



# ESCI Day Cyprus

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University of Cyprus

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# The European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)

Flagship initiative to make the European Education Area more inclusive, digital and interconnected.

- Facilitates digital exchanges among higher education institutions (HEIs), simplifies student mobility and builds a shared European identity for higher education students.
- All ECHE holders and HEIs participating in a European Universities alliance, commit to implementing the ESCI.
- The Council Recommendations on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation (5 April 2022) and Europe on the Move – learning mobility opportunities for everyone (13 May 2024), call on Member States to support and widen ESCI implementation.



# European Student Card Initiative



### **ESCI is driving change across the European Education Area**

- Encouraging investments in digital infrastructure in higher education
- Connecting higher education institutions
- Enhancing students' mobility experience

**This is how ESCI is building a Europe fit for the Digital Age**



European  
Commission

# Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) overview



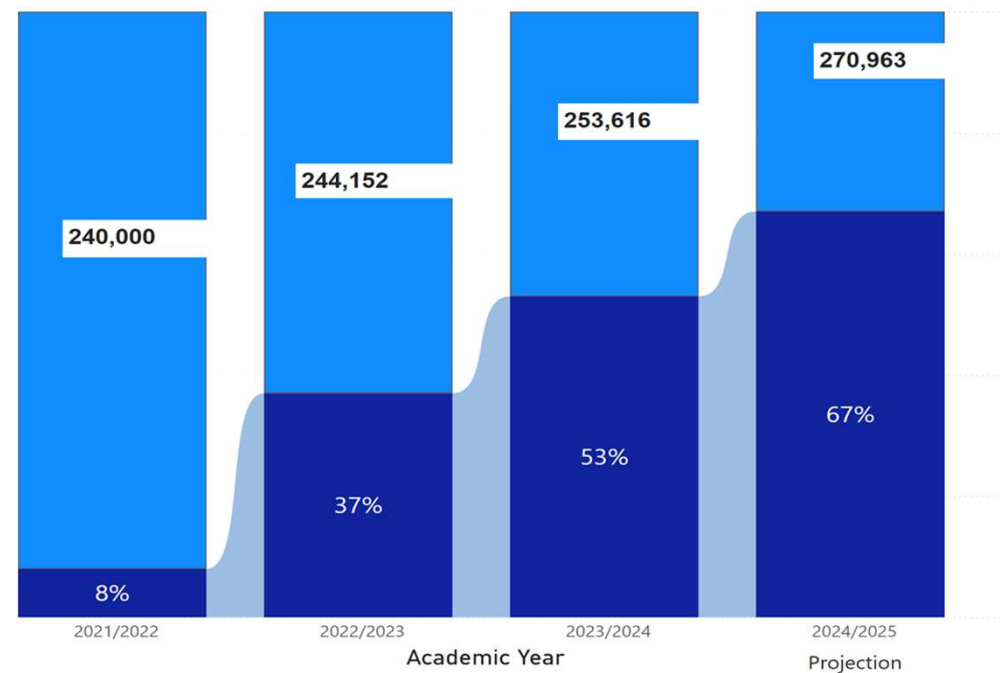
## EWP statistics

- **Over 3,200** higher education institutions (HEIs) connected across all Erasmus+ programme countries
  - **20** third-party providers
  - **38** in-house systems
  - **EWP Dashboard:** EC-funded solution
- **2/3 of all ECHE holders** exchange successfully on EWP.
- **Erasmus+ App** backend connected to the EWP Dashboard and HOME module

