



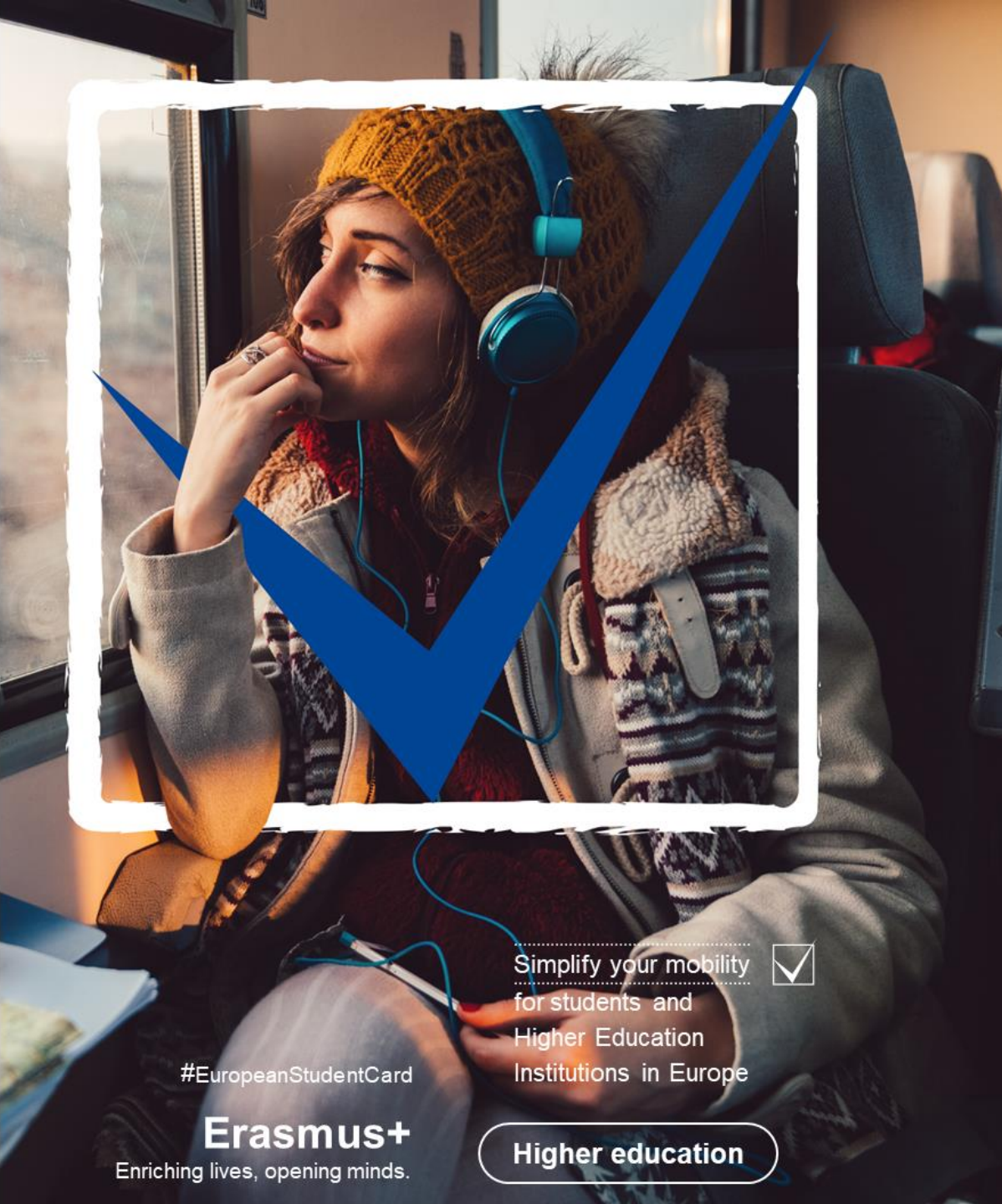
European Student Card in Latvia

15th October 2024

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Simplify your mobility
for students and
Higher Education
Institutions in Europe



