MyAcademicID

The digital transformation of the **Erasmus programme** means that more **students** will be using **online tools** when applying for grants and accessing electronic services before, during and after their studies abroad. Students need a secure and **easy way to authenticate** themselves online, while higher education institutions and service providers require certainty that the information they receive is **trustworthy**.

What

MyAcademicID (MyAID) is developing a Single European Student eID Scheme for Higher Education by bridging existing digital infrastructure and putting forward a unique European Student Identifier (ESI). Students will be able to register at their universities and apply online for student mobility by using a single set of credentials in full compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

How

MyAID bridges the eIDAS and eduGAIN networks to create a digital environment that supports the secure and seamless exchange of data related to student mobility between higher education institutions and service providers in Europe. This includes the incorporation of the ESI into Erasmus mobility flows and relevant e-services such as the Online Learning Agreement, the Erasmus+ Mobile App, the Erasmus Dashboard and the PhD Hub.

Who benefits

Students
- Enrol at their universities using their national eID
- Apply online for Erasmus mobility
- Access multiple e-services by using a single set of academic credentials
- Supply limited, electronic personal data to the required service providers

Higher Education Institutions
- Securely exchange student data online with other academic institutions
- Facilitate enrolment by enabling students to use electronic credentials
- Reduce paperwork and administrative burden
- Increase trust in information flows

Student service providers
- Reliably verify the student status of their users
- Reach out to larger numbers of students
- Save time
- Rely on decentralised authentication procedures

The European Student Identifier

To allow students to go abroad on mobility, HEIs need to exchange student-related information at different stages of the mobility cycle through a number of electronic tools. To enable integrated information flows, MyAID has put forward the European Student Identifier (ESI) to uniquely identify students across e-services.

The ESI builds on the work done under the European Student Card Project. It is **globally unique**, **persistent**, **non-targeted**, **privacy-preserving**, and **protocol** and **data-transport neutral**.

eIDAS & eduGAIN

The Regulation on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (**eIDAS**) was adopted by the European Union in 2014. It aims to enable secure and seamless electronic interactions between businesses, citizens and public authorities across European borders. Once it will have been fully implemented by all Member States (MS), eIDAS will allow European citizens to use their national eIDs to authenticate and access electronic public services in other MS.

eduGAIN connects identity federations around the world, simplifying access to content, services and resources for the global research and education community. With just one trusted electronic identity managed by the user's institution in an identity federation, the user can access services from other federations that participate in eduGAIN without the need to establish individual bilateral connections between institutions and services.

MyAID has built a bridge between eIDAS and eduGAIN via the eIDAS Swedish node. Still in a testing environment, the connection allows users to authenticate with their national eID into services provided through eduGAIN. Such integration opens the door to linking citizen and academic eIDs, potentially allowing universities to consume eIDAS identities upon enrolment, and ultimately bringing down the silos in which identity and service providers operate today (see figure 1).

Erasmus Goes Digital

In the next Erasmus programme (2021-2027) all the key steps of student mobility workflows will be digitised. Students and mobility coordinators will interact and exchange information in digital format through single entry points. This is possible thanks to tools such as the Erasmus+ Mobile App, the Online Learning Agreement and the Erasmus Dashboard. The Erasmus Without Paper network interconnects the more than 5,800 HEIs that continuously exchange the student information made available by these digital tools.

All these services require students to authenticate electronically. To support this and allow users to login only once, MyAID is developing the necessary infrastructure based on a multi-protocol service provider proxy (see figure 2). This will allow students to enrol at a university using their national eIDs; to authenticate at their home institutions; and to use their institutional credentials to access the Erasmus mobility services and other e-services available at their home and host university*. The service providers will receive only the necessary student attributes they require to offer their service, including the ESI, the students' affiliation and their contact information.
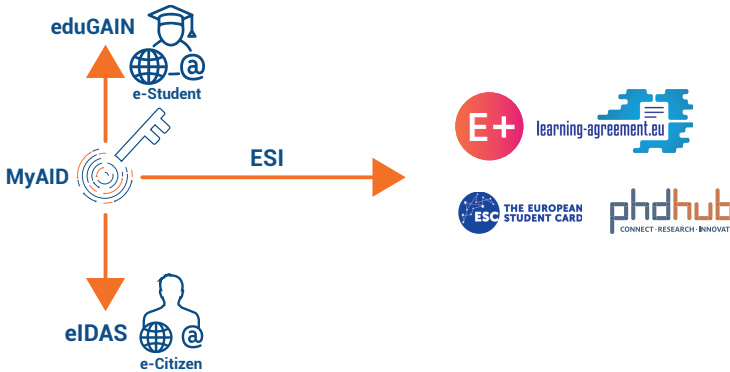
* Within the scope of MyAID, these services will include the European Student Card Portal and the PhD Hub.

