Programme, morning

09:30 Opening of the day

- Minna-Maaria Hiekkataipale, Vice Rector, Jamk University of Applied Sciences

- Mika Saarinen, Director, Erasmus+ National Agency in Finland

Keynotes

- Kaisu Piiroinen, Senior Ministerial Advisor, Ministry of Education and Culture

- Susanne Conze, Head of Unit, DG EAC

ESCI policy and future outlook, EWP – latest updates

- Alexandra Licht, Policy Officer, DG EAC

- Małgorzata Woźniak, EWP Relationship Manager, EWP+

Panel discussion: ESCI from national and stakeholder perspectives

11:30 Lunch

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Programme, afternoon

12:30 Break-out sessions (round 1)

- A: EWP – the present and future

- B: The European Student Card – what is it and how to join

- C: Interoperability and ESCI in European University Alliances

- D: European Student Identifiers – what are they and what are they used for (now and in the future)

13:30 Moving to the next session and a coffee break

13:50 Break-out sessions (round 2 – same topics as round 1)

15:00 Conclusions and wrap-up

- Session facilitators

- Maija Airas, Head of Unit, Finnish National Agency for Education

15:30 End of programme

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Welcome words

Minna-Maaria Hiekkataipale, Vice Rector, Jamk University of Applied Sciences

Mika Saarinen, Director, Erasmus+ National Agency in Finland

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Keynote

Kaisu Piiroinen, Senior Ministerial Advisor, Ministry of Education and Culture

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Working Group on Developing Preconditions for European Higher Education Cooperation

- Working Group to enhance Finnish HEIs' capacity to engage effectively in European HE initiatives.

- 10/2024- 12/2025

- European Universities Initiative, EHEA commitments, and mobility and cooperation tools.

- Ministry, universities, UAS's, student unions, Finnish Education Evaluation Center and National Board of Education.

- Digital experts, student services experts, legal affairs experts from higher education.

Work, challenges and solutions

- Map, list and collect the challenges currently faced in the transnational higher education cooperation

- Which can be solved between alliances?

- Which need possible reviewing of the legislaition?

- Vision for higher education and research 2040 as tool to explore solutions

- 10/ 2025 New recommendations to boost student mobility in higher education

Vision for Higher Education and Research 2040

Future vision for higher education and research

- The vision 2030 was drawn up in board cooperation with HEIs and other stakeholders in 2017.

- Work towards new vision was launched November 2024

- Outlining long-term development needs and outlooks towards 2040

- Supporting quality, internationality and diversity

- Exploring different alternatives and models for improving the Finnish higher education and research system on the bases of the changes in national and international operating environment

OPETUS- JA KULTTUURIMINISTERIÖ

Vision 2040- discussions: How can technology best support the activities of higher education institutions in supporting the organisation of teaching, learning and education?

- Pedagogical understanding, learner orientation and technology as tool

- Roles of encounters and e-learning, sense of belonging, technology also supporting interaction

- Competence of staff

- Shared enterprise architectures, platforms, infrastructure, information resources as well as interoperability.

- Utilisation of data

- Common rules for artificial intelligence

Erasmus+ 2028-2034 proposal

Erasmus+ 2028-2034 proposal

- Standalone programme

- Supports EEA, Union of Skills, resilience, also competitiveness.

- 2 pilars: mobility and capacity building

- International mobility and European co-creation still the backbones of Erasmus+

- New elements: talent attraction both within the EU and from third countries, introducing mobility for athletes, and enabling participation of third countries.

- Flexibility and lean allocation between Erasmus sectors

- Proposed budget for 2025 is € 40,8 billion.

  - actual growth is around 35%

- Governance, absence of comitology

- Denmark – Cypros – Ireland

Thanks! Kiitos!

Online keynote

Susanne Conze, Head of Unit, DG EAC

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European Commission

ESCI day Finland

19 November 2025
JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Jyväskylä

Alexandra Licht
Policy officer
European Commission, DG EAC
ESCI Team, Unit B1 – Higher education

EU Policy Background

ESCI: a Flagship Initiative of the European Education Area

- Flagship initiative to make the **European Education Area** more inclusive, digital and interconnected.

- Facilitates learning mobility and transnational cooperation among HEIs under **Erasmus+ 2021–2027 (Key Actions 1 & 2).**

- Supports the EU's digital transformation of higher education, in line with the **Digital Education Action Plan 2021–2027.**

- Contributes to skills mobility and recognition across borders, in line with the **Union of Skills**

European Commission

Institutional Endorsement

- Recognised in **2022** as one of the four flagship initiatives of the ***European Strategy for Universities***.

