European Student Card in Germany

16th May 2024

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AGENDA OF THE SESSION

European Commission

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 and context

ESC BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT
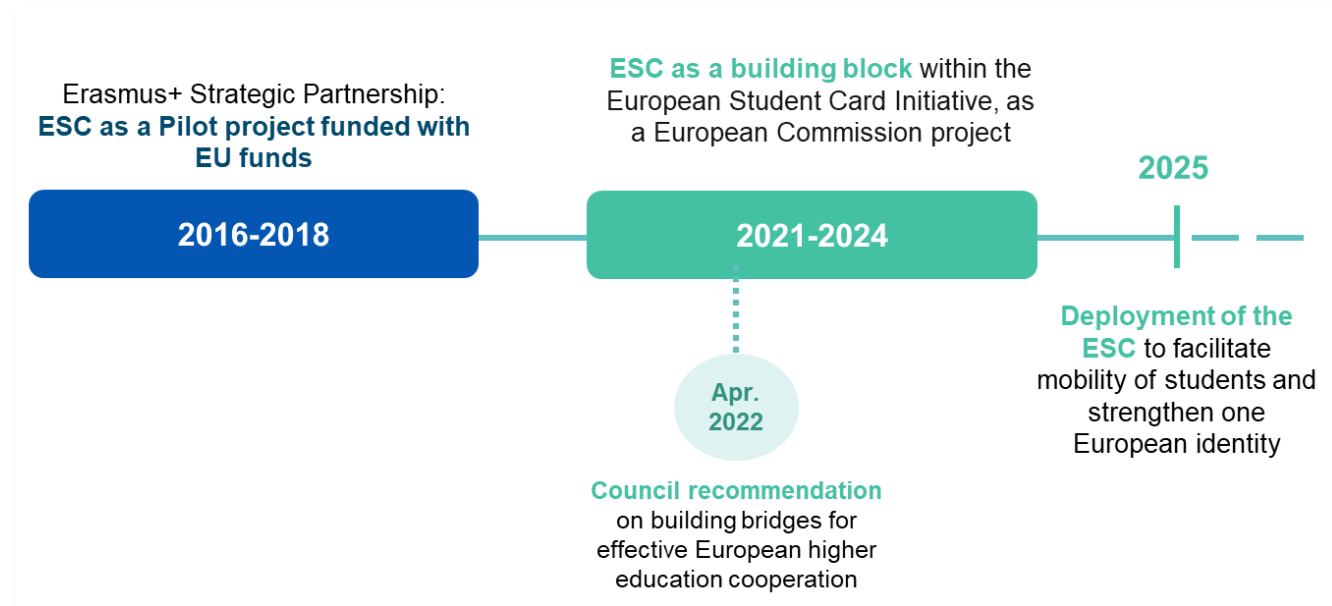
A historical look into the ESC

The European Student Card (ESC) started as an EU-funded project in 2016 and has become a **building block of the European Student Card Initiative** (ESCI). The ESC's goal is to allow **mobile students** to **easily authenticate their student status** and access **on-and off-campus services**. The ESC **adds a European dimension** to existing student cards.

Goal for 2025: higher education institutions in all EU Member States and third countries associated to the Erasmus+ programme issuing European Student Cards.

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**; and,

- Encourages Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to **make full use of digital tools for mobility.**

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership:
ESC as a Pilot project funded with EU funds

2016-2018

ESC as a building block within the European Student Card Initiative, as a European Commission project

2021-2024

2025

Apr. 2022

Council recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation

Deployment of the ESC to facilitate mobility of students and strengthen one European identity

Historical timeline of the ESC

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1 ESC BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)

The ESCI is composed of **three building blocks**:

- **Erasmus Without Paper:** connects higher education institutions in Erasmus+ countries via the EWP digital network.
- **Erasmus+ App:** provides students with useful information before, during, and after their mobility abroad.
- **European Student Card:** allows students to validate their student status when on mobility abroad and access on- and off-campus services

European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)

- **Green Erasmus+ Programme administration** through paperless workflows;
- **Digital Erasmus+ Programme** through once-only principle and efficiency gains for mobility management;
- **More inclusive Erasmus+ Programme** through more more tailored communication with students;
- **Smoother mobility experience** abroad for students and a sense of European student identity;
- **Underpinned by the Erasmus Charter Higher Education:** commitment to digitalisation by all Erasmus+ participating higher education institutions.

European Student Card (ESC)

ESC BACKGROUND AND 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 **student status**.

