

Erasmus+

Enriching lives, opening minds.

**Higher education** 



# Updates from DG EAC





- Continued outreach and support targeting institutions not yet using EWP
- Targeted national EWP events to boost digitalisation and provide opportunity for peer learning and involving EWP champions in outreach
- Improved version of IIA available to all users
- Stakeholder consultations to improve the LAs and Factsheets
- Complete migration of the ESC Router to the EC cloud





## **ESCI Newsletter**

- Integration of EWP newsletter in a joint ESCI newsletter
- New newsletter format, colleagues signed up to the EWP newsletter will receive the new ESCI newsletter





# Subscribe now to the newsletter!

# Newsletter









# Update inter-institutional agreements



# Context of the update

- Mandatory business requirements
- User input via governance
- Technical workshops in February, ongoing technical testing







# New functionalities



Modify/terminate approved agreements

Delete draft agreements

Alignment with updated template (a.o. 4-digit ISCED)







# Agreements already shared via EWP

No impact on mutually approved agreements

Initiated but not yet approved might need update (if not aligned with newest standard)





# If institution is not ready

- Approved agreements remain valid!
- Can upgrade in a later phase
- Email confirmation/PDF agreement valid to support mobilities





# Erasmus Without Paper New on-boarding guide



## "I've just been hired as an IRO, and I am lost!"

Why was the guide created?

During the last EWP Townhall and webinars, participants flagged that they **needed clearer and simpler first information** about EWP

The consultations for the Comprehensive User Guides demonstrated common **misunderstandings and lack of clarity** about some EWP aspects

Feedback received by the EWP Relationship Managers in numerous meetings with institutions:

The information is everywhere and nowhere!

**YOUR VOICE IS HEARD!** 











#### **Erasmus Without Paper Onboarding guide**

#### WHO IS THIS DOCUMENT FOR?

If you have recently been tasked with managing Erasmus+ student mobility in a higher education institution, then this onboarding guide is for you.

It helps newcomers understand the Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) network, used to exchange necessary data with partner institutions and navigate the available resources that will help you get the most out of participating in the network.

#### WHAT IS THE ERASMUS WITHOUT PAPER NETWORK?

As an <u>Erasmus+</u> student mobility coordinator, your tasks can entail applying for <u>Erasmus+</u> funding, establishing <u>inter-institutional agreements</u> with partner institutions, selecting, and nominating students to your partner institutions, allocating student grants, and ensuring <u>learning agreements</u> are approved for the ECTS credits earned abroad to be <u>automatically recognised</u> as part of the student's degree.

One of the policy priorities of the European Commission is building a Europe fit for the digital age, with a focus on digitalising and simplifying administration. Institutions with an <a href="Erasmus Charter for Higher Education">Erasmus Charter for Higher Education</a>, a pre-requisite to have access to Erasmus+, are committed to this goal by undertaking the necessary steps to start using the <a href="Erasmus Without Paper">Erasmus Without Paper</a> network to manage progressively Erasmus+ administrative tasks. Erasmus Without Paper aims to connect all institutions digitally and simplify administration in line with the <a href="Erasmus+ programme rules">Erasmus+ programme rules</a>, set by the Commission and monitored by the <a href="Erasmus+ National Agency">Erasmus+ National Agency</a> in each participating country.

See how Erasmus Without paper is part of the European Student Card Initiative



#### Where do I find the guide?

- To be published on the ESCI portal and link circulated in the next ESCI newsletter
- Will also ask your Digital Officer in the Erasmus+ National Agency to share it with all institutions in their country





# Content

What is EWP?	To place EWP in the full context of the Erasmus+ programme
Speak the "EWP language"	Vocabulary used in the context of EWP
What does EWP do?	Overall workflow from the perspective of an IRO
My institution in EWP	How to connect and start exchanging data; How to check connections and ESI
How are decisions made in EWP?	How the IRO voice is represented in the governance
Where to look for help?	To ensure you do not miss anything