- **Council Recommendation (5 April 2022)** on *building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation*

- **Council Recommendation (13 May 2024)** on *Europe on the Move – learning mobility for everyone*

- All **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)** holders and **European Universities alliances** commit to ESCI implementation

European Commission

European Student Card Initiative

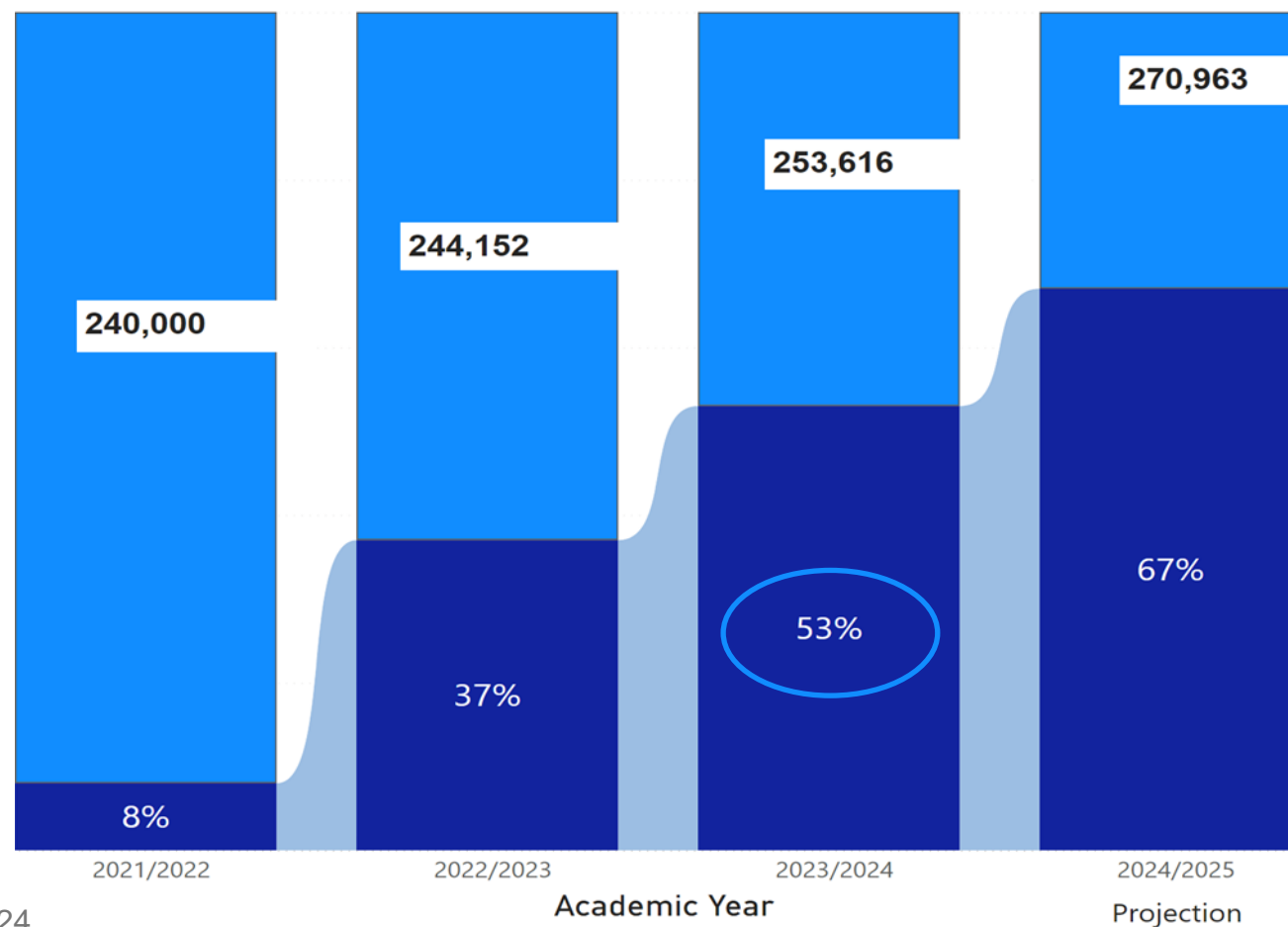**Erasmus Without Paper**   +   **European Student Card**   +   **Erasmus+ App**

State of Play: EWP & ESC

EWP statistics

- **Over 3,000** higher education institutions (HEIs) connected across all Erasmus+ programme countries
  - **20** third-party providers
  - **38** in-house systems
  - **EWP Dashboard**: EC-funded solution

- **2/3 of all ECHE holders** exchange successfully on EWP.

