

ESCI day Finland

19 November 2025

JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Jyväskylä



What is ESI?

- a persistent digital identifier for students
- used to uniquely identify a student across organisations and countries for Erasmus+/student mobility services
- Used for DLAs, digital nominations and ESC



How the ESI works in the ESC-Router

- HEIs generate the **European Student Identifier (ESI)** and issue the **European Student Card (ESC)**.
- The **ESI + ESC Card Number (ESCN)** are uploaded to the **ESC-Router** (with student consent).
- The ESC-Router stores the ESI as **core reference data**.
- Services validate an ESC by querying the Router, which resolves **card** → **student identity** via the ESI.
- The Router acts as the **lookup and validation infrastructure** for all ESCs across Europe.
- Result: consistent, cross-border **interoperability**, enabling any service to identify a student using the ESI.

How does the ESI work in EWP?

- The **ESI** is the **primary unique identifier** used in all EWP digital exchanges (Learning Agreements, nominations and Transcripts).
- When an HEI interacts with another HEI through EWP, all student-related API calls must include the **ESI** to identify the student consistently across institutions.
- The ESI ensures **cross-institution matching**: receiving institutions know exactly *which* student the data refers to, even if local student numbers differ.
- EWP nodes use the ESI to **link** records, track mobilities and avoid duplication or mismatches.
- The ESI allows seamless exchanges between systems such as **Student Information Systems (SIS)**, mobility platforms, and EWP..
- Because the ESI is persistent and Europe-wide, it enables **interoperability**, reduces errors, and supports automated workflows in the digital mobility process.

ESI- one building block in a bigger picture?

EU Digital Identity / EUDI Wallet (eID / eIDAS 2) – the EU-level digital identity wallet and regulatory/trust framework (eIDAS 2 / Implementing Acts) allows citizens to store and present **verified identity attributes and credentials** (including documents such as diplomas certificates) across borders. Member-state wallets must interoperate under the EUDI architecture.



EU Digital Identity
Wallet

ESI in EUDI

- There *is no fully standardized, mandatory integration (yet)* that puts the **ESI** inside every EU Digital Identity Wallet — but **architecturally and legally**, the systems are *well-aligned*.
- The **EUDI Wallet** offers a natural place to store a **verifiable “student status” credential** that could carry the ESI.
- Current proposals (e.g., from EMREX) explicitly plan for bridging: **wallet-based identity + student identity via ESI**.
- If implemented, this would allow students to authenticate as persons (via e-ID) and *also* carry their **ESI-backed student credentials** in their wallet — giving them more control and making cross-border education services much more seamless.

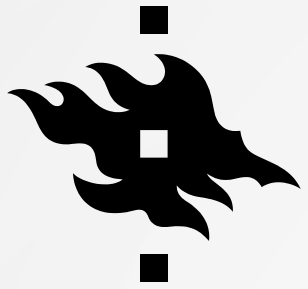
In short

- *ESI stays the persistent student identifier;*
- *The EUDI Wallet becomes a trusted container for credentials that include the ESI, enabling cross-border verification beyond Erasmus services.*



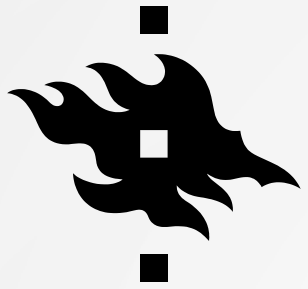
ESI AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

Heidi Säävuori and Antti Turpeinen
ESCI DAY 19.11.2026



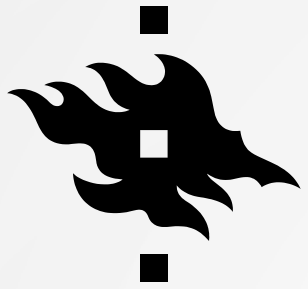
COMMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE: OUTGOING STUDENTS

- ESI implemented as requested nationally from EDUFI
 - Based on the national learner's ID (oppijanumero) that follows the Finnish student the whole life – also during another possible mobility
- ESI is currently used only for outgoing Erasmus mobilities
- Appears on the Learning agreement for the outgoing student
 - Learner's ID is fetched to the mobility system (Mobility Online) with an interface
 - Learner's ID becomes ESI when combined with the other attributes in the mobility system and printed on the Learning agreement
 - As it's in the mobility system already, it should be fairly easy to add it to the EWP-nominations.



INCOMING PERSPECTIVE

- Currently not collected for incoming mobility (the data would be available through OLAs)
- We are not receiving nominations through EWP yet (a digital enquiry form instead)
- Newsletter from Mobility Online (12.11.2025): "Beyond its role as an identifier, the ESI enables students to access digital higher education services across Europe simply by logging in with their home university account."
 - Can we respond to this at some point?



COMMENT FROM THE IT

- We are not using ESI for incoming exchange students
 - No usage as of now for ESI in these cases
 - ESI from incoming student has no placeholder in SIS (SISU)
- Challenges with the uniqueness of the ESI
 - ESI may or may not be unique for a student (as a legal person)
 - ESI is not (yet) a standardized identifier used in student mobility
- Could ESI be used for European interoperability in the future:
 - Credit transfer between the universities?
 - How can we get more trust for the ESI?
 - EUDI Wallet & eIDAS2.0 possibilities for linking ESI to actual legal person?



**WITH THE POWER
OF KNOWLEDGE
– FOR THE WORLD**

Discussion questions

- **Vision & Responsibility:** What would seamless cross-border student identity look like, and who should implement it?
- **Identity & Governance:** Single vs. multiple identities, lifelong digital ID, and division of responsibilities between HEIs and Member States.
- **Interoperability & Integration:** Barriers between academic federations and EUDI Wallet, and how wallet-based verification fits with existing services.
- **Impact on Mobility & Services:** How EUDI Wallet affects student journeys, touchpoints like enrolment and recognition, and the future of the European Student Card Initiative.

Next: Proceed to your Round 2 room for coffee

- Please make your way to the room of your next session, where coffee will be served from **13:30 to 13:50**.
- *Special dietary arrangements have been made so that everyone can enjoy their coffee in their designated room of round 2.*
- The Round 2 session will begin promptly at **13:50**.
- Check your badge for the letter designator of your next session
- All break-out session rooms are located on this same floor and corridor:
A: Room BP05.1+BP05.2
B: Room BP13
C: Room BP14
D: Room BP15