



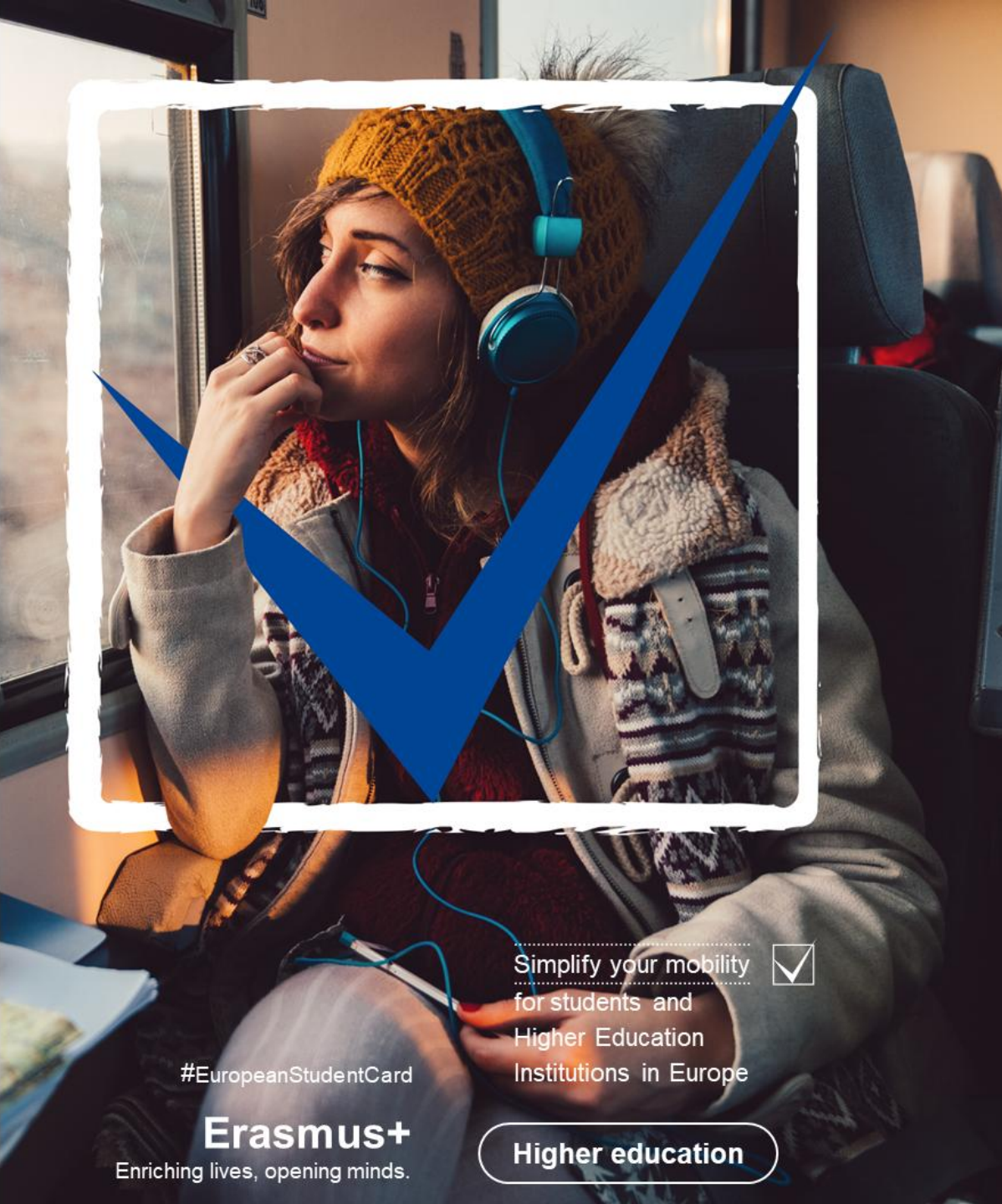
European Student Card – Cyprus

24 September 2025

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Simplify your mobility
for students and
Higher Education
Institutions in Europe



