

Erasmus Without Paper: Overview of 2022 milestones

Newsletter for higher education institutions which hold the
Erasmus Charter for Higher Education

Action plan to achieve full interoperability

Progress through collective effort in 2022

Full interoperability means that all computer systems used by higher education institutions can seamlessly exchange machine-readable data to manage Erasmus+ inter-institutional agreements and learning agreements. With the implementation of Erasmus Without Paper, it soon became apparent that not all users were able to use the EWP network to its full potential. To remedy this situation, an [Interoperability Reinforcement Plan](#) was launched, focusing all efforts to achieve full interoperability by the end of 2022. This included organising technical workshops to support all developers in debugging, enhancing the [ESCI Service desk](#) and setting up open Town Hall meetings. Thanks to the collective effort of all stakeholders, especially colleagues implementing digital Erasmus+ agreements, significant progress has been made. In November, the [EWP Assessment Report](#) was published summarising the positive results and remaining challenges which are being tackled.

“Implementing Erasmus Without Paper is not easy, it's a lot of coordination work. However, we now have over 1000 digital learning agreements and on track to digitally renew most inter-institutional agreements by the end of 2022”



Martin Charlier,
Project Manager,
Lund University, Sweden.

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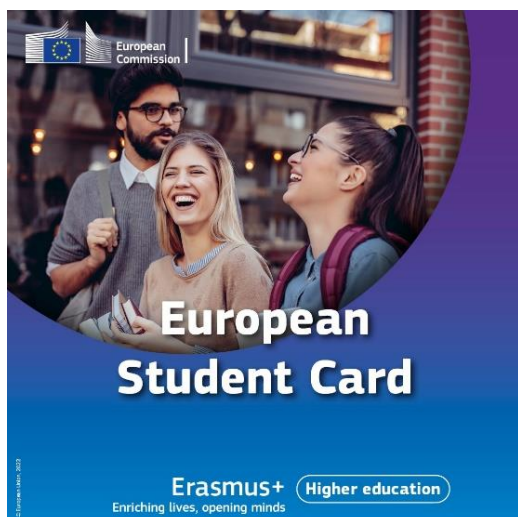
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ESCI information portal launched



A single portal for all essential information

Many higher education institutions have struggled to find the information they need about EWP since it has been distributed on different websites. To address this, the [European Student Card Initiative \(ESCI\) portal](#) was also launched this year. It serves as a single source of truth for higher education institutions about EWP and other core aspects of the initiative which aims to make student mobility as easy as possible for students and higher education institutions. The portal contains for example an [FAQ section](#) to support you in navigating the digital transition of mobility administration and [information](#) about how your effort is shaping the future of education in Europe.

New governance for community driven development

Ensuring that all voices are heard

Developing and implementing EWP across a diverse landscape of thousands of higher education institutions across Europe is a big challenge. The new [EWP governance structure](#) brings together all stakeholders at the heart of digitalisation of Erasmus+ administration in higher education. It allows for better consultation with EWP users and developers of connected computer systems to better prioritise developments and collect invaluable feedback on the next steps in Erasmus+ digitalisation. Any colleague interested in participating in the EWP governance can join one of the systems user groups that have been set up on the Slack platform. The groups enable us to ask you important questions to inform decision making and assess the state of play in real time when needed. Signing up is easy through the [registration form](#). See you there!

“Implementing Erasmus Without Paper has been challenging but we firmly believe that it will make all #ErasmusPlus processes easier. Digital administration covering all aspects of mobility will clarify procedures and help us manage them faster.”



Maša Šašinka,
Head of International Mobility Centre,
University of Rijeka, Croatia.

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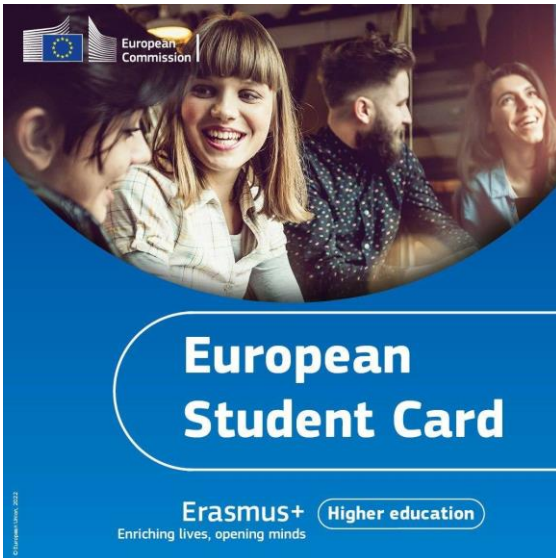
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Enhanced support for higher education institutions



Targeted outreach to developers and users

EWP Relationship Managers were recruited in 2022 as part of the EWP Interoperability Reinforcement Plan. They work together to enhance the cooperation with developers of third-party and in-house systems. The goal is to improve overall compliance and functioning of EWP connections by better facilitating the flow of information and support problem solving when needed. The relationship managers complement the technical support provided through the ESCI Service desk by clarifying EWP requirements from a policy and business perspective. The relationship managers reach out proactively to colleagues in higher education institutions and developers to offer their support based on information received from Digital Officers in Erasmus+ National Agencies, the ESCI Service desk and [EWP statistical portal](#).

