

## R2.4 Student Congress Report

### REPORT

### WP2 - Definition of International Alliance's student identity

Project: Building Student Identity for European Universities Alliance – IamSTUDENT.  
KA220-HED - Cooperation partnerships in higher education  
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## Introduction

This report, describes the results of the EU-CONEXUS Student Congress which was held in May 2025 in Limassol, Cyprus. The EU-CONEXUS Student Congress directly contributed to achieving the WP2 objectives by engaging students and partners in co-constructing a shared student identity and inter-campus culture. In particular, it served as a key instrument for brainstorming, reflection, and motivation, allowing students to actively shape the “IamEU-CONEXUS” identity. By facilitating collaboration among students from different campuses and incorporating input from other associated partners, the activity supported the development of a common set of values and shared practices.

Furthermore, the Congress enabled the testing and refinement of inter-campus actions and services through direct feedback and experiential learning. This aligns with Covey’s model of human development—enhancing Emotional Intelligence (through teamwork and networking), Spiritual Intelligence (through reflection on values and mission), as well as contributing to Physical and Mental development via engagement in diverse inter-campus initiatives. Ultimately, this activity was able to feed into the creation of practical guidelines and a roadmap for a unified student identity across the alliance, setting the foundation for subsequent development in WP3 and piloting in WP4.

The expected result of these activities is the production of the R.2.4 Student Congress Report, which serves as a critical intermediary step in shaping the “IamEU-CONEXUS” identity and the inter-campus student life roadmap. The report will synthesize first-hand feedback collected from students, representatives, and partner institutions during the Congress. This feedback will reflect on the effectiveness, relevance, and resonance of the proposed actions and identity elements discussed. By integrating these insights, The report refines and validates both the IamEU-CONEXUS Identity Action Plan and the EU-CONEXUS Roadmap for Inter-Campus Life.. It will highlight student needs, expectations, and engagement drivers—ensuring that the final strategies are not only theoretically sound but also grounded in real student experience. This outcome will serve as a foundation for the practical implementation and piloting of inter-campus initiatives during the 2025–2026 academic year, bridging WP2 with WP3 and WP4 deliverables.

The Student Congress brought together a total of 86 participants, including 70 students and 16 staff members from the project team. The student participants were actively engaged in inter-campus pilot actions under WP4 and were selected to ensure balanced and inclusive representation. Special attention was given to reflect the diversity of the student body across the EU-CONEXUS alliance, considering factors such as nationality, field of study, academic level, and gender. The 16 staff participants include members of the core project team, facilitators, and representatives from partner institutions who supported the workshops, guided discussions, and helped synthesize outcomes. The diverse makeup of participants ensured that the Student Congress fostered meaningful dialogue and captured a wide range of perspectives,

which is essential for building a truly representative and inclusive student identity and inter-campus roadmap.

The Student Congress was strategically scheduled to take place in Limassol, Cyprus, in May 2025, aligning with the EU-CONEXUS Arts and Culture Festival hosted by Frederick University (FredU). The location and timing were selected intentionally to leverage the synergies between both events, as the Festival is part of the Erasmus+ EU-CONEXUS Plus project. The decision to merge the Student Congress with the Arts and Culture Festival provided a unique opportunity to maximize student engagement, visibility, and intercultural exchange within the alliance.

The cultural setting enriched the student experience and reinforced both the emotional and cultural dimensions of the EU-CONEXUS student identity. The estimated budget for travel and subsistence was 10,400 EUR per partner, covering participation over five days. This integrated approach ensured cost-efficiency, logistical coherence, and added value for both projects by fostering collaboration, creativity, and community building.

## Overview

The EU-CONEXUS Student Congress 2025, held at Frederick University Limassol Campus, Cyprus on Wednesday, 14 May 2025, brought together 86 participants, including 70 students and 16 staff members from the project team. Participants from the partner universities joined an engaging afternoon of collaboration and co-creation. Running from 14:00 to 18:00, the event aimed to shape a shared EU-CONEXUS student identity through a series of participatory activities. These were designed to foster intercultural dialogue, promote creativity, and explore innovative approaches to student engagement across the alliance. A detailed overview of student composition is presented in the table below.

