2023 Survey of the Virtual Exchange Field

Deadline: September 26, 2023, 5:00pm (in your local time zone)

About the Survey: Welcome to the 2023 Stevens Initiative Survey of the Virtual Exchange Field, an important, timely, and unique effort to document globally the numbers and types of virtual exchanges connecting people with their peers in countries around the world. Your participation and cooperation will yield critical insights about virtual exchange programs and the evolution and growth of the field. Responding to the survey will also enable you to ultimately benchmark your virtual exchange programs with those around the world, and will also provide critical data that you can use to advocate for the importance of virtual exchange.

Instructions:
Who should respond: Please respond to this survey if you are the overall coordinator or administrator of virtual exchange programs at your organization or institution, or have knowledge of most programs. While we prefer that a single person from your institution responds to the survey, we want to hear from every program. If you do not know if someone else will capture the data for your virtual exchange program, please respond.
- The survey includes questions about your organization and the virtual exchange programs and/or trainings that you offer.
- We ask, for example, about the types of programs you offered over the past year (September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023); the typical duration of your programs; the countries where your participants are based; and the content areas of your programs.
- We strongly recommend collecting information and having it ready before you begin the survey (you can preview the survey by downloading this PDF).
- If you cannot complete the survey in one session, you will see the option on the top right-hand corner of the screen to (*Save and continue later)* (please note that this feature appears on the second page of the survey). Once you have collected data, we anticipate the survey will take about 15-20 minutes to complete.

Defining Virtual Exchange: Prior to beginning the survey, please refer to the Stevens Initiative's Virtual Exchange Typology which has a glossary of terms that will help you answer the questions in the survey. For the purposes of this survey, a virtual exchange is a method that uses technology to connect people for education and exchange yet can be inclusive of many program types. Common elements of virtual exchange for the purposes of this survey include the following:
- They are international, connecting participants in different countries in order to help them gain global competencies, among other knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- They are often facilitated by prepared, responsible adults who are often—but not always—educators.

Our Appreciation:
Participating in the survey offers several opportunities to showcase your work. To show our appreciation for completing this survey, the Stevens Initiative will:

- Publicly release the aggregated data from this survey in early 2024, including sending a report to all respondents.

- Select a few programs that submit valid and complete responses to be highlighted either in the public report or in a public webinar to discuss the survey findings in January 2024.

- Acknowledge and list all participating and eligible virtual exchange programs and providers on the Initiative's website with a link to include in your promotional efforts. In 2022, our website was viewed over 140,000 times and our outreach list had 10,000 subscribers.

Note: only those submissions deemed to meet our definition of virtual exchange will be included in the above incentives.

How we use your data:
The Initiative will only share aggregated data and we will not share individual responses that are associated with your programs or organization. We ask for your contact information for the sole purpose of following up to clarify any questions about your survey responses.

Thank you again for your willingness to participate. Any questions can be directed to stevensinitiative.survey@gmail.com. You can now begin the survey.

PART I: Your organization/institution
(Note: questions with an asterisk or * symbol are required)

1. **Your Information:***
   a. First name
   b. Last name
   c. Job Title
   d. Email address

2. **Name of Organization/Institution:***

3. **Has your organization/institution ever been a grantee (past or current, for either virtual exchange programs or research) of the Stevens Initiative?***
   a. Yes
   b. No
   c. Not sure

4. **If your program(s) has a website/URL, please include this link._____**

5. **Institution type (select one):***
(Definition: The type of institution that is the lead partner or administrator of a virtual exchange program. This could be the primary partner or the implementing organization.)

   a. Higher education institution (including officers and departments at HEIs)
   b. NGO that operates in more than one country
   c. NGO that operates in one country
   d. Primary or secondary education institution
   e. For-profit company/organization or social enterprise
   f. Informal organization such as a community organization that is not incorporated
   g. Large network (there is no lead institution; a consortium of partner institutions manages the initiative by working with various virtual exchange providers and programs).
   h. Other (please specify)

6. **Are you part of any of the following virtual exchange networks or consortia? [select all that apply]***

   a. SUNY COIL Global Network
   b. Consortium of Virtual Exchange
   c. COIL Connect for Virtual Exchange
   d. UNICollaboration
   e. Stevens Initiative
   f. Red Latinoamericana COIL
   g. BRaVE (Brazilian Virtual Exchange)
   h. Not affiliated with any networks or consortia
   i. Other: _____

