

An HEI view on the European Student Card Initiative

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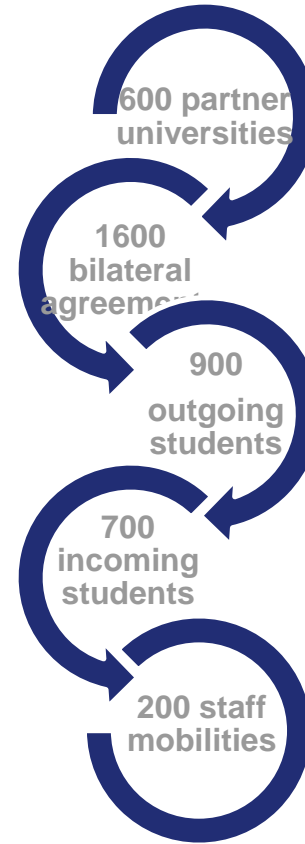
Institutional level



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1 central Erasmus office



Challenges

- Large volume of bilateral agreements (appr. 1600)
- Increased number of applications for outgoing and incoming mobilities (i.e. 1230 applications during a single call)
- Grant procedure for all outgoing mobilities
- Close monitoring on students' performance
- Data on academic recognition for qualitative assessment purposes



Main benefits of a mobility management application

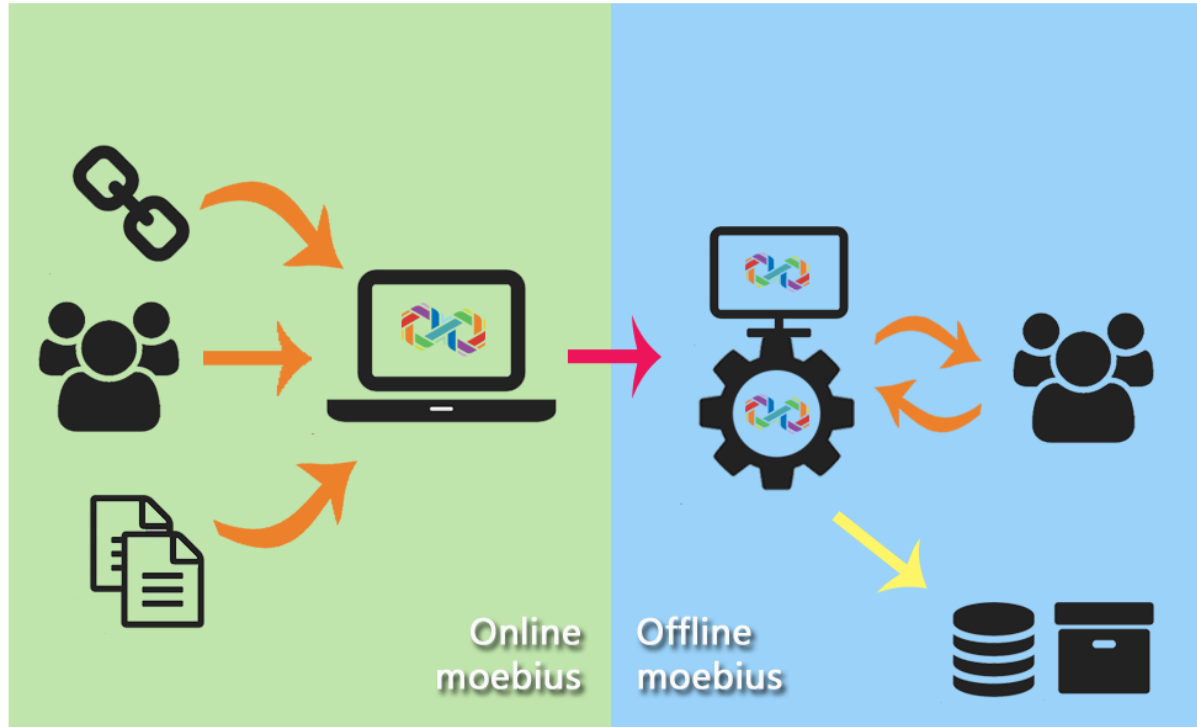
- Reduces significantly information retyping by end users or staff members in sending and host information systems
- Prevents data duplication – Provides increased security
- Offline record for each mobility including copies of all required documents