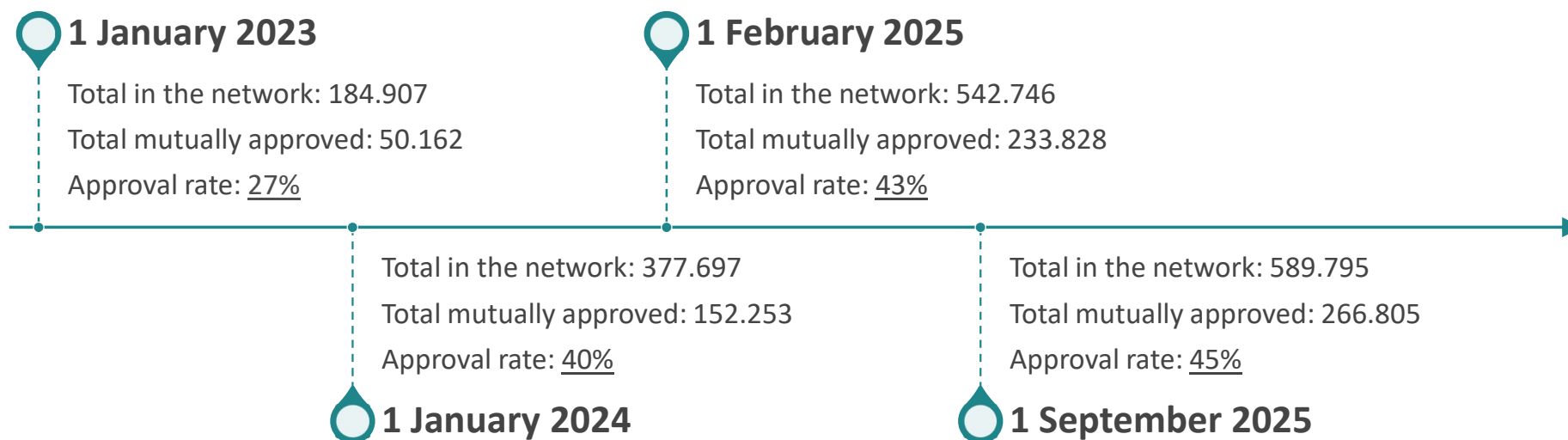
# Steady growth in digital exchanges through EWP

There are close to **250,000 Erasmus+ outgoing student mobilities for studies every year.**

- **Light blue:** total number of outgoing student mobilities for studies (SMS) as reported in the Beneficiary Module (BM).
- **Dark blue:** percentage of digital learning agreements (DLAs) signed through the EWP Network as reported in the EWP Stats Portal.



# Inter-institutional agreements (IIAs) in EWP



# Cyprus snapshot – EWP

- **40** [ECHE holders](#) (as of 22 Aug 2025)
- **34** institutions are connected to the EWP Network and exchanging
- **2** institutions are connected to the EWP Network but are not exchanging
- **4** institutions are not connected to the EWP Network
- **System used:** 1: EWP Dashboard



