



LAUREA

**VIRTUAL MOBILITY BEFORE AND AFTER
STUDENT EXCHANGES**

Arja Majakulma, 20.8.2008

International Laurea

- A wide range of international activities: IaH, programmes in English, language studies, IP's, projects...



- Approximately 200 outgoing and incoming exchange students per academic year

VM-BASE

- Virtual Mobility Before and After Student Exchanges
- Activities include research and piloting
- <http://vm-base.europace.org/>
- <http://www.europace.org/>



Project Coordinator
www.europace.org

VM-BASE

"Virtual Mobility Before and After Student Exchanges"

PROJECT OBJECTIVES
Enhancing the impact and efficiency of the Erasmus programme through the setup of and support for a full-fledged 'blended' Erasmus action:

- as a complement to the existing Erasmus exchange programmes in which virtual Erasmus can be used to prepare and follow-up the physical mobility;
- to support teachers in coaching at a distance for both preparatory and return initiatives in blended format;
- to consider the local, regional, national and European considerations of such 'blended mobility' actions.



CONTACT US!

Kapelendreef 62
B- 3001 Heverlee, Belgium
christine.michielsens@europace.be
info@europace.be

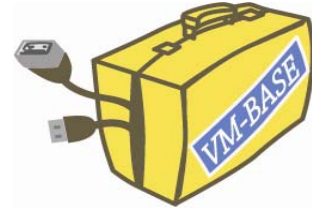
OUTPUTS

1. Orientation guidelines for students
2. Codes of good practice in designing preselection tests for students
3. Blue print for preliminary courses for students preparing for a physical Erasmus exchange
4. Guidelines on assessment and evaluation tools
5. A study on a Virtual Alumni Association for Erasmus students
6. A manual on 'good practices in coaching'
7. A manual with validated procedures and recommendations for blended mobility activities at institutional, network and European level

