



The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

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"In order to unlock the full potential of the EHEA and ensure the implementation of Bologna key commitments, we are adopting a **structured peer support** approach based on solidarity, cooperation and mutual learning.

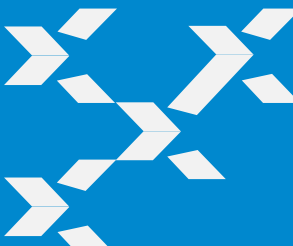
In 2018-2020, **thematic peer groups** will focus on **three key commitments** crucial to reinforcing and supporting quality and cooperation inside the EHEA:

- a three-cycle system compatible with the overarching framework of qualifications of the EHEA and first and second cycle degrees scaled by ECTS
- compliance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention,
- and quality assurance in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area"

Paris Communiqué - May 2018

What is ECTS?

- Instituted in 1989 within the Erasmus programme
- Used for accumulating credits in institutions' degree programmes
- Helps in the design, description and delivery of programmes
- Can be applied to all programmes and all kinds of learning contexts
- Increases transparency and comparability of degrees and has a positive impact on the level of trust in the quality of the programmes



What is the ECTS Guide?

The ECTS Users' Guide offers guidelines for implementing ECTS and links to useful supporting documents.

Official document of the European Higher Education Area.

The guide helps:

- **Students** to understand what's expected of them and evaluate their own achievements
- **Institutions** to design their programmes and ensure that credits are recognised when students move from one university to another
- **Teachers** to deliver their programmes more effectively
- **Stakeholders** to better understand what students have achieved during their studies

Learner-centred system

**Mobility
supporting
documents**

**Learning outcomes;
workload**

ECTS key features

**Recognition of prior
learning; Lifelong
learning**

**Credits:
allocation, award,
accumulation, transfer**

Study abroad with ECTS

Credit mobility

Key supporting documents:

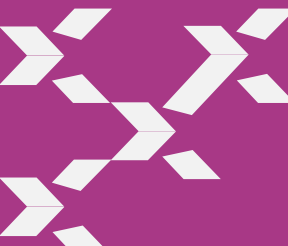
- **Course Catalogue**
- **Learning Agreement**
- **Transcript of Records**
- **Traineeship Certificate**

Before the credit mobility period: the student, sending institution and receiving institution/organisation agree on the programme abroad and formalise a Learning Agreement

After the credit mobility period: the receiving institution provides the sending institution and the student with a Transcript of Records

The golden rule

All credits gained during the period of study abroad or during the virtual mobility – as agreed in the Learning Agreement and confirmed by the Transcript of Records – should be transferred without delay and counted towards the student's degree without any additional work by, or assessment of, the student



EU higher education policy
and the Erasmus+
programme:

stepping up efforts to
improve recognition



What do KA1 Erasmus+ participants report about the recognition of their study periods?

1,350,000+
survey responses



Credit mobility

ECTS recognition



2017

82.1%

Full academic recognition



75% in 2014,
according to participants



After mobility



Top reasons cited for not receiving full recognition

I decided not to have some courses recognised **22%**

The course content was not accepted by the sending institution **19%**

The number of credits recognised is different from figure agreed in the final learning agreement **17%**

Problems with grade conversion **11%**

Professor(s) at the sending institution did not give approval **11%**





2014

Improved Learning
Agreements introduced
under Erasmus+, gradually
improving recognition



2018

Council Recommendation
on Automatic Mutual
Recognition



100%

Recognition target



Council Recommendation on automatic mutual recognition

A qualification in one Member State is automatically recognised in the others to grant access to further learning.



The outcomes from a learning period abroad are automatically and fully recognised.



Education and training institutions remain free to make independent decisions on admission to their programmes.

What does this mean for Higher Education?

Member States

- Improved transparency and trust:
- Qualifications frameworks
- Bologna Process structures
- Quality assurance
- Transparency tools
- **National guidance and support for higher education institutions**

Commission

- Targeted support and funding
- Synergies between transparency tools
- Exploration of digital solutions



European



Improving the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education

Going digital - The European Student Card Initiative



ECTS and flexible learning opportunities

Blended learning

Open Educational
Resources (OER)

New forms of open
online learning

Continual
Professional
Development (CPD)

Still fit for purpose?

Massive Open Online
Courses (MOOCs)

Work-based
learning

Self-directed
learning

Individual learning
pathways





Thank You