# 2024 EWP digitalisation rate in Cyprus:

| Country         | Number of outgoing students 2022-2023 | Total DLAs completed 2023-2024 | Digitalisation rate 2024 | Digitalisation rate 2023 | Trend    |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Slovakia        | 2,281                                 | 2,419                          | 100%                     | 67%                      | ↑        |
| Croatia         | 1,724                                 | 1,882                          | 100%                     | 62%                      | ↑        |
| Latvia          | 1,272                                 | 1,383                          | 100%                     | 61%                      | ↑        |
| Malta           | 365                                   | 408                            | 100%                     | 74%                      | ↑        |
| <b>Cyprus</b>   | <b>287</b>                            | <b>441</b>                     | <b>100%</b>              | <b>100%</b>              | →        |
| Bulgaria        | 838                                   | 796                            | 95%                      | 69%                      | ↑        |
| Lithuania       | 2,575                                 | 2,419                          | 94%                      | 59%                      | ↑        |
| Estonia         | 1,188                                 | 1,080                          | 91%                      | 71%                      | ↑        |
| Hungary         | 3,438                                 | 2,750                          | 80%                      | 61%                      | ↑        |
| Turkey          | 10,164                                | 7,918                          | 78%                      | 43%                      | ↑        |
| Denmark         | 2,970                                 | 2,326                          | 78%                      | 56%                      | ↑        |
| Serbia          | 359                                   | 278                            | 77%                      | 43%                      | ↑        |
| Greece          | 3,875                                 | 2,952                          | 76%                      | 80%                      | ↓        |
| Austria         | 5,898                                 | 4,158                          | 70%                      | 48%                      | ↑        |
| Finland         | 4,883                                 | 3,432                          | 70%                      | 49%                      | ↑        |
| Poland          | 10,407                                | 7,139                          | 69%                      | 53%                      | ↑        |
| Czechia         | 5,947                                 | 4,106                          | 69%                      | 58%                      | ↑        |
| Liechtenstein   | 26                                    | 18                             | 69%                      | 50%                      | ↑        |
| Luxembourg      | 486                                   | 324                            | 67%                      | 49%                      | ↑        |
| Germany         | 40,107                                | 25,361                         | 63%                      | 55%                      | ↑        |
| Romania         | 4,892                                 | 2,919                          | 60%                      | 38%                      | ↑        |
| Portugal        | 8,320                                 | 4,935                          | 59%                      | 34%                      | ↑        |
| Iceland         | 304                                   | 180                            | 59%                      | 42%                      | ↑        |
| Sweden          | 4,374                                 | 2,369                          | 54%                      | 36%                      | ↑        |
| Ireland         | 3,734                                 | 1,973                          | 53%                      | 31%                      | ↑        |
| Norway          | 4,067                                 | 2,050                          | 50%                      | 30%                      | ↑        |
| Netherlands     | 13,109                                | 6,371                          | 49%                      | 47%                      | ↑        |
| France          | 33,413                                | 15,549                         | 47%                      | 30%                      | ↑        |
| North Macedonia | 211                                   | 80                             | 38%                      | 13%                      | ↑        |
| Spain           | 38,618                                | 13,791                         | 36%                      | 25%                      | ↑        |
| Belgium         | 8,207                                 | 2,881                          | 35%                      | 21%                      | ↑        |
| Slovenia        | 1,628                                 | 497                            | 31%                      | 16%                      | ↑        |
| Italy           | 33,649                                | 9,556                          | 28%                      | 19%                      | ↑        |
| <b>Europe</b>   | <b>253,616</b>                        | <b>134,741</b>                 | <b>53%</b>               | <b>37%</b>               | <b>↑</b> |

| Digitalisation level |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| High                 | 70%-100% |
| Medium               | 25%-69%  |
| Low                  | 1%-24%   |
| Not using EWP        | 0%       |

# Top HEIs in Cyprus by outgoing student mobility

| Higher education institution                                                  | System used   | Number of outgoing students in BM<br>(2022-2023)* | Total DLAs completed<br>(2023-2024)* | Digitalisation rate 2024 | Digitalisation rate 2023 | Trend |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| University Of Cyprus                                                          | EWP Dashboard | 182                                               | 209                                  | 100%*                    | 100%                     | ↑     |
| European University Cyprus                                                    | EWP Dashboard | 36                                                | 24                                   | 67%                      | 100%                     | ↓     |
| Edex - Educational Excellence Corporation Limited                             | EWP Dashboard | 27                                                | 51                                   | 100%*                    | 94%                      | ↑     |
| Technologiko Panepistimio Kyprou                                              | EWP Dashboard | 12                                                | 21                                   | 100%*                    | 91%                      | ↑     |
| Neapolis University                                                           | EWP Dashboard | 9                                                 | 4                                    | 44%                      | 100%                     | ↓     |
| Frederick University                                                          | EWP Dashboard | 8                                                 | 20                                   | 100%*                    | 100%                     | ↑     |
| Anoikto Panepistimio Kyprou<br>(Open University Of Cyprus)                    | EWP Dashboard | 4                                                 | 8                                    | 100%*                    | 50%                      | ↑     |
| Chrysako Educational Centre Limited (College Of Tourism And Hotel Management) | EWP Dashboard | 3                                                 | 4                                    | 100%*                    | 50%                      | ↑     |
| Uclan Cyprus Limited                                                          | EWP Dashboard | 3                                                 | 3                                    | 100%                     | 60%                      | ↑     |
| G. Takkas Educational College                                                 | EWP Dashboard | 2                                                 | 3                                    | 100%*                    | 100%                     | →     |
| Theologiki Sxoli Ekklesias Kyprou                                             | EWP Dashboard | 1                                                 | 6                                    | 100%*                    | 100%                     | ↑     |