Name of University	Number of students
Agricultural University of Athens, Greece	8
Catholic University of Valencia, Spain	13
Klaipeda University, Lithuania	7
La Rochelle Université, France	9
South-East Technological University, Ireland	4
Technical University of Civil Engineering, Romania	10
University of Zadar, Croatia	7
University of Rostock, Germany	2
Frederick University, Cyprus	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

## Objectives

The objectives of the EU-CONEXUS Student Congress 2025 were to strengthen the EU-CONEXUS student community, encourage reflection and co-creation around student identity within the alliance, and generate ideas to improve student services, connectivity, and overall engagement. Additionally, the congress aimed to lay the foundation for future inter-campus collaboration and shared initiatives among EU-CONEXUS universities.

These goals are directly aligned with the objectives of Work Package 2 (WP2), which are:

1. to define the common values of a student of the European University alliance by researching, analysing, and establishing the building blocks of a shared student identity;
2. to strengthen the alliance's student identity through inter-campus actions; and
3. to provide practical guidelines for implementing these actions through the piloting of the "IamEU-CONEXUS" identity.

The Student Congress served as a key milestone in achieving these objectives by gathering student input, fostering shared values, and shaping the roadmap for an inclusive, connected, and engaged EU-CONEXUS student community.

It is worth mentioning that the second inter-campus activity, titled "Scent of the City," was also organized during the Festival, with 70 student participants actively involved.

## Methodology

### 1. Icebreaker Activity – “9 Universities, 1 EU-CONEXUS”

Conduct an impact assessment through participant surveys and staff feedback. Evaluation metrics may include participation numbers, diversity of attendees, satisfaction levels, and qualitative insights. The results should inform recommendations for improving future editions.



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## 2. Inter-groups Quiz – “EU-CONEXUS in a Nutshell”

Participants engaged in an interactive and informative quiz to test and expand their knowledge about the EU-CONEXUS alliance and start team-working in newly created groups. The quiz was formatted on the Kahoot platform, allowing teams to easily join by scanning a QR code.







### 3. Co-Creation Workshops & Box Activities

In this section, we provide a brief overview of the activity. The detailed guidelines and implementation steps are included in Annex Section of the deliverable.

Students split into thematic groups and engaged in a three-part box activity:

- Box 1: Student-centred EU-CONEXUS
- Box 2: Portrait of the EU-CONEXUS Student
- Box 3: EU-CONEXUS Services Roadmap 2026–2030



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Each group analysed the contents of their box, identified key ideas, and contributed to a shared silhouette representing the ideal EU-CONEXUS student identity.

#### 4. Thinking Out of the Box Sessions

Breakout discussions focused on:

- Making virtual classes more engaging
- Effective event dissemination and student outreach
- Improving physical mobility across campuses
- Brainstorming preferred virtual activities for better connectivity

The following tables summarize the results of the break out discussions.

<b>Classification of students proposals for EU-CONEXUS services 2026-2030</b>	
<b>Attribute Group</b>	<b>Matching Proposed Activities or key words</b>
<b>Academic Attributes</b>	More Variety for Joint Masters, More BIPs (Blended Intensive Programs), More Student Research Hubs and research opportunities,
<b>International, Cultural &amp; Social Attributes</b>	Cultural Exchange Annual EU Conexus Festivals Learning New Languages Strong Friendships Amazing Food Networking Opportunities Mobility
<b>Identity and Representation</b>	Strong Student Leadership Achieving European Missions More Alliances With Other Universities International Integration
<b>Mobility and Accessibility</b>	Travelling Increased Capacity for Students to Participate in High Demand Mobilities More Funding for Student Mobilities European Funding Internships More BIPs
<b>Support and Services</b>	Structural Reforms Strong Student Leadership More Alliances With Other Universities More Calls and Flexibility for Student Projects and More Variety
<b>Shared Goals and Aspirations</b>	Research Internships Achieving European Missions More Calls and Flexibility for Student Projects and More Variety Strong Student Leadership





