

Report on Attribute Enablement Requirements and Solutions to  
Support Student Mobility Scenarios  
MS2



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## Executive summary

The goal of the MyAcademicID project is to enable a unique European student eID scheme for higher education. This will be achieved by bridging the eIDAS and the eduGAIN networks and implementing a unique European Student Identifier that can uniquely and consistently identify students across electronic services. By bootstrapping existing digital infrastructure, this will translate into a powerful ecosystem that will allow students to use either the credentials issued by their home university or their national citizen eID to access different student e-services when going on mobility abroad without having to create new accounts or share their information more than once. Eventually, students will be able to enrol at higher education institutions using their national eID, effectively linking their citizen and student identities.

In the context of the project, the Erasmus+ Mobile App, the Online Learning Agreement, the Erasmus Dashboard and the European PhD Hub will integrate MyAcademicID to allow student authentication via eduGAIN and eIDAS. The present document outlines the essential student attributes required by each of the tools to enable this. The information included here is based on the technical specifications of the tools and reflects and builds on the discussions that took place during 2019 across five MyAcademicID technical workshops that took place in Amsterdam (Feb 21-22; Mar 1-2; May 6-7), Malaga (Sep 10-11) and Berlin (Nov 19). This report complements the MyAcademicID Blueprint Architecture<sup>1</sup> and the Guidelines for Connecting to eduGAIN.<sup>2</sup>

The structure of the document includes a short introduction laying out the higher education policy landscape relevant to MyAcademicID; an overview of the ongoing work to digitise core information flows within the Erasmus programme; an explanation of the functioning of each of the tools integrating MyAcademicID; a summary of the core student attributes required to support student mobility; and the underlying conditions for this to happen successfully.

This document is aimed at the operators of the Erasmus+ Mobile App, the Online Learning Agreement, the Erasmus Dashboard and the European PhD Hub to understand how to enable federated access and which attributes will be available to them.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://myacademic-id.eu/images/MyAID\\_Blueprint\\_Architecture\\_Final.pdf](https://myacademic-id.eu/images/MyAID_Blueprint_Architecture_Final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.myacademic-id.eu/the-project/resources-and-tools>

## Glossary

DG CONNECT	Directorate-General for Connectivity Networks, Content and Technology
DG EAC	Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
EC	European Commission
ECHE	Erasmus Charter for Higher Education
EEA	European Education Area
eIDAS	Regulation on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market
ESCI	European Student Card Initiative
ESI	European Student Identifier
EU	European Union
EUF	European University Foundation
EWP	Erasmus Without Paper
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HEI	Higher education institution
LA	Learning agreement
MyAID	The MyAcademicID project
OLA	Online Learning Agreement
SIS	Student Information System
SP	Service provider

## Introduction: Towards a European Education Area

The role of education as one of Europe's key drivers for job creation, economic growth and social cohesion is taking on a new impetus. On 14 November 2017, the European Commission laid out its vision for achieving a European Education Area by the year 2025.<sup>3</sup> Ambitions ran high. In the Europe of the future, spending time abroad to study and learn is the norm; access to high-quality education is a reality for all; diplomas and qualifications obtained in any Member State are automatically recognised by all the rest; students are fluent in at least two languages in addition to their mother tongue; and all EU citizens have a strong sense of their identity as Europeans and of Europe's diversity and cultural heritage.<sup>4</sup> The message resonated strongly. By the end of the week the idea had been discussed by European leaders at the Social Summit held in Gothenburg,<sup>5</sup> and its underlying principles and goals featured prominently in the December conclusions of the European Council.<sup>6</sup>

The timing was right. 2017 marked three decades of student mobility under the Erasmus programme and signalled a staggering milestone of 9 million Erasmus participants. Led by the European Commission, a Europe-wide campaign<sup>7</sup> had made it clear why Erasmus stands today as one of the European Union's main instruments to support growth, jobs, social equity and inclusion: mobile students acquire new skills and competences; report a higher awareness of common values and a higher tolerance of other cultures; improve their social and language skills; and increase their employability and entrepreneurship prospects.<sup>8</sup> By the beginning of 2018, the Erasmus programme was on track to have its budget doubled in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027).

