

# Erasmus Without Papers Project (EWP)

The EWP project is a response to the current needs of the information society, more specifically a large number of potential end-beneficiaries ranging from students, institutional Erasmus co-ordinators, higher education institutions at large, national agencies, or even the European Commission.

EWP is a consortium of 11 partner institutions composed of public institutions, higher education organizations, and companies from 8 European countries with a dissemination potential to over 400 HEIs from 36 European countries. The 11 associate partners have taken up a bottom-up initiative to influence the HEIs to exchange student information for mobility programmes fully in an electronic way by providing an evidence-based feasibility study with different use case scenarios and the practical solution to build connect all existing systems in one network.

Project objectives:

- Define an electronic 'EWP Network' (a kind of student data internet) supporting the exchange of student data in an electronic form through interlinking the existing Erasmus student databases at HEIs.
- Build connecting software modules (connectors) to the EWP Network that are driven by specific standards and protocols.
- Carry out a pilot phase to test out the feasibility of the proposed solutions for all HEIs in Europe.
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The EWP network is the first attempt to standardize student data transfer on a European-wide scale. It is important to note that the transfer does not involve documents themselves (e.g. scanned copies) but the data themselves that are contained in these documents, so that they can be used for the generation of various documents.

The innovative approach consists in an unprecedented potential to link all higher education institutions in an overall electronic network, resulting in the reduction of cost, efficiency of labor and better access to student data across Europe. This can eventually lead to the permanent migration from the paper world to the electronic world of student data, bringing Erasmus+ to a new era based on state-of-the-art IT technology.

# Online Learning Agreement Project

The objective of the project is to enable students to prepare their Learning Agreements within an online system that will then allow them to liaise with the coordinators of sending and receiving higher education institutions to finalise the document, approve and sign it online. This process therefore transfers a paper-based workflow, which is reliant on timely postal deliveries for signature purposes, into an online system that will allow students to gain considerable time when preparing their studies abroad and induce a greater degree of flexibility and efficiency when needing to revise the Learning Agreement. The online software will also allow higher education institutions to mainstream the workflows of the management of the learning agreements to render the process of approving and managing them more efficient, and thus freeing up time for the staff members to work on other international relation activities or improve the quality of credit mobility activities. The OLA is developed in close cooperation with the European Commission and resorting to Erasmus+ funding. The first iteration of the project has run from 2015 to 2017 and its focus was a large scale field trial with more than 6000 LAs. Around 300 HEIs have signed up to use the tool's online dashboard and the OLA was integrated in the Erasmus+ App that was launched to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the programme. A follow-up project will run from 2017 to 2019.



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