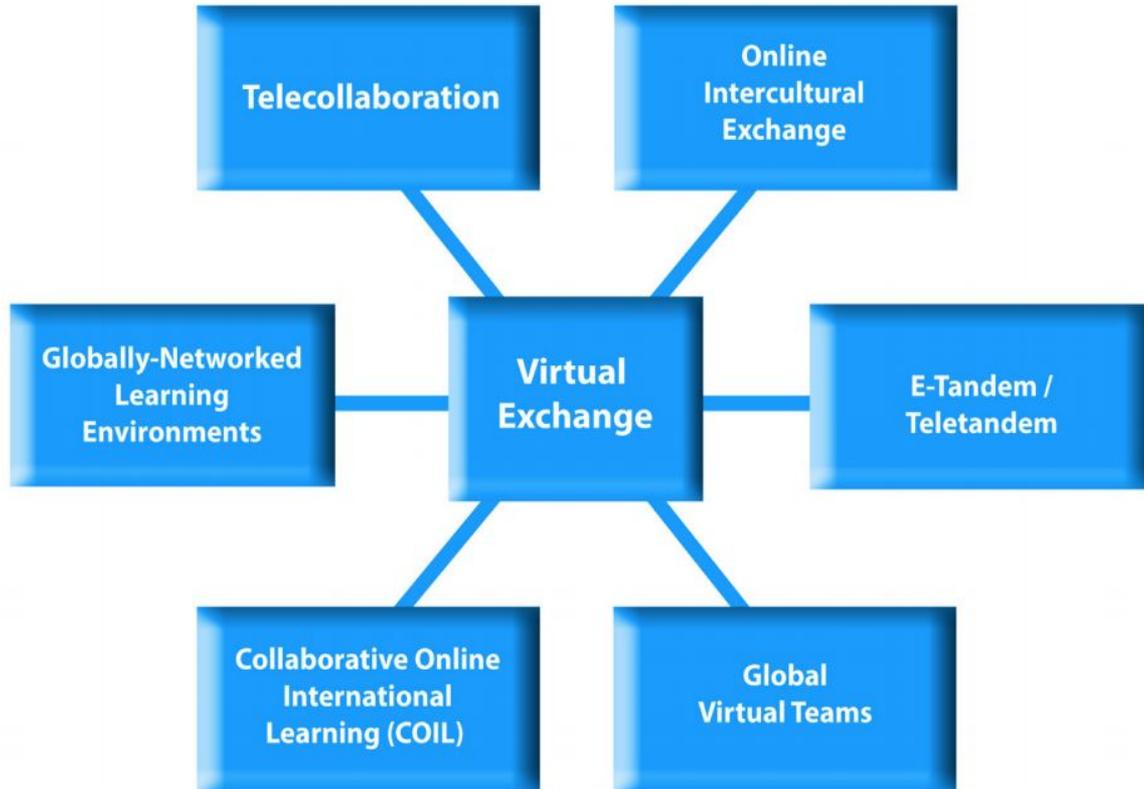
(O'Dowd, 2018)

Virtual Exchange is...

Recall: What are the aims of involving our students in a VE?

