



EMREX User Group
Yearly plan 2024



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.

- Rebuild EMREG for EMP’s and EMC, hosted by DUO
- Investigate new needs for changes to the ELMO format.
 - Release of ELMO 2.0
 - Align ELMO with SDG requirements
- 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 2025.

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 2024 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. In 2024 all relevant data on the website will be updated.

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 2024.

3.4. Dissemination

The EC finds it important to present the development of EMREX as much as possible on in-person conferences. The goal for 2024 is to take part, in-person, in conferences and other relevant occasions as much as possible.



- At the EUNIS conference in Athens, Greece, EMREX will be part of a pre-conference workshop about digital credentials. Next to that the EC will do a co-presentation with DG Digit about the EMREX-OOTS bridge (4-7 June)
- The Annual assembly will take place in Stockholm, Sweden (23th of April).
- EMREX will be present at the EAIE conference in Toulouse, France (17-20 September)
- EMREX will be present at the GDN conference in San Diego, United States (7-10 October)
- EMREX will continue their work with two consortia 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 protocol

As a pre-conference Workshop at the EUNIS 2023 Congress in Vigo in Spain, a joint workshop with the EUNIS special interest group on security was held with the focus on assessing the security and privacy aspects of EMREX. The insights and recommendations from the workshop have been very useful for the EMREX community and contributes to enhancing the security and privacy frameworks of EMREX. This has resulted in two proposals that will be presented at the annual assembly in April 2024:

1. Add response mode to EMREX

Currently EMREX uses a POST request to submit the ELMO data back to the client. The client has to handle the processing of the ELMO data, and has to redirect the user back to the client flow. The EC proposes to support another way to get the ELMO data from the EMP to the client, where the client is able to FETCH the data from the EMP using a GET request.

2. Support GET on initial EMREX request

The initial call to the EMP may need to be redirected through an authentication system before they can be processed by the EMP. These redirects are usually able to handle GET requests without any problems. Setting up POST requests to work with this can



be very difficult or not properly possible since it may pose security risks in other situations. Also, a POST request will require re-authentication at the EMP which may not be the desired effect. The EC proposes to change the initial request to support GET as well as POST. This specification needs to be registered in the new EMREG.

5. 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 now that the network is growing strongly, the EC would like to improve the overview of connected organizations to enhance the dissemination to EMC's and EMP's

1. DUO (NL) will present their plans for a new EMREG at the annual assembly in April 2024. The Network needs to review the proposal and decide if they agree with the suggested route. The proposal of DUO consists of building and hosting a new EMREG in 2024 and
2. The possibility to register EMC's

Proposal on the governance of the registry

The registration of EMREX clients also results to changes in the statutes. 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. This will be part of the governance proposal and open for discussion during the annual assembly at April 23, 2024.



6. 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.

6.1. 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. Sikt, LADOK and GovPart are working on a ELM-ELMO convertor, release is expected in the summer of 2024.
- 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, went live in Q4 2024, 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). Release of the bridge is expected in June 2024

6.2. 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*.

7. 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.

The specific goal for 2024 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.

8. 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 2.0 was released in the beginning of 2024.

Furthermore, we intend to keep ELM and ELMO aligned as much as possible, also due to the fact that EMREX organizations are working on a convertor. As mentioned in chapter 6.1 EMREX will investigate to add SDG requirements, such as proof of enrolment in secondary education, to ELMO 2.1.