#EuropeanStudentCard

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AGENDA OF THE SESSION

- 1 ESC background & context
- 2 How does the ESC work?
- 3 Latvia: current state-of-play
- 4 Other updates
- 5 Q&A



A European Student Card to make it easier to be a mobile student ☒

recognise your student status
across Europe

facilitate access to student services

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1 | ESC background & context

ESC BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)

The European Student Card Initiative (ESCI) is composed of **three building blocks**: *Erasmus+ App*, *Erasmus Without Paper (EWP)*, and the *European Student Card (ESC)*.



- Plan and carry out student mobility;
- Find information about services, events and accommodation in the host higher education institution;
- Find tips, stories and student offers across Europe.

- Fill learning agreements digital;
- Easily update learning agreements without in-person visits;
- Enjoy a streamlined, transparent and efficient mobility process.

- Access physical and digital services during student mobility (i.e. transport, bookshops, accommodation, etc) in home and host country;
- Verify student status quickly and in a secure manner anywhere in Europe;
- Avoid requesting a new student card when in mobility.



Further information [here](#)



Further information [here](#)



Further information [here](#)

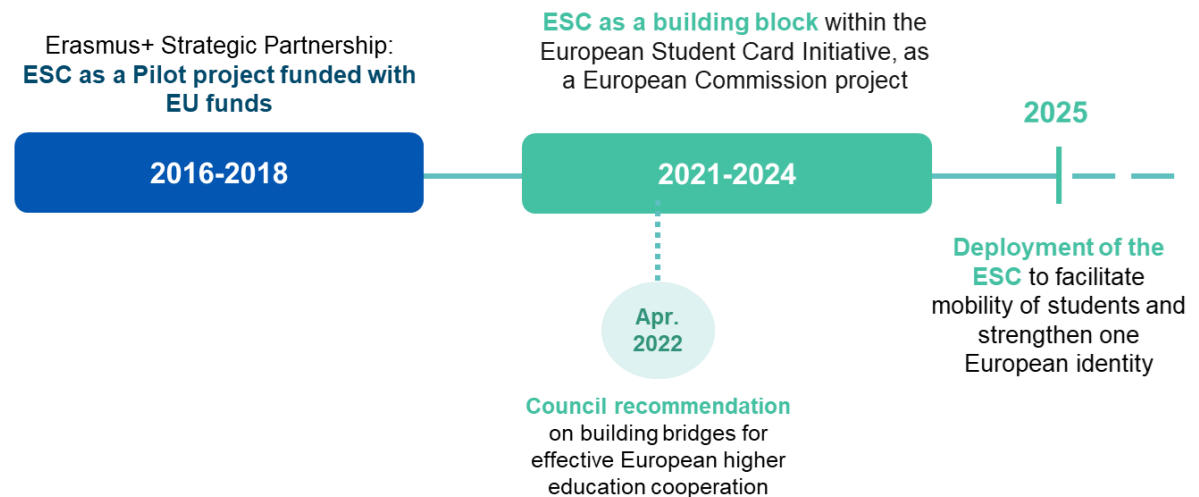
ESC BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

A look into the ESC

The European Student Card started as an EU-funded project in 2016 to promote student mobility and participation in educational and cultural activities, as well as to reduce administrative and mobility costs for students and education institutions. The aim is that, by 2025, all European students benefit from an ESC either in their pocket or digitally on their phone.

Council Recommendation 5th April 2022 *on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation*

- **Identifies the European Student Card Initiative (ESCI) as a key action** to achieve this ambition by simplifying administration for institutions;
- **Calls on the Commission and Member States to work together** to widen the ESCI;
- Supports **new emerging mobility cooperation models**;
- Encourages higher education institutions to **make full use of digital tools for mobility**.



ESC BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Benefits of the ESC

The European Student Card introduces a **common European identity for higher education students** so that their student status can be easily verified across Europe when in mobility abroad.