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DLAs : steady growth in digital exchanges through EWP

Chart: Digital exchanges through EWP by Academic Year

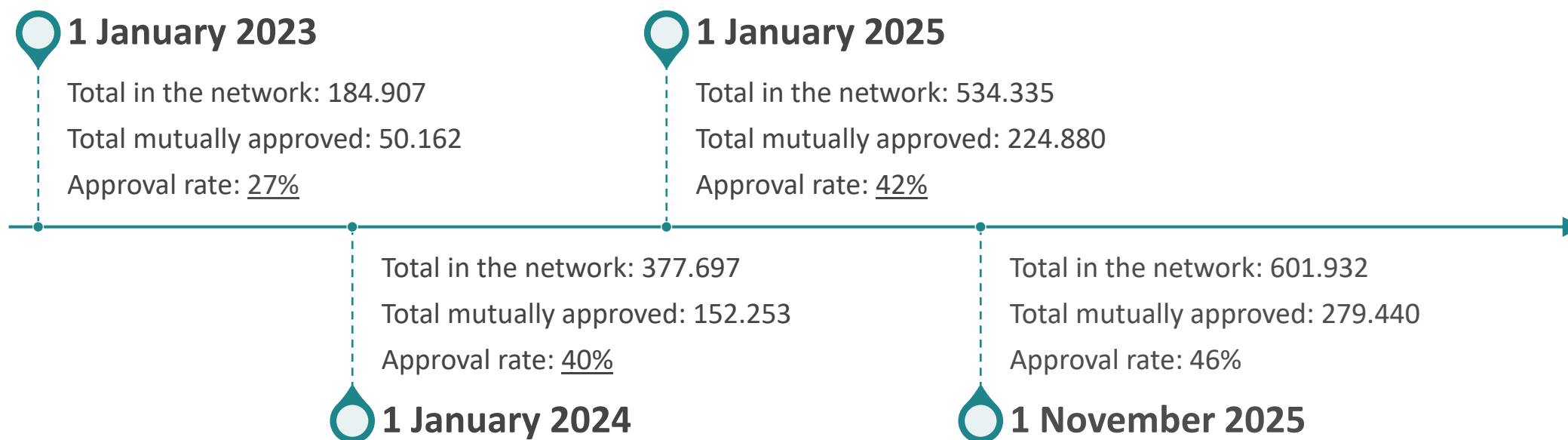| Academic Year	Total (Light blue)	DLA % (Dark blue)
2021/2022	240,000	8%
2022/2023	244,152	37%
2023/2024	253,616	53%
2024/2025 Projection	270,963	67%

Dark blue: Evolution of the percentage of **DLA signed through the EWP Network**

Light blue: Total mobilities - SMS (= total LA signed) - approximately 250.000 per academic year

For the ongoing academic year (projection – 2024-25), there will be around 89K manual LAs, representing 37% of the total mobilities - SMS.

European Commission

Inter-institutional agreements (IIAs) in EWP

1 January 2023

Total in the network: 184.907

Total mutually approved: 50.162

Approval rate: 27%

1 January 2024

Total in the network: 377.697

Total mutually approved: 152.253

Approval rate: 40%

1 January 2025

Total in the network: 534.335

Total mutually approved: 224.880

Approval rate: 42%

1 November 2025

Total in the network: 601.932

Total mutually approved: 279.440

Approval rate: 46%

European Commission

Stable digitalisation of IIAs

- Since over a year - **around 50% digitalised IIA**

- Some HEIs renew IIA every couple of years- no need!

- Who is not exchanging digitally and why?

  ○ **Decentralised HEIs** where implementation of IIA is complex

  ○ Lack of **digital capacity**

  ○ Lack of **financial investment in digitalisation tools**

  ○ Lack of **human investment** (superhero IRO)

  ○ Need to **mainstream internal procedures**

European Commission

The European Student Card (ESC)

The ESC is <u>not a new card</u>. It's **higher education institutions' current cards upgraded with a set of common visual and technical elements** that HEIs can add **via the ESC-Router**.

The ESC can be adapted to **digital** and **physical formats** with any type of technology (e.g., chip technology, magnetic stripe, etc.).

