

EUNIS 2019

MyAcademicID: a European Student eID Scheme for Higher Education

1st Victor Aguilar¹, 2nd Jean-Paul Roumegas², 3rd Joachim Wyssling³, 4th Joao Bacelar⁴.

¹European University Foundation; 16C rue de Canach, 5353 Oetrange, Luxembourg; Rue Joseph II, 120 BE-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium; victor.aguilar@uni-foundation.eu.

²Centre national des œuvres universitaires et scolaires; 60, Boulevard du Lycée, 92171, Vanves, Paris, France; jean-paul.roumegas@cnous.fr.

³European University Foundation; 16C rue de Canach, 5353 Oetrange, Luxembourg; joachim.wyssling@uni-foundation.eu.

⁴European University Foundation; 16C rue de Canach, 5353 Oetrange, Luxembourg; joao.bacelar@uni-foundation.eu.

Keywords

eID, student mobility, higher education, e-services, identity providers, service providers, digital infrastructure, authentication, digitisation.

1. Summary

MyAcademicID focuses on developing a European Student eID Scheme for Higher Education. This will allow students to identify and register themselves electronically at higher education institutions when going abroad on exchange and to access different student services in Europe.

The digital infrastructure supporting the European Student eID for Higher Education will be the result of the integration of eduGAIN and the European Student Identifier, and of the establishment of digital bridges between them and the eIDAS interoperability framework being rolled out by the European institutions.

Moreover, the project seeks to integrate the European student eID into four e-services: the Online Learning Agreement, the Erasmus+ Dashboard, the Erasmus+ Mobile App and the PhD Hub Platform. Additionally, the Portuguese national student ID (Estudante ID) will be made interoperable with the European Student eID, showcasing how national identity providers can join this digital scheme. Future integration with Erasmus Without Paper is also foreseen.

The scalability of the project and the potential for integration of the European Student eID with a myriad of other student services (both online and offline), not only pave the way for seamless student mobility and a stronger, reinforced European student status throughout Europe, but make MyAcademicID a key component of the European Student Card Initiative spearheaded by the European Commission.

2. Extended abstract

In 2017 alone, more than 300,000 higher education students went abroad on exchange under the Erasmus+ Programme (European Commission, 2018, p. 24). Since its inception three decades ago, the programme has undergone a monumental expansion: from 11 participating countries and a mere over 3,000 students going abroad in 1987, to 33 participating countries and more than 9 million people having benefitted from mobility under Erasmus+ by 2017) (European Commission, 2017). However, the basic procedures and schemes that allow European higher education institutions (HEIs) to exchange mobile student data and ultimately give higher education students a chance to study or train abroad, have changed very little and remain largely paper-based. From the moment when students apply for mobility to the point when they come back to their home institution, they depend on different documents in order to identify themselves, authenticate their student status and access services: from

course registration and enrolment at the host institution, to access to the library and the canteen, student discounts, language assessments and even transportation. The more students go abroad, the more cumbersome these procedures become for administrative staff at HEIs, slowing down and adding extra barriers to mobility flows.

This is at odds with a growingly interconnected and digital world, where applications and electronic services contribute to easing our daily struggles and multiplying our interactions: from online banking and car-sharing to the way we learn about news, order food, sign contracts, navigate our surroundings, book accommodation and stay abreast of our complex reality. What if students could join this digital revolution? What if all higher education students in Europe could identify themselves in a simple, quick and trusted manner in any Member State? What if they could access a myriad of electronic services with a single log-in wherever they are? What if each student could have a unique and persistent eID that authenticates their student status at the click of a button? Student mobility in Europe would know no borders.

MyAcademicID (MyAID) is an important step forward. The project aims at building the critical digital infrastructure that will allow students to identify and register themselves electronically at HEIs when going abroad on exchange and to access different student services. This *European Student eID Scheme for Higher Education*, will be the result of integrating eduGAIN, the European Student Identifier (from the European Student Card Project) and the establishment of digital bridges between them and the eIDAS interoperability framework via the Swedish national node. Students who go abroad on exchange will then be able to use their academic credentials to access different student services online no matter where they are in Europe; whereas the links with eIDAS will open the possibility in the future for students to also use their national eID to authenticate their student status.