Source *ENVOIE Video Virtual Exchange*

What are the aims of involving our students in a VE?
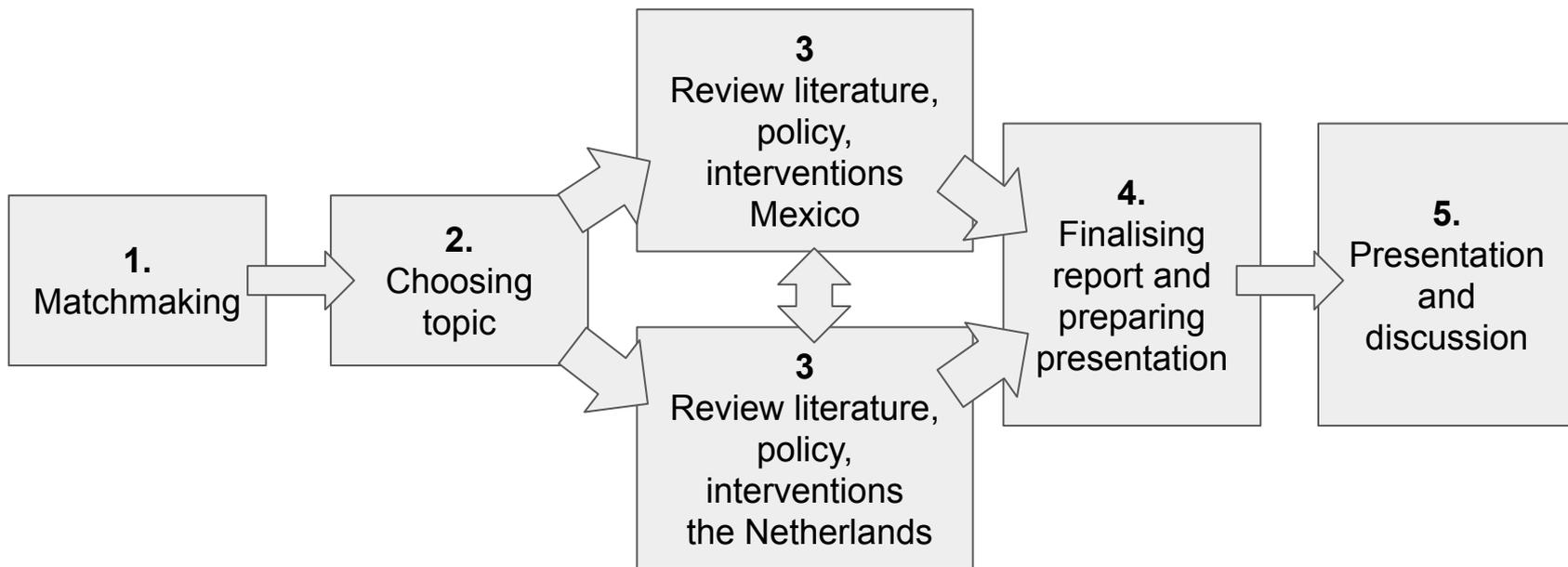
1. language skills
2. intercultural communicative competence
3. digital literacies and transversal 21st century skills
4. international perspectives on the course topic
5. ...

An example from the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences
Child Welfare (UG - UNAM)


```
1.                  2.              3                      4.                5.
Matchmaking  →  Choosing   →   Review literature,  →  Finalising   →   Presentation
                 topic          policy,                report and        and
                                interventions          preparing         discussion
                                Mexico                 presentation

                                3
                                Review literature,
                                policy,
                                interventions
                                the Netherlands
```

continuous exchange, comparison between countries and reflection on intercultural learning experience

Steps for Designing a class-to-class VE

4. Assessment

3. Implementation - monitoring & supervision of students, reflection throughout the project.

2. Development:

-Shared or complementary learning outcomes.
-Designing activities
-Mode and tools of interaction
-Integration of VE in the syllabus (Course LO, Evaluation)