European Student Identifier (ESI)

A digital identifier used to uniquely identify students of European higher education institutions, linking them to a given ESC

European Student Card Number (ESCN)

A unique card identifier that serves to identify student cards belonging to a given institution and to validate them
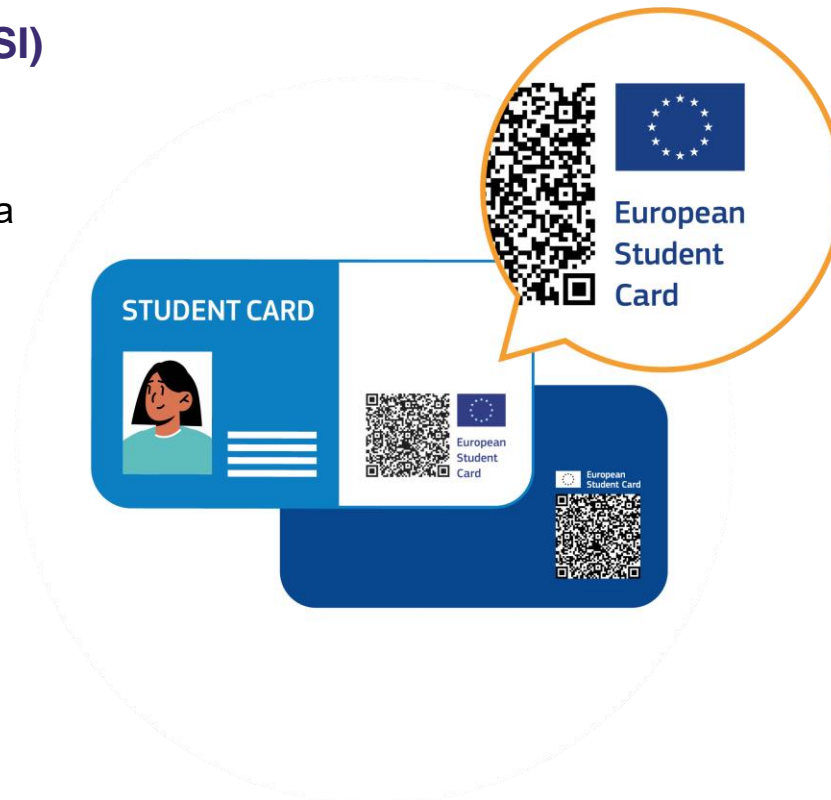
European Student Card logo

Integrates the EU flag with the text "European Student Card" and a QR code, certifying the card's authenticity across Europe and enabling the validation of student status

European Commission

The European Student Card (ESC)

The ESC adds a **European dimension to existing higher education student cards** so students can have their student status easily recognised across Europe.

Students	**Higher education institutions**	**Student service providers**
• **Simplify access to on- and off-campus services** during mobility with their existing student card, just as local students (e.g., libraries, dormitories, discounts, etc.)	• **Securely validate the student card** of incoming mobile students	• **Streamline** the **verification** of **student status**
• Shared **European student identity**	• **Support reciprocity** in service provision to mobile students.	• Gain access to a **wider network of users**

European Commission

ESC state of play

4.4M +43%*
Total ESCs issued

1.9M +7%*
Active ESCs

22 +47%*
Countries where ESCs are issued**

506 +63%*
Organisations that have issued ESCs
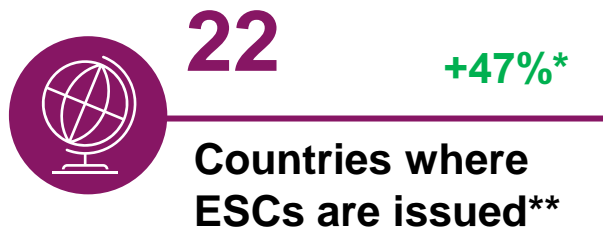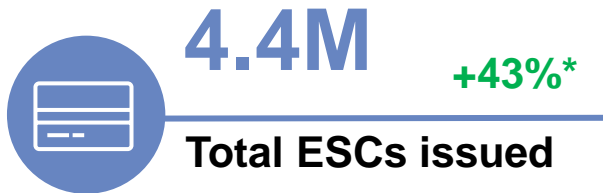
Compared to Nov 2024, after the launch of the new ESC Router. Data extracted on 16 October 2025.
*** Includes countries where at least 10 active cards are issued.*

European Commission

The ESC in Finland

- **No ESCs have been issued in Finland yet.**

- In Finland, student cards are mainly issued and managed by **student unions.**

- The ESC implementation team is currently piloting the ESC with **LUT University and the LTKY student union** – via their service provider Slice.

- Slice is testing if the ESC could be issued through their **mobile app.**

- **If successful,** this model could be **replicated by other student unions and universities.**

- More information will be given during the ESC breakout session!