Students

- **Simplify access to on- and off-campus services** during mobility with their existing student card.
- Added **European dimension** to their student status.



Card issuers/ higher education institutions

- **Avoid the need to issue a new student card** for mobile students.
- **Securely validate the student status** of incoming mobility students.



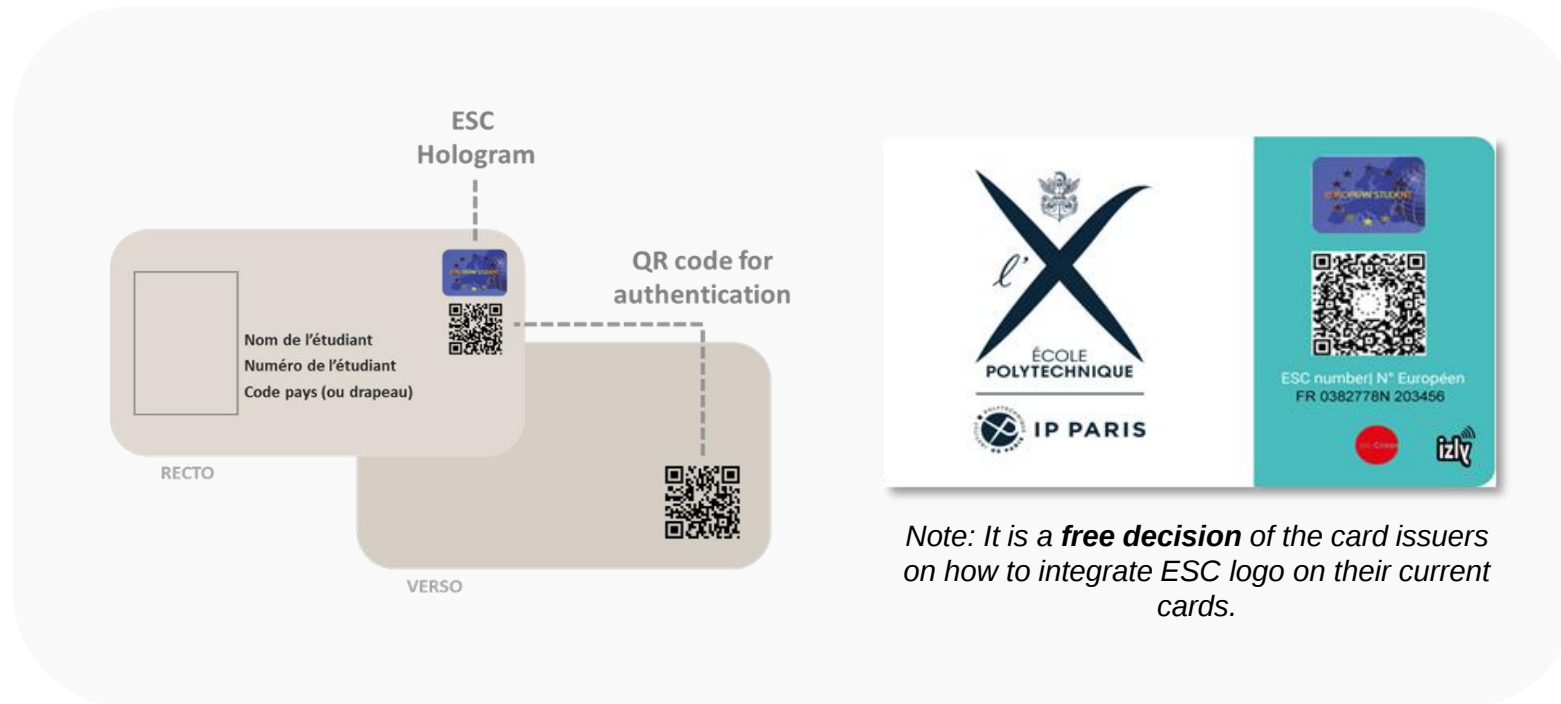
Student service providers

- **Streamline the verification of student status.**
- Gain access to a **wider network of users**

ESC BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

European Student Card features

Depending on the institution issuing the card, the ESC can be in a **digital** or a **physical format** and can be integrated into student cards **with any type of technology** (e.g., chip technology, magnetic stripe, etc). The ESC can be issued **directly** by the higher education institution or **co-branded**. The ESC is composed of the following features:



Note: It is a **free decision** of the card issuers on how to integrate ESC logo on their current cards.