<b>Technology and Connectivity</b>	Networking Opportunities Structural Reforms More Calls and Flexibility for Student Projects and More Variety International Integration Mobility
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## Classification of student centered EU-CONEXUS proposal

Attribute Group	Matching Proposed Activities or key words
<b>Academic Attributes</b>	Equal Opportunities for Every Type of Program Optional (voluntary) Micro-Credentials Flexible Subject Themes Workshops More Practical Learning
<b>International, Cultural &amp; Social Attributes</b>	Taste of New Culture Travel Opportunities Student Collaboration Between Universities Communication Skills Presentation Skills
<b>Identity and Representation</b>	Taste of New Culture Communication Skills Student Collaboration Between Universities
<b>Mobility and Accessibility</b>	Travel Opportunities Funding (Scholarships/Grants)
<b>Support and Services</b>	Equal Opportunities for Every Type of Program Workshops More Practical Learning
<b>Shared Goals and Aspirations</b>	Workshops More Practical Learning Student Collaboration Between Universities
<b>Technology and Connectivity</b>	Student Collaboration Between Universities Communication Skills Presentation Skills

## Classification of Portrait of EU-CONEXUS student proposal

Attribute Group	Matching Proposed Activities or key words
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<b>Academic Attributes</b>	Thirst for Knowledge Curiosity Proactivity/Active Participation Online Server Students Focus Groups
<b>International, Cultural &amp; Social Attributes</b>	Multilinguality Cooking Classes Language Workshops Travel Festivals Social Events Championships Sociability Respect
<b>Identity and Representation</b>	Diversity Faith and Hope Open Mindedness Collaboration with EU-CONEXUS Social Media
<b>Mobility and Accessibility</b>	Travel Festivals Championships
<b>Support and Services</b>	Online Server Students Collaborative Tasks Focus Groups Language Workshops
<b>Shared Goals and Aspirations</b>	Active Creative Spaces Creativity Collaboration with EU-CONEXUS Ambition Collaborative Tasks
<b>Technology and Connectivity</b>	Online Server Students Social Media

## 5. Mapping Tree Activity

Participants work in small groups to explore and develop ideas around key questions. Each table has an A3 sheet with a question in the center ("tree trunk").

**Introduction** (2–3 min): Moderator explains the question and rules.

**Round 1 – Brainstorm** (10 min): Students write initial ideas on short branches (blue) and then rotate to a new table with a different question.