A policy framework for the execution of the EEA started taking shape in 2018.<sup>9</sup> Several measures would be implemented in the next seven years, including a strengthened Erasmus programme, the establishment of European Universities and the introduction of Council recommendations, notably concerning the automatic mutual recognition of diplomas and learning periods abroad. Key to boosting student mobility would be the "European Student Card Initiative", a set of ambitious, bottom-up projects that would set the standards and the digital infrastructure to support the secure cross-border exchange of electronic information between universities.<sup>10</sup> Amongst them, MyAcademicID (MyAID) would ensure that students had a unique and reliable way to authenticate themselves online across different electronic services when going on mobility abroad, and that they could register electronically at higher education institutions (HEIs). Digitalisation would pave the way to the EEA.

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<sup>3</sup> Future of Europe: Towards a European Education Area by 2025. (Press release. 14 November 2017.) [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_17\\_4521](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_17_4521)

<sup>4</sup> European Education Area. (Communication website.) [https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-education-area_en)

<sup>5</sup> EU Social Summit proclaims European Pillar of Social Rights, first announced by President Juncker. (News article.) [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/president-juncker-social-summit-fair-jobs-and-growth-2017-nov-17\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/president-juncker-social-summit-fair-jobs-and-growth-2017-nov-17_en)

<sup>6</sup> European Council meeting (Conclusions – 14 December 2017) <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/32204/14-final-conclusions-rev1-en.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> From Erasmus to Erasmus+: A story of 30 years. (Erasmus 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign website.) [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/anniversary/30th-anniversary-and-you\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/anniversary/30th-anniversary-and-you_en)

<sup>8</sup> Report from the Commission. Mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme (2014-2020). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0050&from=FR>

<sup>9</sup> Communication from the Commission. Building a stronger Europe: the role of youth, education and culture policies. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0268&from=EN>

<sup>10</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-student-card-initiative\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/european-student-card-initiative_en)

## Erasmus Goes Digital: electronic services to support student mobility

The growth of the Erasmus programme has been exponential: from a mere 3,000 students going abroad in 1987, to more than 10 million people having benefited from Erasmus mobility by 2018. Currently, more than 5,700 HEIs uphold the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE),<sup>11</sup> and close to 400,000 higher education students go abroad every year with Erasmus+.

Despite this exceptional progress, the procedures that students follow when applying for mobility abroad have not evolved at the same pace and have remained paper-based to a large extent. It was not until early 2019 that the European Commission officially announced the roadmap for the digitalisation of workflows for the management of Erasmus student mobility. This represents a fundamental step for a programme that aims to provide opportunities abroad for 12 million people between 2021 and 2027.

All the HEIs planning to take part in the next Erasmus programme (2021-2027) are now required to join the Erasmus Without Paper network (EWP). Live since December 2018, EWP represents an unprecedented university-led effort to set standards for the secure exchange of student mobility data.<sup>12</sup> Its goal is to connect all the 5,700+ ECHE holders, enable the interoperability of their student information systems (SIS) and provide mobility coordinators with a single-entry point to manage all the steps of Erasmus mobility workflows.

The use of EWP will become gradually mandatory for ECHE holders according to the following milestones:

- 2021: to manage online learning agreements
- 2022: to manage inter-institutional agreements and to send and receive student nominations and acceptances
- 2023: to exchange transcripts of records related to student mobility

HEIs can choose to connect to the EWP network in one of three ways according to their possibilities and needs: by directly connecting their SIS; via their third-party service provider; or through the Erasmus Dashboard, a free platform especially designed for those universities that do not have an SIS or the resources to connect it to EWP.<sup>13</sup>

In a similar manner, students will be able to manage all the administrative steps relevant to their mobility abroad through a single-entry point: the Erasmus+ Mobile App. The App currently provides mobile students with a direct connection to the Online Learning Agreement (OLA) platform that allows the relevant parties to sign the student's learning agreement electronically. Furthermore, the App provides