Figure 1 - One eID scheme to access them all

Current situation

Identity providers

IdP$_1$ IdP$_2$ IdP$_3$ IdP$_4$

Service providers

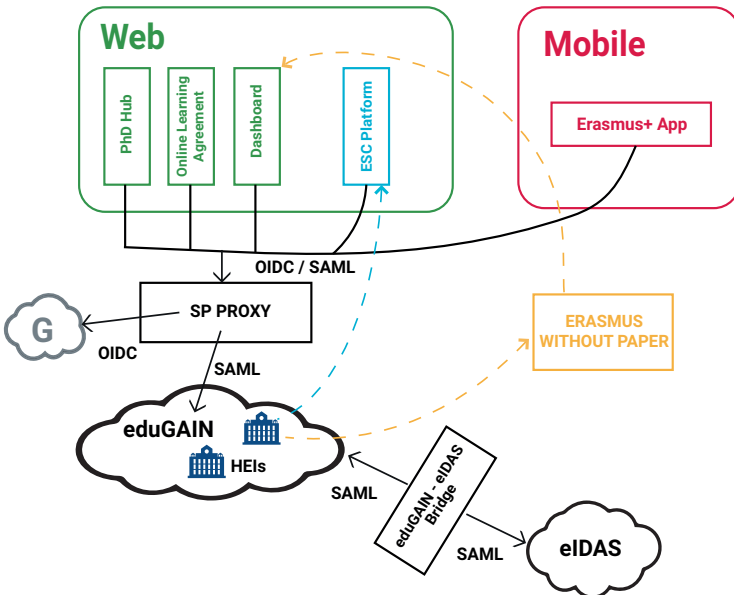SP$_1$ SP$_2$ SP$_3$ SP$_4$
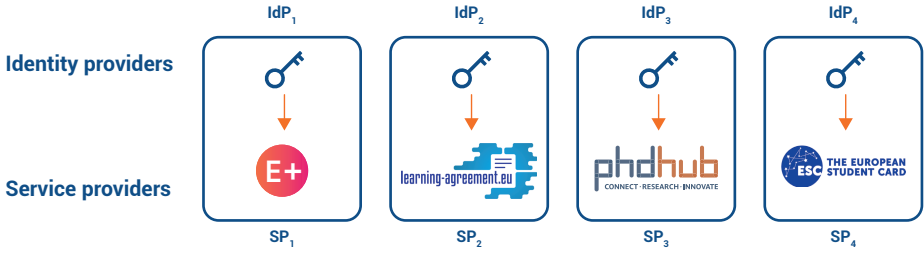
MyAcademicID

Fewer silos and greater access through a single-sign-on. By integrating multiple eIDs from different ecosystems, MyAID provides a single student eID scheme for higher education that allows students to access multiple e-services by using their academic or national credentials.
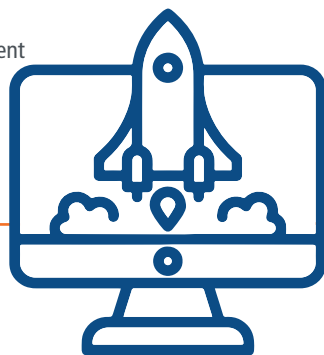
Figure 2 - The MyAID architecture

The multi-protocol SP proxy enables the Erasmus digital tools, the PhD Hub and the ESC Portal to benefit from federated authentication via eduGAIN. The proxy allows users to authenticate at their home institutions to communicate the information requested by the service providers, including the ESI.

Where to start

- Go to the MyAID website and check the technical documentation under the resources and tools section.
  https://myacademic-id.eu
- Check out the documentation available in the Erasmus Without Paper competence centre and choose how to connect to the network: directly, via your third-party service provider, or through the Erasmus Dashboard.
  https://cc.erasmuswithoutpaper.eu
- Implement an action plan in your institution to meet the Erasmus digital roadmap:
  – 2021: online learning agreements and inter-institutional agreements
  – 2022: online nomination of students
  – 2023: online transcript of records
- Check if your institution is participating in eduGAIN, and if not whether this is an option for your institution.
  https://edugain.org
- Liaise with your IT department to support the deployment of the ESI in your local information systems – including the necessary software to participate in your national federation.
- Get in touch with National Research and Education Network (NREN) for more information.
  https://technical.edugain.org/status
- Adopt the European Student Card hologram by registering your current student cards on the European Student Card Portal.
  https://europeanstudentcard.eu
- Check if your institution is working towards enabling student enrolment using eIDAS or national eID credentials.
  https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/e-identification