7. **Country or territory where your organization/institution is headquartered [drop down]***

8. **For how many years has your organization/institution offered virtual exchange programs and/or virtual exchange training? ***
   a. < 1 year
   b. 1-5 years
   c. 6-10 years
   d. 11-15 years
   e. Over 15 years
   f. Do not know

9. **Did you implement at least one virtual exchange program or provide virtual exchange training between September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023?***

   a. Yes
   b. No

[If Yes, proceed to Part II, question 11]

[If No, proceed to Part III, question 30]

Part II: Your virtual exchange programs from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023

This section captures aggregate information on **virtual exchange programs** that you implemented between **September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023**. Please answer the questions below with as much detail as possible and to the best of your ability.
(Note: questions with an asterisk or * symbol are required)

10. **In TOTAL, how many virtual exchange programs did your organization offer between September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023? Please enter a number or enter 'Do not know' if you are unsure of this data. ***
    (Note: An organization might offer one, two, or many virtual exchange programs. Virtual exchange programs are distinct from each other if one of the following features was unique to that program and different from others: participant population, learning content, countries connected, duration, and program activity types. For example, if your institution/organization offered 75 individual COIL exchanges (with different participation populations, learning content, etc.) during this period, you should report 75, not one. Since each program had unique features, we would consider these separate programs.)

11. **How many of these virtual exchange programs were of the following program administration types? We understand that your programs may fit several of these**

descriptions, but please only select one description for each of the programs you offer. Please avoid responses such as ranges (i.e. 3-10), (+) symbols (i.e. 30+), percentages (i.e. 50%), yes/no. (Note: This question requires a response for at least one row.)*

(Definition: Virtual exchange programs can be structured in multiple ways, all of which are influenced by the lead institution type, partnerships, virtual exchange activities, and participant demographics.)

Program Administration Types	Response
A single virtual exchange program run between two sites/locations/classrooms (e.g., Hassan II-Kennesaw State University Program: https://www.stevensinitiative.org/project/hassan-ii-university-of-casablanca-and-kennesaw-state-university/)	
A single virtual exchange program run mostly the same way across several sites/locations/classrooms (e.g., IREX – Global Solutions Sustainability Challenge: https://www.stevensinitiative.org/project/irex-2/)	
A virtual exchange program in which multiple sites/locations/classrooms conduct related, but varied activities (e.g., Empatico: https://www.stevensinitiative.org/project/empatico-2/)	
An open enrollment virtual exchange program where there is no single site/location/classroom hosting participants in person (e.g., World Learning – The Experiment Digital: https://www.stevensinitiative.org/project/world-learning-the-experiment-digital/)	
A collaborative online international learning (COIL) course, developed by pairs or small groups of educators working together to develop a virtual exchange that connects 2 or more academic courses in different places (e.g., those developed at SUNY COIL: http://coil.suny.edu/)	

Other (please specify type and the number of programs):	
Enter "Do not know" if this data is unavailable.	

12. How many of these virtual exchange programs focused on the following activities? Please avoid responses such as ranges (i.e. 3-10), (+) symbols (i.e. 30+), percentages (i.e. 50%), yes/no.*
(Note: This question requires a response for at least one row.)

Virtual Exchange Activities	Response
Paired courses with group project/s (e.g., William Davidson Institute – Business and Culture: https://www.stevensinitiative.org/project/william-davidson-institute-at-the-university-of-michigan-wdi/)	
Asynchronous learning and international communication modules (e.g., Global Nomads Group – Student to World: https://gng.org/student-to-world/)	
Hackathon (e.g., Johns Hopkins University Center for Bioengineering Innovation and Design – Designing Solutions for Humanitarian Crises: https://www.stevensinitiative.org/project/johns-hopkins-university/)	
Videoconference dialogue, sometimes with associated project (e.g., Empatico: https://www.stevensinitiative.org/project/empatico-2/)	
Pitch competition, sometimes with an associated MOOC (e.g., National Democratic Institute – Civic Tech Leadership Program: https://www.stevensinitiative.org/project/national-democratic-institute-ndi/)	
Collaborative project-based learning (e.g., World Learning – The Experiment Digital: https://	

www.stevensinitiative.org/project/world-learning-the-experiment-digital/)	
One-on-one language learning practice (e.g., NaTakallam: https://natakallam.com/)	
Other (please specify):	
Enter "Do not know" if this data is unavailable.	