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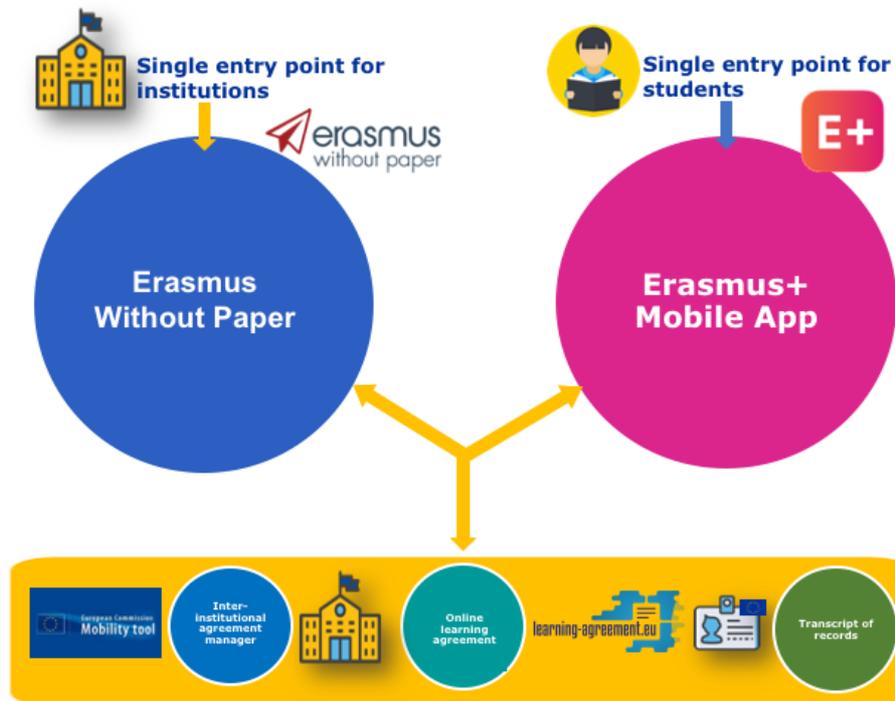
<sup>11</sup> The ECHE charter is the general quality framework that all HEIs must abide by as a prerequisite to their participation in the Erasmus programme. Until April 2020, there were 5,779 accredited ECHE holders. A similar number is expected to sign the new ECHE and renew their institutional agreements ahead of the next Erasmus programme. The full list of ECHE holders can be found on: [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/erasmus-charter\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/erasmus-charter_en)

<sup>12</sup> The EWP project has received funding from the Erasmus+ programme in two occasions: the first project ran from 2015 to 2017 and the second one from 2017 to 2019. <https://www.erasmuswithoutpaper.eu/>

<sup>13</sup> Research carried out by the European University Foundation (EUF) and the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) in 2016 showed that IT infrastructure among European HEIs varied widely: 36% of surveyed HEIs had an SIS developed in-house; 20% used a commercial SIS; and a staggering 42% had no specific IT tools to manage student information. See the Erasmus Without Paper Desk Research: <https://www.erasmuswithoutpaper.eu/sites/default/files/pages/EWP%20desk%20research%20final%20version.pdf>

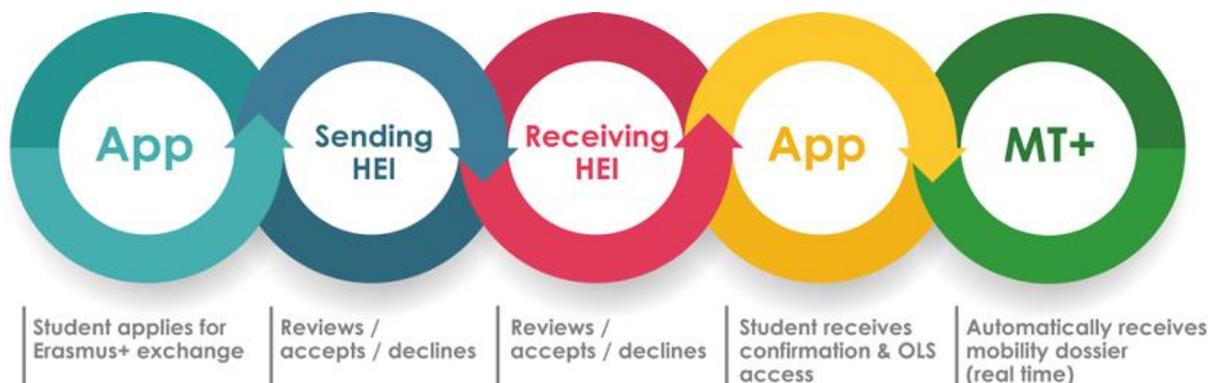
coordinators at HEIs with a direct communication channel with mobile students to relay relevant information in the form of messages and push notifications.

Figure 1. Erasmus Goes Digital infrastructure



The further development of EWP, the Erasmus Dashboard, the Erasmus+ App and the OLA will translate into a complete digital ecosystem that will allow both mobility coordinators and students to manage all the steps of the Erasmus mobility cycle online: from the moment that the student applies for mobility abroad and is nominated by their home institution, to the point where their transcripts of records are sent back by the host institution and the relevant report is submitted to the European Commission through Mobility Tool+.