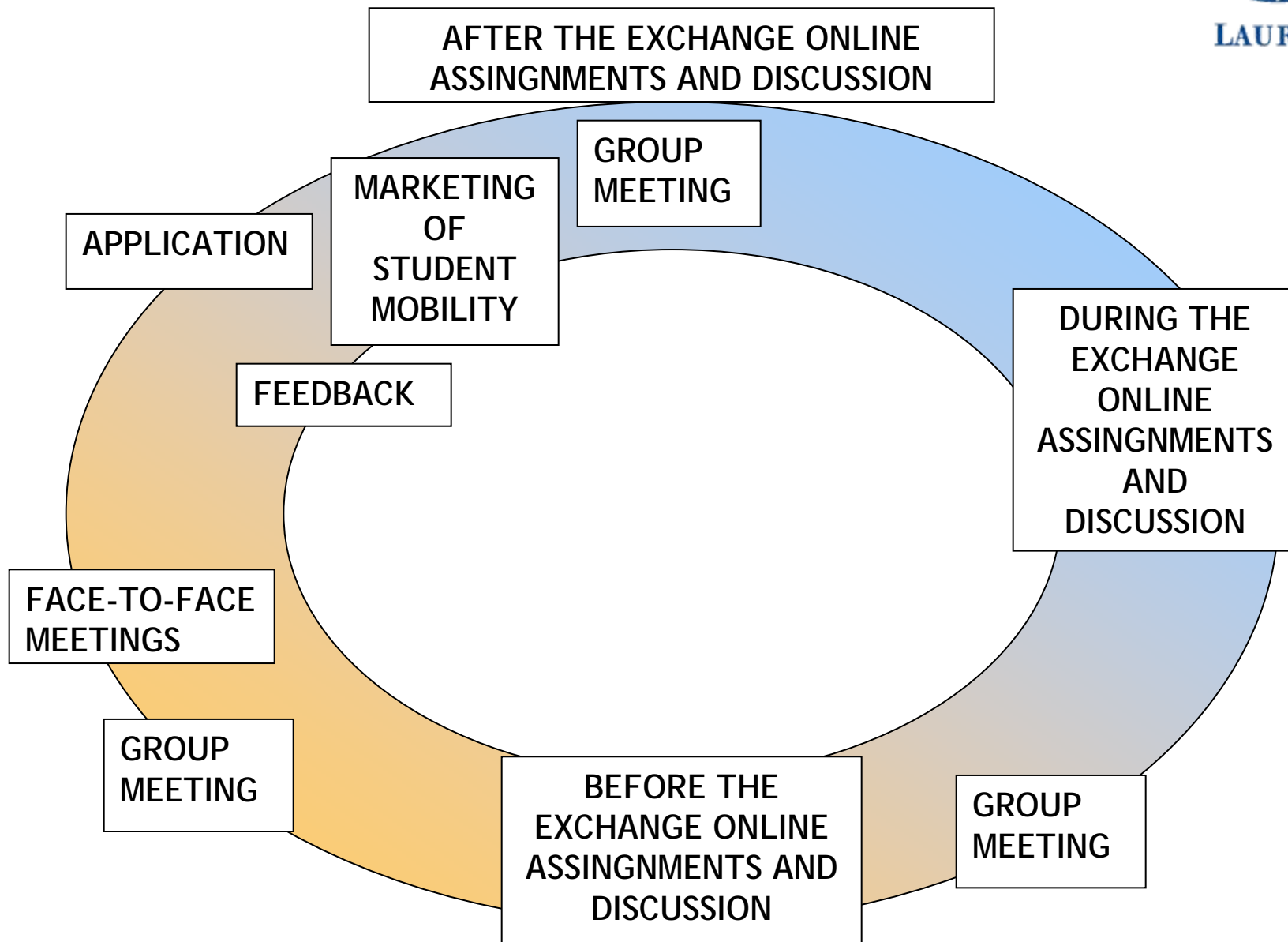
Background: Need for development

- Good orientation = successful exchange
- Information provided beforehand -> problem prevention, shorter adjustment time
- Laurea's existing prep-course for outgoing exchange students did not meet the current needs, some more preparation was clearly needed and there was a need for more support during the exchange
- Incoming students needed a lot of information
- Personal advice takes up a lot of resources
- Online orientation and guidance is cost effective and allows wider participation

Laurea's pilot for outgoing students: Go Abroad!



- Orientation and guidance study unit for Laurea's students going abroad
- Based on feedback and experiences
- and the need to update
- Before, during and after the exchange phases
- Blended learning: offline and online
- Face-to-face meetings, group meetings, assignments, discussion and diary/blog



CONTENTS OF THE COURSE

Before the exchange:

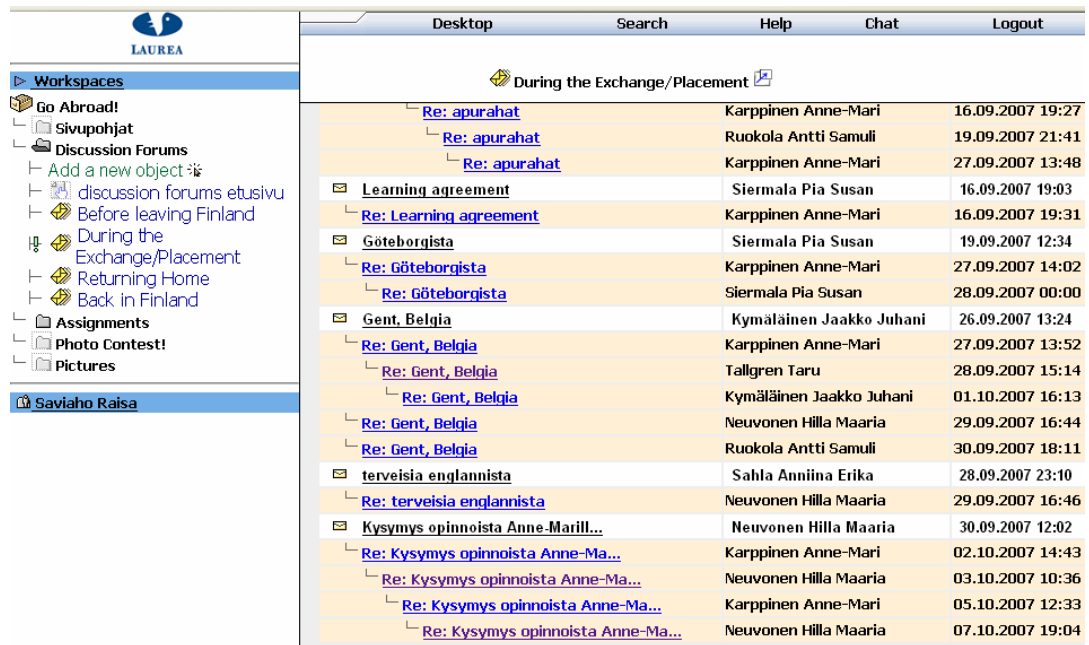
- Meeting with the other students and International Coordinators: Information on practical arrangements
- Personal meetings with the International Coordinator: Information on studies abroad, Learning agreement
- Meeting with the other students and International Coordinators: Final information about the Go Abroad - online course, Cultural encounters (culture shock)