European Commission

Outlook until end of the Erasmus+ programme

Guiding principles

- **Consolidation** and reinforcement of existing processes

- **Investment** to assure continuation of services and infrastructure until the end of the programming period

- **Collaboration** with EWP+ and NTT data consortia to assure continuity

European Student Card Goals until the end of the current Erasmus+ programme period

Accelerate issuance of ESCs within and across all programme countries

Engaging service providers to bring added value to ESC holder

Launch of the ESC Service Catalogue

Roll out of digital European Student Cards

European Commission

Erasmus Without Papers goals until the end of the current Erasmus+ programme

- Acceptable use policy revision and implementation (2025)

- Reach the 95% DLAs concluded in EWP network

- Gradual roll out of nominations throughout 2026

- Review ToR- ongoing work for finalisation of technical specs by end of 2025, not a priority for EC, upon to each provider/HEI capacity

- Prepare future IIA renewal scenarios (consultation and analysis)

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Outlook for ESCI towards the new E+ programme

- Building on and safeguarding current investments in EWP

- Based on a thorough consultation of users and providers to establish future requirements- user led!

- Implementation based on EAC/EACEA cooperation

European Commission

ESCI Champions

ESCI Champions

- Institutions that have made **significant progress** in **implementing the European Student Card Initiative** (ESCI) and commit to **sharing best practices** with their peers.

- Builds and expands on the successful EWP Champions (2023-2025).

- [31 organisations](#) (one per National Agency) across **three categories**
  - Erasmus Without Paper (EWP)
  - European Student Card (ESC)
  - Champion of excellence (EWP + ESC)

- **Nominated by Digital Officers in each Erasmus+ National Agency**

- **Finnish ESCI Champion: Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences**

ESCI Champions kick-off meeting – Gothenburg (09 Sep 2025)

Finland: an example of good practice!

Stories

Meet the people making student mobility easier and more accessible. Read what other institutions are doing, their experiences and benefits of ESCI. Includes the previous EWP Champions and the current ESCI Champions.

→ Read and watch the interviews

- Working group- transparency and efficiency in knowledge sharing

- Monthly meetings between the ESCI champion, BPOs and the whole community

- Constant info flow between HEI-NA, champions/BPO and HEI

Share your good practice in the ESCI Community Space!

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Thank you!

Erasmus Without Paper
Latest updates

Małgorzata Woźniak
EWP Relationship Manager

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State of play: current processes

Digital Learning Agreements (LAs)

- LAs in **stable release**, ensuring reliable access across the EWP Network

- Goal: 95% of LAs being completed digitally
  - **Double-digit growth** within the community (~75% digital LAs)
  - Progress - joint effort by the whole community

- LAs campaign aimed at improving LA exchanges and related challenges

Report when your partner is not exchanging

Known issues in the EWP data exchanges

Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

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AUP: Overview

- Component of the Collaboration Agreement with the nodes

- Defines the rules and principles for connecting and using the EWP Network

- In force **since July 17th**, following its presentation in April 2025 and a grace/consultation period

- Aimed to enhance the EWP experience by improving the process of reporting tickets and ensuring **timely**, **effective** support in resolving issues

Transparency • Cooperation • Reliability • Security • Fair Use

AUP in practice: Violations & SLA

Violation procedure

- **Notice & Clarification**
  The provider is contacted about the issue

- **Resolution**
  If resolved, case closed

- **Formal Notice**
  The limit given to fix (clear AUP violation)

- **Public Listing**
  If unresolved, provider might be listed as non-compliant

- **Disconnection**
  In case of persistent non-compliance provider might be disconnected from the network

Response/Resolution Time

- **Third-party provider:** within **5** working days
- **In-house system solution:** within **7** working days

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AUP in practice: Progress

AUP implementation progress

- More nodes have become significantly more responsive and proactive in communication

- Continuous monitoring in place to ensure all nodes adhere to the new AUP rules and standards