Figure 2. Erasmus mobility cycle



While the main focus of these digital tools is the Erasmus programme, their potential for further interconnecting the higher education world and facilitating the secure exchange of student-related information extends beyond the 34 Erasmus+ programme countries<sup>14</sup> and the European Union.

## Erasmus+ Mobile App

### Description

The Erasmus+ Mobile App was launched on 14 June 2017 in the context of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Erasmus programme.<sup>15</sup> Originally intended to provide students with useful information about Erasmus opportunities and benefits, the App has undergone continuous redevelopment and has experienced fundamental improvements that have rendered it a key piece in the digitalisation roadmap of student mobility workflows. Today, the App offers students a connection with the OLA; functions as a communication tool between HEIs and students via push notifications containing key information from their home and host institutions; and provides students with step-by-step checklists to guide them during their exchange abroad, useful tips from other Erasmus participants, and information on activities and events in their host institution and surrounding area.

In the next Erasmus programme (2021-2027), the App will be the single point of entry for higher education students. The App is designed to put novel functionalities at the fingertips of users, such as the possibility of applying online for mobility abroad. Given its potential for streamlining and improving mobility workflows for hundreds of thousands of students and HEIs, the App developers and the European Commission's Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sports and Culture (DG EAC), are currently evaluating the possibility of extending its use to other sectors of the Erasmus programme, such as Vocational Education and Training, Erasmus Mundus (international credit mobility) and Youth exchanges.

### User access and attributes

Users of the App include students in any of the 5,700+ universities that uphold the ECHE charter.

Currently, students can access the App using social media login (Google) or by creating an account directly on the App known as *Erasmus Profile*. In both cases, the following attributes are required or generated:

- First name
- Last name
- Email (preferably institutional)
- Password (if an Erasmus Profile is created)
- Erasmus ID (unique eID automatically generated for each user)

The creation of the student's account in the App can be initiated by the students themselves or triggered by their home institution the moment it prefills the student's OLA, sending them an email request to log in and complete the rest of the sections. Once the account has been created, students can use the same login credentials to access both the Erasmus+ Mobile App and the OLA.

The current system does not require users to authenticate their student status.

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<sup>14</sup> The current Erasmus+ programme (2014-2020) comprises 34 "Programme countries" that include the 27 EU Member States, North Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom during its transition period until 31 December 2020. Other countries are known as "Partner countries" and can take part in more limited student exchanges with Programme countries through "international credit mobility". The full list is available on: [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about/who-can-take-part\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/about/who-can-take-part_en).

<sup>15</sup> <https://erasmusapp.eu/>

### Future steps

The current redevelopment of the App (2019-2021) foresees the introduction of the *Erasmus Virtual Assistant* (EVA), a functionality that as of 2021 will support the electronic nomination of students going on mobility abroad with the Erasmus programme.

To function optimally, EVA will require more specific student attributes to enable student authentication and the creation of accounts in either the Erasmus+ Mobile App or the OLA.<sup>16</sup> These attributes will include:

- Student status
- Home HEI
- Faculty at home institution
- Study programme at home institution
- Other attributes as specified in the corresponding inter-institutional agreement (e.g. language level)<sup>17</sup>

## Online Learning Agreement

### Description

The Online Learning Agreement (OLA), first launched in 2017, is an online platform that allows students and HEIs taking part in the Erasmus programme to initiate, fill out, sign and finalise their Learning Agreements online.<sup>18</sup> The OLA platform is directly linked to the Erasmus Dashboard and the Erasmus+ App and is currently undergoing its third round of development.<sup>19</sup> In spring 2019, the European Commission announced that use of OLAs would become mandatory for all ECHE holders as of 2021.

The Learning Agreement (LA) is the document that sets out the programme of the studies or the traineeship to be followed abroad.<sup>20</sup> The LA must be approved and validated by three parties before the start of the exchange: the student, the sending higher education institution, and the receiving higher education institution or traineeship organisation. The aim of the LA is to ensure the recognition of the learning outcomes that the student acquired abroad upon their return to their home institution without further requirements. This procedure has traditionally been paper-based, with the three parties signing by hand and exchanging the documents via post or email in the form of scanned copies. The OLA represents an unprecedented effort to digitise and streamline this procedure to make it more efficient, secure and transparent.

### User access and attributes

OLA users include current and potential Erasmus students in any of the 5,700+ universities that uphold the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE). It could eventually be expanded further, to encompass mobilities to/from Erasmus+ partner countries.