- **During the exchange:**
- Writing the Go Abroad diary regularly
- Participation in discussions during different phases of the exchange/placement with the International Coordinators and other students abroad

- **After the exchange:**
- Go Abroad assignments
- Meeting with the International Coordinator
- Filling out a feedback form
- Sharing the experiences in the classroom and / or at the International info days

Go abroad! - virtual workspace

- <https://optima.discendum.com/laurea>
- Good experiences so far with pilot groups
- Dissemination of the practice to all outgoing students



The screenshot shows a web interface for a virtual workspace. On the left is a sidebar with a tree view of folders and items. The main area displays an email inbox with columns for subject, sender, and date/time.

Sidebar:

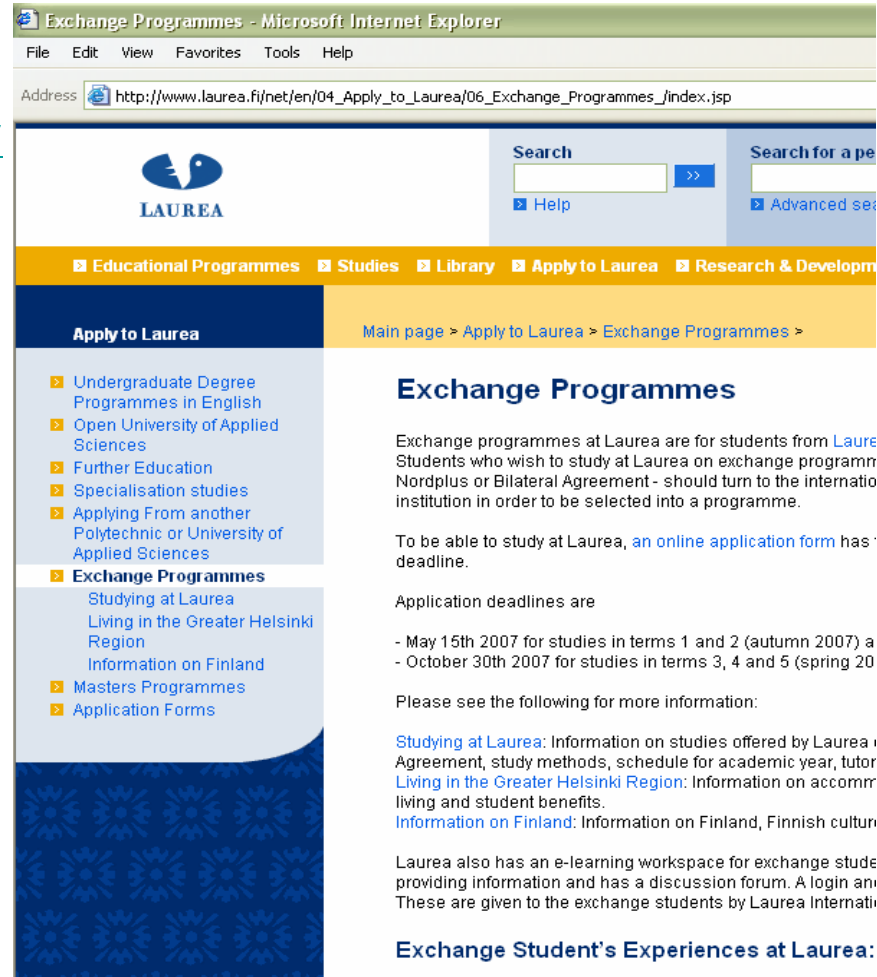
- Workspaces
 - Go Abroad!
 - Sivupohjat
 - Discussion Forums
 - Add a new object
 - discussion forums etusivu
 - Before leaving Finland
 - During the Exchange/Placement
 - Returning Home
 - Back in Finland
 - Assignments
 - Photo Contest!
 - Pictures
 - Saviahho Raisa

Email Inbox:

Subject	Sender	Date/Time
Re: apurahat	Karppinen Anne-Mari	16.09.2007 19:27
Re: apurahat	Ruokola Antti Samuli	19.09.2007 21:41
Re: apurahat	Karppinen Anne-Mari	27.09.2007 13:48
Learning agreement	Siermala Pia Susan	16.09.2007 19:03
Re: Learning agreement	Karppinen Anne-Mari	16.09.2007 19:31
Göteborgista	Siermala Pia Susan	19.09.2007 12:34
Re: Göteborgista	Karppinen Anne-Mari	27.09.2007 14:02
Re: Göteborgista	Siermala Pia Susan	28.09.2007 00:00
Gent, Belgia	Kymäläinen Jaakko Juhani	26.09.2007 13:24
Re: Gent, Belgia	Karppinen Anne-Mari	27.09.2007 13:52
Re: Gent, Belgia	Tallgren Taru	28.09.2007 15:14
Re: Gent, Belgia	Kymäläinen Jaakko Juhani	01.10.2007 16:13
Re: Gent, Belgia	Neuvonen Hilla Maaria	29.09.2007 16:44
Re: Gent, Belgia	Ruokola Antti Samuli	30.09.2007 18:11
terveysia englannista	Sahla Anniina Erika	28.09.2007 23:10
Re: terveysia englannista	Neuvonen Hilla Maaria	29.09.2007 16:46
Kysymys opinnoista Anne-Marill...	Neuvonen Hilla Maaria	30.09.2007 12:02
Re: Kysymys opinnoista Anne-Ma...	Karppinen Anne-Mari	02.10.2007 14:43
Re: Kysymys opinnoista Anne-Ma...	Neuvonen Hilla Maaria	03.10.2007 10:36
Re: Kysymys opinnoista Anne-Ma...	Karppinen Anne-Mari	05.10.2007 12:33
Re: Kysymys opinnoista Anne-Ma...	Neuvonen Hilla Maaria	07.10.2007 19:04

Incoming students : Background, orientation provided previously

- www-pages:
- http://www.laurea.fi/internet/en/01_studies_and_applying/01_Group/06_Information_for_Exchange_Students/index.jsp
- info letters
- personal advice (e-mail)
- arrival days
- student tutoring
- orientation week and camp



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Laurea website. The address bar shows the URL: http://www.laurea.fi/net/en/04_Apply_to_Laurea/06_Exchange_Programmes_/index.jsp. The page features the Laurea logo and a navigation menu with items like 'Educational Programmes', 'Studies', 'Library', 'Apply to Lauea', and 'Research & Development'. The main content area is titled 'Exchange Programmes' and includes a sidebar with links such as 'Undergraduate Degree Programmes in English', 'Open University of Applied Sciences', 'Further Education', 'Specialisation studies', 'Applying From another Polytechnic or University of Applied Sciences', 'Exchange Programmes', 'Studying at Lauea', 'Living in the Greater Helsinki Region', 'Information on Finland', 'Masters Programmes', and 'Application Forms'. The main text describes exchange programmes for students from Lauea, Nordplus, or Bilateral Agreement, and provides application deadlines: May 15th 2007 for terms 1 and 2 (autumn 2007) and October 30th 2007 for terms 3, 4 and 5 (spring 2007). It also mentions an e-learning workspace for exchange students.

Objectives of the orientation - incoming

- Well orientated incoming exchange students
- Sharing information and getting to know one another, also among arriving students
- Levelling and decreasing workload
- Ensuring correct and good quality information for everyone