# My institution in EWP

Check your HEIs presence in the network



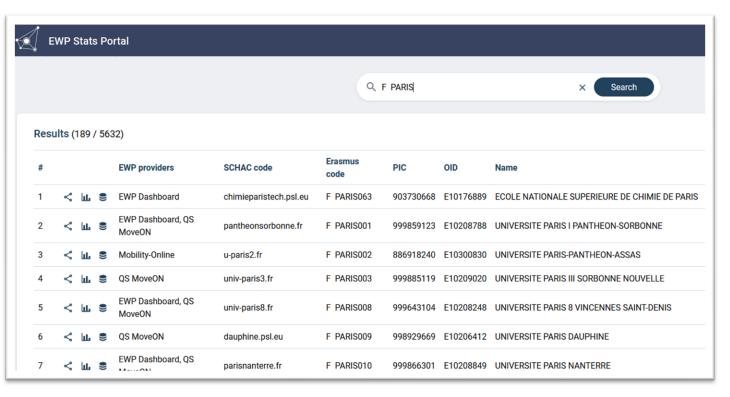
To check **EWP details** (e.g., if your HEI is ready to exchange LAs)



To check **EWP statistics** (e.g., what HEIs are exchanging data)



To see **basic information** about institutions



More information in the **EWP Stats Portal Guide** 





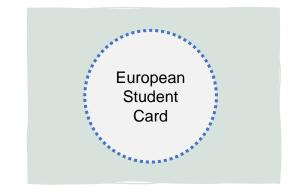


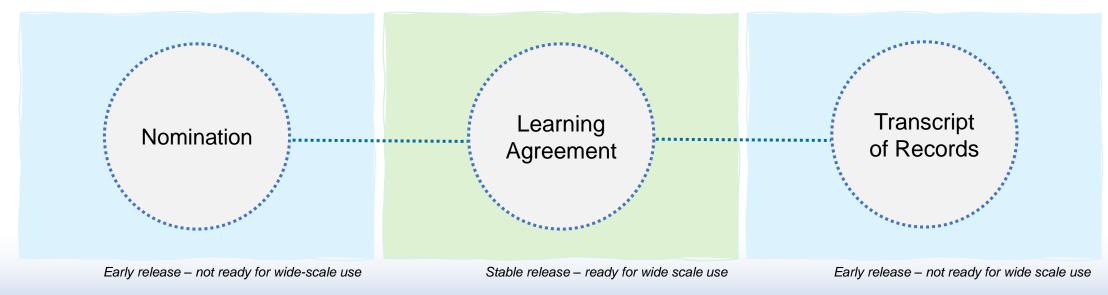


# **European Student Identifier (ESI)**

Why was it created and why it is important to use it in the network

- a digital identifier for students by their home institution
- enables institutions to connect the student's identity with their digital records
- streamlines the flow of information between the institutions













# You are not left alone!

EWP offers an extensive support network for all stakeholders within three main cornerstones:

Technical errors and end user guidance ESCI Service Desk

Programme questions

Erasmus+ National Agencies

Peer-to-peer support EWP User Groups







# We are looking for your feedback!

Share your opinion about the on-boarding guide on the EWP User Groups when published

We are looking forward to receiving your suggestions – help shape the future of EWP and improving support materials!

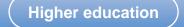
You are not a part of the EWP User Groups yet?

Register now!