- Gain access to a **wider network of users**
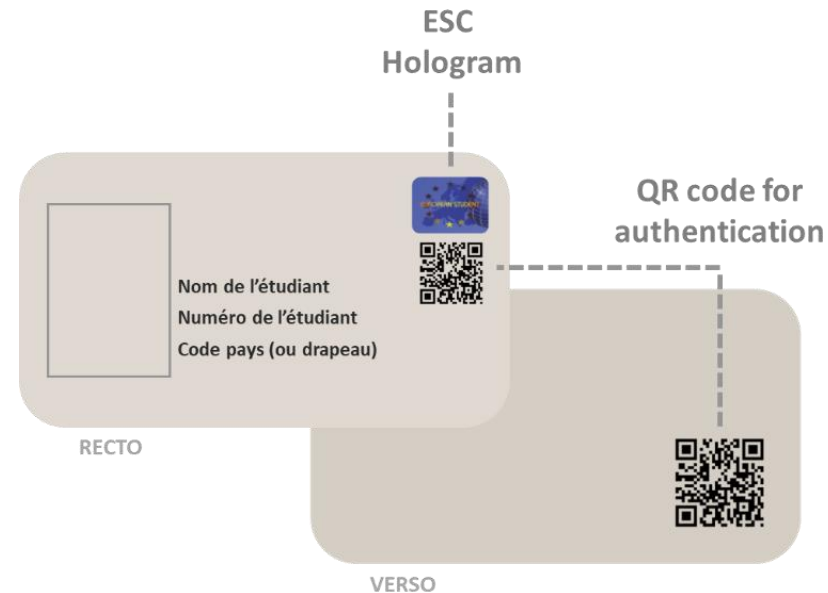
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ESC BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

European Student Card features

Depending on the institution issuing the card, the ESC can take a **digital** or **a physical format** and can be included in student cards **with any type of technology** (e.g., chip technology, magnetic stripe, etc). The ESC is composed of the following features:

ESCN - European Student Card Number

European Student Card QR code

ESC Hologram

QR code for authentication

Nom de l'étudiant
Numéro de l'étudiant
Code pays (ou drapeau)

RECTO

VERSO

ESI - European Student Identifier

European Student Card hologram
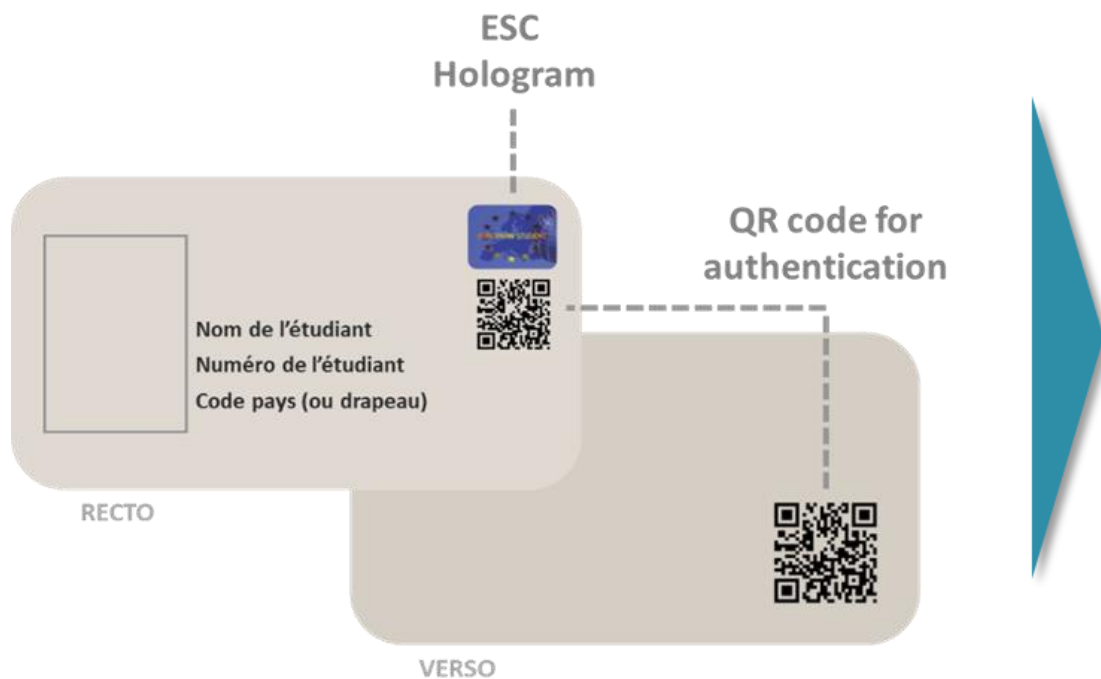
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ESC BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Examples of European Student Cards

Depending on the issuing process of each higher education institution (HEI), the ESC can be issued **directly** by the HEI or **co-branded**.

