



EUG Executive Committee
Yearly report 2020



1. The EMREX User Group (EUG)

The EMREX User Group is formed by organizations in the EMREX network and interested parties to manage the network and to advance the use of EMREX. The abbreviation is EUG.

The purpose of the EMREX User Group is to:

- maintain the EMREX network including architecture and specifications,
- support the uptake of EMREX in new countries and with new services,
- plan and support dissemination activities around EMREX,
- maintain the EMREX policy agreement to be signed by all full members,
- contribute to relevant standardization work, especially around ELMO.

2. The EUG Executive Committee

The Executive Committee can look back at the year 2020 as the second complete year in operation. The Committee carried out the plans set out in the year plan. The Annual Assembly was held online in June. The following were elected as members of the Executive Committee:

- Tor Fridell, Ladok, Sweden, Chairperson
- Jan-Joost Norder, DUO, the Netherlands
- Jukka Kohtanen, CSC, Finland,
- Janina Mincer-Daszkiewicz, UW, Poland
- Geir Vangen, UNIT, Norway
- Igor Drvodelić, AZVO, Croatia



3. Major events during the year

3.1.ELMO and Europass

In April 2018, the EU countries adopted the Commission's proposal to revise the Europass framework. As part of this work, the Europass digital credentials infrastructure (EDCI) is being implemented, to support transparency of skills and qualifications.

Some of the functionality of EMREX will overlap with EDCI, and to ensure the connectivity between these two infrastructures, a liaison has been set up to explore this relation.

The data model for EDCI has already been aligned with the ELMO/EMREX standard. The need for a converter between the formats is identified but not yet realised.

3.2.First German full member of the EMREX User Group

As part of the German PIM-project (Platform for International Student Mobility, see below) Georg-August-Universität Göttingen has been accepted as a full member to the EMREX User Group and thus became the first German full member.

3.3.German EMREX pilot

Within the aim of the Bologna Process, German universities' goal is to increase international and European study programs and study exchanges. Although German Students are among the most mobile of all large industrial countries, there is still room for improvement. A main reason for this is the lack of digitally supported back office processes within German universities, which leads to slow and inefficient processing times. To solve this problem, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research has initiated the project ***platform of international student mobility (PIM)***, which will benefit not only student applicants but also university examination boards and administration offices. The vision of the PIM project is to develop a conceptual and technical framework for a platform that will focus on digitalizing and standardizing back and front office processes within the structures of academic recognition.

3.1.ELMO 1.5

Version 1.5 of ELMO has now been released on GitHub:



<https://github.com/emrex-eu/elmo-schemas/releases/tag/v1.5.0>

The new version includes added support for additional fields on the learner (placeOfBirth, birthName, currentAddress, gender) and signature on the elmo-element is now optional.

3.2. Germany's digital certificates using EMREX

The first prototype for digitally authenticated and machine-readable certificates in Germany is running and successfully using EMREX. In cooperation with the ministries of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), various German universities and the Stiftung für Hochschulzulassung (SfH) together with the German Bundesdruckerei (BDR) has succeeded in creating a first fully functional prototype for digitally authenticated and machine-readable certificates.

3.3. Vietsch-project funds

The EMREX Executive Committee applied for a project funding from the [Vietsch Foundation](#) and in June we got good news – the application was successful! The project consisted of two parts:

- Industrializing the EMREX Registry and reviewing the ELMO standard,
- Dissemination of EMREX services and building the EMREX brand.

The first part was scheduled to finish by December 31st 2020 and it contained on-line conferences and developing ELMO format. This was done but with a delay, the new ELMO-version and technical workshop extended into 2021. The industrialization was extended further into 2021.

The second part ends on June 30th 2021. It has several goals:

- organizing stakeholder seminars,
- preparing the final ELMO specifications, in the format required by future development,
- visiting national meetings of new members,
- participating in international conferences to disseminate and build EMREX brand.

This part is of course heavily affected by the pandemic since no travel has been able to occur at all. The Executive Committee has asked the foundation for a prolongation until end of 2021.



4. Outcomes of planned activities 2020

Since funds are limited, the tasks are performed by the members according to their available resources and more could be done on almost every activity. Nevertheless, most of the activities were carried out, in part or completely. The outcomes of all activities are as follows.

4.1.Update the emrex.eu website

The goal for the emrex.eu during 2020 was that all information should be accessible easily. Another goal was to simplify the enrolment process for members. This is completed.

4.2.Create general information material

General information material has been produced, some available on the emrex.eu-site and some on the closed pages on Confluence. More is needed so this activity is prolonged to next year (and probably all years to come).

4.3.Send regular newsletters to the members

During the year two newsletters were sent, in May and September (and also one late 2019 and one early 2021).

4.4.Dissemination

EMREX has been presented at a limited number of conferences, due to the pandemic.

Internationally, EMREX had sessions or presentations at

- EUNIS, Online, June
- IAAO-conference, Online, September
- DAAD-conference Moving target, Online, October
- PIM Advisory Group Meetings during the year
- DigiRec, Erasmus+ project steering group

In addition, EMREX has been presented at a number of national conferences and other meetings.



4.5.New members

The following organisations applied for membership during the year

- DAAD, German Academic Exchange Service, Germany, (Associate member)
- RECSIE, Research Consortium for the Sustainable Promotion of International Education, Japan, (Associate member)
- Otentica, the Netherlands, (Associate member)
- Diplomatic Research and Policy Foundation, North Macedonia, (Associate member)
- Sphairas, germany, (Associate member)