The Erasmus without Paper project – summary.

The Erasmus without Paper 2.0 project (EWP 2.0) is a follow-up project to the EWP 1.0 project, which ran from 1/1/2018 till 31/12/19. It will continue to be followed up by its Steering Committee.

The basic aim of the project was the setting up of an electronic network that enables HEIs to exchange information about Erasmus mobilities electronically in real time. In addition, a number of APIs had to be specified and implemented. All the original objectives have been achieved, and more. The Network was officially launched on 12-13 December 2018. There has also been intensive cooperation with the Mobility Tool+team and the European Student Card project to enable data exchange between their services. A full overview of EWP functionality is described in a technical final result document.

The EWP project not only elaborated an extensive website, but has also provided the core of a future help strategy (the Competence Centre), a detailed Developer's website and an EWP GitHub platform. GitHub is a project management and code versioning system as well as a code repository and network platform for developers. It allows developers to work collaboratively with other interested developers, plan new technical developments and track the work done on the EWP network. All EWP's APIs are published on GitHub. EWP is also active on LinkedIn and on Twitter. Finally there is also the Open Source University Alliance (OSUA), which is an open repository of source code and software. All of these tools are open to everyone. The EWP team has also worked out an entry process complete with a Terms of Use agreement.

One of the key deliverables of EWP 2.0 is the EWP Hub (commonly known as the Erasmus+ Dashboard, upon which it is based), which connects publicly available and open-source software for HEIs who lack the sophisticated ICT software to link directly to the EWP network, thus ensuring a level playing field. The Erasmus+ Dashboard now combines the functionality of the Online Learning Agreement project (OLA) and the InterInstitutional Agreement manager(IIAM) (itself an EWP 2.0 deliverable), and is connected to the EWP network.

The consortium has been in regular contact with the European Commission to ensure transferability and integration. Several meetings with DG EAC were held to streamline communication and adjust the activities to the changing views on what functionality was needed. As a result, the EC announced in March 2019 that the EWP standards will be mandatory in the new Erasmus programme. In addition, EWP has been very active in discussions on the EC's European Student Card Initiative, where it is one of the main action drivers. A cooperation effort was set up to establish a common digital strategy with respect to higher Education and to connect it with the eIDAS regulation. This has led to the proposal of a new project under the CEF TELECOM CALL for proposals 2019. The proposed project is called European Digital Student Service Infrastructure (EDSSI). It involves EWP but it is about much more, since it sets out to build a EU Student eCard core service platform by consolidating and integrating a range of ongoing digitisation initiatives that are part of the European Commission's European Student Card Initiative. There is no doubt that EWP's mark will be extensive on mobility in the new Erasmus programme, and it is safe to assume it will continue to do so.