#EuropeanStudentCard

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recognise your student status
across Europe

facilitate access to student services

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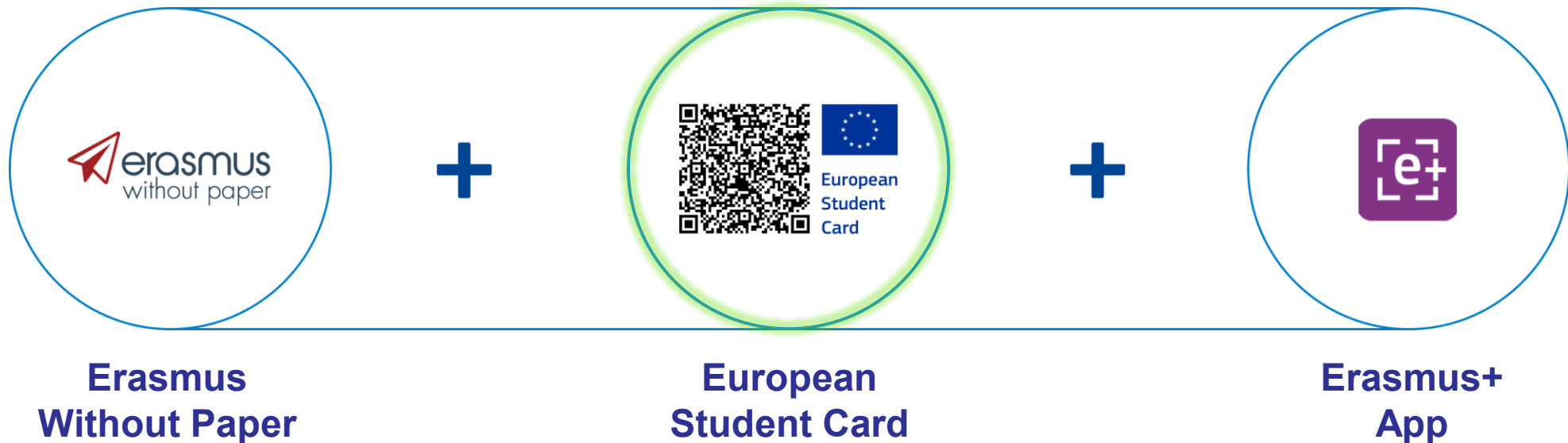
1 | ESC background & context

ESC BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)

Student mobility in Europe is in constant development, and so is the need to simplify procedures and to promote greener and student-friendly alternatives.

As a response, the European Commission launched the **European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)** - under the Erasmus+ programme - to promote simpler, flexible, and easy-to-integrate solutions for student mobility.



ESC BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

What is the European Student Card?

The European Student Card is not a new card nor an additional one, but simply each institution's current card, adapted to take on a European dimension. The goal of the ESC is to provide a European dimension to existing cards and establish a common European identity for higher education students.

With a European Student Card, a student can...



Verify their student's status
quickly and reliably anywhere
in Europe



Access physical and digital services during their mobility,
like the library or public
transport

ESC BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

What is the European Student Card?

The European Student Card upgrades the student cards of higher education institutions with certain common elements.

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* / QR code

Combines the European identity (text & flag) with a QR code, certifying the card authenticity across Europe and enabling the validation of student status

* The new ESC logo replaces the previous combination of hologram + QR code (which will remain valid until 2028).



Depending on the institution issuing the card, the ESC can be in a **digital** or a **physical format** and can be integrated into student cards **with any type of technology**. The ESC can be issued **directly** by the higher education institution or **co-branded**.

ESC BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Benefits of the European Student Card

The benefits of the ESC are upheld through its **European dimension**, as well as cooperation between higher education institution under the **reciprocity principle**.