1 **ESC BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

Current state-of-play of the ESC adoption

17 countries issuing active cards

2.33M
Students with an active card*

276
Card issuers issuing active cards

834
Card issuers registered in the ESC-R

5.55M
Holograms requested
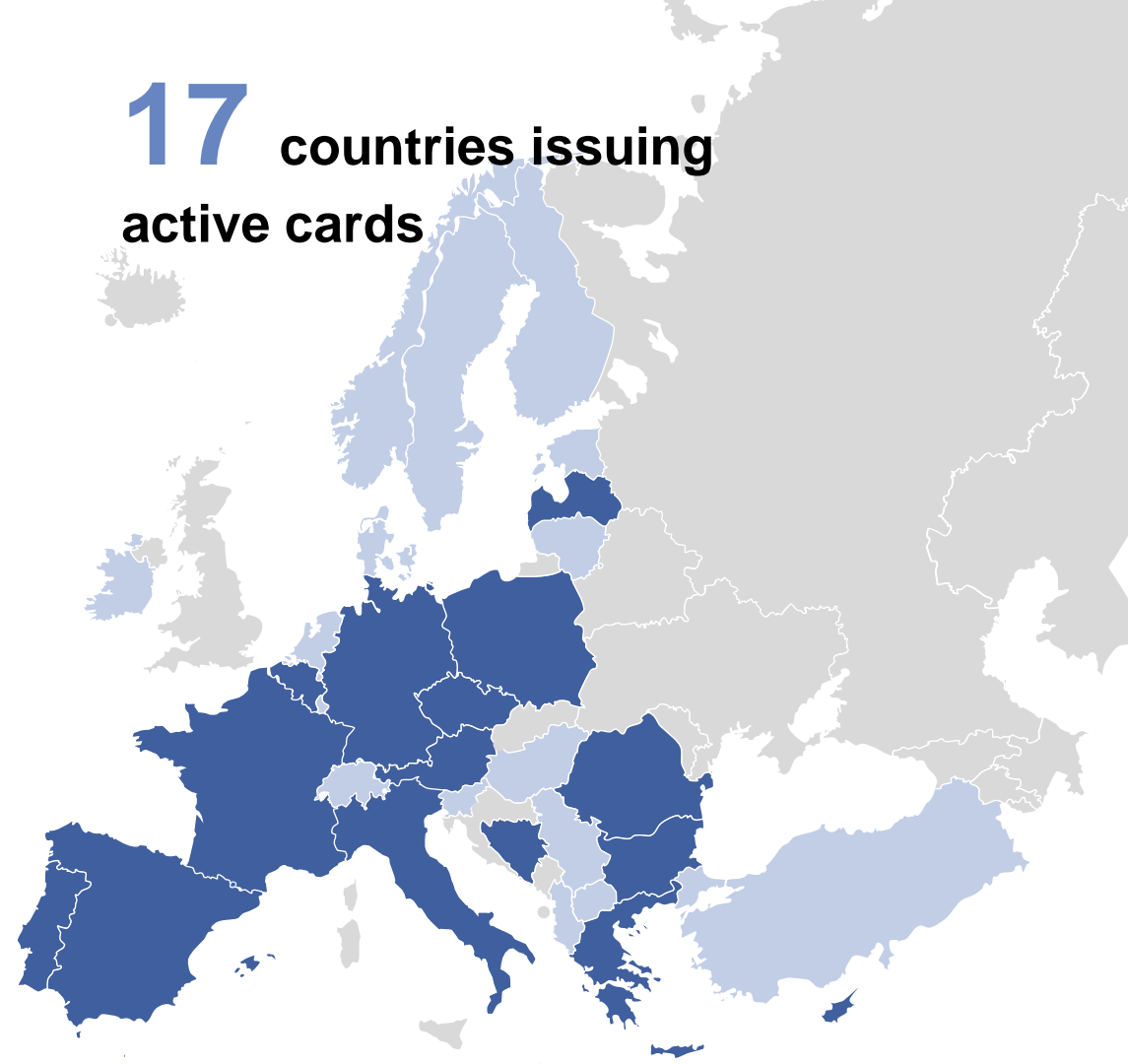
Countries connected to the ESC-R

Countries connected to the ESC-R and issuing active cards

Data from May 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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State-of-play of the ESC - Communication initiatives

The communication strategy aims at **reaching relevant ESC stakeholders** (e.g., students, higher education institutions, service providers, card providers) to promote the ESC and inform them about the **benefits of the ESC** using different channels (including events, social media, etc.).

ESCI / ESC Comm assets

- How the ESCI building blocks interact?

- The European Student Card in brief

- Welcome to the European Student Card!