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.erasmuswithoutpaper.eu/>

<sup>17</sup> Inter-institutional agreements are signed between two or more ECHE holders and specify the conditions for cooperation and student exchange between them: [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/applicants/inter-institutional-agreement\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/applicants/inter-institutional-agreement_en)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.learning-agreement.eu/>

<sup>19</sup> The OLA project has been funded as a Strategic Partnership under the Erasmus+ programme in three consecutive occasions: 2015-2017, 2017-2019 and 2019-2020.

<sup>20</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/applicants/learning-agreement\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/applicants/learning-agreement_en)

The process for accessing and creating an account on the OLA platform is the same as in the case of the Erasmus+ Mobile App: students can choose to access the OLA using social media login (Google) or by creating an account directly on the App known as *Erasmus Profile*. In both cases, the following attributes are required or generated:

- First name
- Last name
- Email (preferably institutional)
- Password (if an Erasmus profile is created)
- Erasmus ID (unique eID automatically generated for each user)

The creation of the student's account can be initiated by the students themselves or triggered by their home institution when prefilling the student's OLA, sending them an email request to log in and complete the rest of the sections. Once the account has been created, students can use the same login credentials to access both the Erasmus+ Mobile App and the OLA.

The current system does not require users to authenticate their student status, relying on universities to verify it on a case by case basis when their students initiate the OLA procedure.

#### OLA creation

Once their user account has been created, students can complete their OLA by providing additional information, including the following attributes:

##### **Personal attributes**

- Student ID at home institution (optional)
- Sex
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Telephone number (optional)
- Signature

##### **Academic attributes**

- Study cycle (EQF)
- Academic year
- Field of study (ISCED)
- Mobility period
- Language skills
- Language level

##### **Institutional attributes (sending and receiving institution)**

- Name of institution
- Address
- Country
- Erasmus code

##### **Contact person (sending and receiving institution)**

- First name
- Last name
- Email
- Faculty/department
- Phone (optional)

##### **Responsible person**

- First name
- Last name

- Email
- Position
- Signature

#### Future steps

Between 2019 and 2021, the OLA will undergo extensive redevelopment to enhance the robustness and scalability of the platform, and to ensure that it is fully compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and completely integrated with the EWP network.

## Erasmus Dashboard

### Description

The Erasmus Dashboard is a free, public, cloud-based platform designed to support HEIs in managing incoming and outgoing student mobility flows under the Erasmus programme.<sup>21</sup> The Erasmus Dashboard was officially launched in February 2018, providing all ECHE holders with an easy-to-use solution that requires no IT skills or capacity to connect to the EWP Network. This is particularly important for those HEIs with little resources or that lack a student information system to manage their mobility flows.

Fully integrated with the OLA and the Erasmus+ Mobile App, the Erasmus Dashboard allows HEIs to communicate with mobile students and to initiate, sign or decline Learning Agreements online. As of February 2020, the Erasmus Dashboard has also enabled the Inter-Institutional Agreement Manager module; fully integrated with the EWP Network, this functionality allows HEIs to renew online their partnerships with other institutions for the next Erasmus programme. Currently, the Erasmus Dashboard has more than 2,000 registered accounts.

### User access

Students do not authenticate directly on the Erasmus Dashboard. Nonetheless, their student information – such as name, last name, student ID and email– is received, visualised and exchanged via the platform by mobility coordinators at HEIs. In the context of MyAID and the digitalisation of the Erasmus programme, it is therefore essential to make sure that the Erasmus Dashboard can support the exchange of student attributes.

Dashboard users include university staff in charge of managing student mobility flows within their institution. They can request access to the tool directly on the website of the Erasmus Dashboard, which is then validated by the service to verify the authenticity and accuracy of the information provided. Once the account has been approved, the user can delegate access and roles to other members of their institution and start exchanging student-related information with other Dashboard users.

## PhD Hub

### Description

The European PhD Hub is an online portal that connects PhD candidates, HEIs and businesses at both local and European level.<sup>22</sup> Its main aim is to generate opportunities for joint business-driven research and to increase the transferability of PhD results in the industry and society at large. While the PhD Hub is not part of the Erasmus Goes Digital infrastructure, it constitutes an important platform to support the internationalisation of doctoral education and training by allowing users, depending on their given role, to

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.erasmus-dashboard.eu>

<sup>22</sup> <https://phdhub.eu/>

browse, publish and apply for PhD offers and research cooperation opportunities, as well as to take part in community discussions for knowledge exchange.