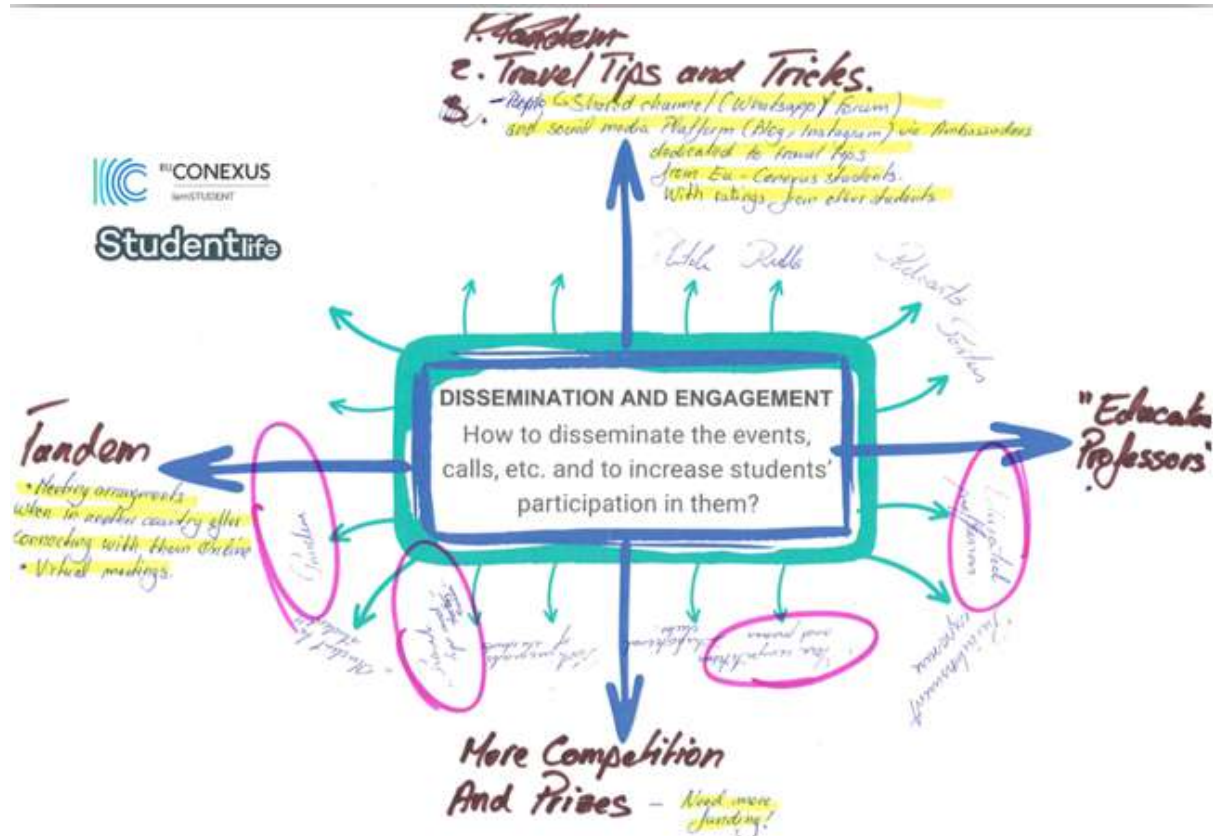




**Round 2 – Build on Ideas (20 min):** Students review previous group's ideas, select the best ones, and expand them on longer branches (green) to develop deeper answers.

**Final Sharing (10 min):** Groups present their completed trees to the room.

Detailed guidelines for the activity can be found in the ANNEX. This collaborative activity encouraged creativity, idea building, and cross-group interaction. The following picture summarizes the outcomes of the activity.



## 6. Silhouette Creation and Student Proposals

Each group synthesised their ideas into visual elements (backpack, mobile phone, student) that were combined into a single symbolic "EU-CONEXUS student" figure. This process culminated in actionable student proposals which were presented by them during the final session of the congress.



## Key Student Proposals

The students' brainstorming session, conducted as part of the Silhouette activity, generated a series of proposals—summarized in the table below—that directly contribute to shaping the EU-CONEXUS student identity. These proposals will serve as key inputs for two core deliverables: R 2.2, the Toolkit of Best Practices for Inter-Campus Student Identity, which will offer a flexible, evolving framework for identity-building across campuses; and R 2.3, the IamEUCONEXUS Student Identity Action Plan, which will outline the final strategic approach and recommended practices to be implemented during the 2024–2025 academic year.