- ESCI Newsletter
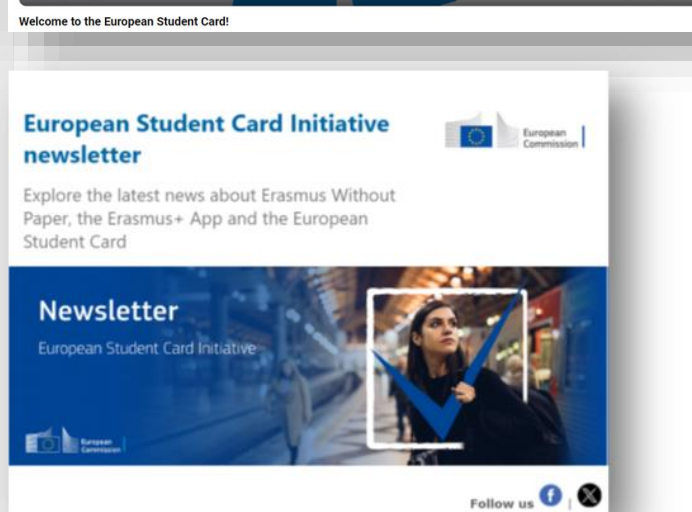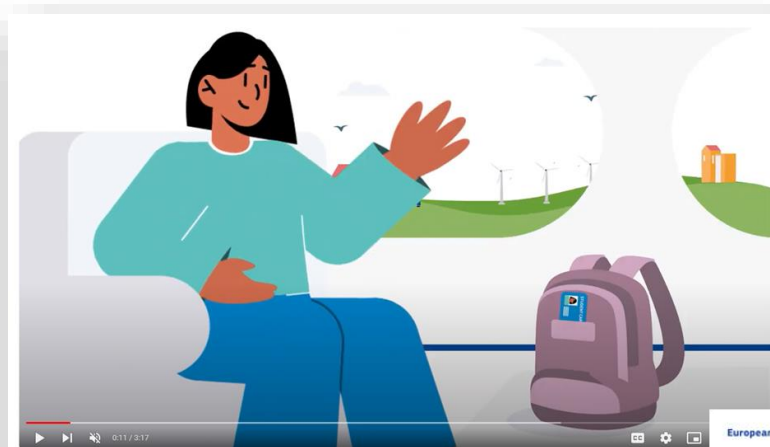
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2 | How does the ESC work?

On the **digital** and **physical** cards issued by the card issuers, the hologram and QR code can be added.

Card issuers can decide how to integrate the QR code and hologram on their current cards.

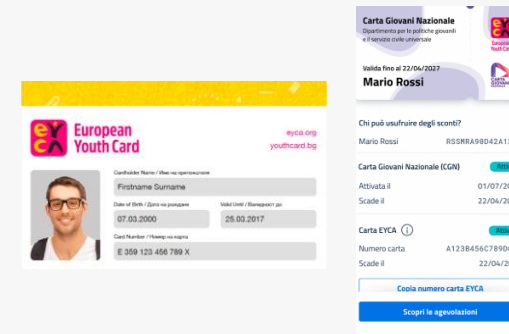**Co-branding** with other cards (i.e. ISIC, EYCA, ESN cards) is possible.

The minimum recommended size of the QR code is **15mm** x **15mm.**

Holograms must be requested from the ESC hologram provider, SELP.

Only the QR code can be added on an extra screen or in a dedicated section of the app for digital cards.
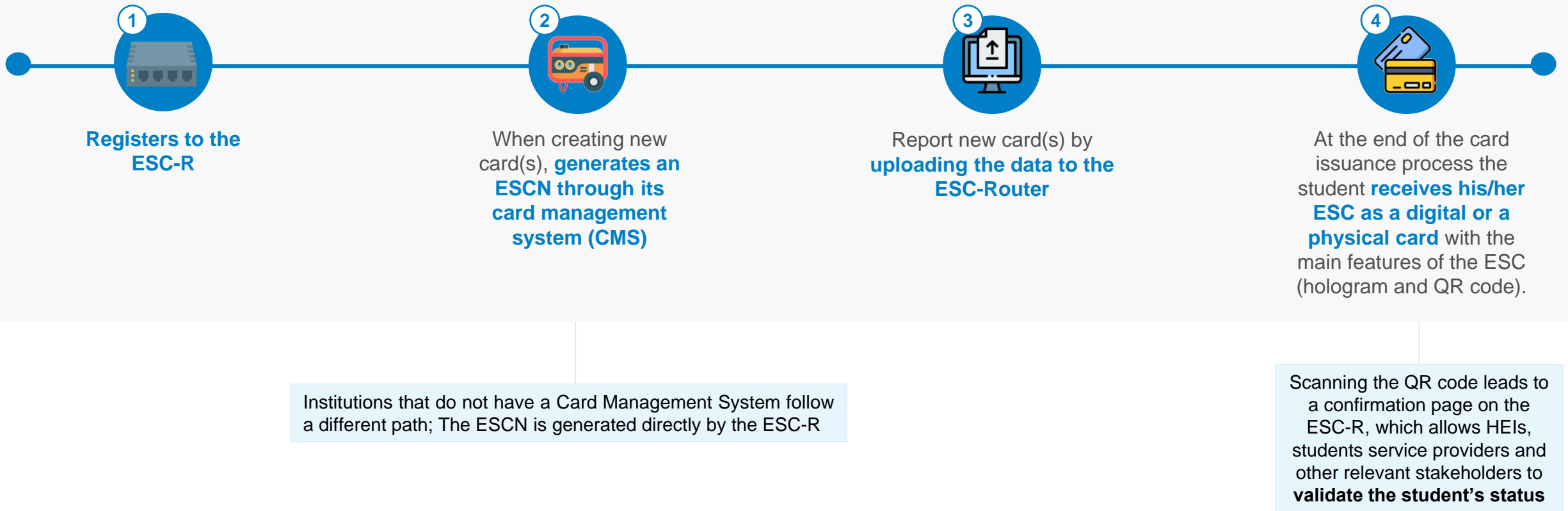
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2 | HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