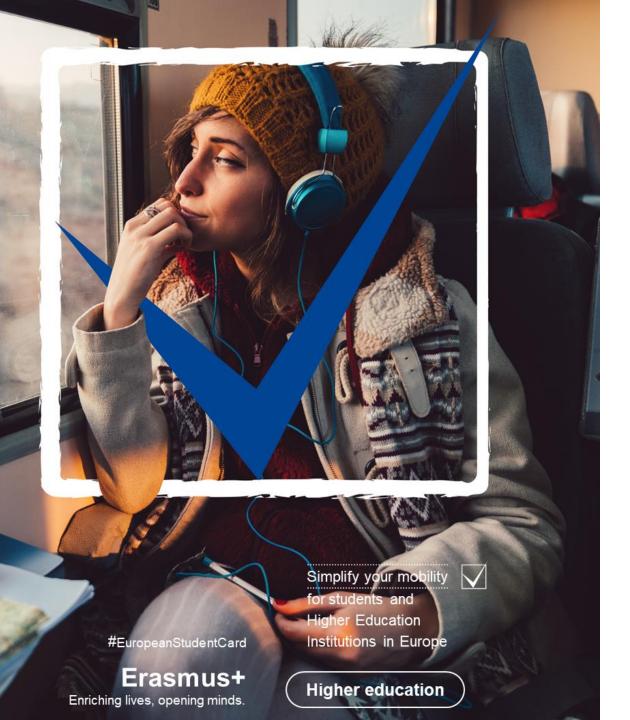






# **European Student Card Updates**

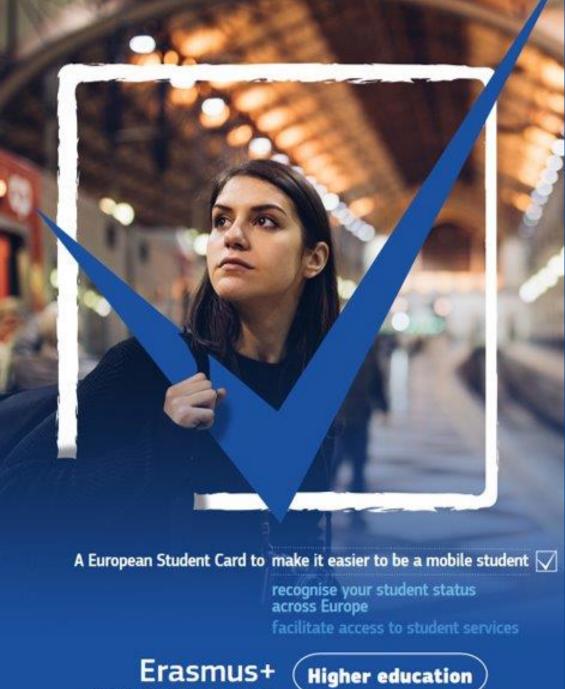




#### **AGENDA OF THE SESSION**

1	ESC Adoption Update
2	ESC-R Updates
3	Communication materials





**1** ESC Adoption Update

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## **1** ESC ADOPTION UPDATE

2.35M

Students with an active card\*

264

Card issuers issuing active cards



**790** 

Card issuers registered in the ESC-R



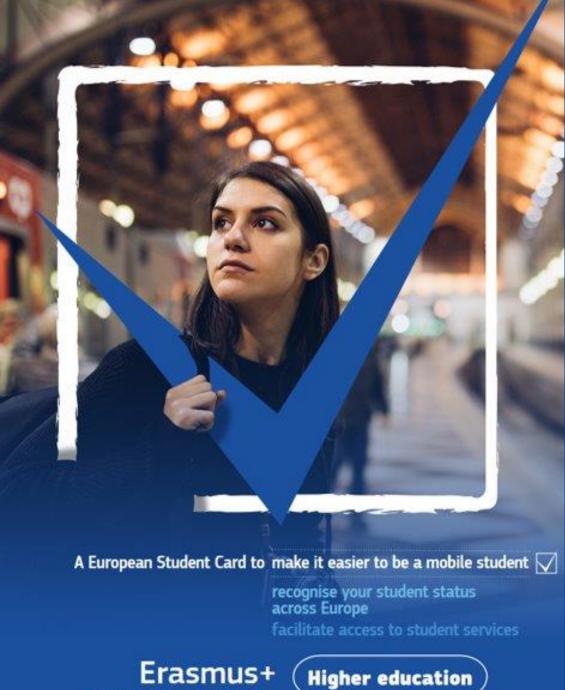
**5.31M** 

Holograms requested

#### Data from March 2024

\* A card is active when the registration process has been completed and the Institution has issued an ESC with both the hologram and QR code updated to the ESC-Router.



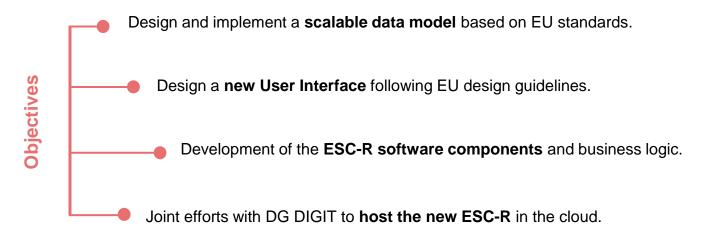


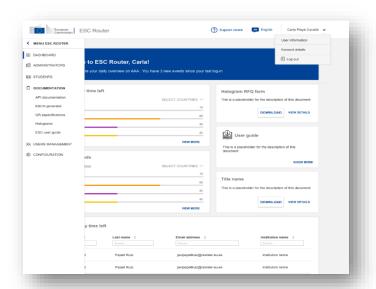
**ESC-R Updates** 

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#### **ESC-R UPDATES**

The current ESC-Router is being migrated to the European Commission's Cloud and a new improved version of the Router is foreseen.





European Student Card Router as an EU official tool.