European Student Card logo

Combines the European identity (text & flag) with the QR code. It facilitates the implementation and recognition of the ESCs

ESCN - European Student Card Number

Unique card identifier that serves to link a specific card to the specific higher education institution who produced it and to identify a card

ESI - European Student Identifier

Unique identifier that allows to link a given student to a specific ESC. It is not recommended to be printed on the card.



This ESC hologram will be **valid until December 2027**, as a **new ESC Logo will be launched soon**. As of 1 January 2028, all ESCs must feature the new ESC Logo to be valid.

ESC BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

ESC adoption



3.17M

Students have been issued an active card*

300

Card issuers issuing active cards



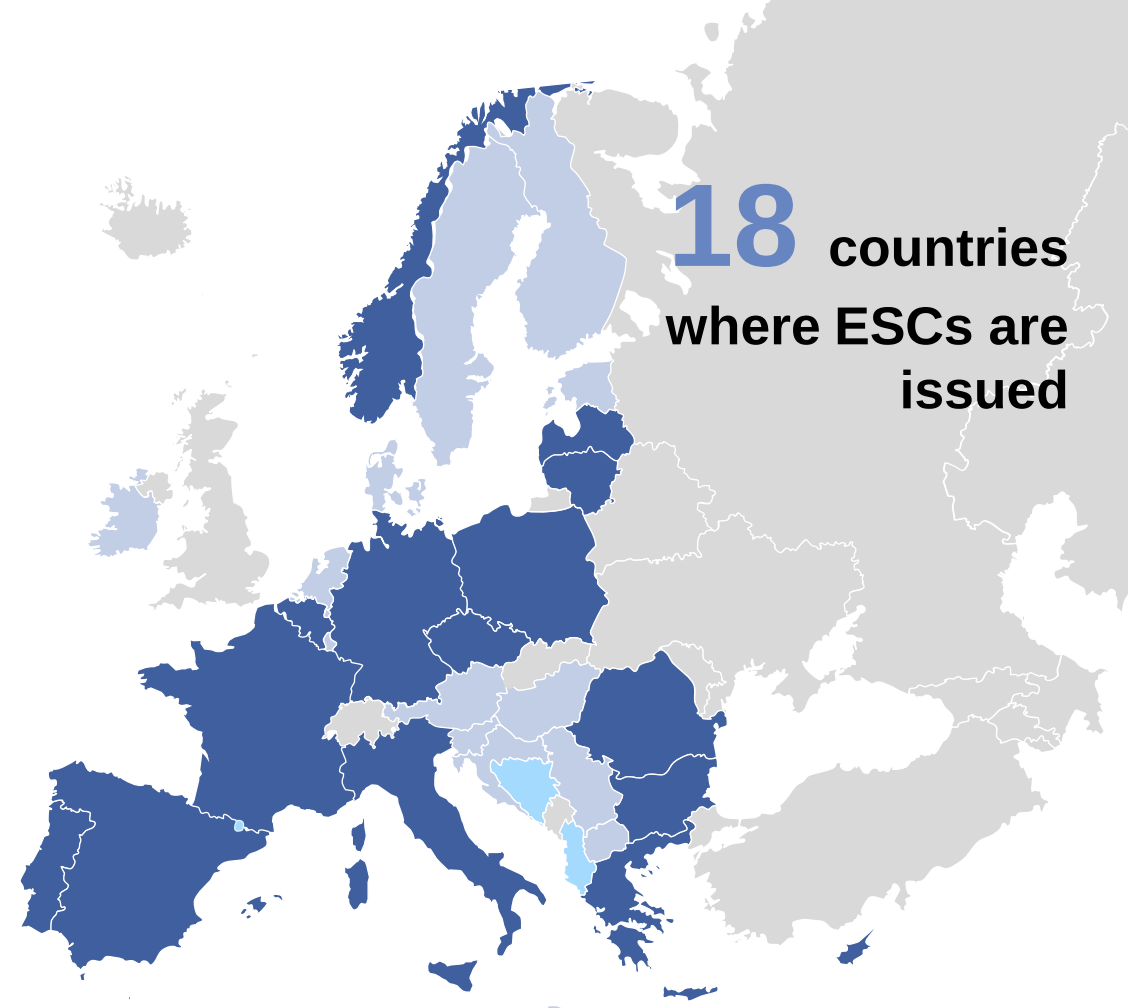
898

Card issuers have registered in the ESC-R



6.09M

Holograms requested



18 countries where ESCs are issued

Where ESCs are issued:

- 15 EU MS and third countries associated to the E+ Programme issuing ESCs
- 3 Third countries not associated to the E+ Programme issuing ESCs