ESC Router – Issuing active ESCs

The card issuing and activation process includes the generation of ESC features, including the ESCN and the QR code. In addition, the student data is uploaded to the ESC-R to activate the ESC. At the end of the process, the student receives the student card.

1 **Registers to the ESC-R**

2 When creating new card(s), **generates an ESCN through its card management system (CMS)**

3 Report new card(s) by **uploading the data to the ESC-Router**

4 At the end of the card issuance process the student **receives his/her ESC as a digital or a physical card** with the main features of the ESC (hologram and QR code).

Institutions that do not have a Card Management System follow a different path; The ESCN is generated directly by the ESC-R

Scanning the QR code leads to a confirmation page on the ESC-R, which allows HEIs, students service providers and other relevant stakeholders to **validate the student's status**

2 HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

Process of validation of student status

The process by which cardholders gain access to student service provider services includes the demand of services from the student to the service provider and the verification of student status. Different ways of validating student status exist, leveraging either **physical or digital** student cards. The verification of the student status can be done manually through the website or through the QR code or chip.

1 The **cardholder demands a service** to the student service provider

2 The service provider **asks for student status verification**

3 The cardholder **presents their European Student Card**

4 The student service provider **verifies the student status**

See next slide

5 The **student status is verified**, and the student service provider provides **access to its service**
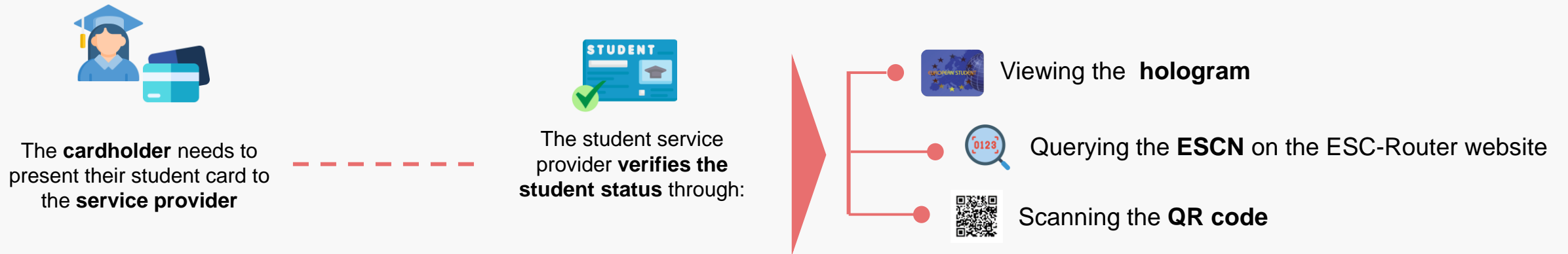
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HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