1. Preliminary Steps: Finding a partner and minimum common ground

Adapted from COIL Milestones

Task Sequence in a VE

1st Task: Information exchange tasks

→

2nd Task: Comparison and analysis tasks

→

Final task: Collaborative tasks

- Socializing component
- Get to know each other
- Find common interests

- Research of a topic, share research, compare & contrast

- Students work together to produce a joint product or conclusion

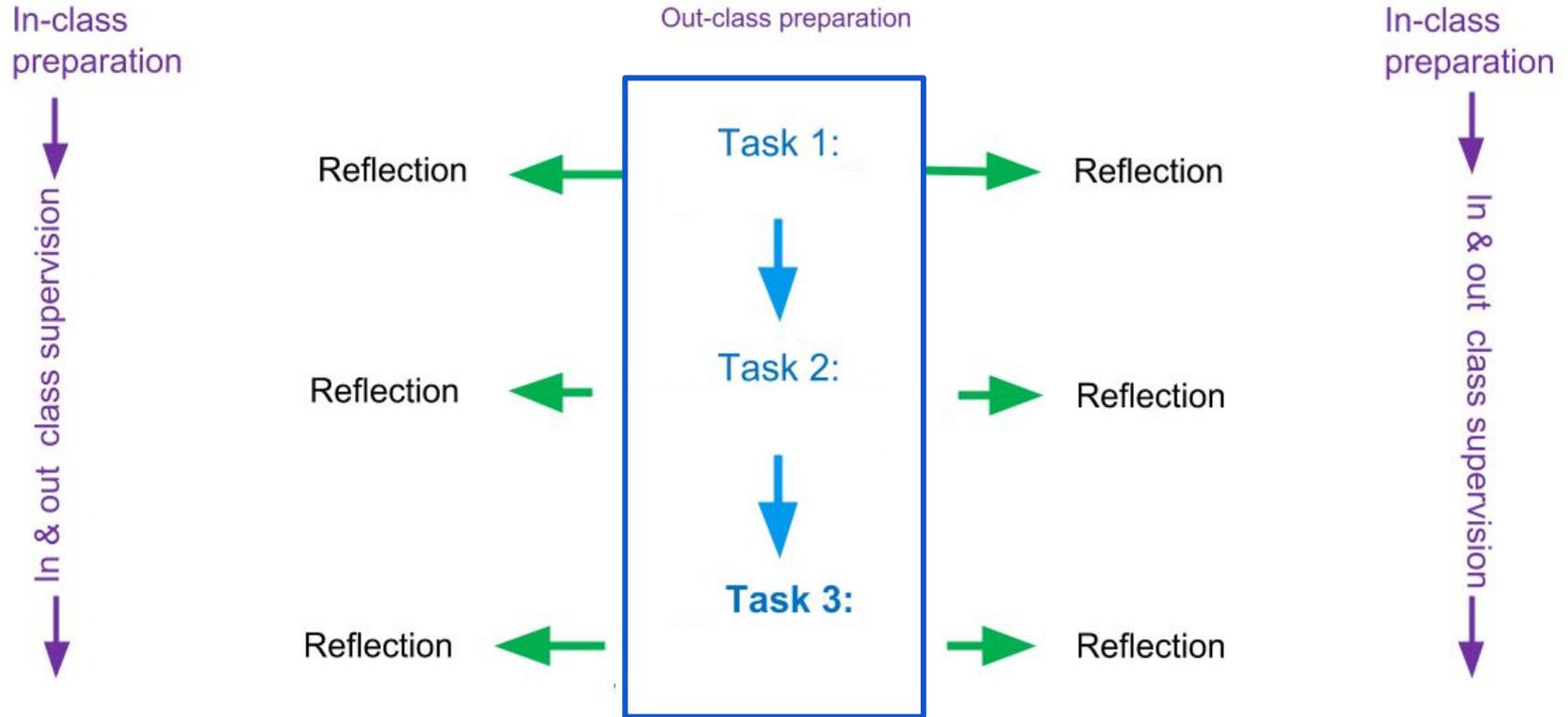Adapted from O'Dowd and Waire, 2009.
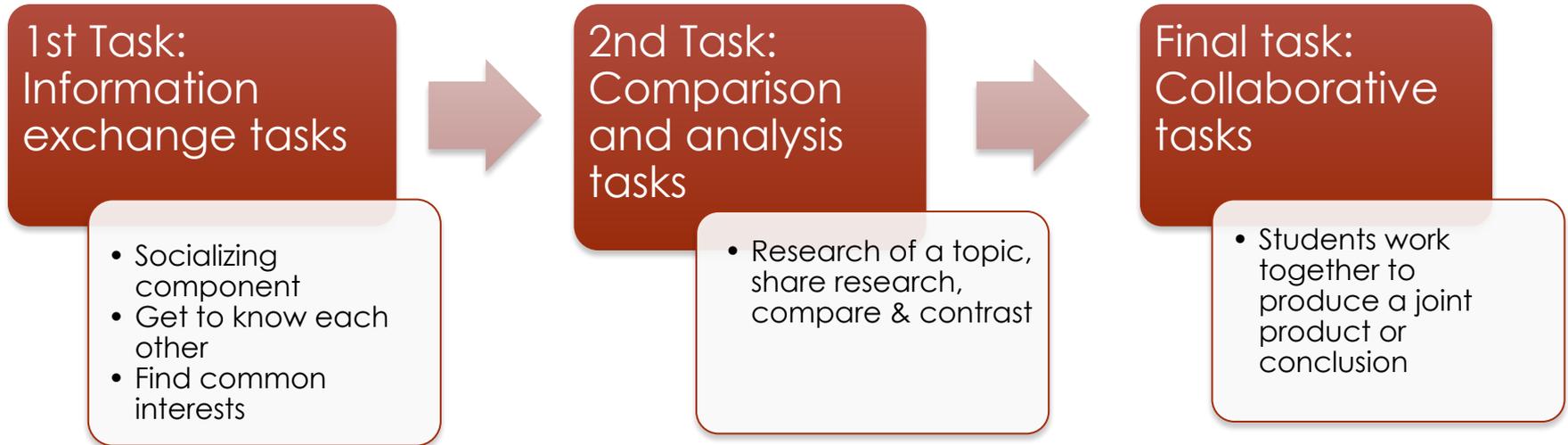
In each phase:
- Which **tools** can be used in VE?
- Mode of communication: **Synchronous or Asynchronous?**

