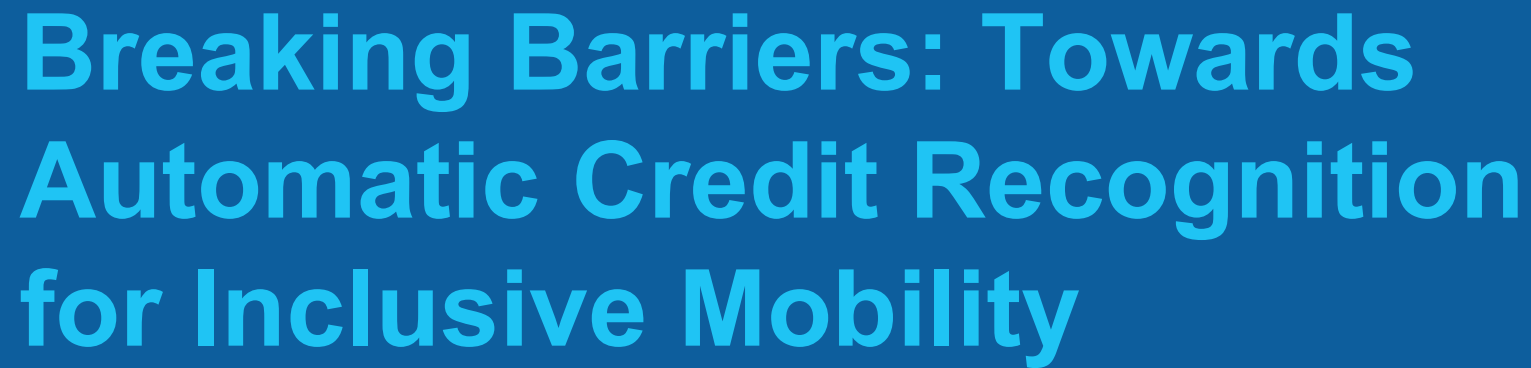




European Students' Union







What is ESU?



1. **Umbrella organisation** founded in **1982**
1. Based in **Brussels** (BELGIUM)
1. **43 National Unions of Students (NUS)** from **40 countries**
1. **20 million students** across Europe
1. Representing & promoting educational, social, economic and cultural interests
1. Towards the European Union, the Bologna Follow-Up Group, the Council of Europe and UNESCO





What does ESU do?

1. Representing the interest of students at the European level
1. Working towards the European Union, the Bologna Follow-Up Group, the Council of Europe and UNESCO
1. Advocacy work, support for members (NUSes), events and projects

Relevant political issues right now

- Social dimension of Higher Education
- Housing
- Student-centred Digitalisation
- Academic Freedom and Students at risk
- Next MFF
- Student representation in European University Alliance
- etc.



Project partners



Universität
Marburg





Summary of the project

- **Problem:** Over 20% of mobile students must retake exams or courses after returning home, creating extra workload and discouraging mobility.
- **Policy Context:** Since the **2018 EU Council Recommendation** on automatic recognition, progress has been made (e.g. Erasmus+ “automatic recognition” checkbox), but **implementation remains uneven** across Member States.
- **Current Developments:** The **European Commission** stresses the need for improvement ahead of the **2024 Council Recommendation on Quality Assurance and Recognition**.
- **AUREA’s Aim:** Support **automatic recognition for credit mobility students** by identifying barriers, analysing existing options, and providing policy recommendations for the future of automatic recognition.

Supporting automatic recognition in credit mobility



Mapping recognition practices

Assess the state of play in recognition for mobile students undergoing credit mobility



Building a common understanding

Create a shared understanding of (full) automatic credit recognition on a European level.



Empowering implementation

Provide higher education institutions with the necessary tools and information to assess their readiness for implementation of automatic credit recognition and fostering evidence-based policy making.