#### **Behind-the-scenes information regarding the ESC-R Migration:**

- Approval of the Project Charter and the IT Security Plan, which are both important prerequisites;
- Have gained access to the European Commission's hosting;
- A pending decision on the **role of all involved parties** (i.e; card issuers, EC & NTT DATA);
- Finalisation of the DPIA, Privacy Statement and Data Protection Record.



Pending decision on an official ESC-R migration date



#### **ESC-R UPDATES**

The migration path is the following:



The data is being transferred from the old ESC-R to the new one



The migration of the data does **not entail** any **downtime** nor change for the current user of the cards



In case the user uses the API to generate and upload student cards, it will be needed to **regenerate** the API token as well



## 2

#### **ESC-R UPDATES**

#### **Sandbox**

The current sandbox environment has been discontinued as part of the migration of the ESC-R to the European Commission cloud service. This decision reflects the commitment to maintaining the highest levels of system integrity and ensuring compliance with the rigorous technical and data security corporate standards.



#### Features of the new ESC- Router

Management of ESC through:

- the UI
- Upload of the CSV
- API

Migration of ESC-R Features

Management of Students

**Card Validation** 

**API Key Management** 

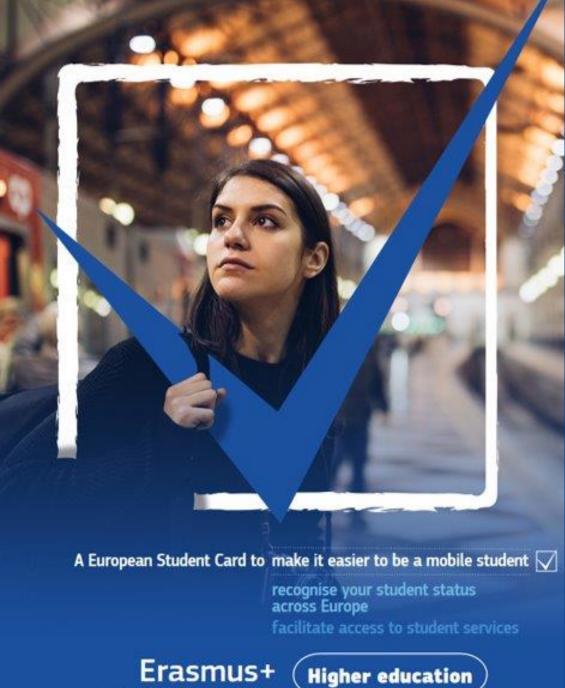
Administrative user management



#### **Discontinued Features**

**DEUInfo** 

Redirection of data to 3rd party services



**Communication Materials** 

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#### **COMMUNICATION MATERIALS**

Showcase of the ESC Infographic









# Stay tuned!

For any further questions and support,

please contact us through our helpdesk.



esc.support@nttdata.com

### **THANK YOU!**

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds

2021 - 2027



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Prepared by:

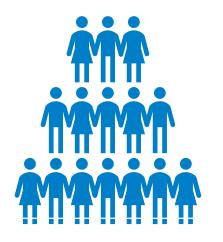




# Implementing digital learning agreements



# Some context











Target: 250 000 study mobilities\*

Shared via EWP: 200.000 learning agreements\*

Approved via EWP:

**About 50%\*** 

<sup>\*</sup>Approximate numbers from March 2024 for academic year 2023/24







- EWP assessment report:
  - Not all target institutions are yet connected for learning agreements
  - Several institutions are connected but not yet using EWP
- Sending institution indicating contacts at receiving institution is a challenge
- Duplicate learning agreements