\* The number of DLAs completed and the number of outgoing students is not a perfect match due to differences in the academic years compared (BM: 2022-2023 and EWP: 2023-2024) and overall yearly increases in mobilities.

# Main findings

- Cyprus maintained **100% digitalisation rate at the national level** in 2024 – in alignment with the European Commission's 95% digitalisation target.
- **Projections** for the ongoing academic year (2024-2025) indicate that **Cyprus will maintain this rate in the next exercise (2025)**.
- The **EWP Dashboard** is predominantly used by Cypriot HEIs.
- **Cyprus' 100% digitalisation reflects aggregated data.** At the institutional level, digitalisation rates may vary.
- While some institutions exceed 100%, this surplus compensates for lower digitalisation rates at others.
- **Declines in digitalisation rates** at institutional level highlight the need for targeted support/outreach to sustain the positive adoption levels.



# European Student Card (ESC) overview

# The European Student Card (ESC)

The ESC is not a new card. It's **higher education institutions' current cards upgraded with a set of common visual and technical elements** that HEIs can add via the ESC-Router.

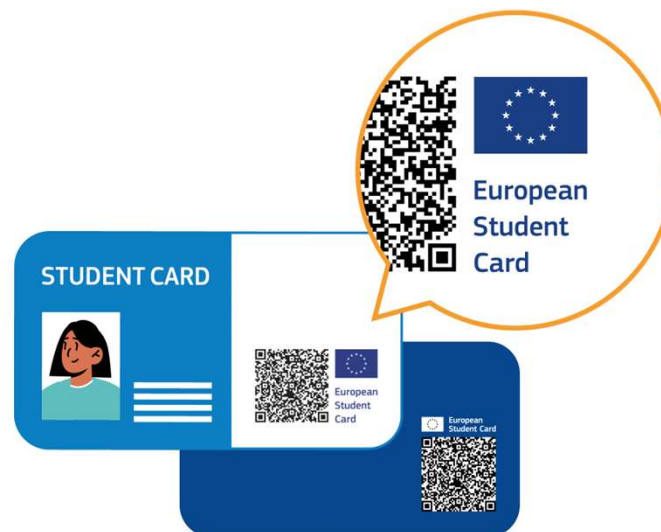
The ESC can be adapted to **digital** and **physical formats** with any type of technology (e.g., chip technology, magnetic stripe, etc.).

## European Student Identifier (ESI)

A digital identifier used to uniquely identify students of European higher education institutions, linking them to a given ESC

## European Student Card Number (ESCN)

A unique card identifier that serves to identify student cards belonging to a given institution and to validate them



## European Student Card logo

Integrates the EU flag with the text “European Student Card” and a QR code, certifying the card’s authenticity across Europe and enabling the validation of student status

# The European Student Card (ESC)

The ESC adds a **European dimension to existing higher education student cards** so students can have their student status easily recognised across Europe.