- 16 EU MS and third countries associated to the E+ Programme not issuing ESC, but connected to the ESC-R

Data from October 2024

***Active card:** it means that 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.**



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2 | How does the ESC work?

HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

When is the new ESC-R going to be available?

Launch of the
new ESC-R.

 Oct. 23rd

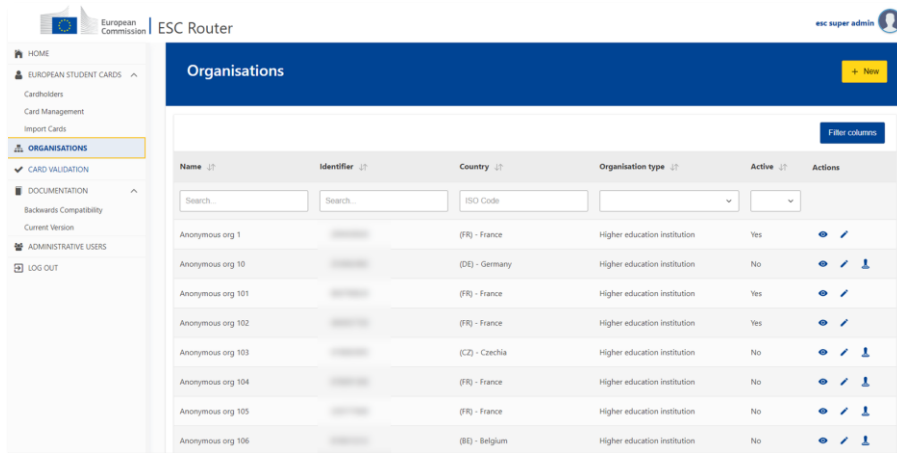
The **current ESC-R** and a **revamped user interface** will be migrated to the European Commission's cloud on **October 23rd**.

The ESC-Router

The ESC-Router is a **platform** that allows higher education institutions and other card issuers to **manage and issue ESCs**, as well as **verify student status**.

ESC-R Migration

- ✓ **User data and cards** will be **migrated** (*users that meet the T&Cs*)
- ✓ The ESC-R will be **available at the same web address**
- ✓ Following the migration, users will be prompted upon their first log-in to accept the updated legal documents that regulate the new ESC-R