#### User access and attributes

Users of the PhD Hub include academic staff/researchers, industry representatives and PhD candidates. To access the PhD Hub, doctoral candidates need to create an account, providing the following attributes:

- First name
- Last name
- Institution's name or Business' name
- Title (optional)
- Local Hub
- LinkedIn profile URL (optional)
- Website (optional)

No authentication of the doctoral status of users is required at the moment. To access the full range of functionalities of the platform, users need to be authenticated by a Local Hub as a member. Local Hub members are authenticated automatically with their institutional email address. The local Hub administrator manually assigns new roles, if necessary, to the new members.

#### Future steps

The PhD Hub is a project funded under the Erasmus+ programme as a Knowledge Alliance until the end of October 2020. By the end of the project, four fully fledged new local Hubs will be joining and enriching the PhD Hub network. Four leading HEIs, together with at least forty industry partners from their local ecosystems, will benefit from cross-border and cross-sector cooperation in the field of doctoral training and provide their PhD prospects, candidates and postdocs with new business-oriented funding and research opportunities. In February 2020, a PhD Hub follow-up project proposal was submitted to upscale the project and focus on several key aspects, namely but not exclusively, the quality of the provision of doctoral training with a specific focus on transferable skills, flexible research collaboration models and the digital interoperability of Academia-Industry cooperation mechanisms.

## Attributes for student mobility

While each of the tools mentioned above –the Erasmus+ Mobile App, the OLA, the Erasmus Dashboard and the PhD Hub– require a specific set of attributes from users to provide them with access to their services, they share one common requirement: the HEI affiliation of the users. On top of this, those services involved in the Erasmus mobility cycle have to be able to uniquely identify users so that they can reliably exchange data between them and communicate with the students. This is particularly important in light of the EWP architecture, which enables interoperability among a variety of distributed tools.

In order to ensure that students can authenticate through a single sign-on to all the tools and that the service providers receive the necessary student information, the MyAcademicID consortium has identified a minimal set of five attributes that will be provided via the eduGAIN network:

- Name
- Last name
- Email
- HEI affiliation
- European Student Identifier (ESI)

These attributes will be released in a federated manner by HEIs when the students authenticate into any of the tools described above using their academic credentials. The European Student Identifier (ESI), described in more detail in the MyAID Blueprint Architecture,<sup>23</sup> is a globally unique and persistent identifier that will reliably identify the students across the different services.

The ESI will be included as part of the attributes that HEIs can release via the eduGAIN network to those services that support the Research and Scholarship Entity Category (R&S).<sup>24</sup> The R&S category is granted to a number of service providers (SP) that support research and scholarship interaction, collaboration or management, and that require some personal information from users to work effectively. Both HEIs (as identity providers) and the SPs need to adhere to the R&S category to ensure the flow of attributes.

It is important to note that this attribute issued through the identity federation will be the same as the one provided by HEI to the router (ESC-R) of the European student card. The consistent use of the same student identifier by all applications is the very ambition of the MyAcademicID project and a big step forwards increasing interoperability. Ultimately, from the point of view of HEIs, it is more consistent to use a unique identifier rather than different identifiers depending on the applications.