<b>Description of EU-CONEXUS services for 2026-2030</b>	Cultural Exchange, Networking Opportunities, Travel, Newer Missions, Research, Annual EU Conexus Festivals, More BIPs (Blended Intensive Programs), Internships, Achieving European Missions, Learning New Languages, Strong Student Leadership, More Alliances With Other Universities, European Funding, Strong Friendships, Travelling, Increased Capacity for Students to be able to participate in high demand mobilities, More Variety for Joint Masters, International Integration, Amazing Food, Structural Reforms, More Funding for Student mobilities, More Student Research Hubs, More Calls and Flexibility for Student Projects and More Variety.
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*(represented in the poster by the backpack)*

<b>Description of Student Centered EU-CONEXUS</b> <i>(represented in the poster by the mobile phone)</i>	Taste of New Culture, Workshops, Travel Opportunities, Funding (Scholarships/Grants), More Practical Learning, Equal Opportunities for Every Type of Program, Flexible Subject Themes, Optional (voluntary) Micro-Credentials, Communication Skills, Presentation Skills, Student Collaboration Between Universities, Flexible Subject Themes.
<b>Description of the portrait of EU-CONEXUS Student</b> <i>(represented in the poster by the student figure)</i>	Environmental Graciousness, Open Mindedness, Curiosity, Multilinguality, Sociability, Proactivity/Active Participation, Ambition, Diversity, Creativity, Faith and Hope, Thirst for Knowledge, Online Server Students, Collaboration with EU-Conexus, Focus Groups, Active Creative Spaces, Cooking Classes, Travel Festivals, Respect, Social Media, Language Workshops, Collaborative Tasks, Social Events, Championships.

As a result of the co-creation process and silhouette activity, students proposed several initiatives to strengthen student identity and connection across EU-CONEXUS campuses:

- **Online Study All-Nighters:** Virtual study sessions to motivate and support each other during exams.
- **Buddy System:** A peer-to-peer mentorship program to assist new or mobile students in settling in.
- **Virtual Escape Room:** A creative, gamified experience to build team spirit across borders.
- **Virtual Cooking Events:** Sharing traditional recipes and cultural insights from partner countries.
- **Virtual Race:** A fun, fitness-oriented challenge encouraging healthy lifestyles and inter-campus connection.

## Overall Satisfaction based on student survey

As part of the EU-CONEXUS Festival 2025, a satisfaction survey was conducted to assess participants' experiences and gather feedback for future improvements. A total of 53 responses were received, with 42 fully completed and 11 partially completed questionnaires. The survey aimed to capture insights regarding the organisation of the festival, the quality of activities, the sense of community among students, and participants' interest in future events.

Key Findings:

- **Overall Experience:**  
Participants reported a positive overall experience of the EU-CONEXUS Festival, reflected in the feedback and ratings.
- **Activities Organisation:**  
On a scale of 0 (very poor) to 10 (excellent), participants rated the organisation of activities with an average score of 8. Responses ranged from 5 to 10, indicating a generally high level of satisfaction with some scope for improvement. On a scale from 0 (very poor) to 10 (excellent), the organisation of activities received an average rating of 8, with the lowest score being 5 and the highest 10.

**Artistic Project Presentations:**

Students who presented artistic projects indicated a high level of satisfaction with the presentation of their work.

- **Student Congress Experience:**  
The overall experience of the Student Congress was rated positively, confirming the value of such events in fostering student engagement.
- **Inter-university Connections:**  
A significant portion of respondents reported feeling more connected to students from other EU-CONEXUS universities after the Congress.
- **Cultural Curiosity:**  
Many students stated that their curiosity about the countries and cultures represented within the EU-CONEXUS Alliance increased following their participation.
- **Sense of Belonging:**  
The survey indicated a strengthening of students' sense of belonging to the EU-CONEXUS Alliance.
- **Interest in Future Events:**  
There is clear interest among students to participate in future EU-CONEXUS events, with suggestions for the types of activities that would appeal to them most.
- **Preferred Communication Channels:**  
Participants shared their preferences on how they would like to receive information about upcoming events, providing valuable input for communication planning.

The survey results demonstrate the success of the EU-CONEXUS Festival 2025 in terms of event organisation, student satisfaction, and alliance building. The feedback collected highlights the importance of maintaining and enhancing such initiatives to promote intercultural exchange, student mobility, and a stronger European university community.