# How to get started

### Not yet connected

Map the needs of your institution

Review your internal processes

Decide how to connect to EWP

Determine who is the key EWP contact

### Not yet exchanging

Understand how your system works

Optimise your internal processes

Start with a pilot group exchange

Flag and address any issues encountered

# Start exchanging via EWP



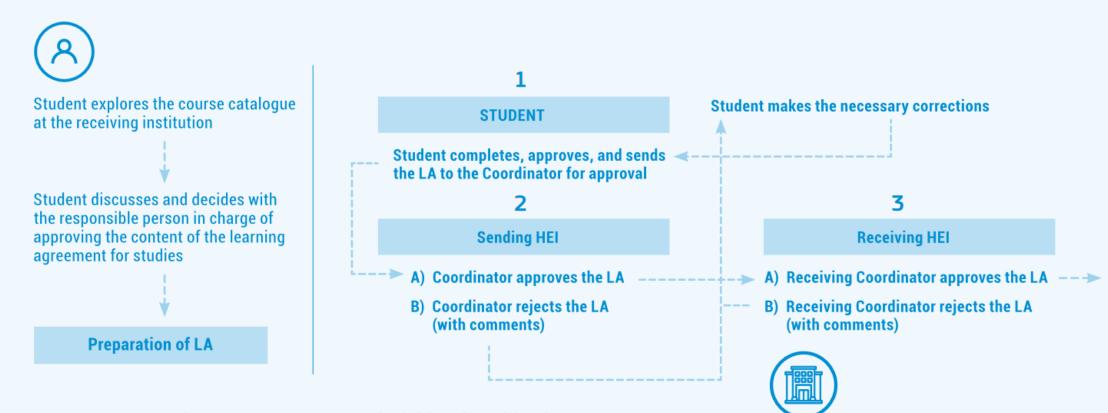








#### Standardised process



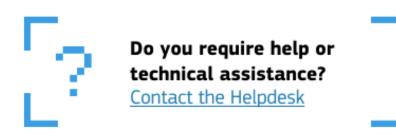
LA approved by three parties



NOTE: in some systems LA can be initiated as either by the student as or by the responsible person at HEI (e.g. Institutional Coordinator).

#### General principles apply

- Basis for automatic recognition
- To be approved by 3 parties before start mobility
- Once approved, exceptional changes to study programme are possible
- New version(s) of the learning agreement
- If technical issue:
  - Contact service desk
  - Do not hesitate to use PDF







#### Changing/correcting learning agreements

Personal data of the student

First name - Last name - Birth date

Content of the learning agreement

Tables A, B, C, D, E





#### Best practice

- Field of education: use 4-digit codes from Beneficiary Module
- One learning agreement per mobility
- Mobility duration: is indicative, no reason to reject a learning agreement
- Administrative contact: should be provided by sending institution, no reason to reject BUT often used to allocate learning agreements to right faculty/department

#### What should I do when a wrong contact person has been indicated by the sending institution?

If the wrong contact person is indicated by the sending institution, there is no need to reject the learning agreement for studies as a change in contacts will not result in a new version of the learning agreement for studies (also see section about *changes and corrections* below). The student/sending institution can be contacted to change the contact and an updated learning agreement for studies can be retrieved by the receiving institution.





### Learning agreement update

- DG EAC and EWP+ Consortium working on an update of the learning agreement API
- Consultation via user groups will follow









# Erasmus+ App New features and updates





#### E+ App recent events

Erasmus+ App had two new releases in the last 4 months.

The updates focus on user experience - improving onboarding, usability, as well as adding new functionalities, like the accomodation finder module.





#### Main improvements

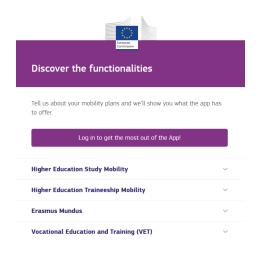
- Onboarding and login experience
- Global search and filtering
- Destination finder and application process (for EWP Dashboard users)
- User controlled mobility journey
- Accomodation finder
- Overall better and cleaner UI





#### Improved onboarding and login experience

Brand-new onboarding cards and accordion page helps the users get to know the app better

