



A6.2, O3: Adherence to the Erasmus Student Card initiative



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This document has been developed during the pilot phase of the ECIU University Erasmus+ project between 2019 - 2022.

Beneficiaries

- Aalborg University, Denmark
- Dublin City University, Ireland
- Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania
- Linköping University, Sweden
- Tampereen Korkeakoulusäätiö sr, Finland
- Hamburg University of Technology, Germany
- Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal
- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
- University of Stavanger, Norway
- Università degli Studi di Trento, Italy
- Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Toulouse, France
- University of Twente, The Netherlands

1 Objectives

According to the ECIU 2019 application to ECIU Universities, “Each of the alliance members will register in the ESC platform. Mindful that the system can be implemented differently, depending on local conditions such as student card manufacturing and delivery processes, country legislation, available equipment, budget and others, each partner registers on the exchange platform and joins the student card process separately, toward adherence of all members in 2022 and issue of the ESC to all mobile students available from that date on.”

2 Background to this deliverable

The European Student Card Initiative (ESCI) is a fundamental element of the Digital Education Plan and is designed to promote simplification of all the administrative aspects regarding students mobility.

The aim is to facilitate mobility in Europe thanks to safe and fast data exchange (overcoming documents exchange) through Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) platform for an easier management of admin procedures both for participant students and sending and receiving institutions.

EWP is the entry point for institutions, which every university can access either through EU Erasmus+ Dashboard, third part provider or in-house system. The Erasmus+ Mobile App is intended to be the entry point for students for all mobility steps, thanks to digitalization of procedures by institutions.

As part of the process every European student receives a European Student Identifier (ESI), a unique electronic identification code recognized among European universities, that allow the participant to have access to on line services at the host institution. ESI is additionally related to a European Student Card (ESC), basically a recognition document.

For any of the above-mentioned pieces of the process a precise deadline was provided by European Commission and commitment is requested to all universities. Besides, within the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), the university undertakes to join the European Student Card Initiative.

3 ECIU University surveys and the Erasmus Student Card Initiative

In the light of the situation referred to above, within WP6 deliverable A 6.2, 03 is related to the adherence of ECIU partner institutions to ESCI.

The institutions involved in this task identified a survey as the best tool to verify the state of the play among the partners at two stages.

The first survey was sent in December 2020. Since at that time the digitalization scenario had still to be defined, the survey included general questions aiming at understanding if and how the universities were ready to start with the implementation of the ESCI and meet the deadline of the European Commission foreseen for the end 2023 and know whether online platforms were in use at member universities to deal with student exchange applications, learning agreements, transcripts of records and other communication with exchange students.

All institutions were using different software to manage various aspects of the outgoing and incoming mobility process (such as Mobility Online or MoveOn), but some procedures were still carried out manually (by email or personal files/data base).

Questions and results of this survey are collected in the Attachment 1.

The outcomes of a final survey were returned by member universities at the end of September 2022, after two years of the EWP development. In this occasion, it was possible to explore the management of all the specific contents regarding the digitalization process: Inter-Institutional Agreements (IIA), Online Learning Agreement (OLA), ESI, ESC and the Erasmus+ App.

Despite the technical difficulties that every partner is facing, improvements were definitely introduced in all institutions. Nearly all the universities are connected to EWP. In two cases institutions are hardly working with their third providers to finalize the connection to the platform.

As far as IIA and OLA are concerned, the institutions are trying to meet the deadline of the end of December 2022, implementing day by day the use of a third provider or EU Erasmus+ Dashboard.

Regarding the European Student Card and the automatic access to the on- and off-campus services at the host institution for the incoming student during their mobility, the way is longer and the universities might be ready within the deadline of 2025.

In the end, the Erasmus+ App still remains a raw instrument since only OLA via Dashboard and a few default information about the Universities are available at the moment.

In the current crucial testing phase, to be part of ECIU University gives the member universities the unique chance to share difficulties and to find common solutions.

As with many other work packages of the project, International Relations at any institutions were constantly involved in WP6 since their direct participation in the digital process and knowledge of the programme rules and deadlines.

The continuous dialogue and comparison among partners on the systems used at each institution will be surely the key for achieving bilateral data digital exchanges.

Attachment 2 represents the state of play of ECIU universities.

In line with Erasmus+ digitalization process, also within ECIU University a digital strategy has been developed, envisioning a true virtual European campus connecting to the physical campuses across Europe, and another digital tool started to be implemented: the Digital Experience Platform (DXP).

The digital ecosystem will be further implemented throughout the new project ECIUn+ 2022-2026 to support co-creational activities of education, research, innovation, and service to society.

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