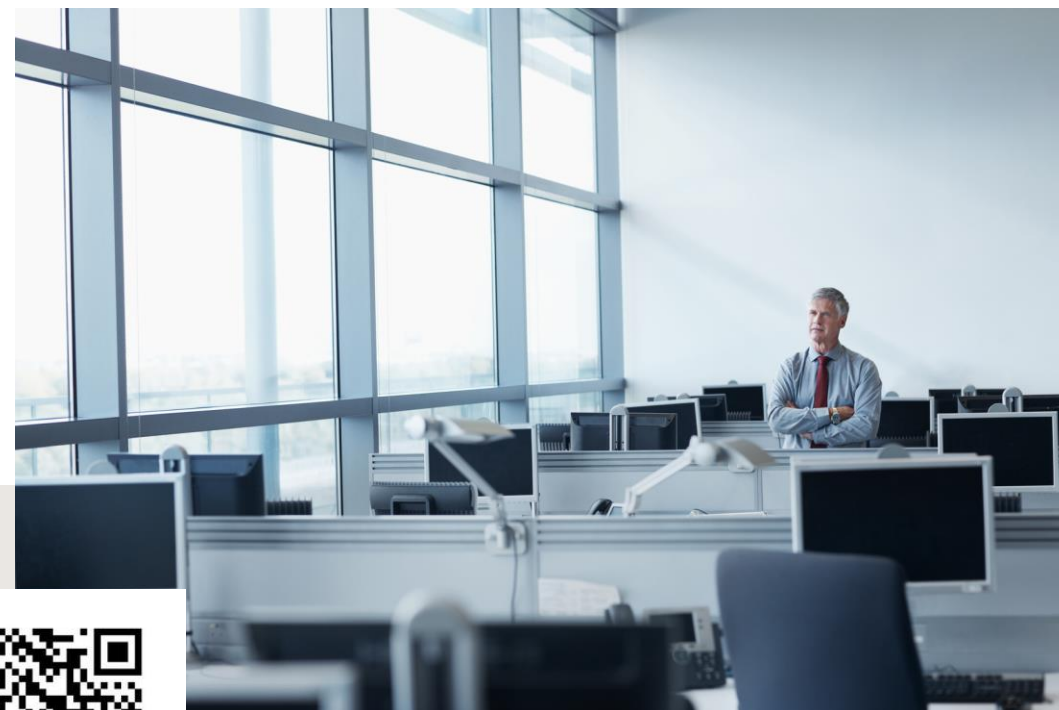- Growing awareness and accountability among providers

Digital Nominations

Digital Nominations

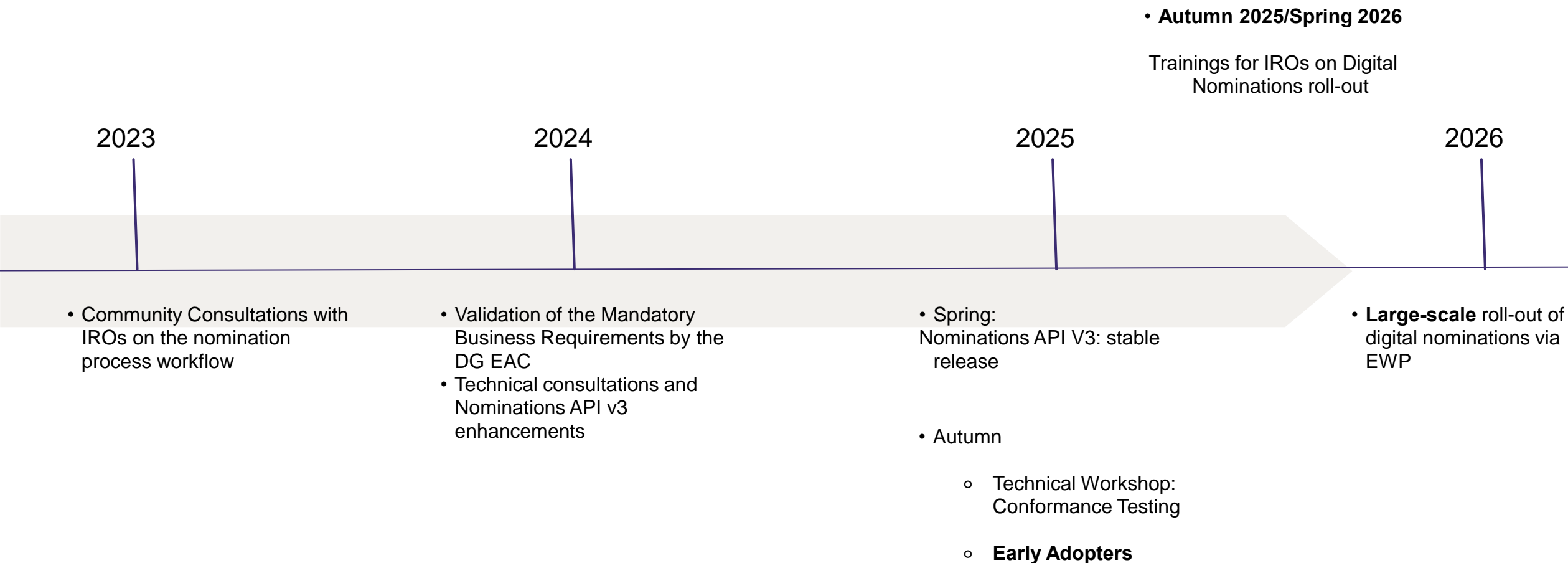> **Towards a common standard**

- **Long-awaited** feature - delivers a capability strongly requested by institutions