## Outcomes and Impact

The Congress successfully fostered a sense of community and shared identity among students from the nine EU-CONEXUS partner universities. It resulted in concrete, student-driven proposals that align with the alliance's core values of inclusivity, sustainability, and innovation. The event also served as a dynamic platform for students to contribute creative and strategic input toward shaping the future direction of EU-CONEXUS services and initiatives.

Importantly, the methodology applied—particularly the use of interviews, focus groups, and participatory workshops—has strong potential for replication by other European University alliances aiming to build or strengthen their own inter-campus student identities. These approaches proved effective in capturing diverse student voices and translating them into actionable outcomes.

The outcomes of the Congress will directly inform two key deliverables: R 2.2, the Toolkit of Best Practices, which will incorporate student-generated insights as adaptable models for inter-campus engagement; and R 2.3, the IamEUCONEXUS Student Identity Action Plan, which will translate these proposals into a structured implementation strategy for the 2024–2025 academic year.

Planning is already underway for a follow-up inter-campus event, where selected ideas from the Congress may be piloted and evaluated. As part of this process, feedback will be requested

from the Student Board to ensure continued alignment with student perspectives and priorities.

## ANNEX

### 1. Guidelines for the synthesis of the 3 boxes

#### **Objectives**

Make the synthesis of the 3 boxes choose main ideas

#### **Instructions to follow**

##### Step 1: Form 3 Groups

Create 3 groups, one for each topic/box

Each group has 6 students (2 students per previous group the most younger and the older one )

##### Room Assignments

Group 1 (Topic 1): Amphitheater

Group 2 (Topic 2): Room 1

Group 3 (Topic 3): Room 2

In each space, students will find the 3 boxes related to their topic.

##### Step 2: Reflect and Create

Look at the 3 boxes and select up to 3 key ideas from each one.

Ask each student to write one main idea on a post-it note and stick it next to the box. (5 mins)

Look at the notes together and see which ideas come up the most. (5 mins)

##### Step 3: Fill in the Elements

Write the top three ideas under the items (suitcase, silhouette, or map). (10mins)

#### Step 4: Finalized the silhouette

Gather the 3 teams in the amphitheater to piece together each elements and get the final EU-CONEXUS silhouette (15mins)

#### **Help for the moderator**

Question to help the students analyse the 3 boxes :

What is common?

What is repetitive ?

What is different ?

#### 2. Guidelines for moderator of the synthesis of the 3 boxes

##### **1) Setup (Before the activity begins):**

There are 9 student groups split across 4 rooms:

2 groups per room.

1 room may have 3 groups, or 1 group might be in the lecture theatre, depending on final student numbers.

Each group gets their own table to work in a quiet and focused space, and one animator/facilitator to guide them.

On each table, there are materials:

Paper, pencils, pens, scissors, markers, magazines, brochures, glue sticks, post-its, instruction cards.

##### **2) Introductions (2–3 minutes)**

Each student and the moderator say their first name and home university.

The moderator explains the main question in 2–3 short sentences and reminds the group of the rules.

##### **3) Individual Brainstorming (5 minutes)**

Each student writes their own ideas on separate sheets of paper

##### **4) Group Sharing (5 minutes)**

Students share their ideas with the group.

They write one idea per side on a central A3 sheet.

##### **5) Choosing Main Ideas (10 minutes)**

The group discusses and selects the key ideas they want to develop.



### **6) Planning the Visuals (10 minutes)**

Students talk about how to show their ideas visually using:

Keywords, drawings, images, etc.

The moderator introduces magazines and other resources to help.

### **7) Draft the box (10-15mins)**

To draft their final box, the students use one draft sheet correspond to the 5 faces (Sheet 1, face1, sheet 2, face 2....)

### **8) Decorating the Box (50 minutes)**

Students decorate their actual box using the materials provided.

The moderator gives them time reminders at least 2.

