



EMREX User Group
Yearly plan 2022



1. The EMREX User Group (EUG)

According to the statutes, the EMREX User Group is formed by organizations in the EMREX network and other 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. Yearly activities at a glance

The activities apart from “regular activities” such as membership, information dissemination consists mostly of building a more robust technical network and taking part in ongoing activities around us. It is no surprise that many of the items in this document are the same as last year. Since funds are limited, the tasks must be shared between the members according to their own capacity. Mainly the activities are the following.

- Industrialize the EMREX registry.
- Investigate new needs for changes to the ELMO format.
- Support and maintain changes to the ELMO format
- Maintain the emrex.eu website and maintain information material.
- Strengthen the collaboration with ongoing EU-projects as well as other parties.
- Send regular newsletters to the members.
- Seek to increase membership

Specific goals and targets are set in the detailed descriptions. The outcomes of all activities should be presented at the Annual Assembly in 2023.



3. Funding

In 2021 the funding from the Vietsch foundation ended. For 2022 there are no new activities planned to search for new funding. As has been in previous years members should cover their own costs. For the ELMO work two organizations, DUO(NL) and SIKT (NO), have declared to provide capacity and knowledge to build on new changes and maintain the standard.

4. Information

All information material should be written in English as a standard but it is in a format that can be changed (like MS Word) so that every member may translate material to their own language.

4.1. Website emrex.eu

In 2020 the website was improved and in a stable condition. During 2021 more improvements were added. For 2022 the main goal will be to maintain and update the website regularly, but no large changes are expected.

4.2. Information material

Information material should exist mainly on the webpage. It should be updated at all times and easily accessible by the members. Material that should be available is:

- A general PowerPoint presentation of EMREX
- An electronic document with an overview of EMREX
- A text suitable for email with a summary of EMREX.
- A contact list for all EMPs and Clients, plus partners.

4.3. Newsletter

A newsletter with highlights from activities, conferences and other events should be sent out to the members, at least three times during 2022.



4.4. Dissemination

When this document is being prepared most of the COVID-19 restrictions are behind us and we hope that this will affect our plans again for 2022. The goal for 2022 is to take part, in-person, in conferences and other relevant occasions as much as possible.

- At the EUNIS conference in Gottingen EMREX will host a pre-conference ELMO workshop, Annual assembly and EMREX will be presented at the conference itself
- EMREX will be presented at the EAIE conference in September, Barcelona.
- EMREX will be presented at the GDN conference in October, Groningen
- Contacts will continue with different EU-projects, such as Europass and EBSI

5. Collaboration

There are lots of initiatives going on in the area of IT solutions for student data exchange. EMREX plays an important part in this domain which must be communicated at every possibility.

5.1. Ongoing EU-projects

EMREX has working communication channels with EU projects that work in the same area. It is still important to strengthen the collaboration with ongoing or recently finished EU projects. We aim at creating lasting partnerships with all projects concerning student mobility. One more goal for 2022 is to proactively connect with European projects regarding digitalization of education:

- EMREX participates in the PIM-project, led by the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, for exchanging result data between Germany and existing EMREX countries
- EMREX has a liaison with Europass and DG EMPLOY on cooperate on the future format of Europass, to ensure the compatibility with ELMO.
- EMREX is participating in the steering group of the Erasmus+ KA3 project [*DigiNet - Digital innovations in credential evaluation and the networks*](#), a project preparing plans for digitalization of the recognition process at a number of Enic/Naric organization in Europe and Canada.
- EMREX is looking for participation in the Single Digital Gateway regulation as a sectoral system that is compliant with the Once Only Technical System (OOTS)



5.2. Other collaboration opportunities

It is equally important to seek collaboration outside EU. EMREX does not set any boundaries. There are some connections known already and they should be continuously maintained. New possible collaborations should also be proactively looked for and followed up. The following is a non-exhaustive list of open collaborations:

- CSSD
- PESC
- Groningen Declaration Network

EMREX is involved in a project run by the Nordic Council of Ministers, [Achieving the World's Smoothest Cross-Border Mobility](#). EMREX is the protocol brought forward for supporting exchange of credentials in *Studying in another Nordic country or the Baltic region*.

6. Membership retention and marketing

EMREX User Group does not need members just for attaining high numbers. Each member should support the EMREX idea, for instance by building an EMP, Client or by other forms of collaboration. However, it is imperative in the long run that more countries start using EMREX. Therefore, energy must be focused on marketing and helping interested parties to install EMREX software, especially for increase the use of the existing network which has great potential.

The specific goal for 2022 is that we ask the organizations that are running an EMP to promote EMREX more on a national level so we can aim for a 50% growth in exchanges. Next to that we try to connect 2 new countries and 10 new organizations to the network.

7. Standards work

The standard used for data transport, the ELMO format, needs to be maintained and updated according to new demands. Better support for recognition and including results of recognition into ELMO will be added in 2022. During the year the goal is to assemble current demands, discuss them between the members and make a resolution of changes, if deemed necessary.



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Furthermore, we intend to take part in and support projects with the goal to utilize eID national and cross-border nodes for authorization in the EMREX network.

The work on ELMO has a strong link to the EDSSI project, maintaining the format to support updated data models for student mobility.

Including results of recognition will also be done within a liaison with Europass and DG EMPLOY to ensure portability between the ELMO and the EDCI formats. It is also in the plans of Europass to enable EDCI-support for results of recognition during 2022.