- A more **unified** way of exchanging data
  - Replacement for the current fragmented practices
  - Simplification and streamlining of IROs daily work
  - Reduces errors and administrative workload
  - Improves data quality and reliability

- **Enhance IRO and student experience**

Digital Nominations: Timeline

• **Autumn 2025/Spring 2026**

Trainings for IROs on Digital Nominations roll-out

2023   **2024**   **2025**   **2026**

• Community Consultations with IROs on the nomination process workflow

• Validation of the Mandatory Business Requirements by the DG EAC
• Technical consultations and Nominations API v3 enhancements

• Spring:
Nominations API V3: stable release

• Autumn

  ◦ Technical Workshop: Conformance Testing

  ◦ **Early Adopters**

• **Large-scale** roll-out of digital nominations via EWP

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Conformance Testing Roll-Out

- New automated testing framework (Talos) developed with **DG DIGIT**

- Validates whether EWP nodes meet technical requirements before joining the production network

Advantages

- Quality Assurance

- Automation & Scalibility

- Transparency

- Reliability & Consistency

Conformance Testing: Results

- **4** nodes have successfully passed the testing
  - EWP Dashboard
  - Masaryk University (ISOIS)
  - University of Belgrade
  - University of Salamanca

- 4 nodes confirmed development in progress (i.a., Mobility-Online)

- 4 nodes confirmed being in planning phase

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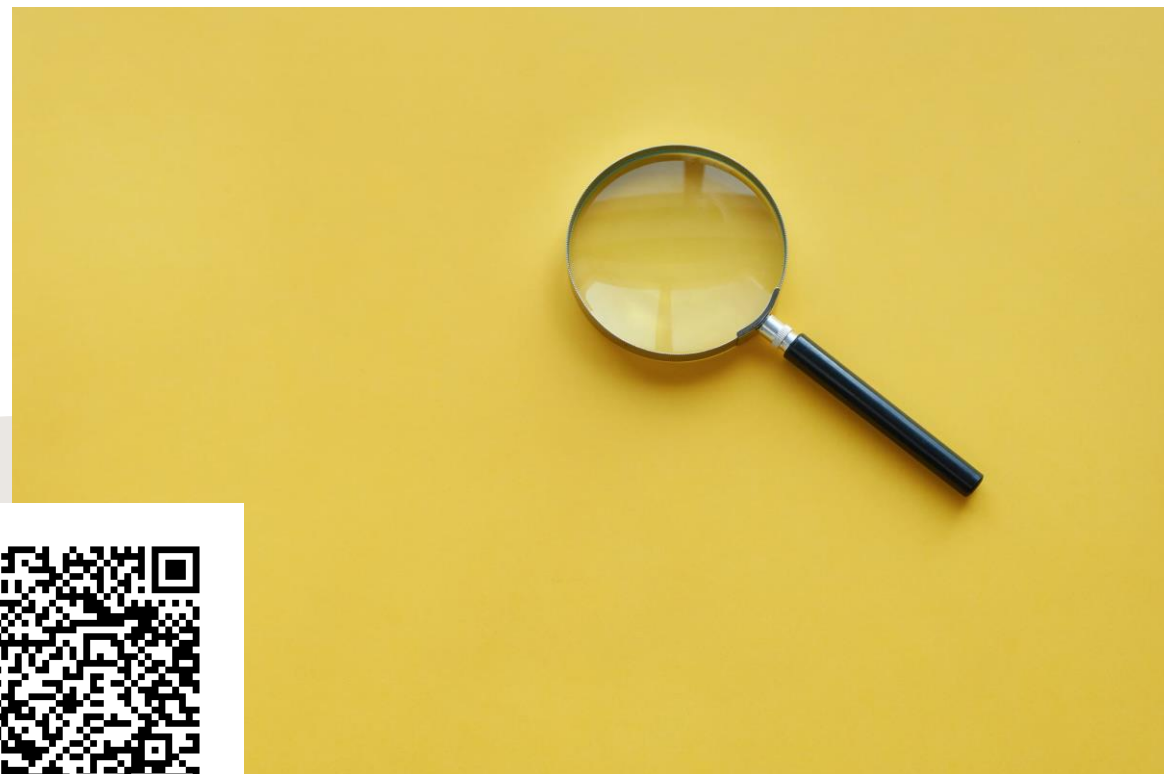
Digital Nominations: Supporting materials

- **Q&A** to support the EWP digital nominations roll-out
  - covers common questions from HEIs
  - clarify the process, timelines, and technical details

  What data elements does a nomination made via EWP include?