Moebius Architecture



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The European landscape



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Strategic priorities

Digital Education Action Plan 2018

Priority 1: Making better use of digital technology for teaching and learning

Mobility is an important part of education and digital technology is key for improving it further. Erasmus+ projects such as the European Student eCard and Erasmus without Papers will be scaled up and integrated with the work on authentication in projects under the Connecting Europe Facility. The aims are to:






- enable students to identify themselves in a trusted manner, in line with the once-only principle;
- digitally connect higher education institutions' information systems;
- allow secure exchange and verification of student data and academic records;
- reduce administrative procedures;
- enable access to services students are entitled to when arriving in the host country.

Back to the institutional level



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Degree of integration to A.U.Th. processes

Online tool	Degree of integration to current procedures	Implementation priority
	Low- institutional barriers	Intermediate– Gradual adaptation of internal procedures and integration of proposed changes
	Low- necessary only for managing OLAs	Intermediate– direct connection to the OLA adoption
	Intermediate– adjustment of internal procedures	Low- implementation through the QA Unit
	High – connection with Moebius mobilities management software	Very high– strategic priority of interoperability
	Low– dependent on GRNET for issuing academic IDs	High – Task Force and networking for participation in relevant projects

How did AUTh join the EWP network



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- **Documentation (architecture, schemas, APIs, authentication/authorization, certificate signing)**
- **Collaboration between Erasmus Office, IT Center and QA unit**
- **Implementation based on the EWP Reference Connector**
- **Publication of manifest file**
- **Testing from both sides**

Technical (and other) difficulties

- **Difficulty in identifying who are the data-holders**
- **Data may not be available in the university's SIS**
- **Data could be dispersed over different application tools**
- **Need for a dedicated IT development team**

What's next for AUTH in the EWP network






- **July 2019:** EWP Collaboration Agreement
- Implementing more APIs - Contributing more data
- Fully integrate EWP in the existing mobility workflows of the Erasmus office
- Making the most of the data-exchange capabilities provided by the EWP



Degree of integration to A.U.Th. processes



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Institutional barriers

- 41 Schools
- Centralized administration of the Erasmus+ mobilities
- Provision for Institutional coordinator's signature in all Learning Agreements for Studies for monitoring purposes of the recognition process



How the barriers were lifted



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- Joining the consortium of OLA 3.0 as a technical leader
- A digitalization project lead to a business process review








How the barriers were lifted

The EWP standards will become gradually mandatory from 2021

- ✓ 2021: Inter-institutional agreements and Online learning agreements
- ✓ 2022: Nominations
- ✓ 2023: Transcripts of records
- ✓ *Roadmap to be maintained provided testing confirms they are fit for purpose!*