A student on mobility arrives at their host higher education institution:



Students can have their student status recognised at the host higher education institution through their ESC, and develop a stronger sense of shared European identity



The ESC is recognised by the **host higher education institution**, and the **student** can now easily access various on and off-campus services



Host higher education institutions can recognise the ESCs of incoming students under the reciprocity principle, and securely and easily validate the student cards



Student service providers can offer their services to more students, gaining greater visibility, and make use of a reliable method to verify student status



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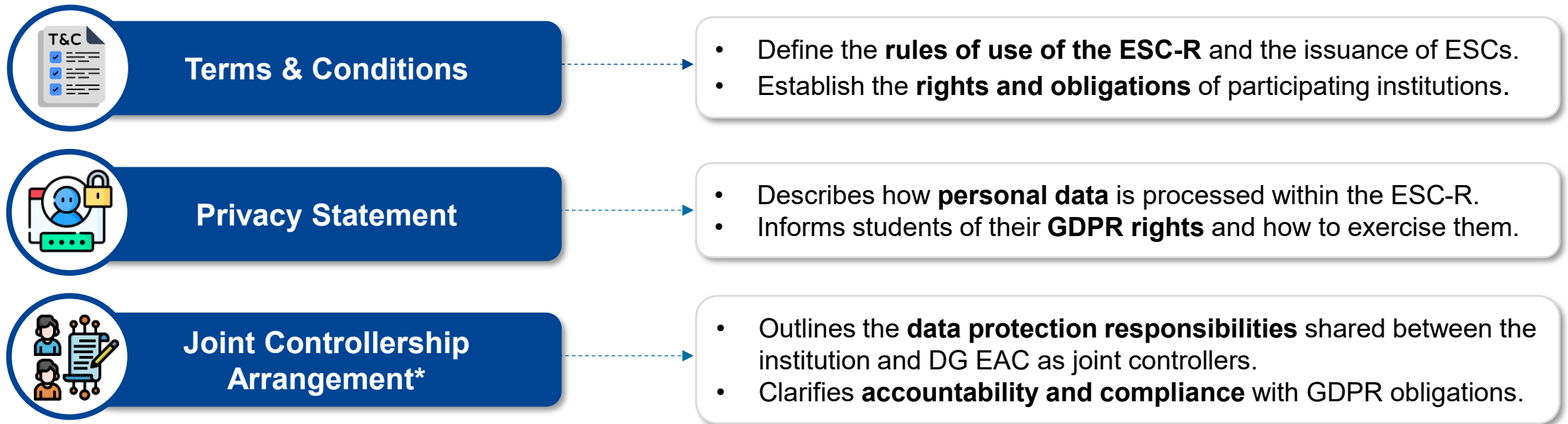
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2 | Legal Framework

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Legal documents

When registering to the ESC-R and before issuing European Student Cards, institutions must accept three **legal documents**. These documents form the legal basis for the use of the ESC-R and ensure compliance with EU data protection rules:



More information: [How to join the European Student Card Initiative](#)

* Updated automatically with the higher education institution's data, and Third-Party Processors linked in dynamic fields when being added to user. In case they add a new third-party processor, higher education institutions / public authorities need to re-accept the Joint Controllership Arrangement.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Acceptance of legal documents to use the ESC-R

Upon first login, users will access the ESC-Router, where an **authorised person from the organisation** must review and accept legal documents on behalf of their organisation to ensure they can continue to use the platform. To be able to use the ESC-R, users will need to:



Higher education institution /
Public Authority

Authorised person

- ✓ Agree to the **Terms & Conditions**
- ✓ Agree to the **Privacy Statement**
- ✓ Agree to the **Joint Controllership Arrangement***



Third-Party Processor

*Processors register themselves and
higher education institutions or public
authorities add them*

- ✓ Agree to the **Terms & Conditions**
- ✓ Agree to the **Privacy Statement**



Third-party processors in the ESC-R must be linked to a higher education institution or Public Authority to be able to issue or manage ESCs.