**Guidelines for the moderator for the extra questions :** Mapping tree bonus question

16.20	<b>Thinking out of box sessions</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Virtual classes – how to make them more interesting</li> <li>2. Dissemination and engagement – how to disseminate the events, calls, etc. and to increase students' participation in them.</li> <li>3. Physical mobilities – how to make them cheaper or more efficient</li> <li>4. What virtual events or activities would you like to participate in to get connected with other students of EU-CONEXUS</li> </ol>	Classrooms 4,5, (6,7)
17.00	<b>Conclusions and follow up</b>	



### Objectives

Answer the 4 extras questions

### Instructions to follow

Everyone goes back into the amphiteater and Eléonore explain the next game, group and room repartition.

#### **Step 1: Create 4 Groups**

Form 4 new groups: Group A, B, C, and D.

To assign students randomly to groups : Draw in a baskets with the same number of stickers group A, B, C and D.

#### **Group Focus:**

Group A & B work on Questions 1 & 2

Group C & D work on Questions 3 & 4

#### **Room Assignments:**

Room 1: Groups A & B

Room 2: Groups C & D

#### **Mapping Tree Setup:**

Each table has an A3 sheet with a question written in the center (the "tree trunk").

The moderator joins the group at their table.

#### **Introduction (2–3 minutes per group):**

The moderator clearly explains the question (2–3 sentences).

The rules are quickly reviewed.

**Round 1 — Brainstorm (10 minutes):**

Students write their ideas on short branches around the trunk. (blue branches)

Then, groups rotate to a new table with a new question.  
(The moderator stays at the original table.)

**Round 2 — Build on Ideas (20 minutes):**

Students see the previous group's ideas.

They choose the best ones and add to them with longer branches to develop deeper answers.  
(green branches)

**Final Sharing (10 minutes):**

Each group presents the final tree they worked on to the other group in their room.

**Rules and help for the moderator****1) Virtual classes – how to make them more interesting?**

Questions to help the moderator :

- What is this idea about, and what would happen?
- Who would organize it?
- What tools or platforms would we use?
- How would students find out about it?
- Why is this idea helpful or valuable for students?

You can give example of ideas to the student to help them reflecting:

- ❖ Make it interactive : Use quizzes, surveys, or ask students questions



- ❖ Break into small groups : Let students work in breakout rooms..
- ❖ Other ..

2) Dissemination and engagement, how to disseminate the events, calls, etc. and to increase students' participation in them?

Choose one idea together and explain how we it can be done/created in the future?

- What is this idea about, and what would happen?
- Who would organize it?
- What tools or platforms would we use?
- How would students find out about it?
- Why is this idea helpful or valuable for students?

You can give example of ideas to the student to help them reflecting:

- ❖ Student ambassadors : Let students help promote events among their classmates.
- ❖ Short videos or reels : Make quick and exciting videos to explain what the event is about
- ❖ Other ..

3) Physical mobilities – how to make them cheaper or more efficient?

Choose one idea together and explain how we it can be done/created in the future?

- What is this idea about, and what would happen?
- Who would organize it?
- What tools or platforms would we use?
- How would students find out about it?
- Why is this idea helpful or valuable for students?

You can give example of ideas to the student to help them reflecting:

- More funding or scholarships : Offer extra financial support for travel, housing, and daily costs.
- Partner with local services : Work with affordable housing, transport, or meal providers.
- Other

4) What virtual events or activities would you like to participate in to get connected with other students of EU-CONEXUS?

Choose one idea together and explain how we it can be done/created in the future?

- What is this idea about, and what would happen?
- Who would organize it?
- What tools or platforms would we use?
- How would students find out about it?
- Why is this idea helpful or valuable for students?

You can give example of ideas to the student to help them reflecting:

- ❖ Virtual cultural nights : Share music, food, or traditions from your country.
- ❖ Student talent shows : Perform or watch talents like music, dance, or poetry.
- ❖ Other