To this end, the 13 partners that make up the MyAID Consortium have secured EU funding through the Connecting Europe Facility for the period running from January 2019 to June 2020. A number of technical workshops have been planned for the upcoming 17 months to build the mobility scenarios; steer technical collaboration; make the necessary connections between eduGAIN, eIDAS and the European Student Identifier (ESI); and test the integration of the eID scheme by different e-services according to the following timeline:

- June 2019: guidelines for connecting to eduGAIN and mobility scenarios;
- August 2019: integration of eduGAIN and the ESI;
- September 2019: blueprint of the European Student eID scheme for Higher Education;
- October 2019: integration of eduGAIN and eIDAS through the Swedish national node;
- December 2019: report on security and privacy attributes;
- March 2020: four e-services integrate and test the European Student eID for Higher Education, outlining further integration requirements with Erasmus Without Paper: the Online Learning Agreement, the Erasmus+ Dashboard, the Erasmus+ Mobile App and the PhD Hub Platform.
- April 2020: the Portuguese national student eID (Estudante ID), currently being rolled out by the Portuguese government, will be made interoperable with the European Student eID, showcasing how national identity providers can join this digital scheme.
- June 2020: roll-out requirements and up-scalability report for an eIDAS-enabled European Student eID scheme for Higher Education.

Piloting the European Student eID scheme for Higher Education within the Erasmus+ mobility scheme provides the ideal testing environment that can later be enlarged to include other scenarios non-specific student mobility; a range of services, both online and offline, public or private; and geographical boundaries beyond the European Union and the Erasmus+ Programme.

The scalability of the project and the potential for integration of the European Student eID scheme with a myriad of other student services, not only pave the way for seamless student mobility and a stronger, reinforced European student status throughout Europe, but make MyAcademicID a key component of the European Student Card Initiative spearheaded by the European Commission.

Project partners

Centre national des œuvres universitaires et scolaires (CNOUS); Géant Association (GÉANT); Swedish Research Council (SUNET); Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (UBER); University of Malaga (UMA); Réseau national de communications électroniques pour la technologie, l'enseignement et la recherche (RENATER); Direção-Geral do Ensino Superior (DGES); Fondazione ENDISU; Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH); Deutsches Studentenwerk (DSW); Ente per il Diritto allo studio Universitario dell'Università Cattolica (EDUCATT); Direction Interministérielle du Numérique et des Systèmes d'Information et de Communication de l'état (DINSIC); European University Foundation (EUF).

References

European Commission. (2017). *The 30th Anniversary and You*. Retrieved February 7, 2019, from: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/anniversary/30th-anniversary-and-you_en.

European Commission. (2018). *Erasmus+ Annual Report 2017*. Retrieved February 7, 2019, from: <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4e5c3e1c-1f0b-11e9-8d04-01aa75ed71a1>.

3. Authors' biographies



Victor Aguilar holds a BA in Psychology from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a Master's in Public Policy and Administration from the Centre for Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE). He has worked as a consultant and applied researcher in both the public and the private sector in Mexico. After his Blue Book traineeship at the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), Victor worked as a Policy Officer in the field of Higher Education at the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) of the European Commission. He joined the European University Foundation

(EUF) in 2018, where he now coordinates MyAcademicID.

[LinkedIn reference.](#)



Jean-Paul Roumegas is Counsellor of international relations and partnerships at Cnous, French National center for Student Affairs. He has a postgraduate cycle of European Higher Studies from the National School of Administration. Jean-Paul Roumegas is also president of the European Council of Student affairs. He created and launched the consortium for the European Student Card and coordinates the current Erasmus + Strategic partnership on the European Student card (project 2016-1-FR01-KA203-024084).

[LinkedIn reference.](#)



Joachim Wyssling completed his Master's degree in EU studies at the University de Franche-Comté. During his studies, he actively volunteered in student NGOs welcoming and integrating international students in local communities. After serving as Vice-President of ESN International, he joined the EUF in 2011. His current mission as Project Manager involves the incubation of innovative project proposals for member universities and the identification of development opportunities within the European Higher Education Area, notably in the field of digitisation of HE with the Online Learning Agreement, Erasmus+ mobile App and Erasmus Without Paper; more recently in the field of doctoral education with the European PhD

Hub; and in the field of social inclusion and recognition of informal learning experiences with SocialErasmus+.

[LinkedIn reference.](#)



Joao Bacelar has an academic background in bioinformatics and has been involved in HE policy since 1998, when he was first elected for the Senate of the University of Aveiro. After joining the EUF in 2003, he became a founding member of its Secretariat and has been involved in its policy innovation and outreach activities ever since. Under the aegis of Campus Europae, he coordinated multiple academic cooperation projects in the domains of recognition of studies, online language learning, comparative curricular development and Quality Assurance from 2004 to 2014, overseeing seven committees which involved more than 100 academics from 30 universities whose findings played an important role in the design of the Erasmus+ programme. Joao's extensive experience in digital HE encompasses the coordination of the Online Learning Agreement, the Erasmus+ App, serving in the Steering Committee of the first Erasmus Without Paper project, in the advisory board of the European Student Card and in the board of the Groningen Declaration Network. Joao is the current Executive Manager of the EUF.