13. **Between September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023, please indicate the types of virtual exchange training(s) your organization provided. (select all that apply)*:**

   a. Training for educators/facilitators on designing a collaborative virtual exchange/COIL

   b. Training for educators/facilitators on the implementation of a virtual exchange run by a single institution

   c. Training for facilitators on the implementation of your organization's specific exchange program(s)

   d. Virtual exchange training programs for a fee (i.e. individuals or organizations paying to attend your training programs)

   e. Other type of training (please specify): _____

   f. No virtual exchange training was provided by our organization

14. **How many of the virtual exchange programs reported above engage in the following styles of communication? Refer to the [typology here](). Please avoid responses such as ranges (i.e. 3-10), (+) symbols (i.e. 30+), percentages (i.e. 50%), yes/no. ***

   (Note: This question requires a response for at least one row.)

Activities	Response
Asynchronous activities only	
Synchronous activities only	
Primarily asynchronous exchange activities, with some synchronous exchange activities	

Primarily synchronous exchange activities, with some asynchronous exchange activities	
Enter "Do not know" if this data is unavailable.	

15. **How many of these virtual exchange programs serve participants in the following age/educational groups? Please avoid responses such as ranges (i.e. 3-10), (+) symbols (i.e. 30+), percentages (i.e. 50%), yes/no. ***
(Note: This question requires a response for at least one row.)

Age/education level	Response
Elementary school (primary)	
Middle school (Intermediate/upper primary/lower secondary)	
High school (Secondary)	
Post-secondary (B.A., B.S., Associates, Technical, etc.)	
Graduate/post-graduate (Master's, MBA, Ph.D. etc.)	
Early career professional	
Mid-career or advanced career professional	
Mixed age/educational groups (a combination of the above age/education levels)	
Enter "Do not know" if this data is unavailable.	

16. **How many of these virtual exchange programs run for the following durations, in weeks? Please avoid responses such as ranges (i.e. 3-10), (+) symbols (i.e. 30+), percentages (i.e. 50%), yes/no. ***
(Note: This question requires a response for at least one row.)

Weeks	Response
1-2 weeks	

3-4 weeks	
5-6 weeks	
7-8 weeks	
More than 8 weeks	
Enter "Do not know" if this data is unavailable.	

17. **How many of these virtual exchange programs are conducted in English or another language? Please avoid responses such as ranges (i.e. 3-10), (+) symbols (i.e. 30+), percentages (50%), yes/no.***

(Note: This question requires a response for at least one row.)

Language	Response
English only	
English and another language	
Only in a language other than English	
Enter "Do not know" if this data is unavailable.	

18. **If you indicated in the previous question that your programs are conducted in another language or only a language other than English, select all of the other languages that are used in your programs.**
    a. Bengali
    b. French
    c. German
    d. Hindi
    e. Italian
    f. Japanese
    g. Korean
    h. Mandarin Chinese
    i. Marathi
    j. Portuguese
    k. Russian

l. Spanish

m. Tamil

n. Telugu

o. Turkish

p. Urdu

q. Vietnamese

r. Western Punjabi

s. Wu Chinese

t. Yue Chinese

u. Other: _____

19. How many of these virtual exchange programs include the following primary learning content, topic, or subject areas? Please avoid responses such as ranges (i.e. 3-10), (+) symbols (i.e. 30+), percentages (i.e. 50%), yes/no. If you would like to mention other areas, please elaborate in Question 20 that follows.*
(Note: This question requires a response for at least one row.)

Primary area	Response
Intercultural dialogue or peacebuilding	
Entrepreneurship or business	
Civics or leadership	
Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)	
Education	
Art	
Language learning	
Humanities	
Global or international affairs	
Public or community health	
Mix of the above primary learning content, topic, or subject areas	

Enter "Do not know" if this data is unavailable.	

20. **Please list any other topics or areas in which you offer virtual exchange programs, as well as the number of programs offered in that topic or area. Please follow this format: Veterinary medicine, 10; etc.**

Subheading: THE NEXT SET OF QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS IN YOUR VIRTUAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

21. **In TOTAL, how many <u>participants</u> completed or will have completed these virtual exchange programs between September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023? Please include a number or type 'Do not know' in the text box if you are unsure of this data.***
(Definition: A participant is an individual who completed enough planned activities to achieve the intended experiences and outputs of the program.)