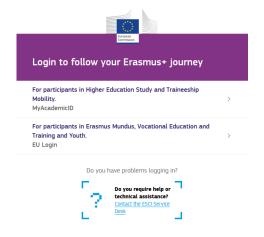




Makes you feel welcome in the application

Ensures that everyone can get the most out of the existing functions





Optimized login page for better transparency and accessability

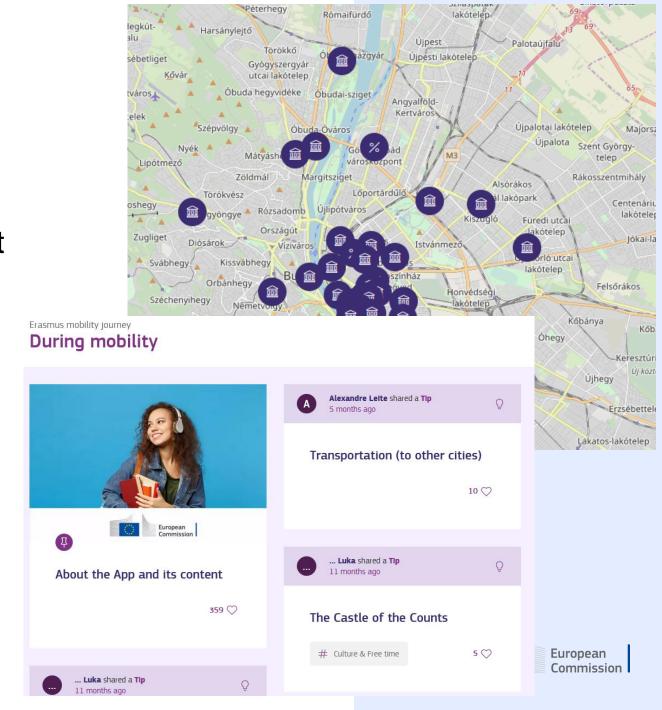




#### Search and filtering

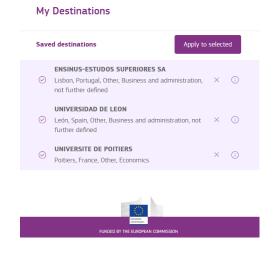
- A new Global search function that collects info from the whole app
- City and tag filters to allow users to get the specific news and tips they need
- My content page to let users access their shared content quicker and easier





## Improved application process and functionality for EWP Dashboard users

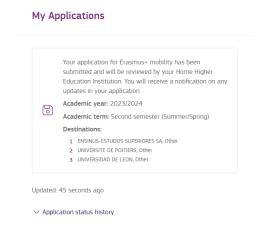
Better sorting and saving of possible and favorite destinations

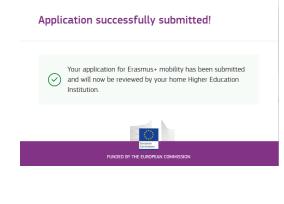




More informative destination and application screens

Applications now can be saved as drafts





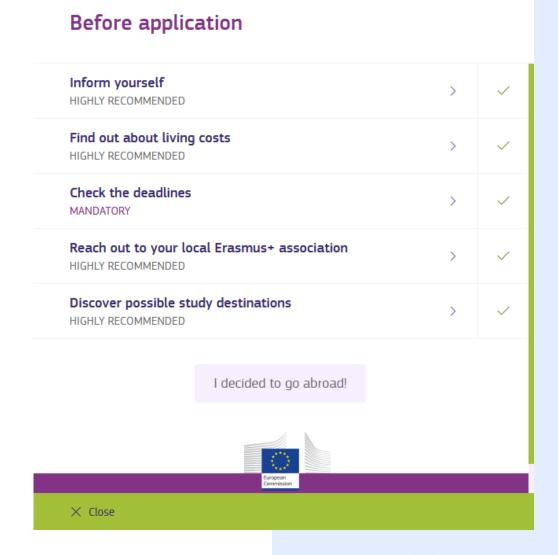
Allow users to preview documents and pictures





### Renewed UI and mobility journey

- Several usability improvements rearranged menus, icons, improved general layout
- Transforming Mobility Journey to a user-controlled checklist
- New "Mandatory" and "Highly Recommended" labels

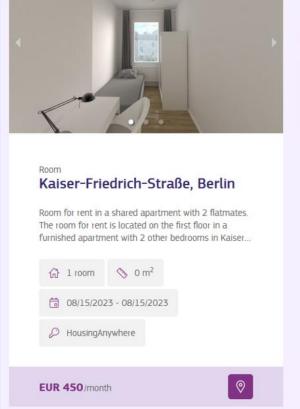


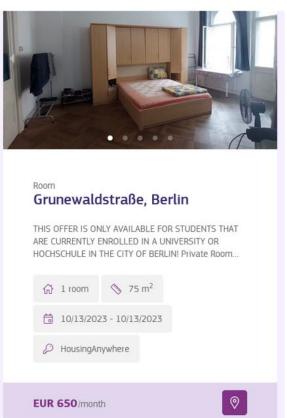






#### **Rental Offers**





#### Accomodation module

- A new and necessary feature to help users find housing offers
- Leveraging on the HOME project, receiving and representing offers from trusted providers
- Transparent and useful information, quality labels and and filtering options to assist users pick the best offers





### Updated documentation and link pages

- Updated FAQ entries
- A new useful links page
- Knowledge base updates
- Upcoming short video tutorials







#### Join our next event: town hall meeting on 16/04

Participate in the EWP user groups



### Subscribe to the EWP newsletter