*For organisations that were already registered to the ESC-R before October 23rd, the deadline to accept the legal documents was postponed to **April 23rd 2025**.*

* Updated automatically with the higher education institution's data, and Third-Party Processors linked in dynamic fields when being added to user. In case they add a new third-party processor, higher education institutions / public authorities need to re-accept the Joint Controllership Arrangement.



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3 | How does the ESC work?

HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

What is the ESC-Router (ESC-R)?

The European Student Card Router (ESC-R) is a **platform** that allows higher education institutions and other card issuers to **issue and manage ESCs**, as well as **verify student status**. The ESC-R was launched on the European Commission's cloud on **23 October 2024**.

The screenshot displays the 'Organisations' management interface of the ESC Router. The left sidebar provides navigation options, with 'ORGANISATIONS' currently selected. The main content area features a table of organizations, each with a unique identifier and associated details. The table includes search filters for Name, Identifier, and Country (ISO Code), as well as a dropdown for Organisation type and a checkbox for Active status. The 'Actions' column provides icons for viewing, editing, and deleting each organization.

Name	Identifier	Country	Organisation type	Active	Actions
Anonymous org 1	[blurred]	(FR) - France	Higher education institution	Yes	[eye] [pencil]
Anonymous org 10	[blurred]	(DE) - Germany	Higher education institution	No	[eye] [pencil] [person]
Anonymous org 101	[blurred]	(FR) - France	Higher education institution	Yes	[eye] [pencil]
Anonymous org 102	[blurred]	(FR) - France	Higher education institution	Yes	[eye] [pencil]
Anonymous org 103	[blurred]	(CZ) - Czechia	Higher education institution	No	[eye] [pencil] [person]
Anonymous org 104	[blurred]	(FR) - France	Higher education institution	No	[eye] [pencil] [person]
Anonymous org 105	[blurred]	(FR) - France	Higher education institution	No	[eye] [pencil] [person]
Anonymous org 106	[blurred]	(BE) - Belgium	Higher education institution	No	[eye] [pencil] [person]

HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

User categories in the ESC-Router (ESC-R)

Ministry of Education



Higher education institutions or **public authorities issuing student cards** at local, regional or national level in any **EU/EEA Member State** or **European microstate**



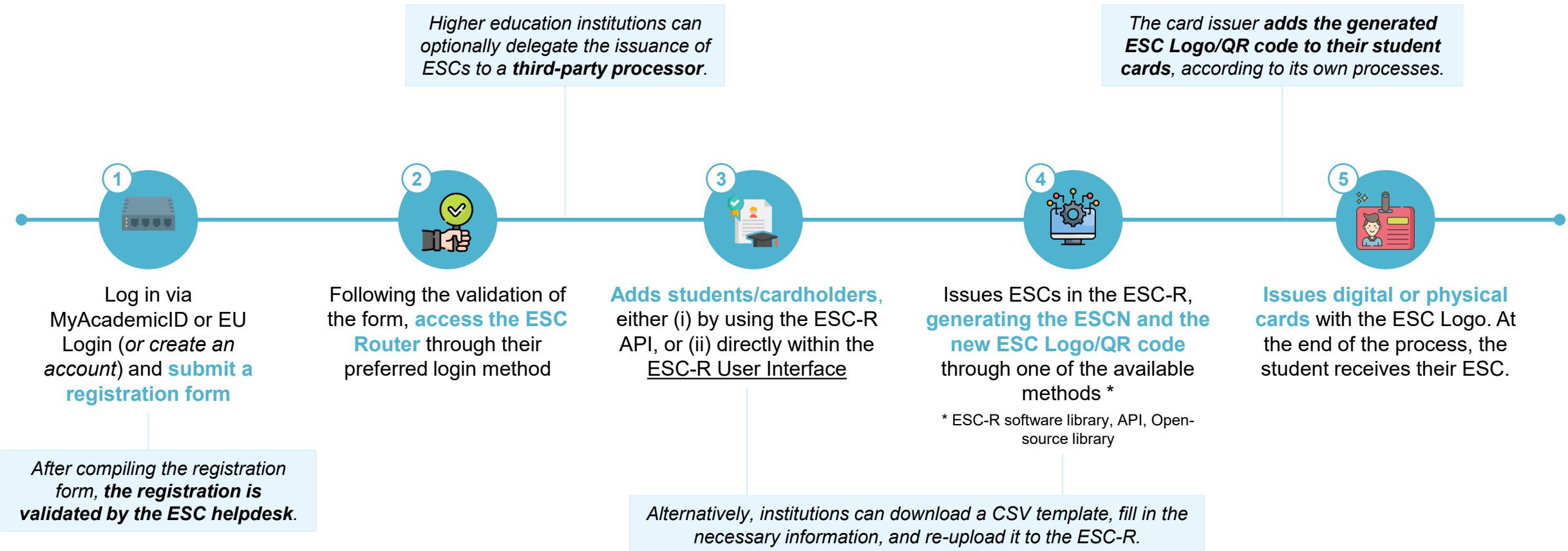
ECHE holders in third countries (other than EEA) associated to the Erasmus+ Programme* and ECHE holders in the **Western Balkans** (Region 1)



