



erasmus
without paper

The Erasmus without Paper Project

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Context and problem area



- ◆ Large amounts of student data need to be exchanged as part of student mobility
- ◆ Most of it is stored electronically but the exchange of these data is still largely paper-based
- ◆ Digitalization of these processes is an absolute must

Project goals

- ◆ Design and work out a pilot for an **integrated communication network** supporting the exchange of student data¹ in an electronic form
- ◆ Build **connecting software modules** that will allow Student Information Systems (SISs) with built-in mobility modules² and/or stand-alone Mobility systems to exchange data over the EWP Network.

¹data, not documents (eg. scanned copies), which can be processed automatically, stored in databases, used to create documents

²part of SIS that takes care of Bilateral tAgreements, student applications, Learning Agreements, Transcript of Records and other documents

What processes are we talking about?

- ◆ Interinstitutional agreements between HEIs
- ◆ The exchange of data connected with specific points in the exchange process
 - ◆ Student exchange applications
 - ◆ Nominations
 - ◆ Agreeing on Learning agreements (includes course catalogues)
 - ◆ Host Transcripts of Records
 - ◆ Home Transcripts of Records (including grade conversion)
 - ◆ Arrival/Departure certificates etc ...
- ◆ Reporting student data (Mobility Tool)

Where are the data?

- ◆ Student Information Systems (SIS) of HEIs or other (semi)commercial providers
- ◆ International Student Information Systems (ISIS) (but: sometimes still Excel files!)
- ◆ National student data repositories

How to solve the problem?

- ◆ Create a network that will enable all the data repositories in whatever form to communicate with each other
- ◆ Exchange data, not documents (e.g. scans)
- ◆ Authentication and user identification and electronic signatures
- ◆ Keep the data where they are, but make them accessible in a simple, reliable and secure way
- ◆ Beware of the global developments (Groningen Declaration)

Main tasks - 1

- ◆ Describe all possible mobility scenarios
- ◆ Create common data models and appropriate document formats for the exchanged info
- ◆ Define the necessary transport protocols and standards
- ◆ Take care of identity management (authentication and authorization methods) and create a register to handle users
- ◆ Provide electronic signatures

Main tasks - 2

- ◆ Look into security and privacy issues
- ◆ Build connector modules (also generic) that allow all data handling software to send and receive data over the network with minimum effort
- ◆ Include extra tools to increase performance (e.g. grade conversion tool Egracons, ...)
- ◆ Look for synergies and collaboration
- ◆ Open source, interoperability

API specifications

API specifications for developers are available publicly: <http://developers.erasmuswithoutpaper.eu/>.

A desk-research report has been [published](#) on the issues involved, including the results of a large questionnaire

Long-term aims

- ◆ Assist organisations in using or adapting existing/generic connector modules
- ◆ Uphold and update common standards where necessary
- ◆ Connect additional software with similar data (OLA, ...)
- ◆ Provide training and help for organisations joining the network
- ◆ Set up an international organisation to manage the network, its exploitation, further development and integration of other products
- ◆ Look for synergies worldwide

What happens after 2017?

- ◆ Follow-up funding will be sought to roll out the network more fully
- ◆ Institutions make their own connecting modules (with help) based on the generic connectors
- ◆ Institutions decide which APIs to implement and which institutions/organisations to exchange data with – extensive testing
- ◆ Other software can be integrated in the EWP network provided they adhere to the data formats
- ◆ Additional APIs will be gradually developed/included (OLA, Emrex, ...) as needed
- ◆ Collaboration with Mobility Tool+
- ◆ World-wide attempts at standardisation

GitHub repository

- ◆ All documents hosted in a constantly updated separate GitHub repository.
- ◆ External programmers can easily download their own copies of these documents and propose changes to them.
- ◆ Assign one of your developers to have a look at our specifications if interested

Additional Information

- ◆ EWP website: www.erasmuswithoutpaper.eu
- ◆ GitHub: github.com/erasmus-without-paper
- ◆ EWP for developers: developers.erasmuswithoutpaper.eu

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**Thank you for
your attention!**



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