ESCI day Spain

23 September 2025, Valencia

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

The European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)

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

- Facilitates digital exchanges among higher education institutions (HEIs), simplifies student mobility and builds a shared European identity for higher education students.

- All ECHE holders and HEIs participating in a European Universities alliance, commit to implementing the ESCI.

- The Council Recommendations on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation (5 April 2022) and Europe on the Move – learning mobility opportunities for everyone (13 May 2024), call on Member States to support and widen ESCI implementation.

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European Student Card Initiative

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

ESCI is driving change across the European Education Area

- Encouraging investments in digital infrastructure in higher education
- Connecting higher education institutions
- Enhancing students' mobility experience

This is how ESCI is building a Europe fit for the Digital Age

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Overview

Statistics EWP

- **Over 3.000** HEIs connected to EWP across 37 countries, not all exchanging IIAs and LAs
- **20** third-party providers
- **38** in-house systems
- **EWP Dashboard** – EC funded solution, reference implementation
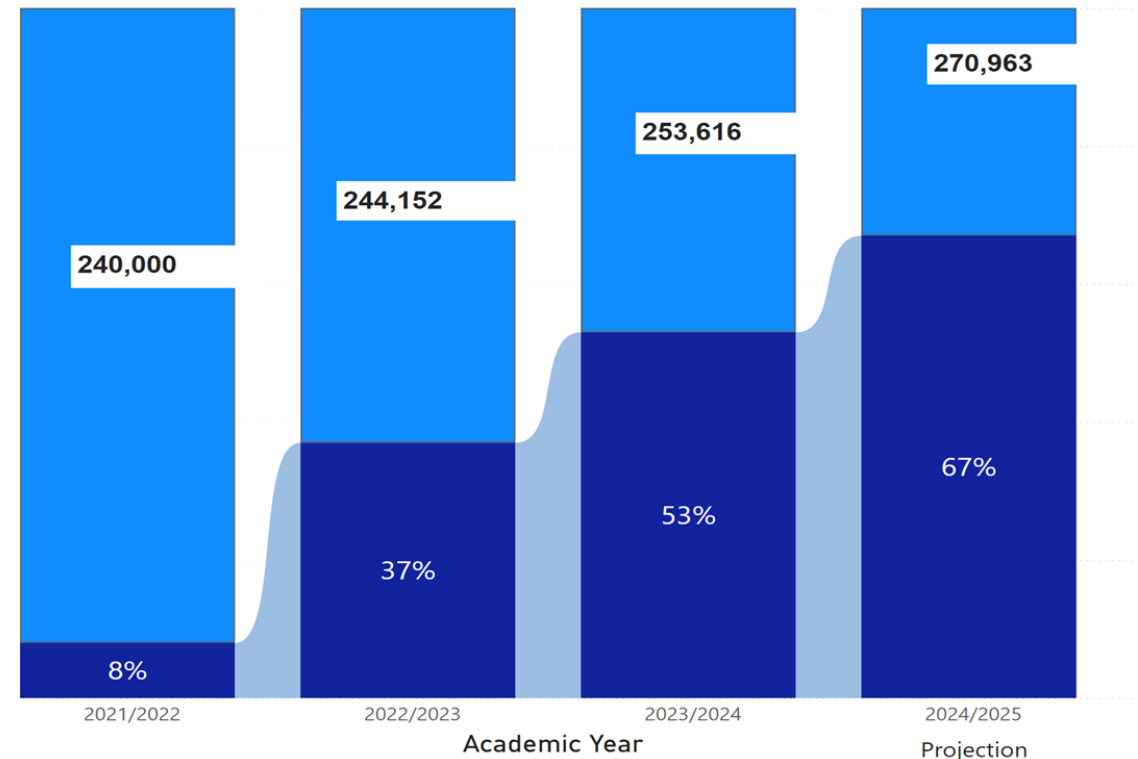- **Erasmus+ App-** backend connected to the EWP Dashboard, HOME module

erasmus
without paper

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Steady growth in digital exchanges through EWP

