



EMREX User Group
Yearly plan 2023



1. The EMREX User Group (EUG)

According to the statutes, the EMREX User Group is formed by organizations in the EMREX network and other interested parties to manage the network and to advance the use of EMREX. The abbreviation is EUG.

The purpose of the EMREX User Group is to:

- maintain the EMREX network including architecture and specifications,
- support the uptake of EMREX in new countries and with new services,
- plan and support dissemination activities around EMREX,
- maintain the EMREX policy agreement to be signed by all full members,
- contribute to relevant standardization work, especially around ELMO.

2. Yearly activities at a glance

The activities apart from “regular activities” such as membership, information dissemination consists mostly of building a more robust technical network and taking part in ongoing activities around us. It is no surprise that many of the items in this document are the same as last year. Since funds are limited, the tasks must be shared between the members according to their own capacity. All activities now and in future shall follow and contribute to the strategic goals of EMREX and ELMO defined and aligned in 2022. Mainly the activities are the following.

- Industrialize the EMREX registry.
- Investigate new needs for changes to the ELMO format.
- Support and maintain changes to the ELMO format
- Maintain the emrex.eu website and maintain information material.
- Strengthen the collaboration with ongoing EU-projects as well as other parties.
- Send regular newsletters to the members.
- Seek to increase membership



Specific goals and targets are set in the detailed descriptions. The outcomes of all activities should be presented at the Annual Assembly in 2024.

3. Information

All information material should be written in English as a standard but it is in a format that can be changed (like MS Word) so that every member may translate material to their own language.

3.1. Website emrex.eu

For 2023 the main goal will be to maintain and update the website regularly. The EMREX EC will start with minor improvements and updates to keep the website up-to-date to current standards and needs.

3.2. Information material

Information material should exist mainly on the webpage. It should be updated at all times and easily accessible by the members. Material that should be available is:

- A general PowerPoint presentation of EMREX
- An electronic document with an overview of EMREX
- A text suitable for email with a summary of EMREX.
- A contact list for all EMPs and Clients, plus partners.

3.3. Newsletter

A newsletter with highlights from activities, conferences and other events should be sent out to the members, at least three times during 2023.

3.4. Dissemination

As 2022 was a year with almost no COVID-19 restrictions the EC want to continue the active in-person contribution to different conferences and other meetings. The goal for 2023 is to take part, in-person, in conferences and other relevant occasions as much as possible.



- At the EUNIS conference in Vigo, Spain, EMREX will be part of a pre-conference security workshop (13-16 June)
- The Annual assembly will take place in Oslo, Norway (9th of May).
- EMREX will be present at the EAIE conference with a stand in the exhibition hall in Rotterdam, Netherlands (26-29 September)
- EMREX will be present at the GDN conference in Amman, Jordan (17-20 October)
- EMREX, together with University of Gottingen and University of Talca, will host a hybrid workshop for the Higher Education Institutions in Chile (8th of June)
- EMREX will part of two consortia working on the Digital 2.0 call, namely DC4EU and EBSI Vector.
- Contacts will continue with different EU-projects, such as EUDI-wallets, SDG, EBSI and Europass / EDC.

4. EMREX register

When the EMREX network started the EMREX registry (EMREG) was used as a lookup service for clients. This solution was not ideal due to the vulnerability of a single installation so when the Erasmus Without Paper-project (EWP) developed a more modern discovery service within EWP it was decided to switch to this. Although this had a lot of advantages for the network, it has to be mentioned that EMREX is a minor player in a register that focusses on the Erasmus project. Next to that there is growing need for some organizations to improve the registrations of clients to improve the quality of the services to users. And, the EC, now that the network is growing strongly, would like to improve the overview of connected organizations to enhance the dissemination to EMC's and EMP's

The Executive Committee have explored different solutions for the registry ranging from the completion of the move to EWP registry to creating our own registry again. The source code for the EWP registry is open source so we could run our own registry with the same standard as now. DUO (NL) has offered to build and maintain this software. The EC accepted this offer and has asked DUO to start working on this solution. This will be done in steps:

1. Host and maintain the current Register in 2023



2. Build a new register, with possibility to register Clients, in 2024
3. Enhance the register with new features in 2024

It is worthwhile mentioning that the registration of Clients will be on a voluntary basis and it will be an optional service for EMP's to ask the register for additional information about the requesting EMC. The network will be updated via newsletters.

5. Collaboration

There are lots of initiatives going on in the area of IT solutions for student data exchange. EMREX plays an important part in this domain which must be communicated at every possibility.

5.1. Ongoing EU-projects

EMREX has working communication channels with EU projects that work in the same area. It is still important to strengthen the collaboration with ongoing or recently finished EU projects. We aim at creating lasting partnerships with all projects concerning student mobility. One more goal for 2023 is to proactively connect with European projects regarding digitalization of education:

- EMREX partners are part of consortia working on the Digital 2.0 call, mostly DC4EU but to some extent EBSI Vector. The goal of DC4EU is to create a digital wallet with among other things possibility to bear student record data.
- EMREX participates in the PIM-project, led by the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, for exchanging result data between Germany and existing EMREX countries. The project sees EMREX as an exchange format and wants to go to production in Q2/Q3 of 2023 in cooperation with the CaMS manufacturers.
- EMREX has an ongoing liaison with Europass and DG EMPLOY on the ELM-format of Europass, to ensure the compatibility with ELMO.
- EMREX is working with DG Digit on building a bridge for the Single Digital Gateway regulation as a sectoral system that is compliant with the Once Only Technical System (OOTS)



5.2. Other collaboration opportunities

It is equally important to seek collaboration outside EU. EMREX does not set any boundaries. There are some connections known already and they should be continuously maintained. New possible collaborations should also be proactively looked for and followed up. Examples of connections are CSSD, PESC and Groningen declaration Network

EMREX is involved in a project run by the Nordic Council of Ministers, [Achieving the World's Smoothest Cross-Border Mobility](#). EMREX is promoted for countries participating in the project as a solution for supporting exchange of credentials in *Studying in another Nordic country or the Baltic region*.

6. Membership retention and marketing

EMREX User Group does not need members just for attaining high numbers. Each member should support the EMREX idea, for instance by building an EMP, Client or by other forms of collaboration. However, it is imperative in the long run that more countries start using EMREX. Therefore, energy must be focused on marketing and helping interested parties to install EMREX software, especially for increase the use of the existing network which has great potential.

The specific goal for 2023 is that we ask the organizations that are running an EMP to promote EMREX more on a national level so we can aim for a 50% growth in exchanges. Next to that we want to connect 2 new countries and 10 new organizations to the network.

7. Standards work

The standard used for data transport, the ELMO format, needs to be maintained and updated according to new demands. Better support for recognition and including results of recognition into ELMO was investigated in 2022. During the year the goal is to complete the changes in ELMO to accommodate this.

Furthermore, we intend to take part in and support projects with the goal to utilize eID national and cross-border nodes for authorization in the EMREX network.



Work will be done within a liaison with Europass and DG EMPLOY to ensure portability between the ELMO and the ELM formats.