1st Task: Information exchange tasks

- Socializing component
- Get to know each other
- Find common interests

2nd Task: Comparison and analysis tasks

- Research of a topic, share research, compare & contrast.

Final task: Collaborative tasks

- Students work together to produce a joint product or conclusion.
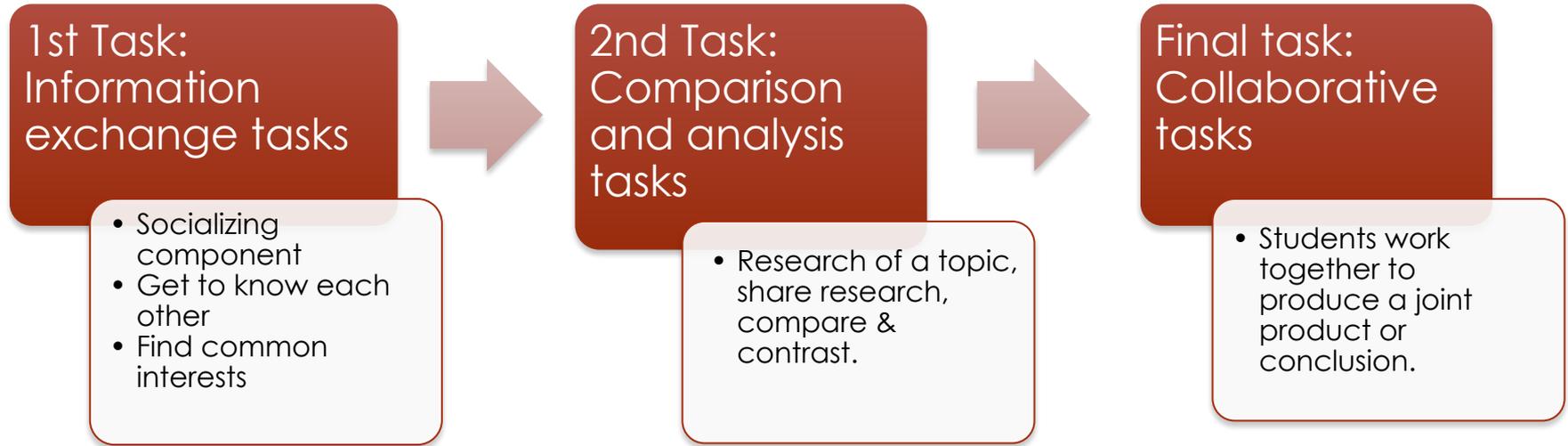
Think of a general idea for a VE in a (given) scenario

Scenario

Class 1: Advanced Web Design

- 22 students in Uppsala
- 2nd year BA Media studies
- 1st semester September - December

Class 2: Business and ethics

- 20 students in Groningen
- 2nd year International Business
- 1st semester September - December

Debriefing

Want to know more? Resources & training

- ENVOIE project (UG): https://www.rug.nl/let/onze-faculteit/organisatie/diensten-en-voorzieningen/cliq/projecten/envoie/training
- ViS project (Minsterie OC&W): https://www.dus-i.nl/subsidies/virtuele-internationale-samenwerkingsprojecten
- Unicollaboration: https://www.unicollaboration.org/
- Stevens Initiative: https://www.stevensinitiative.org/resources/

References

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- Little, D. and Brammerts, H. (1996.) *A guide to language learning in tandem via the Internet.* Dublin: Trinity College Dublin.

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- O'Dowd, R. and Waire, P. (2009) 'Critical issues in telecollaborative task design', *Computer Assisted Language Learning*, 22:2, 173 — 188

Do you have questions? Please contact us!

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