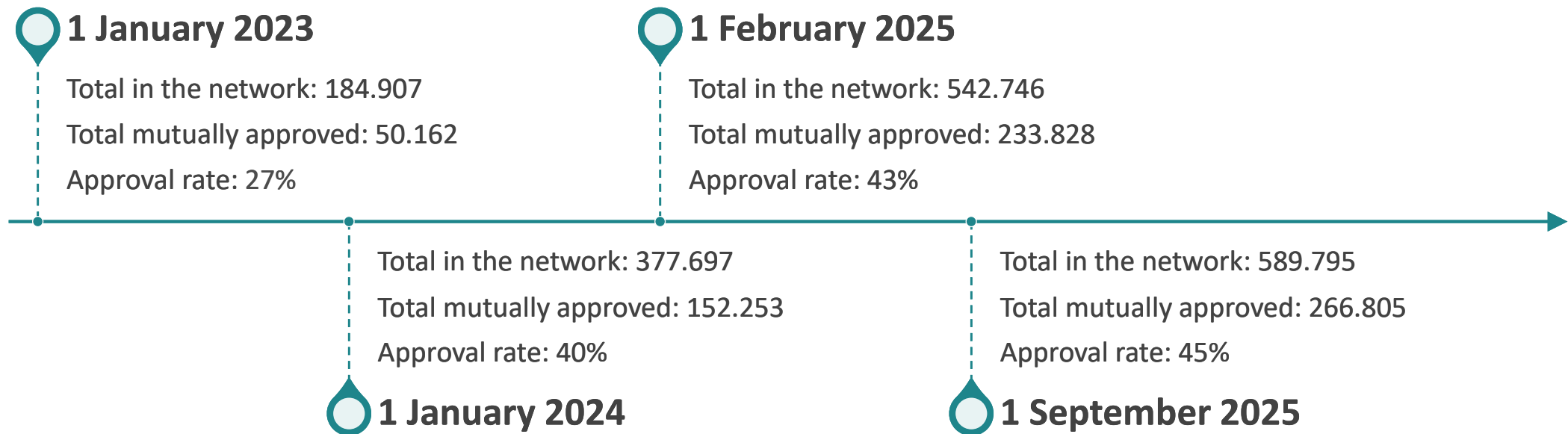Approximately **250.000 student mobilities for studies in Erasmus+ every year**

- Academic year **22-23**: estimated **37% of LAs** signed digitally in EWP
- Academic year 23-24: estimated **53% of LAs** signed digitally in EWP
- **Projection** of academic year 24-25: **67% of LAs** signed digitally in EWP

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

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

IIA in EWP – data from EWP stats portal

1 January 2023

Total in the network: 184.907

Total mutually approved: 50.162

Approval rate: 27%

1 February 2025

Total in the network: 542.746

Total mutually approved: 233.828

Approval rate: 43%

Total in the network: 377.697

Total mutually approved: 152.253

Approval rate: 40%

1 January 2024

Total in the network: 589.795

Total mutually approved: 266.805

Approval rate: 45%

1 September 2025

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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**

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ESC features

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

HEIs can add these features to their existing cards **via the ESC-Router**.
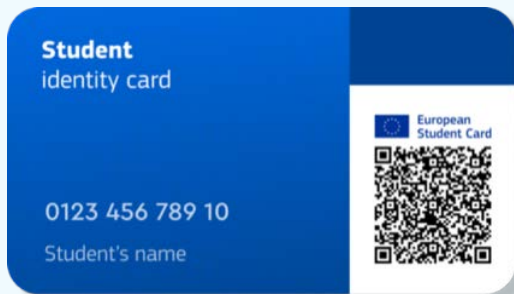
Physical version
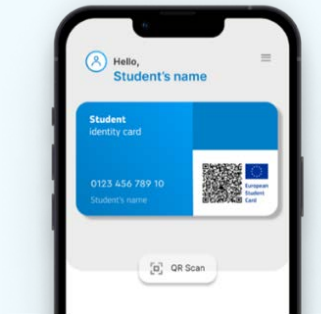
Digital version