  Can I include additional information beyond the standard nomination data points in EWP?

- Comprehensive User Guide for EWP Nominations

- Nominations in EWP Dashboard – training sessions

- EWP Nominations: Toolkit for Erasmus+ National Agencies
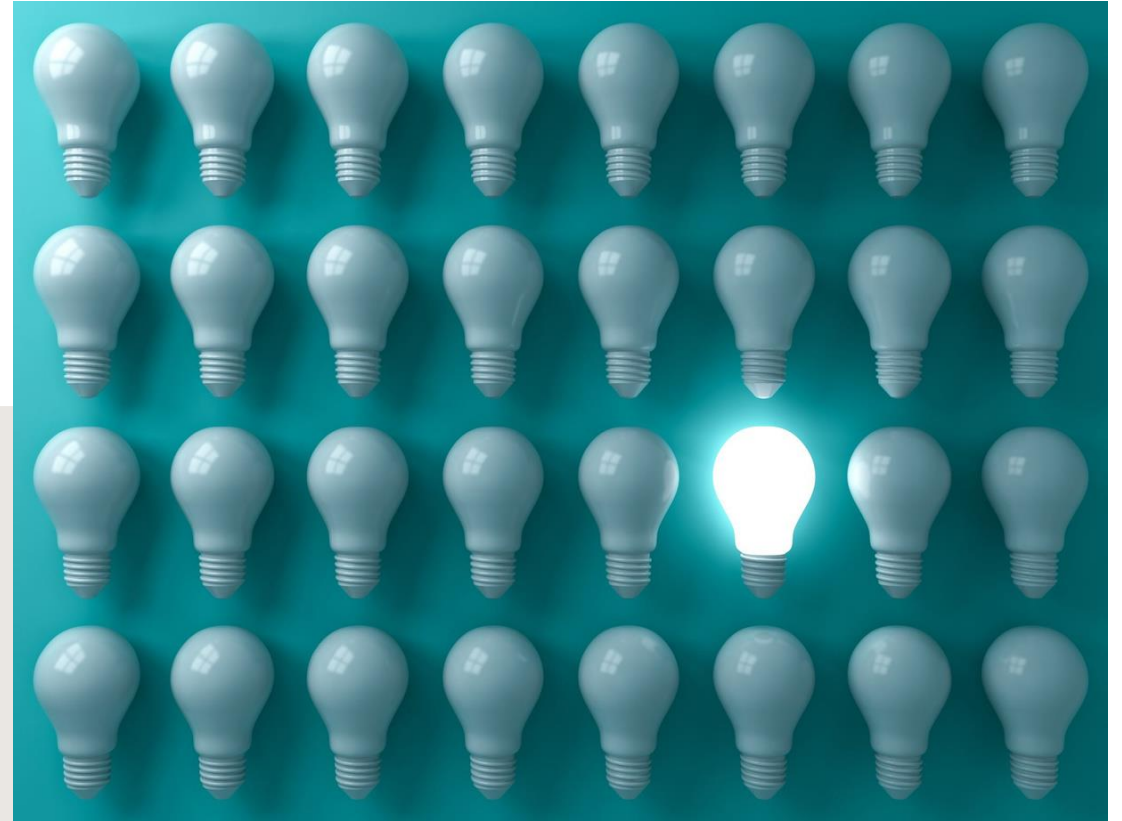
State of play: Finland

Finland: State of Play

● **Adoption status**
  - 100% HEIs connected and actively exchanging data (IIAs, LAs)
    - ✓ EWP working group
    - ✓ Ongoing supporting activities
  - Positive example of successful adoption and implementation

● **HEIs engagement level**
  - Key driver of adoption success
  - Culture of communication and continuous knowledge exchange
  - Dedication - Commitment - Contributions

Erasmus Without Paper User Groups

https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/european-student-card-initiative/help-support/user-guide/EWP-user-groups

EWP Knowledge Base

https://esci-sd.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/EWP/overview?homepageId=10879007

Help and Support

https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/european-student-card-initiative/help-support

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Thank you!

Concluding words

Maija Airas, Head of Unit, Finnish National Agency for Education

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