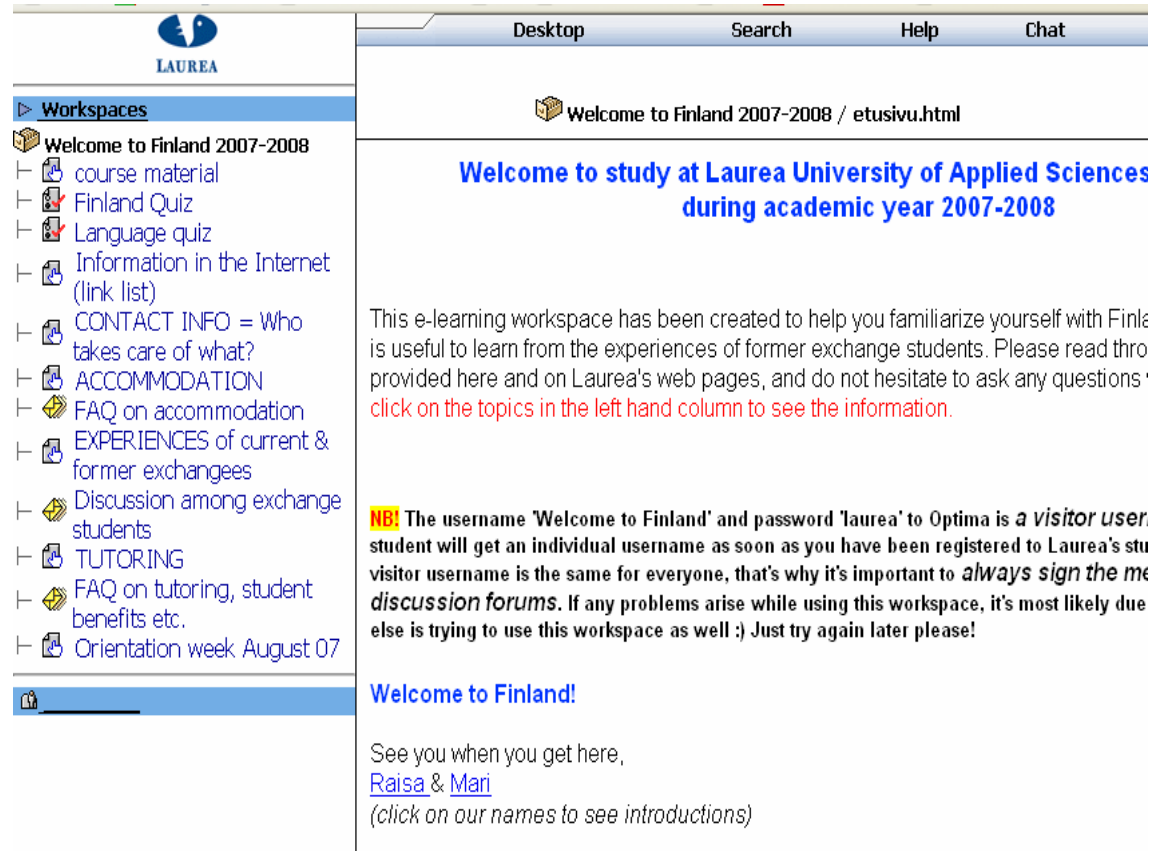
Orientation schedule

1. Information at www.laurea.fi
2. Information at home institution
3. Application and acceptance
4. -> Access to
'Welcome to Finland'
5. Arrival days
6. Face-to-face tutoring
7. Orientation week
and camp



Welcome to Finland

- An e-learning workspace
<https://optima.discendum.com/laurea>
- Platform for sharing information
- Discussion forum
- Shared login and password



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the LAUREA logo in the top left. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://optima.discendum.com/laurea>. The page title is "Welcome to Finland 2007-2008 / etusivu.html". The main content area features a blue header with the text "Welcome to study at Laurea University of Applied Sciences during academic year 2007-2008". Below this, a paragraph explains the purpose of the workspace and provides instructions. A yellow box contains a note about the visitor user. At the bottom, there is a "Welcome to Finland!" section with a message from Raisa & Mari.

Workspaces

- Welcome to Finland 2007-2008
 - course material
 - Finland Quiz
 - Language quiz
 - Information in the Internet (link list)
 - CONTACT INFO = Who takes care of what?
 - ACCOMMODATION
 - FAQ on accommodation
 - EXPERIENCES of current & former exchangees
 - Discussion among exchange students
 - TUTORING
 - FAQ on tutoring, student benefits etc.
 - Orientation week August 07

Desktop Search Help Chat

Welcome to Finland 2007-2008 / etusivu.html

Welcome to study at Laurea University of Applied Sciences during academic year 2007-2008

This e-learning workspace has been created to help you familiarize yourself with Finle is useful to learn from the experiences of former exchange students. Please read thro provided here and on Laurea's web pages, and do not hesitate to ask any questions· [click on the topics in the left hand column to see the information.](#)

NB! The username 'Welcome to Finland' and password 'laurea' to Optima is a *visitor user*. student will get an individual username as soon as you have been registered to Laurea's stu visitor username is the same for everyone, that's why it's important to *always sign the me discussion forums*. If any problems arise while using this workspace, it's most likely due else is trying to use this workspace as well :) Just try again later please!

Welcome to Finland!

See you when you get here,
[Raisa](#) & [Mari](#)
 (click on our names to see introductions)

Experiences so far: Success

- positive feedback
- some active users
- continuance
- open communication
- feeling welcomed -> less stress



Experiences so far: Challenges

- ICT skills, the Digital culture shock
- language skills
- previous experience
- chatting culture
- credibility issues: written info vs. "spoken", info for everyone vs. individual advice

Thank you!