

## The future of Erasmus post-2020: a survival checklist

### Setting the bar higher

The increase of student mobility in Europe is all but guaranteed, with the expansion of the Erasmus+ programme seen as a privileged avenue through which to impart future graduates with better employment perspectives and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

Improving the quantity and quality of student mobility will entail reengineering administrative processes that are burdensome and inefficient. Projects such as Erasmus without Paper and the Online Learning Agreement already offer a glimpse into this future, and their usage is likely to become the norm post-2020.

### A change of paradigm and new opportunities

Electronically connecting all European universities and enabling their IT systems to exchange relevant student data will amount to a change of paradigm. The introduction of the Online Learning Agreement has already led to efficiency gains of more than 50% across 60+ universities, and this is just the beginning.

### What does this mean for universities?

Universities need to prepare for taking advantage of new IT infrastructure that is being made available to them and anticipate the impact it will have in the functioning of IROs and connected services. University leaders and IROs need to work closely together to design adaptation strategies that may entail implementing new tools and adapting workflows.

In order to bring about sustainable and cost-efficient change European universities can now pool their resources through the [Open Source University Alliance](#).

### **What is the Open Source University Alliance?**

The Alliance is an initiative of several university networks that have joined forces for the successful roll out of a public repository of open source code and software.

### **Why does my university need to be part of this initiative?**

Currently the majority of universities with IT tools to support the management of student mobility or those who are still developing them, do so largely on their own, either by starting from scratch or by updating software they have previously developed. This is slow, expensive and inefficient. In a world where cross-border data exchange is becoming the norm, individual HEI development will come under increasing pressure because it will need to adapt to the unavoidable international standards. An alternative to this individual approach is for the HE community to share the source code of their applications, eliminating redundancy and letting their developers build on and adapt each other's work. Doing so dramatically accelerates their ability to maintain state of the art systems, and the advantages of such an approach extends beyond cost cutting and increased efficiency to promoting collaboration and exchange of expertise among IT teams, which in turn leads to higher security and quality standards.

### **How can my university join?**

It's easy and simple. Once you have made the decision to share your own IT resources let us know by filling a 30 second form [here](#). Then we will contact you to let you know when the repository goes online (due in late 2018, with development being carried out as part of the Erasmus without Paper project). At that point the source code you choose to share will be made available to other higher education institutions under a creative commons license (or equivalent).

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