22. **In TOTAL, how many <u>facilitators</u> participated or will have participated in these virtual exchange programs between September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023? Please include a number or type 'Do not know' in the text box if you are unsure of this data.***
(Definition: A facilitator is a person who plays a key role in enabling constructive engagement among virtual exchange participants. Facilitators are sometimes, but not necessarily, educators.)

23. **On average, how many hours do <u>participants</u> spend per week on your virtual exchange programs?***
[drop-down response: Do not know, options 0-100]

24. **On average, how many hours do <u>facilitators</u> spend per week on your virtual exchange programs?***
(Note: Please consider prep, facilitation and consultation time when responding.)
[drop-down response: Do not know, options 0-100]

25. **Please include information on the top 10 countries or territories where your virtual exchange program participants resided and, if possible, indicate approximately how many participants resided in that country or territory. While this question is not required, we are eager to learn about the location of your participants so please provide as much information as possible.**

Top 10 Countries or Territories	Number of Participants
Top 1	

Top 2	
Top 3	
Top 4	
Top 5	
Top 6	
Top 7	
Top 8	
Top 9	
Top 10	

Subheading: Looking Ahead:

26. **What are your plans for offering virtual exchange programs in the next 12 months? [Select one]***
    a. We expect our current level of programming to continue
    b. We expect to offer more programs
    c. We expect to offer fewer programs
    d. We will not be offering any virtual exchange programs
    e. Uncertain as of now
    f. Do not know

27. **During this past year, which of the following have affected your ability to offer virtual exchange? [Select all that apply]***

    a. Policy shifts and national-level drivers that favor physical mobility
    b. Availability of funding to offer virtual exchange
    c. Infrastructure issues such as lack of electricity
    d. A "digital divide" or lack of technology access
    e. None of the above
    f. Other:_____

28. **What are some different ways in which you have used the Stevens Initiative Survey of the Field at your organization/institution? [Select all that apply]***
    a. I have used the survey data to demonstrate/advocate for the need for virtual exchange with key decision makers.
    b. I have used the survey findings to better understand our virtual exchange program(s) as compared with other programs.
    c. I have used the survey data to measure the outcomes and progress of our program(s).
    d. I have not used the survey findings in any particular way.

e. Other:_____

29. **Which of the following arguments about virtual exchange have helped you persuade key decision makers or stakeholders about the importance of virtual exchange? [Select all that apply]***
    a. Virtual exchange enables language learning
    b. Virtual exchange has positive academic, social, and cultural outcomes for participants.
    c. Virtual exchange increases access to global learning for a larger number and wider range of participants.
    e. Virtual exchange and physical exchange and mobility are critical and complementary approaches
    e. Virtual exchange is an important way to build and reinvigorate partnerships
    f. None of the above
    e. Other: _____

30. **Are you open to speaking with one of our research team members about your virtual exchange programs?**
    a. Yes
    b. No

Part III [those who did not offer a program last year will be directed here]

31. If not, what was the reason for not offering virtual exchange programs and/or trainings during this time period? [select all that apply]*

    i. The work of our organization/institution has shifted away from virtual exchange

    ii. We were impacted by pandemic and could no longer offer programs and/or training

    iii. We did not have funding (unrelated to the pandemic) to run such programs and/or trainings

    iv. Do not know

    v. Other: _____ (please elaborate)

32. Do you plan to offer at least one virtual exchange program or virtual exchange training in the next 12 months?*

    a. Yes

    b. No

    c. Uncertain

33. Are you ready to submit your responses? If not, please click 'Back' to edit.

    a. Yes

Final landing page

Thank you for completing our survey. The Stevens Initiative serves as a central place for collecting and sharing promising practices and other resources for the virtual exchange field. Your response to this survey is a valuable contribution to this area of work. As we work to count as many programs and youth participants as possible, we'd appreciate your help sharing about the survey using <mark>this toolkit</mark>.

If you would like to learn more about the Stevens Initiative please visit our website, read about how you can engage with our work, subscribe to our newsletter, and follow us on social media.

About the Stevens Initiative:

The Stevens Initiative is an international leader in virtual exchange, which brings young people from diverse places together to collaborate and connect through everyday technology. Created in 2015 as a lasting tribute to Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, the Initiative invests in virtual exchange programs; shares research, resources, and promising practices to improve impact; and advocates for broader adoption. Learn more: https://www.stevensinitiative.org/

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