



European Student Card – ECStA General Assembly

25 november 2024

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AGENDA OF THE SESSION

- 1 ESC background and context
- 2 How does the ESC work?
- 3 IT updates on the ESC
- 4 Future vision for the ESC
- 5 Resources
- 6 Q&A

Simplify your mobility
for students and
Higher Education
Institutions in Europe



#EuropeanStudentCard

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A European Student Card to make it easier to be a mobile student

recognise your student status
across Europe

facilitate access to student services

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1 | ESC background and context

1

ESC BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

A historical look into the ESC

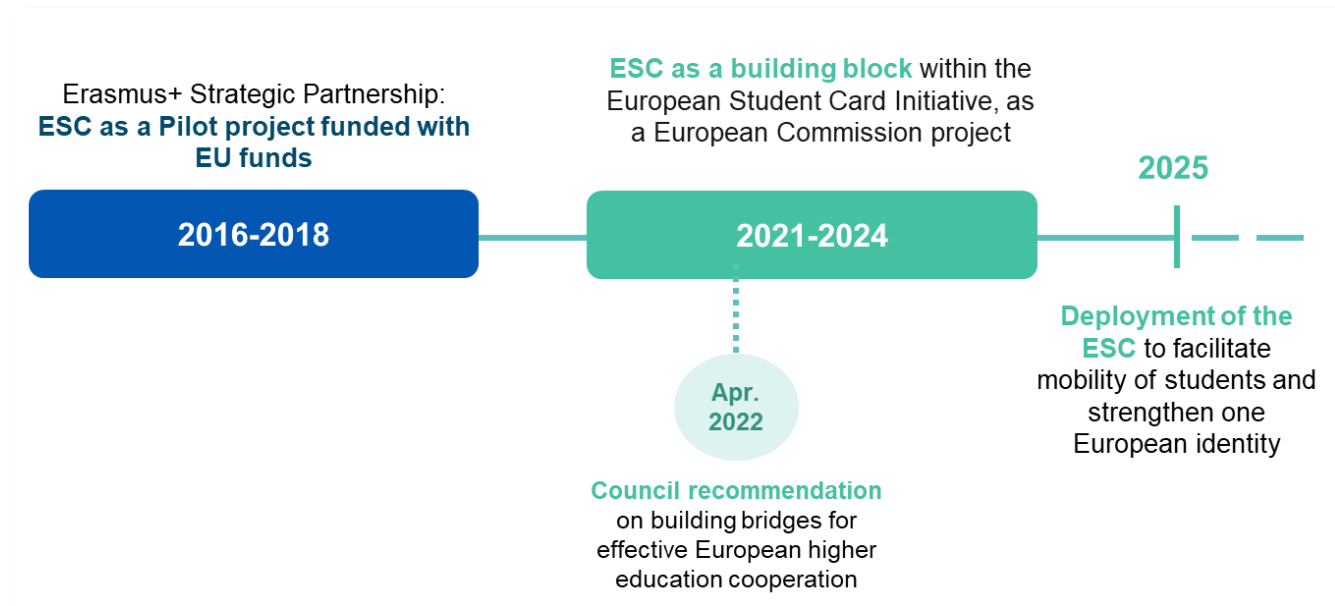
The European Student Card (ESC) started as an EU-funded project in 2016 and has become a **building block of the European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)**. The ESC's goal is to allow **mobile students** to **easily authenticate their student status** and access **on-and off-campus services**. The ESC adds a **European dimension** to existing student cards.

Goal for 2025: higher education institutions in all EU Member States and third countries associated to the Erasmus+ programme issuing European Student Cards.

Council Recommendation 5th April 2022

on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation

- Identifies the **European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)** as a **key action** to achieve this ambition by simplifying administration for institutions;
- Calls on the **Commission and Member States to work together** to widen the ESCI;
- Supports **new emerging mobility cooperation models**; and,
- Encourages Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to **make full use of digital tools for mobility**.



Historical timeline of the ESC

1

ESC BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)

The ESCI is composed of **three building blocks**:

- **Erasmus Without Paper:** connects higher education institutions in Erasmus+ countries via the EWP digital network.
- **Erasmus+ App:** provides students with useful information before, during, and after their mobility abroad.
- **European Student Card:** allows students to validate their student status when on mobility abroad and access on- and off-campus services

European Student Card Initiative (ESCI)



- **Green Erasmus+ Programme administration** through paperless workflows;
- **Digital Erasmus+ Programme** through once-only principle and efficiency gains for mobility management;
- **More inclusive Erasmus+ Programme** through more more tailored communication with students;

- **Smoother mobility experience** abroad for students and a sense of European student identity;
- **Underpinned by the Erasmus Charter Higher Education:** commitment to digitalisation by all Erasmus+ participating higher education institutions.