Benefits of the new ESC-R



More **secure infrastructure**
and environment



Scalable data model based
on EU standards



New and improved **User Interface** following EU
design guidelines



Issue ESCs directly
from the ESC-R

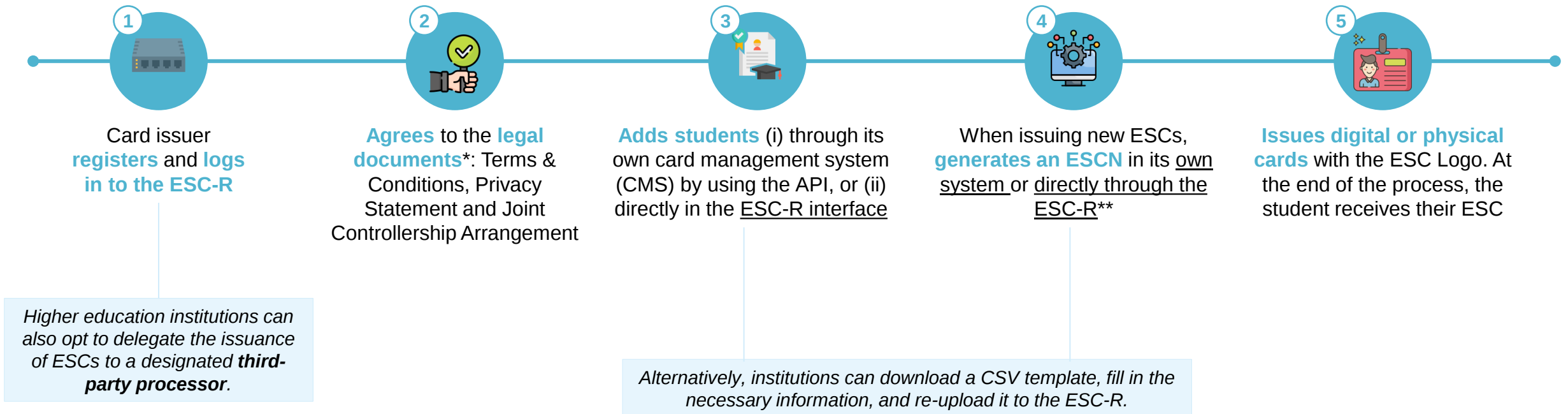


Access an **updated API**

HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

How to issue the ESC in the new ESC-R?

The card issuing and activation process is made possible by the **ESC Router (ESC-R)***, which is a database that stores basic information on European Student Cards', allowing higher education institutions and other card issuers to manage and issue ESC, and enabling the validation of student status.



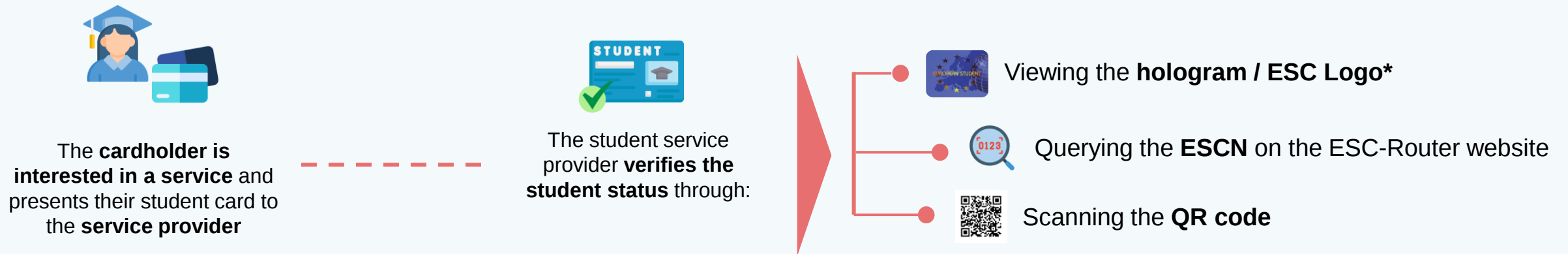
* The acceptance of legal documents occurs within the new ESC-R.

** The ESCN can be generated by the institution in its own system, or (if left empty) automatically generated by the ESC-R.

HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

Student status verification

This process includes the **demand of services** from the student to the student service provider and the **verification of student status**. Three main ways currently exist to verify student status through the ESC: the ESC hologram, the QR code, or manually through the website.



**Once the new ESC Logo is released, it will also be possible to validate student status by viewing the logo (instead of the hologram). However, QR code validation is recommended as it represents a more reliable method.*



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3 | Latvia: current state-of-play

LATVIA: CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY

Status of ESC adoption in Latvia



9

Card issuers
registered in the
ESC-R



3

Card issuers
issuing active
ESCs*



6

Active ESCs
issued

The extracted data is from July 2024

List of card issuers registered in the ESC-R

- Riga Technical University
- Latvia University Of Life Sciences And Technologies *
- Stockholm School Of Economics In Riga Sia
- Daugavpils University *
- Rezekne Academy Of Technologies *
- Latvijas Kulturas Akademijas Agentura Latvijas Kulturas Akademijas Latvijas Kulturas Koledza
- Riga Stradins University
- Ventspils University Of Applied Sciences
- Ekonomikas Un Kulturas Augstskola

* Card issuers issuing active European Student Cards



LATVIA: CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY

Student card ecosystem

Information was collected to understand the **current student card ecosystem and state-of-play of ESC adoption in Latvia.**



Current Student Card System

- **Latvian higher education institutions either issue student ID cards on their own or in collaboration with ISIC**, which provides a wide range of discounts and benefits in Latvia and abroad (in theatres, museums, clubs, shops, cafes, etc.).
- Generally, student cards in Latvia offer **on-campus services** such as access to university buildings and facilities.
- Some cards can also be used as **bank credit cards** as a result of partnerships between the institutions, ISIC and Swedbank. They also issue multi-service cards that allow for payments in-store and online and modern contactless payments by smartphone (digital card).

 **45** (2021-2027)

ECHE holders

 **75.400** (2023)

Students in HEIs*

*Source: Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (2023)

LATVIA: CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY

Survey results in Latvia

ESC survey results 11/2023



582 responses



570 students



6 IROs



4 Others



2 IT Project Managers

ESC EXPERIENCE

Format of student cards: Digital and Physical

- ▶ **21 students (4%)** that answered the survey in Latvia have an ESC
- ▶ Of **21** students with an ESC, **1** had a digital card, **14** a physical card, and **6** had both (digital and physical).
- ▶ **33%** of **students** that have digital ESCs store them in their in their **phone's wallet**

ESC AWARENESS



50% of **card issuers** that answered the survey in Latvia are aware of the ESC



20% of **students** that answered the survey in Latvia are aware of the ESC

94% of **students and card issuers** that were not aware of the ESC are interested in implementing it, as most of them believe it will **increase the availability of services**.

ESC SERVICES

According to the overall survey's responses, the **offline services** mostly accessed **through ESCs** included:



Access to a student network



Payments acting as a bank card



Access to campus facilities



Access to discounts & promotions



Health care & insurance services



Access to library services

43% of **students** who have an ESC have access to **offline services** through the ESC.

3 out of **21** **students** that have an ESC use **other cards to access services (ISIC)**.



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4 | Other Updates

OTHER UPDATES

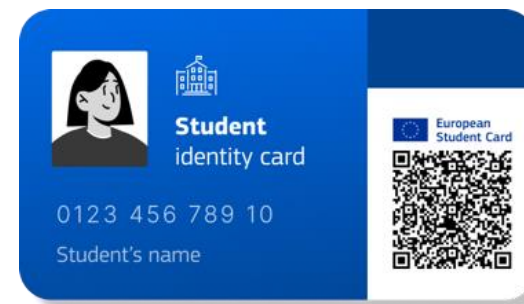
What is the new ESC logo?

The new ESC logo **facilitates the implementation and recognition of European Student Cards**. It will be accompanied by a graphic charter to ensure its consistent use.