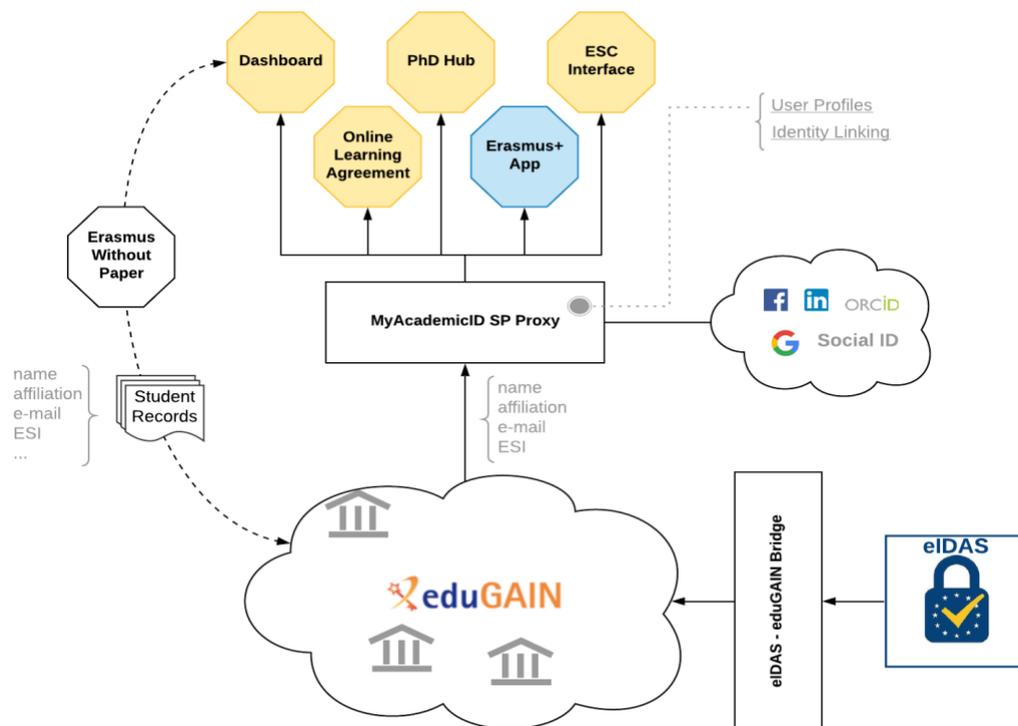
The Erasmus+ Mobile App, the OLA, the Dashboard and the PhD Hub will be connected to eduGAIN through a multi-protocol service provider proxy (SP proxy) provided by GÉANT that will be tagged as an R&S SP. Said proxy will behave as a single SP both towards the services connected to it and the HEIs releasing the student attributes to the services. In this way, students will be able to use their academic credentials (institutional email and password) to authenticate and access all these tools.

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<sup>23</sup> [https://www.myacademic-id.eu/images/MyAID\\_Blueprint\\_Architecture\\_Final.pdf](https://www.myacademic-id.eu/images/MyAID_Blueprint_Architecture_Final.pdf)

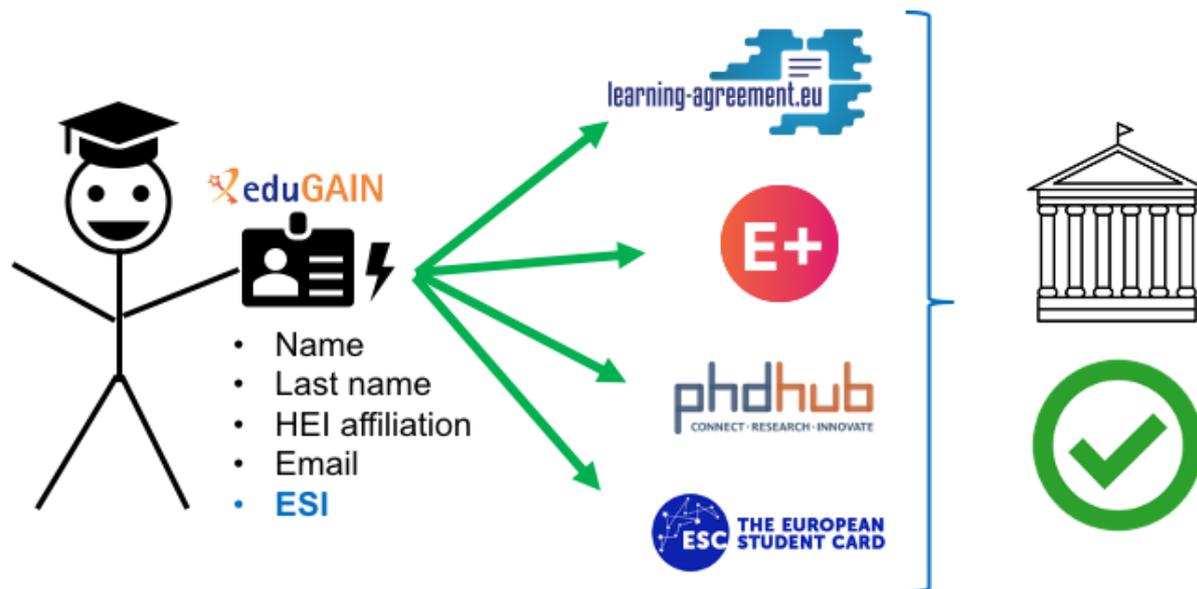
<sup>24</sup> <https://refeds.org/category/research-and-scholarship>

Figure 3. MyAcademicID architecture



Furthermore, a bridge between the eduGAIN and eIDAS networks is currently being implemented via the Swedish eIDAS node in a testing environment. Once this solution has been moved into production, it will support the authentication of students using their national eIDs. At that point, a connection between the student's citizen and academic eID can be established and a unique ESI assigned to the student, effectively bridging the two identities and establishing a single eID scheme for higher education.