Degree of integration to A.U.Th. processes

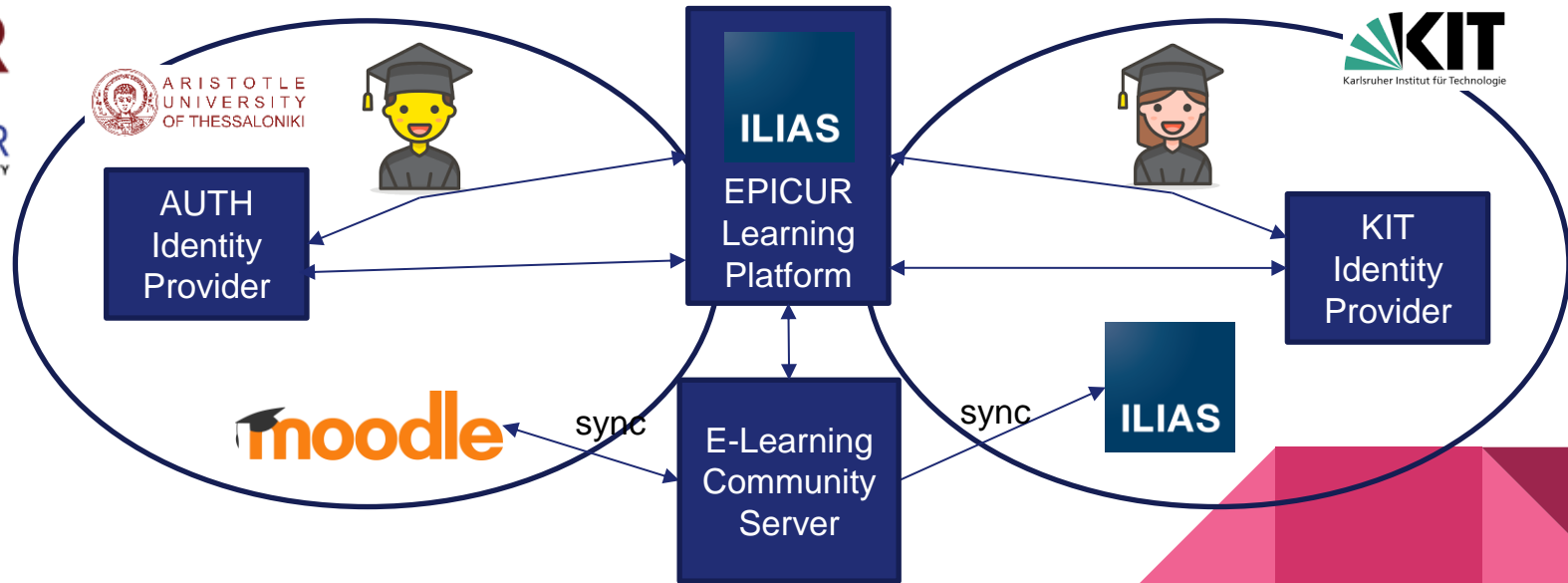
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Taking it up to the next level: EPICUR



EPICUR – A European Universities Alliance in which Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is WP Leader in the **creation of an inter-university campus** through the implementation of innovative procedures of admissions, evaluation and academic monitoring (gamification) and the design of technical solutions both for teaching methods (Virtual Campus Learning Platform) and administrative support (Virtual University Registrar System)

Combined Approach with own EPICUR Learning Platform - Example



Beyond Erasmus+: EDSSI



The European Digital Student Service Infrastructure will build the EU Student eCard core service platform

Scope:

- ubiquitous and online recognition of student status and identity as well as electronic exchange of students' records between European higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

Beyond Erasmus+: EDSSI



The European Digital Student Service Infrastructure will build the EU Student eCard core service platform

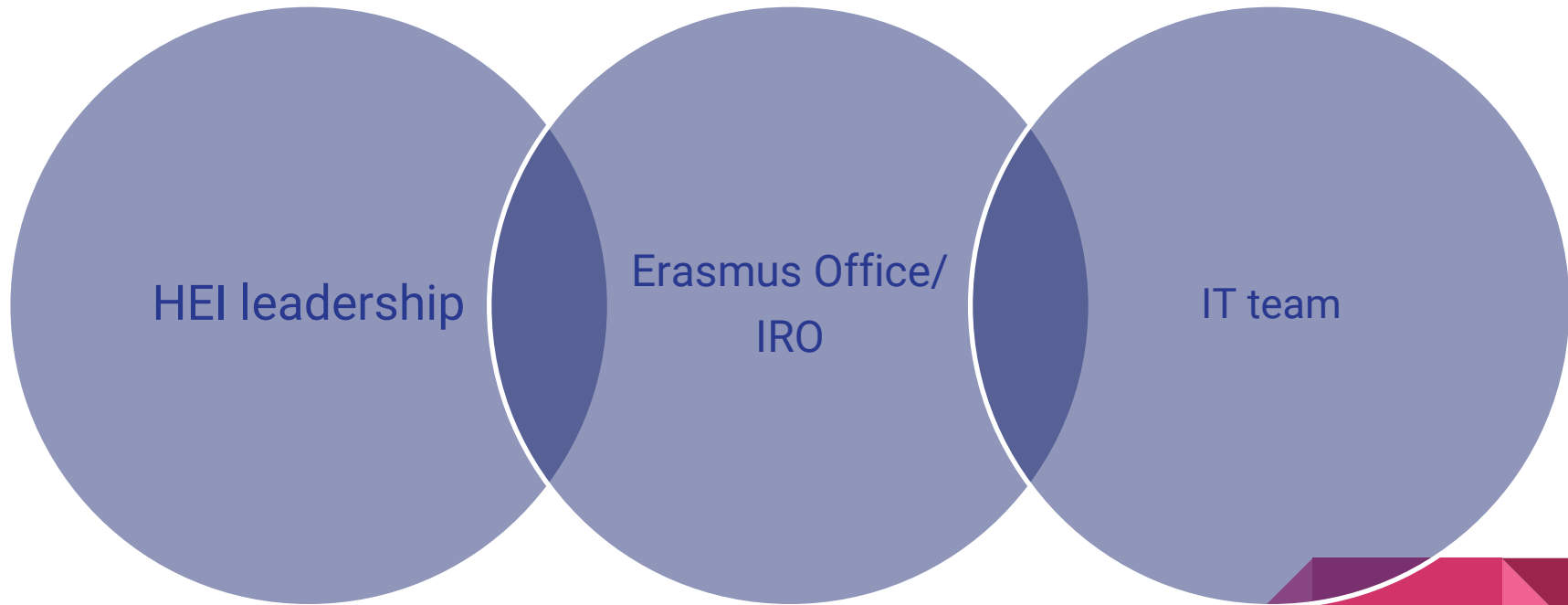
Objectives:

- Clear means to identify and authenticate students through eduGAIN infrastructure, eIDAS eIDs and via other trusted Identity Providers (IdPs).
- An interoperability infrastructure with the eIDAS enabled eID serving as a European Student Identifier (ESI), allowing HEIs to exchange student data for the purpose of making student mobility a seamless experience under the once-only principle

IROs: The missing link of digital transformation



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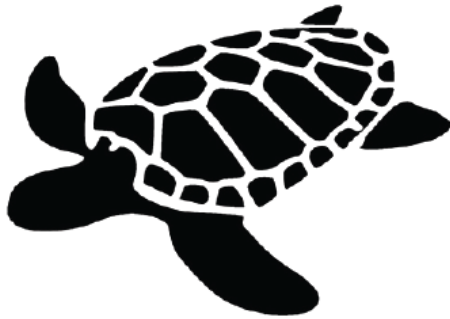


Approach to digital transformation in HE mobility



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The wait and see



- Wary of change (in general) and engages only when strictly necessary
- Protecting comfort zone more important than improving efficiency or quality of students experience
- Unrealistic expectations regarding functionality of new IT tools
- Risks projecting negative image of own HEI



Approach to digital transformation in HE mobility



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The early adopter



- Is willing to take calculated risks
- Anticipates and leads change
- Actively involves partners and students
- Looks for synergies with own HEI internationalization/digitization strategy
- Profiles own HEI as forward-looking and brands it accordingly



Approach to digital transformation in HE mobility



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The digital champion

- IT team actively involved in development and testing
- Engages with national authorities to work together towards transition
- Remains in contact with relevant EU projects and joins/starts its own
- Has a long term strategy, influence and a strong voice



Digital transformation self-assessment



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- **Is your IRO monitoring these developments and has a digital strategy with clear milestones?**
- **Is your university leadership aware of the challenges ahead?**
- **Has your IT team carried out a needs analysis and adjusted their work plan accordingly? (if applicable)**





**Start an
internal
dialogue in
your
institution**

**Connect to
EWP and
start testing**

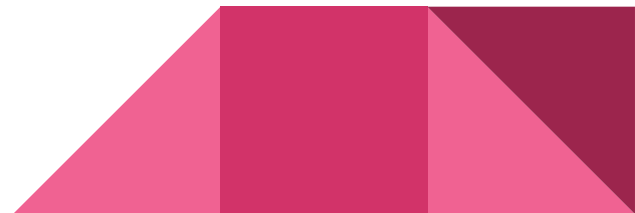
**Attend
workshops
and provide
your
feedback**

**Seek
commitment
to paperless
mobility
from
institutional
leaders**



Do not forget!!!!

**Join a digitalization
project!!!**



Thank you for your attention!

*Nikos Liolios, Erasmus+ Administrative Officer, Aristotle
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