## Students

- **Simplified access to student services** during mobility with their existing student card, just as local students (e.g., libraries, dormitories, discounts, etc.)
- Shared **European student identity**



## Higher education institutions

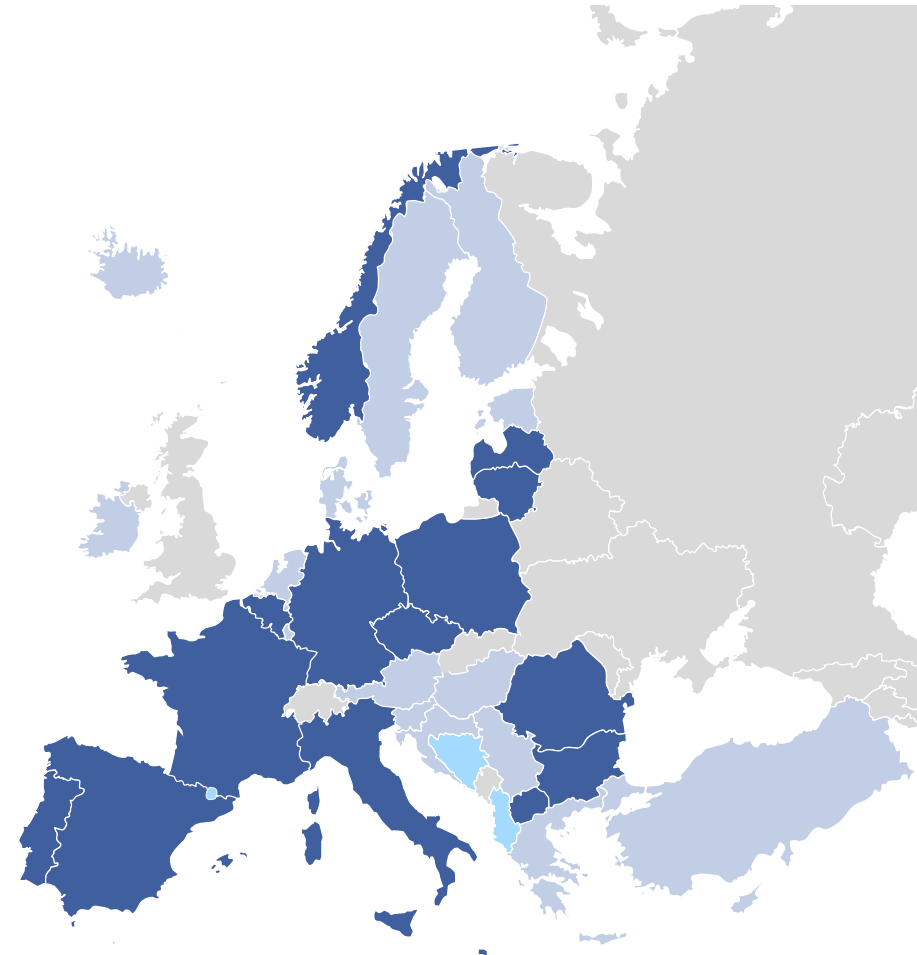
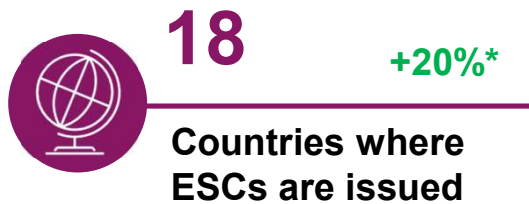
- **Securely validate the student card** of incoming mobile students
- **Support reciprocity** in service provision to mobile students.



## Student service providers

- **Streamline the verification of student status**
- Gain access to a **wider network of users**

# ESC state of play



*\* Compared to Nov 2024, after the launch of the new ESC Router. Data extracted on 22 Sep 2025.*

# Cyprus snapshot – ESC



5

Organisations  
registered in the  
ESC-R



0

Organisations  
issuing ESCs\*



4

Total ESCs  
issued in  
Cyprus

\* At least 10 active ESCs

## List of institutions in the ESC-Router

- *University of Cyprus*
- *EIMF Holding Limited*
- *University of Nicosia*
- *Ledra College*
- *Cyprus University of Technology*