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.
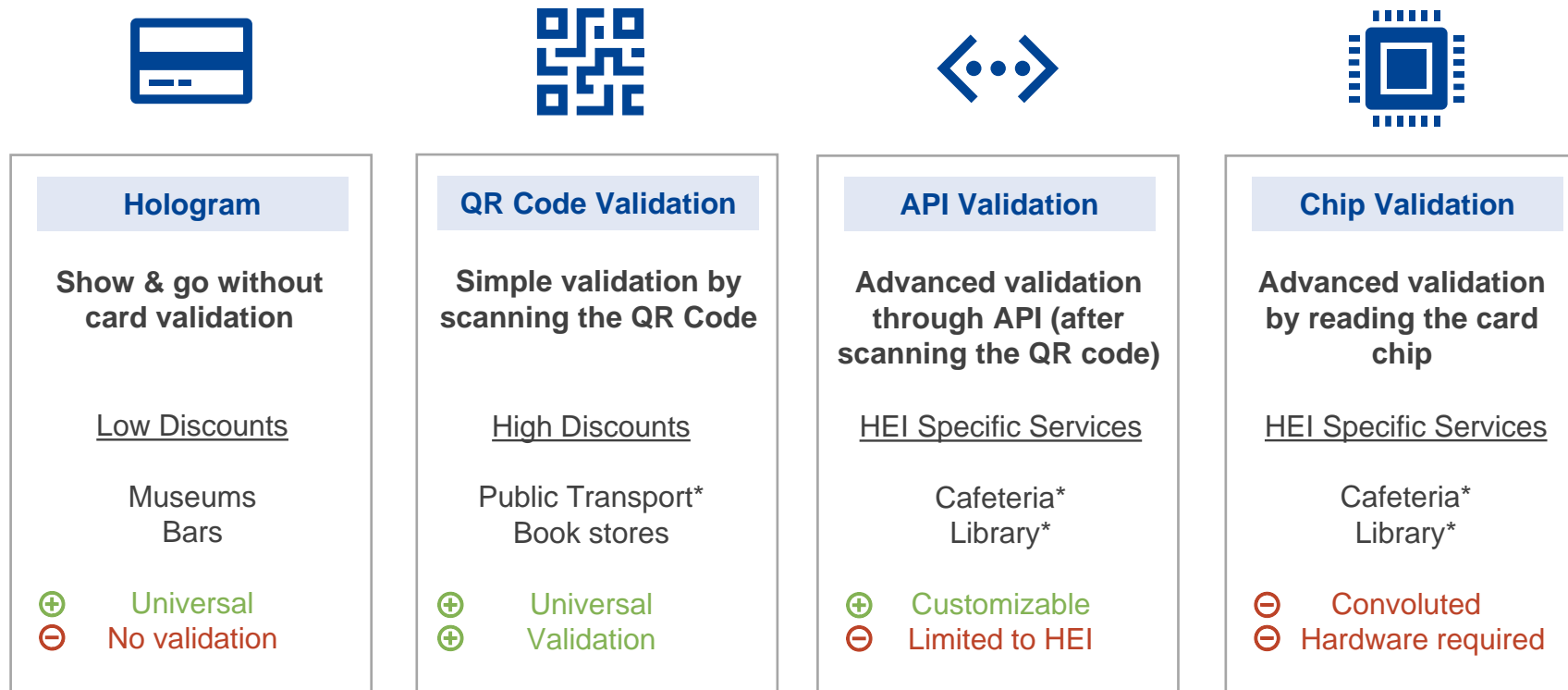
The **cardholder** needs to present their student card to the **service provider**

The student service provider **verifies the student status** through:

Viewing the **hologram**

Querying the **ESCN** on the ESC-Router website

Scanning the **QR code**

*In addition, different **levels of validation** can be foreseen.*

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Levels of validation

Different ways of validating student status exist, leveraging either **physical or digital** student cards.

Hologram	**QR Code Validation**	**API Validation**	**Chip Validation**
Show & go without card validation	**Simple validation by scanning the QR Code**	**Advanced validation through API (after scanning the QR code)**	**Advanced validation by reading the card chip**
Low Discounts	High Discounts	HEI Specific Services	HEI Specific Services
Museums Bars	Public Transport* Book stores	Cafeteria* Library*	Cafeteria* Library*
⊕ Universal ⊖ No validation	⊕ Universal ⊕ Validation	⊕ Customizable ⊖ Limited to HEI	⊖ Convoluted ⊖ Hardware required

The level of **security** increases depending on the validation method used.

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* Existing validation methods

HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

ESC Router – Basic principles

The **European Student Card Router (ESC-R) collects basic information on European Student Cards,** allowing HEIs and other card issuers to manage and issues ESCs (directly from their own Card Management System).

Principles of the ESC-R

Higher Education Institutions (or other card issuers) can register to the ESC-R to start issuing European Student Cards to their students.

By making use of the ESC Router, card issuers can:

- Manage and update **information** about their organisation;

- Generate an API key, to **send cards data to the ESC-R** directly from their own Card Management System;

- Issue **new European Student Cards** directly from the ESC-R, generating a ESCN and assigning the card to a student;

- Have access to relevant **technical documentation** (API documentation, QR code specifications, ESCN generator, etc.)

ESC-R Migration

- More **stable and secure infrastructure and environment**

- **Scalable data model** based on EU standards

- Design a **new User Interface** following EU design guidelines.
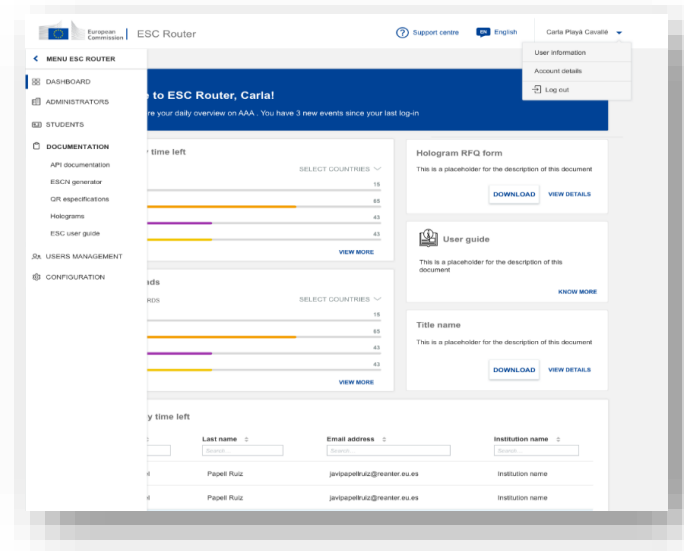
*The existing ESC-R will soon be **migrated** to the European Commission's Cloud with no downtime for current card users*