Third-party processors issuing student cards on behalf of higher education institutions or public authorities registered to the ESC Router.

HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

How to issue ESCs through the ESC-R



More detailed information on how to implement the ESC is provided within the General specifications (including comprehensive explanations on the ESC and its main business processes) and Technical specifications (including clear guidelines for implementation).



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4 | Potential ESC implementation

POTENTIAL ESC IMPLEMENTATION

Decentralised/ issuing higher education institution- University of Barcelona

The **University of Barcelona, ESCI Champion of Excellence** has shared their experience adopting the European Student Card, highlighting the steps taken, the challenges encountered, and the lessons learned to inspire other higher education institutions.

84,391
Card issued

1. Initial involvement

- Participation in the European project EDSSI L2 (coordinated by Humboldt Univ)
 - Strong Interest in digitalisation.
- Objective: Issue the European Student Card for its students as part of the ESCI strategy.

2. Implementation

- Integration of the ESC in UB's official App: SocUB (developed externally).

3. Challenges encountered

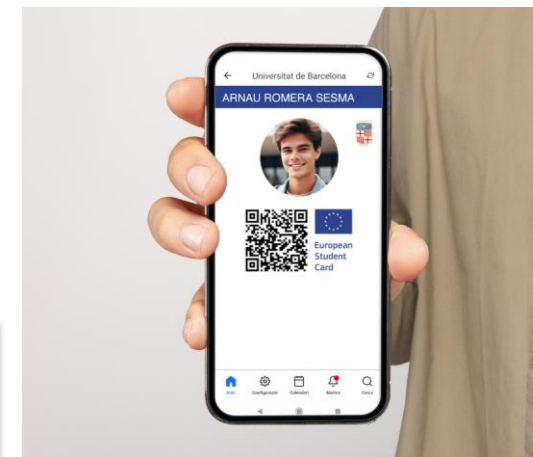
- Technological aspects were relatively simple.
- Main difficulties: planning and coordination between internal units + integration in the App's roadmap (external).

4. Benefits

- Issuance of the ESC to UB students.
- Currently, limited services (libraries and some external services).
- The ESC is seen as a catalyst to drive infrastructure upgrades and the development of a wider service catalogue in the future.

5. Advice to other institutions

- Requires institutional commitment at the highest level.
 - Coordination among involved units is essential.



POTENTIAL ESC IMPLEMENTATION

Examples of centralised ESC issuance

Current issuance of ESCs

Norway

The **Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research (SIKT)**, has developed an application that allows Norwegian higher education institutions to issue ESCs. In this model, cards are issued by **SIKT**, acting as a **third-party processor**, on behalf of the participating institutions.

Lithuania

The **Lithuanian National Union of Students (LSS)** has begun issuing ESCs to all interested Lithuanian students, on behalf of the **Ministry of Education**. These cards are provided in **physical format**.