Data extracted on 22 September 2025



# 2024 ESC adoption rate in Cyprus

| Country         | ECHE holders<br>(until 2027) | ECHE holders in the ESC Router<br>(with at least 10 active ESCs) | ESC adoption rate |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Lithuania       | 29                           | 27                                                               | 93.0%             |
| Norway          | 40                           | 11                                                               | 27.5%             |
| Romania         | 78                           | 8                                                                | 10.3%             |
| France          | 1,648                        | 152                                                              | 9.2%              |
| Czechia         | 72                           | 6                                                                | 8.3%              |
| Belgium         | 82                           | 3                                                                | 3.7%              |
| Bulgaria        | 53                           | 1                                                                | 1.9%              |
| Italy           | 339                          | 6                                                                | 1.8%              |
| Spain           | 1,788                        | 24                                                               | 1.3%              |
| Germany         | 378                          | 5                                                                | 1.3%              |
| Portugal        | 85                           | 1                                                                | 1.2%              |
| Poland          | 296                          | 2                                                                | 0.7%              |
| Austria         | 79                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Croatia         | 45                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Cyprus          | 39                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Denmark         | 38                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Estonia         | 18                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Finland         | 37                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Greece          | 32                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Hungary         | 55                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Iceland         | 7                            | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Ireland         | 29                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Latvia          | 48                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Liechtenstein   | 2                            | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Luxembourg      | 6                            | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Malta           | 12                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Netherlands     | 65                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| North Macedonia | 26                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Serbia          | 49                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Slovakia        | 32                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Slovenia        | 85                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Sweden          | 43                           | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Türkiye         | 205                          | 0                                                                | 0%                |
| Europe          | 5,840                        | 246                                                              | 4.2%              |

| ESC adoption level      |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| High                    | 70%-100% |
| Medium                  | 25%-69%  |
| Low                     | 1%-24%   |
| Not issuing active ESCs | 0%       |

# Main insights

- **5 Cypriot HEIs are registered** in the ESC-R (12.5% of all ECHE holders in Cyprus)
- **None is actively issuing ESCs.** Two have issued 1-3 ESCs, likely for testing purposes.
- It's important to **identify any obstacles** that keep Cypriot HEIs from issuing ESCs – especially those institutions already connected to the ESC-R.
  - The **new ESC-R**, hosted in the European Commission's cloud, brings additional security, scalability and a better user experience.
  - The **new ESC logo** is **easier** to implement and doesn't require the purchasing of holograms, facilitating ESC adoption.
  - The **ESC Service Catalogue** will allow HEIs and service providers to list the services they provide to ESC cardholders.