EWP stats portal launched

Helping you identify how your partners use EWP

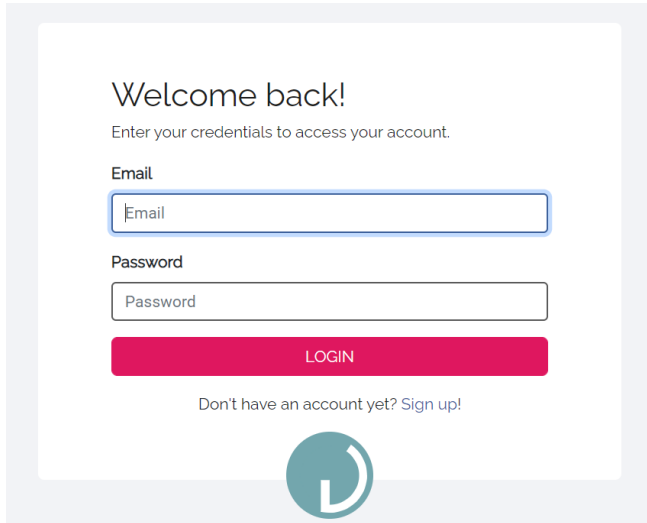
The [EWP Stats Portal](#) is a newly developed service that unlocks information on which tool and provider each higher education institution is using to connect to the Erasmus Without Paper network. It allows you to search for your partner with their institution name, Erasmus code, city or country to help you quickly see if your partner institution is connected and which tool your partner is using. The portal is being further developed to add more practical information for you about the overall status of EWP functionality.



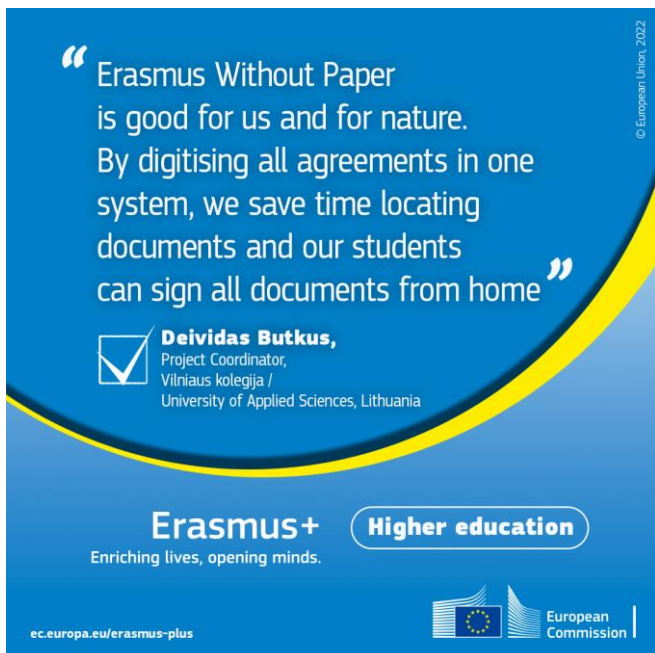
Improved EWP Dashboard User Interface

Modern and simple design for users

In December the new EWP Dashboard User Interface was launched and presented in a [dedicated webinar](#). The design is based on user feedback collected in 2022 and includes requested filtering options and a more harmonised design across the different sections of the Dashboard. The new interface is currently available for the management of learning agreements. All users will be invited to provide their feedback on the new design to ensure that it meets your needs and expectations. To learn more about the enhanced Dashboard and the transition from the old version to the new one, you can visit the [EWP Competence Centre](#).



What will happen in 2023?



“Erasmus Without Paper is good for us and for nature. By digitising all agreements in one system, we save time locating documents and our students can sign all documents from home”

Deividas Butkus,
Project Coordinator,
Vilniaus kolegija /
University of Applied Sciences, Lithuania

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Moving forward together

Colleagues implementing Erasmus+ have experienced a very challenging year. Our priority for the start of 2023 is to achieve full interoperability for EWP data exchanges so you can feel the benefits of digitalisation. What this means for you:

- Once EWP exchanges work well for every user, all new agreements should be done in EWP. Should any bottleneck remain after January 2023, a targeted approach will be implemented to solve remaining issues and provide support to the higher education institutions concerned.
- Existing agreements outside EWP remain valid and there is no deadline for you and your partners to transfer them to EWP. We will consult the governance structure through the user groups on a possible timeframe at a later stage.
- There are no targets in 2023 for you to implement new EWP functionality (nominations and transcript of records). Consultation on future targets will take place after robust testing confirms that all connections work well.
- ECHE monitoring on digitalisation will focus on assessing your efforts and supporting you in overcoming any remaining challenges.

Other resources for you

- Find all the recordings of EWP webinars and Town hall meetings on the [ESCI YouTube channel](#).
- Visit the [EWP wiki page](#) for more information for users about implementing EWP.
- Get statistics and more details on what happened in 2022 in this [EWP overview](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and incredible efforts in 2022! We look forward to working with you in the new year to make Erasmus+ more digital, inclusive and green. Wishing you and your loved ones happy holidays!

Best wishes from the Erasmus+ Higher Education team in DG EAC