

“The European Student Card project”

Exchange of data between institutions and Services for the students in mobility

INTRODUCTION

If the Bologna process and the Erasmus+ program are a success of the construction of a European Higher Education Area, the mobility requests improvements in order to be easier, seamless and offer access to more students, in particular students with social needs.

That is why the easy student status recognition allowed by the European Student cards project is a major contribution to the development of the Student and Staff mobility in Europe. It will simplify the exchange of data between the institutions and open the access to services provided on the campuses in a social perspective.

The development of multiservices cards all across Europe, through partnership between the higher education main players, such as universities, organizations of student services and even local authorities, naturally aims to take a European dimension. In France, the CNCE, comité national cartes multiservices, has at the same time the mission of contributing to the rise of the Multiservices cards and the European Student card.

In a Europe stricken by different crisis – economic, terrorism, political - youth mobility is more than ever necessary in bringing people together by fostering greater intercultural dialogue and an outward-looking mentality.

The student European citizenship needs to be reaffirmed. The mobility must be opened to more publics through the access to social services provided by the campuses. The security on campus needs to be guaranteed.

The European student card proclaims the status of the European student with a common European logo, open to the Bologna area and the rest of the world. It also and above all links this status to the access to concrete services for the students in mobility. The communication between information systems of institutions offers an authenticated, legitimate and universal recognition of the student status through a unique student e-ID. It facilitates the access to campuses, to premises, to services and at the same time make it more secure.

The European student card (ESC) is based on the recognition of the student identity and status regardless of institution, compatible with the existing specific procedures in the different countries and each HEI. The HEI go on manufacturing and issuing their own cards but offer for free to all their student an immediate European status.

The European Student card is not a new card, it is simply your current campus card with a new dimension : European.

ESC aims to promote cooperation between institutions and reciprocity or simply easy access to rights and services for students. The university staff is included in the approach.

PROJECT GOALS

The project aims to promote student's mobility by interconnecting the information systems of the higher education institutions adhering to the system in order to allow the recognition of student status and identity which will allow him to access to services on campus. The innovative character of the project resides in the fact that:

- While other private associations or companies have previously proposed similar projects to enhance student interconnectedness, this project differs by being operated directly and for free by HEIs.
- It's an open system built step by step, based on the free adherence and compliance of the institutions.
- the project respect, without changing them, the various characteristics of the information systems of every country even of every HEI or player concerned by students (bottom-up approach)

After the pilot phase presented in this paper the perspective of generalization of the European Student card will be based on a European Union co-funded project and the political support of the different authorities : European leaders, European parliament, European Commission, Bologna Process and Bologna conference of Ministers (Paris May 2018), bilateral agreements such as the French Italian summit (sept 2017). In addition the political impetus, the growth lever , as it has been for the Bologna process, will be the spontaneous subscription of the higher education institutions.

STATE OF WORKS AND RESULTS

The Main deliverables of the European Strategic partnership are

- An exchange platform of European student card numbers and student e-ID
- The common visual recognition of cards with a holographic logotype on the cards
- The unique European Student identification number based on the existing Id used by the universities
- The experimentation through real student mobilities testing the recognition of their home cards in host campuses and the access to services, testing the necessary adaptations on the campuses

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The technical developments of the platform- of which the technical specifications had been presented in the 2017 EUNIS Conference in Münster – have been accomplished :

Implementation of the **platform**, connection by the HEI, **generator of European student card numbers** (ESCN), generation of QR code.

The test of connection to the platform and recognition of student status through a request sent to the platform have been successfully done.

The management of a digital identity of the institutions and of the students will be a common denominator of the ESC, the Erasmus without paper project and the Emrex project.

An interface for the HEI is provided with the connection tools and an interface for the student for activation/desactivation of account and of the different services.

For the cards a **hologram** is available with the latest safety standards and a simple process of insertion to be added by the providers/manufacturers of the cards.

EXPERIMENTATION

The implementation of the European Student Card has started in various campuses and has been formalized and evaluated in 5 territories representing partners of the project :

Eucor, the European campus the transborder cooperation groupment of the universities of Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Karlsruhe, Freiburg and Basel, and the Crous of Strasbourg and the Studierentenwerk of Karlsruhe. ; the Group Université de Bourgogne France-Comté and the Crous of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (Dijon and Besançon), University College Cork in Ireland ; Campus Card Berlin (6 universities of Berlin) ; the Educatt network of 5 campuses of Università catolica in Italy.

The principle has been to test a diversity of types of mobilities and set up a student survey (evaluation of the card, access to services, services to be implemented, etc...) and a campus survey (necessary adjustments on the campuses, coordination between components of the universities, from digital direction to libraries, vending machines, education office, international relations office, etc...).

USES AND SERVICES

In the meantime three working groups have work with specialists partners about three services for mobility considered as priorities for the project: access and use of university libraries, access to electronic payment systems, digitalization of Erasmus+ partnerships and mobilities thanks to a partnership with the *Erasmus Without Paper* project.

The list of services accessible through the ESC system is open and increasing and will be an essential dimension of the future of the implementation of the European Student card. The coordination with the other projects, co-funded by the EU and also based on a student e-Id will be reinforced in order to reach an integration and offer to the HEI in Europe a consistent range of services for mobility.

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