European Student Card logo

Combines a European dimension (text & EU flag) with the QR code to facilitate its recognition across borders
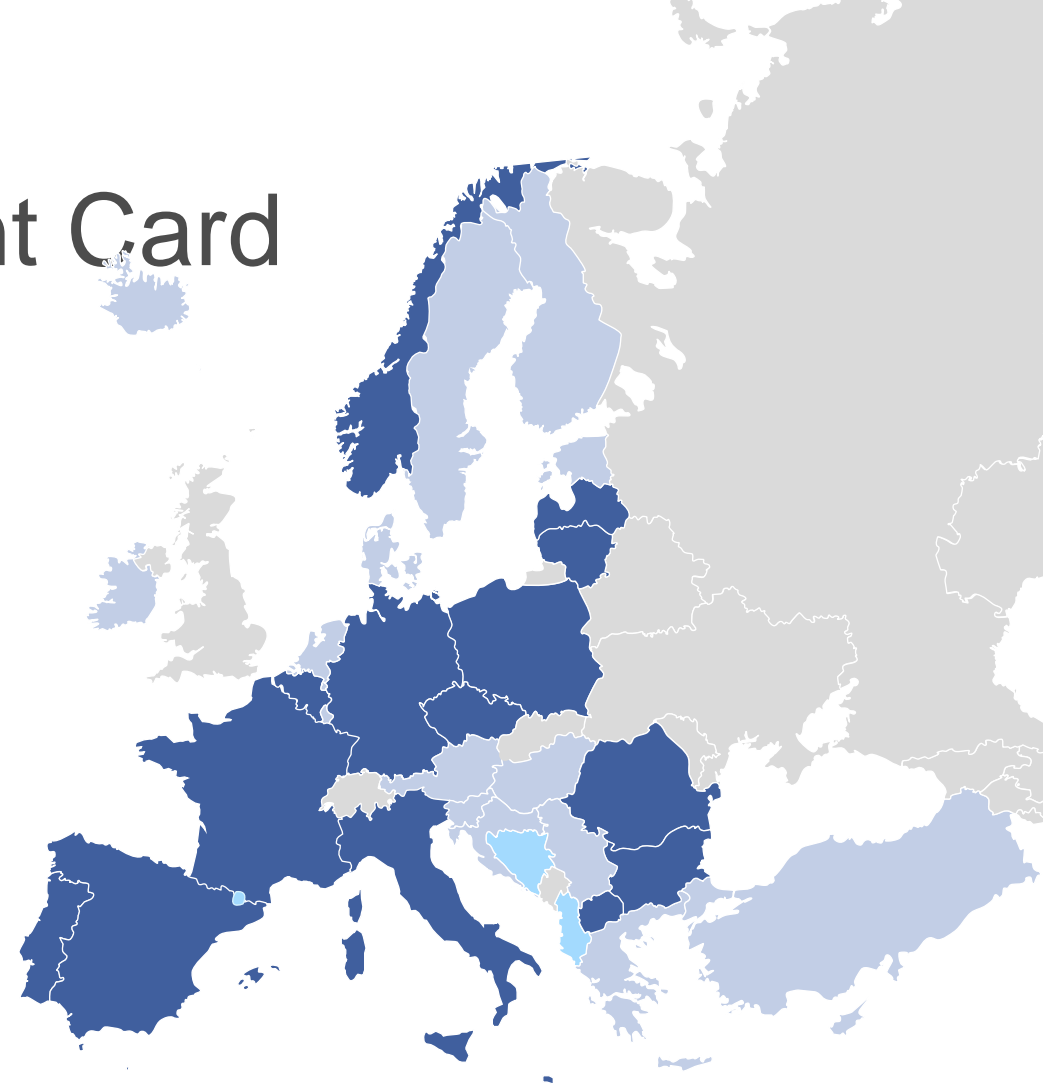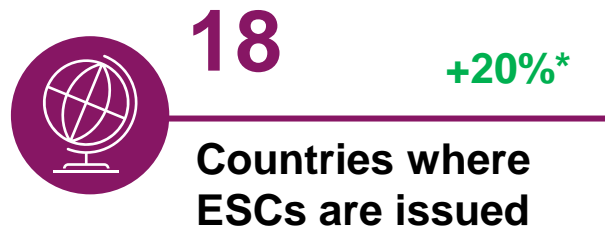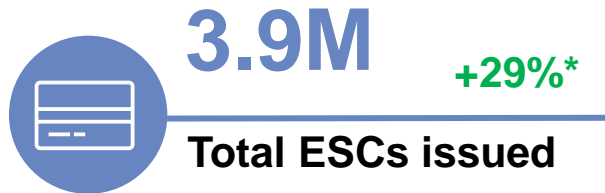
ESCN - European Student Card Number

Unique card identifier of 16 bytes that links a specific card to the higher education institution that issued it

ESI - European Student Identifier

Unique identifier that allows to link a given student to a specific ESC. It is not printed on the card.

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State of play: European Student Card

3.9M +29%*
Total ESCs issued

1.9M +7%*
Active ESCs

18 +20%*
Countries where ESCs are issued

468 +51%*
Organisations that have issued ESCs

Compared to Nov 2024, after the launch of the new ESC Router. Data extracted on 01 Sep 2025.

