

VIETSCH FOUNDATION – REPORT I

Project: Expanding the EMREX Network to EU and beyond

This is a report of activities in the project Expanding the EMREX Network to EU and beyond.
Report time period: July 1st 2020 – October 11th 2020.

The project is divided into two parts:

1. Industrializing the EMREX Registry and reviewing the ELMO standard.
2. Dissemination of EMREX services and building the EMREX brand

Industrializing the EMREX Registry and reviewing the ELMO standard

Main stakeholders of the EMREX Network gathered in an internal technical meeting to analyze the requirements and prepare the draft specification of the improved registry services delivered by EMREG. EMREG is a centralized service that has to be available to all SMPs. It gives a list of all available NCPs, as well as other information necessary to establish communication with each of them. The following actions are planned to develop EMREG:

- Supporting a registry of trusted clients and SMPs (Student Mobility Plugin)
- Certificates tend to have only a 3 years validity, which means that they need to be changed. With the current design, that change needs to be coordinated to a high degree between the NCP implementers and EMREG, to avoid validation errors.
- A service-level agreement is needed for EMREG. The service is crucial for operation of the EMREX network and some of the nodes (diploma registries) in the network are highly dependent on a working EMREG.
- Common registry for EMREX and EWP

The complete specifications will be proposed at a general meeting for the entire EMREX network and other stakeholders in November.

In addition to this, technical help has been given to several HEIs that are interested in using EMREX or are already using it. There include e.g. the University of Göttingen and The Greek Universities Network (GUnet) which also became a full member of the EMREX network in September.

In regard to developing the ELMO standard we have been discussing the needs with different interest groups e.g. Erasmus+ -organizations. There is also interest in transferring micro credentials and badges data with ELMO schema. Discussions on developing ELMO are ongoing.

Dissemination of EMREX services and building the EMREX brand

The EMREX network has visited and participated in several projects and conferences in order to disseminate EMREX services and build the EMREX brand.

- The project "Platform for International Student Mobility" (PIM) coordinated from the German Ministry of Education and Research has an Advisory Board where EMREX has a seat. Next meeting is scheduled for October. <https://pim-plattform.de/en/>
- Presentation at IAAO (International Association of Admissions Organisations) online conference September 24th about EMREX and its use for admission purposes. <https://www.unit.no/en/iaao-conference-2020-digital-conference>
- Presentation at conference organized by DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst) "Moving Target Digitalisation: Re-thinking Global Exchange in Higher Education" October 5th about EMREX. Web page: <https://daad.swoogo.com/movingtarget2020?lang=en>
- Presentation of EMREX for the Sprint project – October 12th. <https://www.sprint-erasmusplus.fr/>

Project advancement

Despite the special situation with COVID-19 the project has had a good start. The technical specifications for the improved registry are expected to be finalized at the end of November. The specifications for the new ELMO version are also being discussed and the new version will probably focus on supporting recognition data. Thus, part I of the project is well on its way. Also activities in part II have started. Naturally we have high hopes on having physical meetings and seminars but this will probably not be possible in 2020. On the other hand on-line meetings allow us to be more active in different kinds of seminars and conferences.