Understanding the current state of play of (full) automatic recognition of credits

- Identify bottlenecks to automatic credit recognition
- Map practices that are restricting recognition
- Ensure holistic view on automatic credit recognition procedures

Report on the current state of automatic credit recognition

Report on the Current State of Automatic Credit Recognition



Prepared by ELTE with other project partners as contributors

Published on 30/10/2025 – available on the project website:

1. Literature review and legal framework analysis
2. Quantitative student data and focus groups analysis with focus on credit recognition procedures
3. Qualitative analysis: focus groups with high education institutions on credit recognition procedures
4. In-depth case studies on credit recognition procedures in HEIs
5. Conclusion and recommendations





Literature and policy review

Frameworks shaping recognition:

- **Lisbon Recognition Convention, Bologna Process, ECTS, Diploma Supplement, Erasmus+**
- Promote transparency and comparability of learning outcomes

Findings:

- 86% of mobile learners experience full recognition, yet major gaps persist

Key barriers:

- Inconsistent Learning Agreements
- Uneven quality assurance
- Fragmented implementation across institutions

Student Experience and Challenges



Insights from student data (ESN, ESU):

- Pre-mobility: unclear course info and limited guidance
- During mobility: administrative complexity and lack of institutional help
- Post-mobility: delayed or opaque recognition decisions

Students often manage recognition alone.

Good practices:

- Proactive institutional support
- Clear digital processes (EWP, Online LA)

Needed improvements:

- Stronger inter-institutional coordination
- Faster, transparent recognition procedures



Institutional Perspectives

From HEI focus groups (EUA, EUF):

- Shared reliance on **ECTS User's Guide** and **digital tools**
- Improved efficiency with Online Learning Agreements and digital workflows

Remaining issues:

- Uneven ECTS allocation and grade conversion
- Administrative burden across stages of mobility
- Erasmus Without Paper not yet harmonized

Responses:

- Mobility alumni mentoring
- Stronger student information systems
- Institutional commitment to improve despite uneven progress



Case studies and Shared Lessons

Universities involved: Ghent, Marburg, Kadri Zeka, ELTE

Findings:

- Institutional maturity varies, but all align with Bologna/Lisbon principles
- **Digitalization drives transparency, speed, and reliability**
- **Clear learning outcomes** reduce ambiguity
- **Student-centred communication** builds trust

Recommendations:

- Establish university-wide recognition standards
- Integrate interoperable digital systems
- Embed feedback loops (student surveys, performance tracking)
- Prioritize compulsory, data-driven recognition practices



Conclusions of the Report

- Bologna tools and EU recommendations established a **solid policy base**.
- Persistent Policy–Practice Gap
- Students face **unclear procedures, delays, and fragmented support**.
- Recognition varies across **countries and institutions**.
- Institutions justify **bureaucracy as quality assurance** but admit uneven digitization and coordination.
- **Automatic recognition remains a policy aspiration rather than a consistent lived reality.**

Recommendations



- Strengthen policy implementation & accountability
- Invest in digital integration & interoperability
- Enhance transparency & student-centred support
- Improve institutional capacity & training
- Promote evidence-based policy & research

Upcoming activities



Stakeholder Practices and Perspectives on Automatic Credit Recognition

- Analyse perceptions of the HEIs, students and stakeholders about barriers to full automatic credit recognition.
- Distinguish a common, European definition of full automatic credit recognition.
- Develop a Framework with Enabling Factors assessing to what extent existing tools and solutions are fit for purpose.
- Validate results through Higher Education Social Labs.

Comparative report on approaches to automatic recognition in credit mobility



Capacity Building and Self-Evaluation

- Develop self-evaluation framework and tool to guide HEIs in taking tangible and actionable steps to fully integrate automatic credit recognition practices in their daily work.
- Roadmap for HEIs for effective automatic credit recognition.
- Online Capacity Building Workshops to further validate the outputs created throughout the project.

Self-evaluation tool for HEIs



Ensure visibility and policy impact

Data Visualisation Scoreboard

- Showcasing comparability of automatic credit recognition across Europe

AUREA Roadmap for Automatic Recognition

- Recommendations to ensure the onboarding of the project results by stakeholders

Policy Conference (March 2027)

Let's stay in touch!

If you would like to continue following the project's activities, please visit the AUREA website:

<https://aurea-project.eu/>

Don't forget to visit the ESU website too: <https://esu-online.org/>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

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Q&A

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!!!**