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Outlook until end of the Erasmus+ programme

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds

Higher education

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

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

Accelerate issuance of ESCs within and across all programme countries

Completion of partnerships programme to bring added value to ESC holders

Launch of the ESC Service Catalogue

Roll out of the digital European Student Card

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

- Reach the 95% DLAs concluded in EWP network

- Introduction of nominations (beta testing) with a gradual roll out of nominations until the end of 2025

- Review ToR- modalities of deployment (2026 onwards)

- Prepare future IIA renewal scenarios (ongoing consultation)

- Acceptable use policy revision and implementation (2025)

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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

- Implementation based on EAC/EACEA cooperation
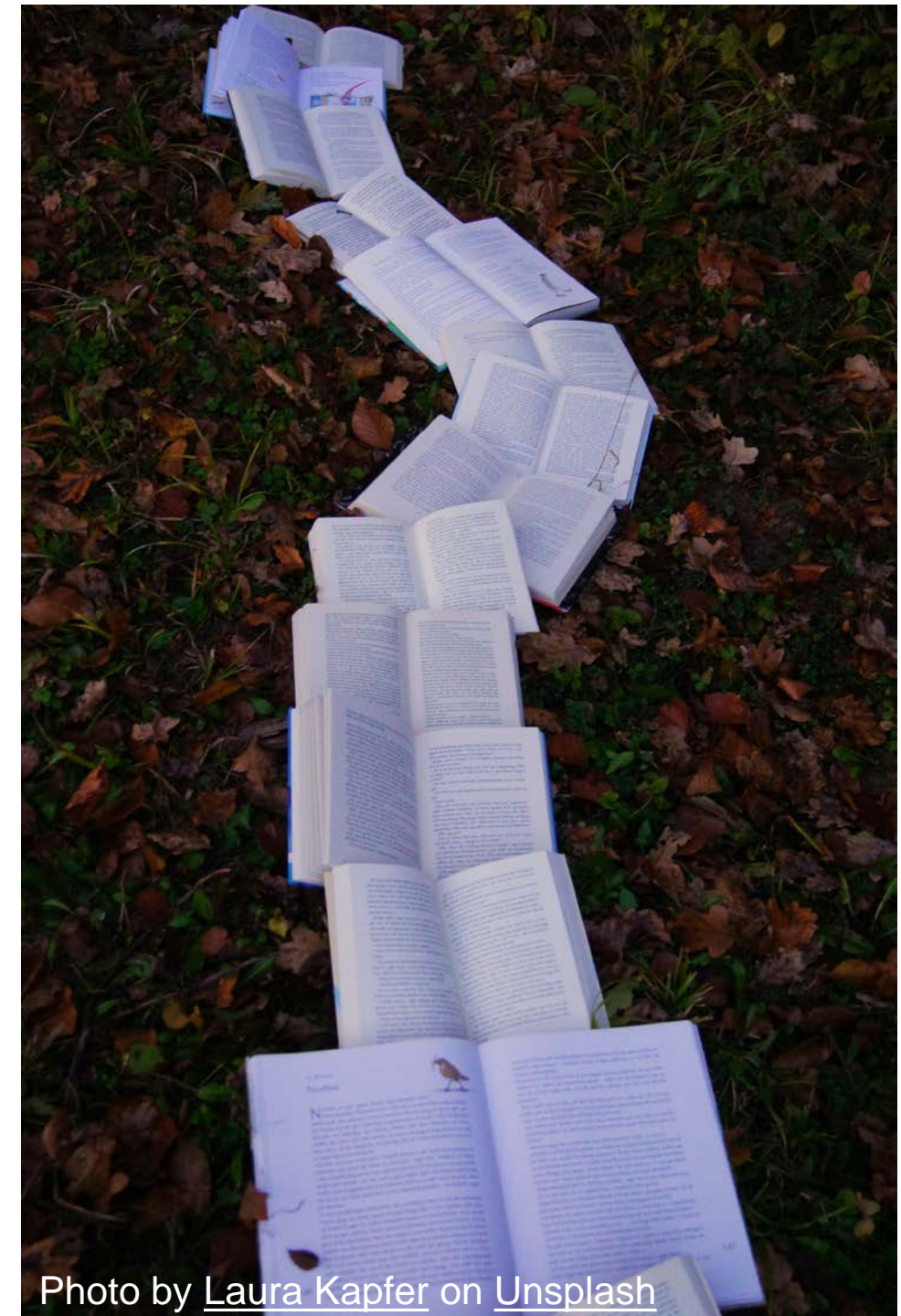

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Support and information channels EWP

- [ESCI portal](#)
- [ESCI service desk](#)
- [ESCI bi-monthly newsletter](#)
- [EWP Champions](#)
- [EWP developers page](#)
- [EWP Users Groups](#)
- [EWP Users Guides](#)
- [EWP governance reports](#)
- [News](#) and [events](#)

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Useful resources ESC

- ESC [General specifications](#)

- ESC [Technical specifications](#)

- ESC [graphic charter](#)

- [Video tutorial](#): how to access and manage ESCs in the ESC Router

- [ESC Service Desk](#)

- [ESCI Newsletter](#): bi-monthly

- [ESCI Champions](#): apply by 16 May!

Thank you!