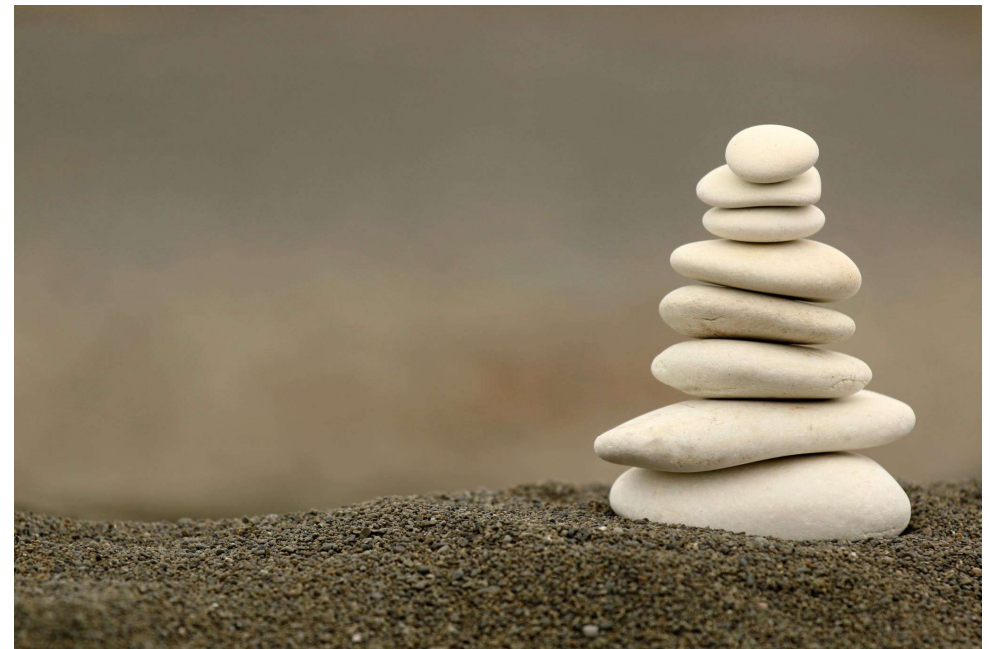


Photo by [Júnior Ferreira](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# ESCI - Outlook until the end of the Erasmus+ programme

# Guiding principles

- **Consolidation** and improvement of existing processes.
- **Continuation** of services and infrastructure at least until the end of the current programming period.
- **Stability and scale.**
- **Building on** current investments.
- Based on thorough **consultation** of users and providers to establish future requirements.



# European Student Card



Accelerate issuance of ESCs within and across all programme countries



Explore partnerships with key student services to bring added value to ESC holders



Launch of the ESC Service Catalogue



Increase rollout of digital European Student Cards

# Erasmus Without Paper

- Reach 95% digitalisation target of DLAs concluded in the EWP network
- Introduction of nominations (beta testing) with a gradual roll out until the end of 2025
- Review Transcript of Records modalities of deployment (2026 onwards)
- Prepare future IIA renewal scenarios (ongoing consultation)
- Acceptable use policy revision and implementation (2025)