Ongoing issuance of ESCs

Poland

The **Poznan University of Technology** in Poland is conducting a pilot project for the issuance of ESCs. They aim to issue ESCs both for their higher education institution, as well as act as a **third-party processor for other higher education institutions**. As part of this pilot project, Poznan University of Technology has developed **various digital platforms** for the issuance and the validation of ESCs. Poznan University of Technology has already issued around 300 ESCs and aims to issue 10K ESCs by the end of the pilot project.

Prospective issuance of ESCs

Slovenia

Slovenia is currently developing a **mobile application** that will make **digital ESCs** available to all Slovenian students. These cards will be issued by the **Ministry of Higher Education**, with **no third-party processor involved**.

Croatia

Croatia plans to issue ESCs to all Croatian students, with the **Ministry of Education** acting as the responsible Public Authority, while the **Zagreb University Computing Centre (SRCE)** serves as the third-party processor.



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5 | Level of adoption

LEVEL OF ADOPTION

State-of-play in Europe



4.0 M

ESCs issued to date*

1.9 M

Currently active ESCs



471

Organisations that have issued ESCs*

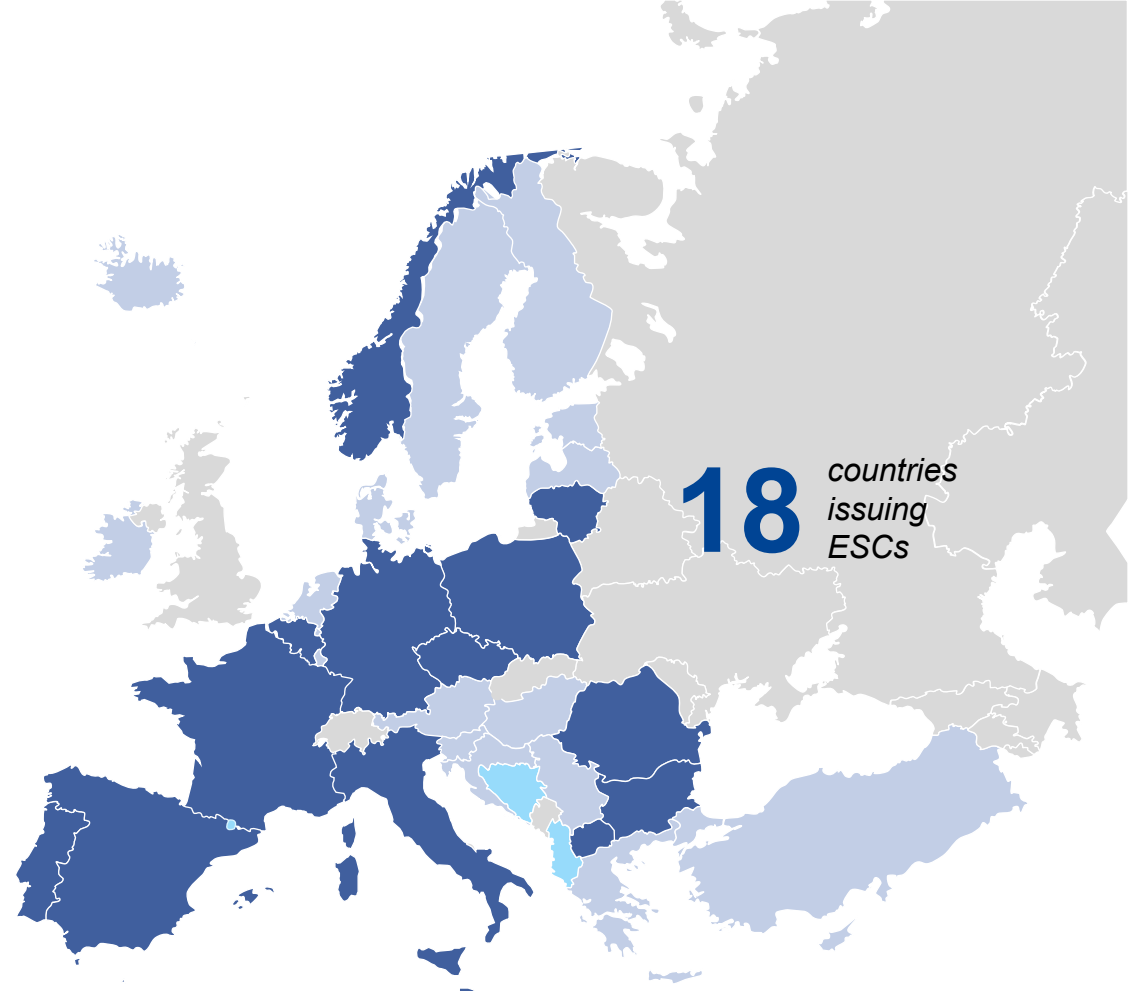
298

Organisations issuing active ESCs**

Data from the ESC-Router (July 2025)

*Includes both active and inactive/expired cards.

** Active organisations (including higher education institutions, public authorities and third-party processors) that have more than 10 currently active ESCs in the ESC-R.



Where ESCs are issued:

- 15 countries associated to Erasmus+ issuing ESCs
- 3 countries not associated to Erasmus+ issuing ESCs

Other countries connected to the ESC-R:

- 18 countries associated to Erasmus + connected to the ESC-R, but not issuing ESCs

LEVEL OF ADOPTION

State-of-play in Cyprus



The extracted data is from July 2025

* Active organisations that have more than 10 currently active ESCs in the ESC-R.





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6 | Other information and resources

OTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

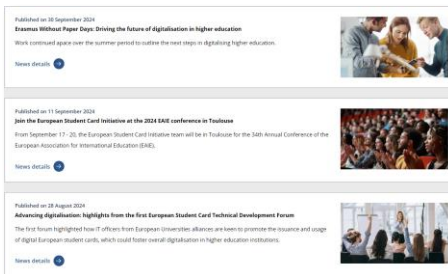
ESC Trainings & Resources



Training sessions about the European Student Card are organised regularly by the ESC Project Team. Monitor the [Events](#) page of the ESCI Website to always be up to date on upcoming training sessions and events.

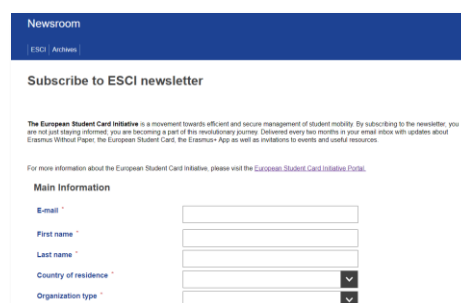
ESCI News Articles

The **latest news, events, and updates** on the European Student Card, Erasmus+ App and Erasmus Without Paper are regularly published on the [ESCI Website](#).



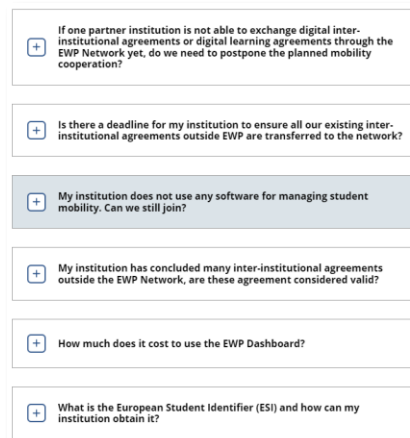
ESCI Newsletter

You can subscribe [here](#) to the **ESCI Newsletter**



FAQs

[FAQs](#) are also available under the ESCI Website



Helpdesk

If you don't find the answer to your question, contact the ESC support team through our:

[ESCI Helpdesk](#)





Stay tuned!

For any further questions and support,
please contact us through our [Helpdesk](#).



*Scan the QR code to access
the Helpdesk!*