By **collecting basic information** on the issued European Student Cards, the **ESC-R enables relevant stakeholders** (higher education institutions, service providers, etc) **to validate the status of students**

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across Europe

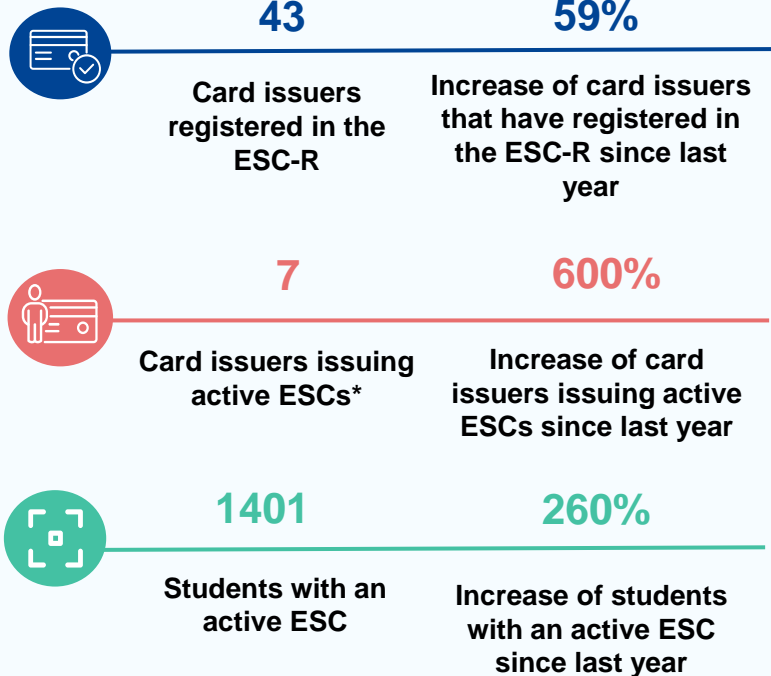facilitate access to student services

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3 | **Germany: Current state-of-play**

3

GERMANY: CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY

Status of ESC adoption in Germany

43
Card issuers registered in the ESC-R

59%
Increase of card issuers that have registered in the ESC-R since last year

7
Card issuers issuing active ESCs*

600%
Increase of card issuers issuing active ESCs since last year

1401
Students with an active ESC

260%
Increase of students with an active ESC since last year

The extracted data is from January 2024

Higher education institutions issuing European Student Cards in Germany:

- Karlsruher Institut für Technologie KIT
- Universität Konstanz
- Universität Tübingen
- RWTH Aachen University
- ESCP Business School - Berlin
- Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg
- Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe
- Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Mannheim
- Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle
- Universitat des Saarlandes
- UniNow GmbH

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GERMANY: CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY

3

Survey results in Germany

| 275 responses | 129 students | 99 IROs | 11 Others | 11 IT Project Managers |

ESC EXPERIENCE

▶ **3 students** who answered the survey **have an ESC: 2** digital and **1** physical

▶ **4** out of **6** HEIs in Germany who are issuing active ESCs, are issuing them with **ESC features:**
  - **2** HEIs are issuing active ESCs with **both** the **ESC holograms and QR code**
  - **1** HEI is issuing digital ESCs only with the **QR code**
  - **1** HEI is issuing ESCs only with the **ESC hologram**

▶ **5** out of **6** HEIs who are issuing active ESCs **adapted their systems and facilities to accommodate ESC features:**
  - Adjusting card management systems to integrate the ESC
  - Changing the design of the card to place the ESC hologram

ESC AWARENESS

▶ **95%** **of card issuers** are aware of the ESC.

▶ **26%** **of students** are aware of the ESC

35% **of students and card issuers who were not aware of the ESC are interested in implementing it,** because 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** are related to **accessing campus facilities**

▶ **1** out of **3** students who have an ESC has access to **offline services through the ESC**

5 higher education institutions have not yet initiated the provision of services through the ESC, but they are **making efforts to start the implementation**

3 GERMANY: CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY

Main challenges identified in Germany

Through the 2023 ESC Online Survey and the participation to relevant meetings, the project team **identified potential obstacles that could hinder the implementation of the European Student Card in Germany**.

OBSTACLES & CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

After some meetings with German higher education institutions, the project team identified that…

▶ Some higher education institutions are concerned about **data privacy due to the data storage in the ESC-R**.

Some Federal and Local laws in Germany **forbid offering services to students who are not registered in a German address** in the **same Land**, and each *Land* has different regulations.

▶ Some stakeholders expressed that student service providers are sometimes **reluctant to integrate and link their services with digital European student cards due to concerns about the security of student verification methods** (i.e. QR code scanning).

