



EMREX

Supporting Student Mobility

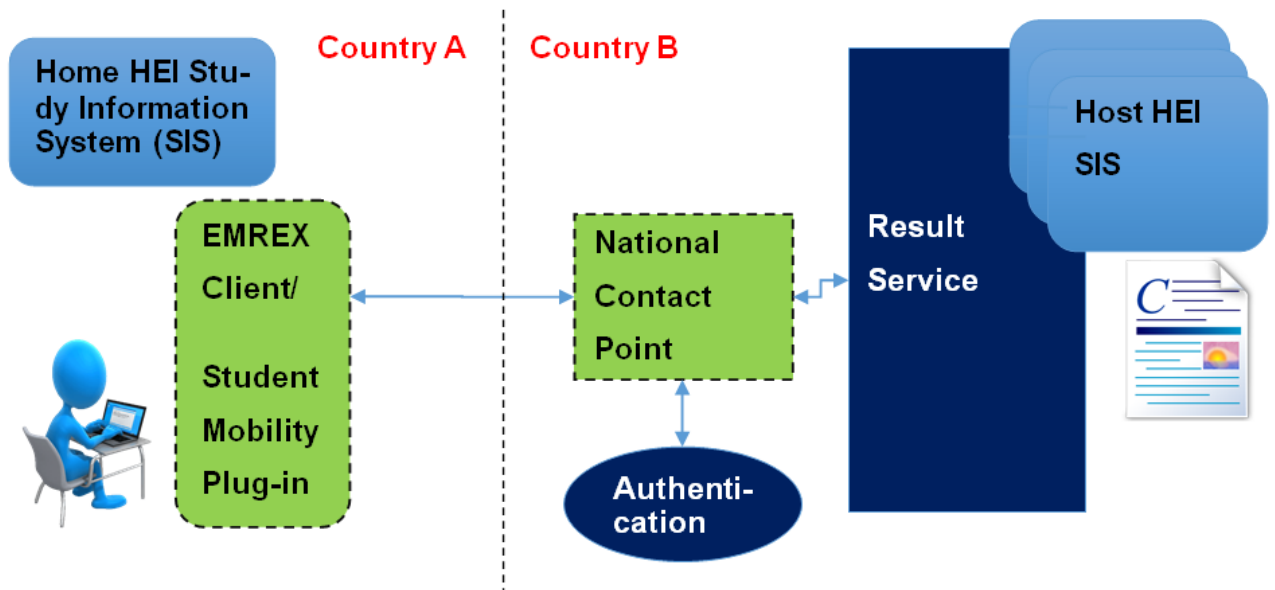
THE EMREX PROJECT

The EMREX project, which is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, focuses on the exchange of student achievement records between the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) – an exchange initiated by the student. EMREX is part of a wider set of EU activities focusing on student mobility e.g. Erasmus Without Paper, FAIR and other similar initiatives. Academic recognition in higher education is seen as a challenge in student mobility and also as a potential area for improvement of a more efficient education system in general. The project is supporting the European 2020 goal, that 20% of all higher education students should be internationally mobile during their studies. The project partners are from Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway, Poland and Sweden, but we will be more!

THE EMREX FIELD TRIAL

The tangible outcome of EMREX is a federated solution, which supports the exchange of student data on achievement records, and the solution will be highly scalable. A field trial is currently being conducted, and students on exchange at higher education institutions in Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway and Sweden can initiate a digital transfer of their achievement records in a fast and secure manner. 100+ mobile students has already used the system. Poland will soon use EMREX for internal mobility too.

THE EMREX SOLUTION



An exchange student returning home can retrieve his/her achievement data electronically.

The process is initiated by the student.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS AND FUTURE BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The biggest benefit of this policy project will be the increased availability, quality and reliability of information about student records of achievement data. This will make student mobility processes easier, faster and more transparent for students. Students will also benefit from the recognition of previous academic studies and degrees, because of increased eligibility, when applying for studies at a higher education institution. The universities will benefit from a reduction of manual work. The field trial also supports the collection of measurable data on the rate of recognition that can then be analysed and used for improving the national policies on student mobility and rules for recognition of previous studies. The data will increase the quality of the learning mobility statistics.

Another benefit from the field trial will be the comparison of the grade transcripts from the participating countries. To fully benefit from an electronic transfer of achievement data, a common grade transcript format is required. The solution will also be evaluated from a technical perspective, so it will become easier for newcomers to join the EMREX network.



UPSCALING AND EMREX 2.0

One of the goals and benefits of the field trial is the peer learning of the authorities involved. The way to support this particular goal is to make the results of the development process available through open source code. New countries can join the EMREX network by providing their students with application(s) that allow them to fetch their results from another HEI. This is called the EMREX Client and includes the functionality of the Student Mobility Plugin (SMP). A country can contribute to the network by providing their own National Contact Point (NCP) with functionality to fetch assessments from the databases containing this information. All institutions of higher education will be able to use the information from countries offering the functionality. The solution will be available for all HEIs in Europe from 2017. The upscaling of the EMREX-platform will therefore be provided by applying a mainly decentralised management model, the only central components being a registry containing addresses of the NCPs (EMREG) and the Student Mobility Plug-in that enables the EMREX Client to communicate with the NCP.

The project is on search for new partners, and expected upcoming partners and associate partners are from Spain, Croatia, The Netherlands, Belgium, China, USA, Slovenia, The United Kingdom and Germany.

Further use of the solution could be for admission services (Norway already has a pilot), and EMREX could definitely also be a building block for internal national mobility, recruitment for jobs, validation of degrees and diplomas and credential verification across countries and HEIs. Please visit www.emrex.eu for much more information.