Benefits of the new ESC logo

- Implement the new ESC logo **easily with no external costs**;
- Provides a **flexible and secure solution** for student status **verification**;
- Reinforces the idea of a **collective identity for European students** with the EU flag;
- The combination of the QR code and logo **takes up less space**, and the horizontal and vertical layout options ensure **increased compatibility with student cards**; and,
- **Adaptable** to both **digital and physical** cards.

**The QR code on an ESC contains the European Student Card Number and the URL needed to validate the card.*



Physical version



Digital version

i The launch of the new ESC logo will be followed by a coexistence phase until end of December 2027, where both the previous version of the ESC logo (with the hologram) and the new ESC logo can be issued. **As of January 2028, new cards issued must have the new ESC logo.**

OTHER UPDATES

Third launch of the ESC Survey

ESC Online Survey 2024

The **third edition** of the **ESC Online Survey** aims to understand:

- The **state-of-play** of the ESC implementation and the **needs** of card issuers and students regarding ESC adoption;
- Understand the **level of awareness and experience** with the ESC among key stakeholders;
- Identify **potential obstacles** encountered while using or implementing the ESC.

Four **main audiences** are targeted in the online survey:



STUDENTS



IT STAFF



IROs



OTHERS

ESC SURVEY RESULTS 2023



4.323
responses received



33
Erasmus+ countries covered



81% (3.487)

STUDENTS



11% (476)

IROs



2% (88)

IT PROJECT MANAGERS



6% (272)

OTHERS



France

992 responses



Greece

972 responses



Latvia

582 responses

The **ESC online Survey 2024** will be launched in **mid-October!**



Your **support in disseminating** the ESC Survey 2024 **within your network** is greatly appreciated!

OTHER UPDATES

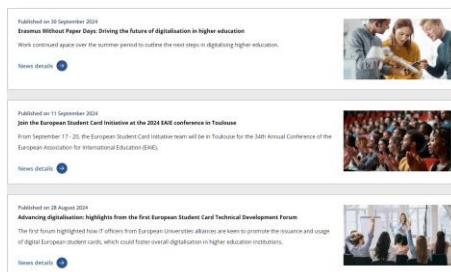
ESC Trainings & Resources



You will receive an invite to **in-depth training session(s)** about the European Student Card, which will be organised between the **end of November and mid-December**. Stay tuned for more details!

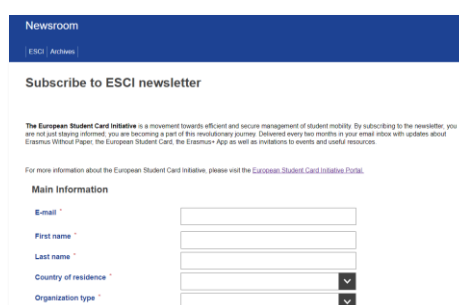
ESCI News Articles

The **latest news, events, and updates** on the European Student Card, Erasmus+ App and Erasmus Without Paper



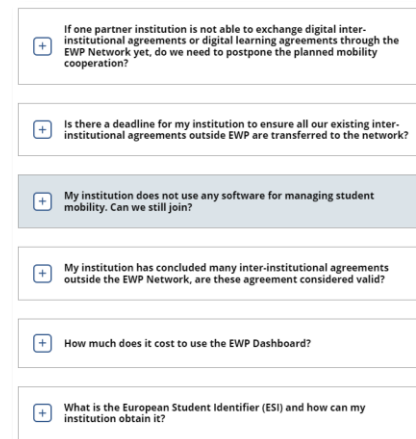
ESCI Newsletter

You can subscribe [here](#) to the **ESCI Newsletter**



FAQs

FAQs are also available under the ESCI Website



Helpdesk

If you don't find the answer to your question, contact the ESC support team through our:

[ESCI Helpdesk](#)

esc.support@nttdata.com





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5 | Q&A



Stay tuned!

For any further questions and support,
please contact us through our [Helpdesk](mailto:esc.support@nttdata.com).



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Scan the QR code to access
the Helpdesk!