REMINDER

*The new ESC-R hosted in the EC's cloud ensures a more **stable and secure infrastructure and environment***

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3 GERMANY: CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY

Analysis on legal requirements and implications of centralising data in Germnay

As the European Student Card Router (ESC-R) undergoes a migration to the European Commission's cloud servers and to ensure the alignment with data privacy regulations, the ESC Project Team conducted a legal analysis to identify potential challenges concerning data residency and privacy considerations.

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- The analysis aimed to compare country-specific regulations on **data privacy, data localisation** and **data residency**.

- The overall assessment offers a **clear guidance on navigating the legal landscape** regarding data residency.

- **Germany has robust data protection laws**, including national legislations regarding the governing data processing, storage, and transfer.

- Germany's legal diversity –due to the different legislations across *Länder*- complicates the centralisation of data, which requires a **further understanding of regional differences** and guidance from Data Protection Authorities.

- Germany **prioritises protecting personal data and complying with data protection regulations**, even though there are **no specific data residency requirements within the education sector**.

*The legal analysis showed **no obstacles against the implementation of the ESC in a centralised manner as long as the ESC-R ensures the necessary protection level** put in place by the GPDR and the German law requirement.*

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GERMANY: CURRENT STATE-OF-PLAY

Success story: Humboldt University

As part of an internal **"ESC Champions" initiative**, the team has conducted interviews with different countries and higher education institutions, which had successfully implemented the ESC. In Germany, the team interviewed and collected feedback from representatives of **Humboldt University (Berlin).**
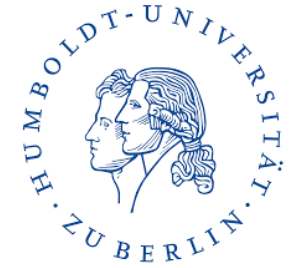
HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY – MAIN HIGHLIGHTS

- Humboldt University chose to **implement the ESC features** (i.e., ESC hologram) to **prevent the spread of counterfeit cards.** This ensured a consistent card design across the 10 different institutions in Berlin represented by Humboldt University.

- Humboldt University's vision is to provide to **all incoming mobility students equal access to all services available in the campus**, regardless of their programme or length of stay.

- The **QR code has not been widely implemented, due to the limitation of accessing services** for students that are not registered in a German address in the same *Land* as the one in which they are studying.

- In terms of good practices for the effective implementation of the ESC, the university suggests other **higher education institutions to issue European student cards in digital format**.

- Humboldt University mentioned as well that **there are no issues regarding data protection rules in Germany**, since the higher education institution does not transfer personal data to the ESC-R and would request students' consent in advance.

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4 │ **Next steps**

4 NEXT STEPS

Moving forward with the European Student Card

The ESC project team is available for follow-up meetings for further discussions, clarifications, and technical support.

Launch of the new ESC-Router on the European Commission cloud

Summer 2024

Launch of the **third European Student Card Online Survey** 2024

Q4 2024

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4 NEXT STEPS

How to remain engaged with the European Student Card?

The ESC project team is available for follow-up meetings for further discussions, clarifications, and technical support.

ESCI Newsletter

▶ Successfully launched in April with **1.3K subscribers.** Issued on a **bi-monthly basis.**

ESCI Newsletter

Feedback Form

▶ **Share your suggestions and concerns regarding the ESC.**

▶ After the session, you will be receiving a follow-up e-mail to gather additional relevant inputs and questions regarding the European Student Card.

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5 | Resources

5 RESOURCES
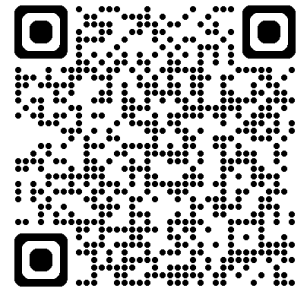
ESC Material & Resources

ESCI Website

Stay tuned on the **latest news about the ESCI and the ESC** through accessing the ESCI website.
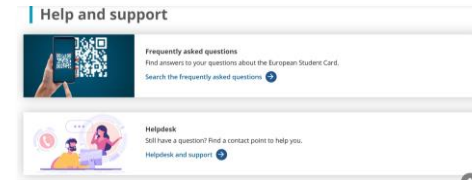
Scan me!

How does the ESC work?

On the ESCI website you can also find an explanation of **how to get started with the ESC**

Scan me!

FAQs

FAQs are also available under the ESCI Website

| Help and support |
| Frequently asked questions |
| Find answers to your questions about the European Student Card. |
| Search the frequently asked questions |
| Helpdesk |
| Still have a question? Find a contact point to help you. |
| Helpdesk and support |

ESCI Helpdesk

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

esc.support@nttdata.com

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6 | **Q&A – Interactive session**

THANK YOU!

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2021 - 2027

Prepared by:

NTT DaTa

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