# ESCI Champions

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds

Higher education



# ESCI Champions

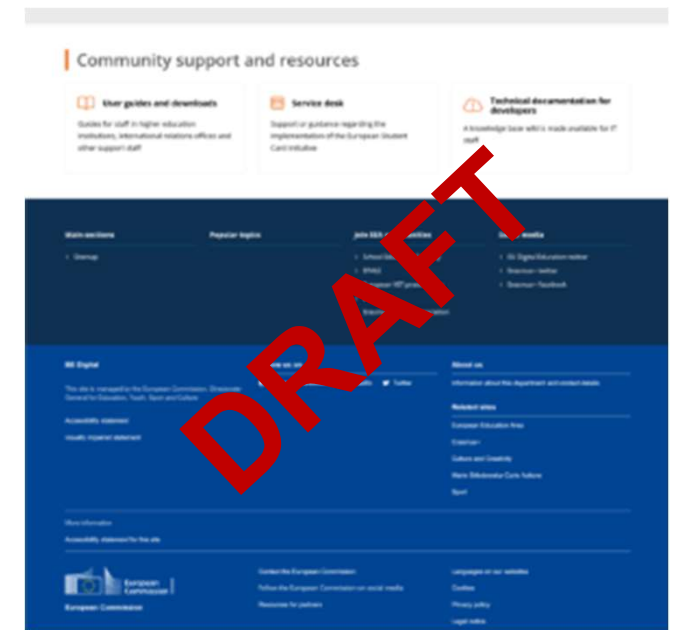
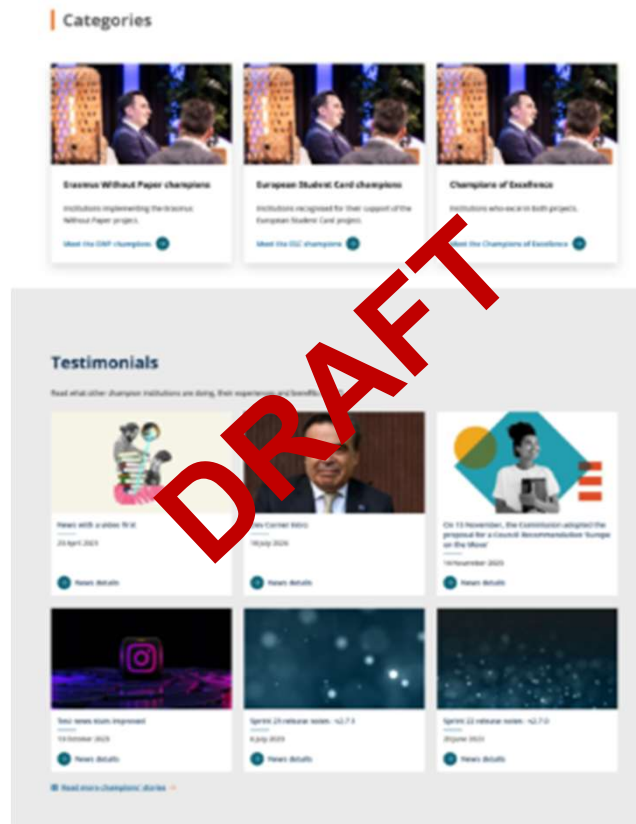
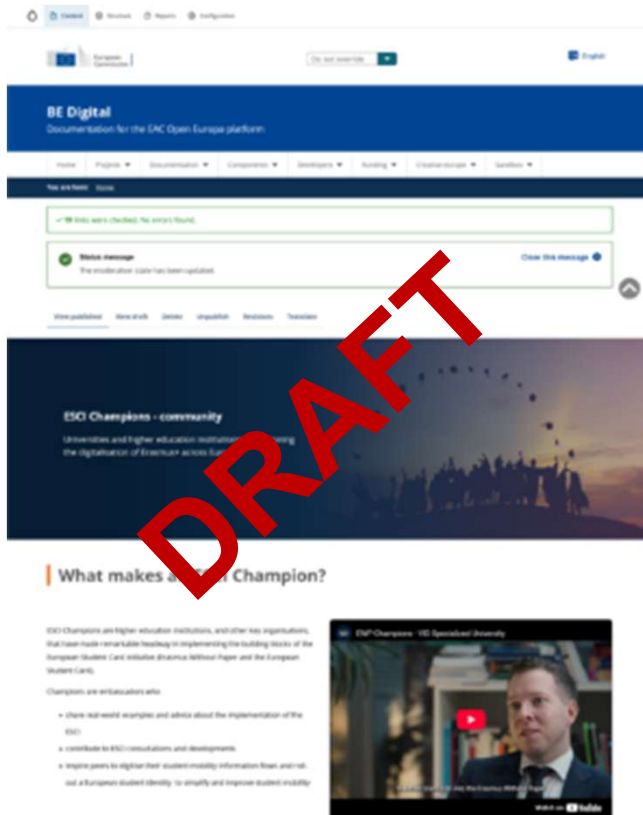
- Institutions that have made **significant progress** in **implementing the European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)** and commit to **sharing best practices** with their peers.
- Builds and expands on the successful EWP Champions (2023-2025).
- **31 organisations** (one per National Agency) across **three categories**
  - Erasmus Without Paper (EWP)
  - European Student Card (ESC)
  - Champion of excellence (EWP + ESC)
- **Nominated by Digital Officers in each Erasmus+ National Agency**
- **Cypriot ESCI Champion:** University of Cyprus!



## ESCI Champions kick-off meeting – Gothenburg (09 Sep 2025)



# UPCOMING! ESCI Community Space



# Useful resources

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds

Higher education



# Support and useful resources – EWP



- [ESCI portal](#)
- [ESCI service desk](#)
- [ESCI bi-monthly newsletter](#)
- [EWP Champions](#)
- [EWP developers page](#)
- [EWP User Groups](#)
- [EWP User Guides](#)
- [EWP governance reports](#)
- [News](#) and [events](#)

# Useful resources ESC

- ESC [General specifications](#)
- ESC [Technical specifications](#)
- ESC [graphic charter](#)
- [Video tutorial](#): how to access and manage ESCs in the ESC Router
- [ESC Service Desk](#)
- ESC [partnerships programme](#)



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# Thank you!