Figure 4. MyAID use-case #1: user accessing student mobility services using their academic credentials



## Conditions for successfully supporting student mobility

In order to ensure that both students and HEIs can benefit from the single European eID for higher education enabled by the MyAID architecture, a series of conditions have to be met:

### **e-service providers connect to the SP proxy**

Technical work is already under way to connect the Erasmus+ Mobile App, the OLA, the Erasmus Dashboard and the PhD Hub to the SP Proxy according to the following timeline:

- PhD Hub – Connected
- OLA – September 2020
- Erasmus+ Mobile App – November 2020

The Dashboard will not be connected to the SP proxy, but it will support the exchange of the ESI attributes from October onwards.

Once all the services have been connected, the SP Proxy will be ready to be moved into a production environment.

### **Security and privacy**

MyAID foresees a security and privacy audit of the SP Proxy and the eIDAS-eduGAIN bridge to ensure that the proposed solutions meet GDPR security and privacy requirements. The audit will be ready by the end of November 2020.

### **eduGAIN membership and support of R&S category**

In order to benefit from the eID scheme, all HEIs have to participate in the eduGAIN network, support the R&S tag and release the ESI as an attribute. The consortium partners are currently mapping out the share of ECHE holders that are part of the eduGAIN network to identify the degree of overlap between the two groups and devise alternative solutions for those institutions that are not or cannot join eduGAIN. At the same time, discussions between the MyAID consortium and European authorities (DG EAC) are underway to explore how to best support institutions in the framework of the digitalisation roadmap of the ESCI.

### **ESI roll-out and attribute release**

Each ECHE holder must be able to assign ESIs to their students and release them via eduGAIN, along with the other four basic student attributes mentioned above: name, last name, email and affiliation. This will require the involvement of university IT departments to make sure that their local information systems are connected to eduGAIN and ready to release the necessary attributes when their students authenticate electronically.

Discussions with DG EAC are currently underway to formally include the ESI as part of the ESCI digitalisation milestones that ECHE holders will have to meet ahead of the next Erasmus programme. The European Commission, through the initiative of the European student card (ESCI) asks higher education institutions to adopt both the EWP standards until 2023 and the European student card until 2025. The latter asks higher education institutions to generate a ESI, linked to the student card number (ESCN), and to send them to the router which allows service providers to check the student status by reading the card. While the ESC-R is consuming ESIs based on the initial format specifications, the consortium partners

acknowledge that both the EWP environment and on-campus services accessible via the card will strive to use the new version of the European student identifier.<sup>25</sup>

A preliminary list of steps that HEIs have to follow in order to enable student authentication via eduGAIN and eIDAS has already been published on the Erasmus Without Paper Competence Centre.<sup>26</sup> This information will also be communicated through six workshops targeting national decision makers in the field of digitalisation in higher education and informational material made available online.<sup>27</sup> The workshops will take place in the third and fourth quarters of 2020 in most of the countries involved in the MyAID project: France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Sweden and Croatia.<sup>28</sup>

During the transition towards a full roll-out of the ESI, a temporary solution to uniquely identify students across services can be implemented within the SP proxy by relying on two additional attributes that HEIs supporting the R&S category are required to release to designated service providers:

- eduPersonPrincipalName (eppn)
- eduPersonTargetedID (non-mandatory) (eptID)

To ease the transition towards ESIs, both the eppn and the eptID can be linked within the SP Proxy to the ESI as the latter is gradually released by HEIs.

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<sup>25</sup> [https://www.myacademic-id.eu/images/MyAID\\_Blueprint\\_Architecture\\_Final.pdf](https://www.myacademic-id.eu/images/MyAID_Blueprint_Architecture_Final.pdf)

<sup>26</sup> <https://cc.erasmuswithoutpaper.eu/>

<sup>27</sup> See the *MyAcademicID in a nutshell* leaflet: [https://www.myacademic-id.eu/images/MyAcademicID\\_KeyMessage\\_16\\_3\\_2020.pdf](https://www.myacademic-id.eu/images/MyAcademicID_KeyMessage_16_3_2020.pdf)

<sup>28</sup> The first workshop of this kind took place in German on 18 March as a webinar: <https://www.myacademic-id.eu/news/18-the-first-myacademicid-national-workshop>