European Student Card (ESC)

ESC BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Benefits of the ESC

The European Student Card establishes a **common European identity for higher education students** so that they can get their student status verified easily across Europe



Students

- **Simplify access to on- and off-campus services** by confirming their student status recognition at other universities around the **Erasmus+ Programme Countries**



Card issuers

- **Avoid the need to issue a new student card** for mobility students
- **Validate the student status** for incoming mobility students securely
- Expand the institutions' reach and join a **European dimension**



Student service providers

- **Streamline the verification process** of student status
- Gain certainty and a **wider network of users**

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ESC BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Current state-of-play of the ESC adoption



2.34M

Students with an active card*

275

Card issuers issuing active cards



823

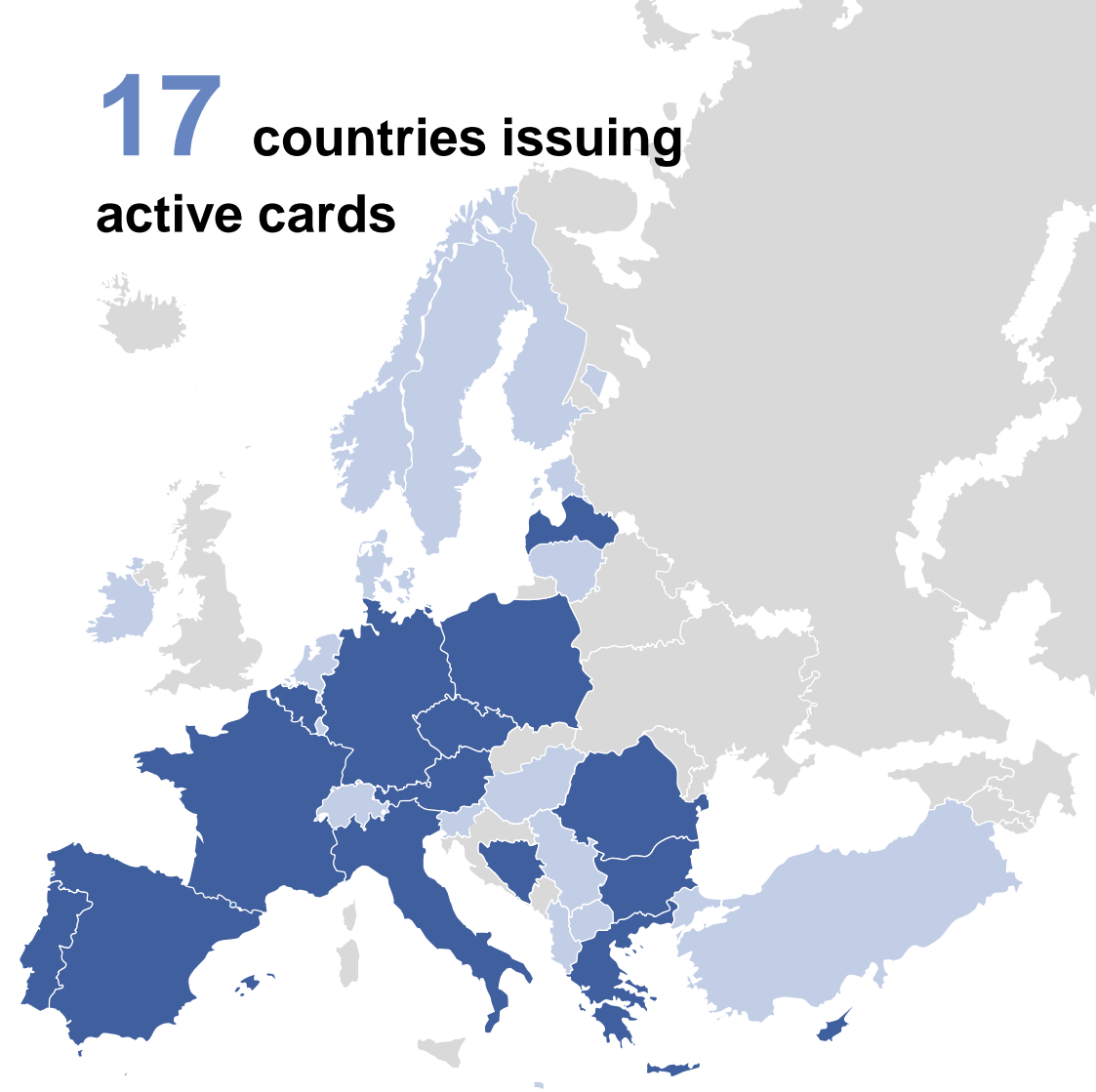
Card issuers registered in the ESC-R



5.55M

Holograms requested

17 countries issuing active cards



Light blue: Countries connected to the ESC-R

Dark blue: Countries connected to the ESC-R and issuing active cards

Data from April 2024

***Active card**: it means that the registration process has been completed and the institution has issued an ESC with both the hologram and QR code updated to the ESC-Router.



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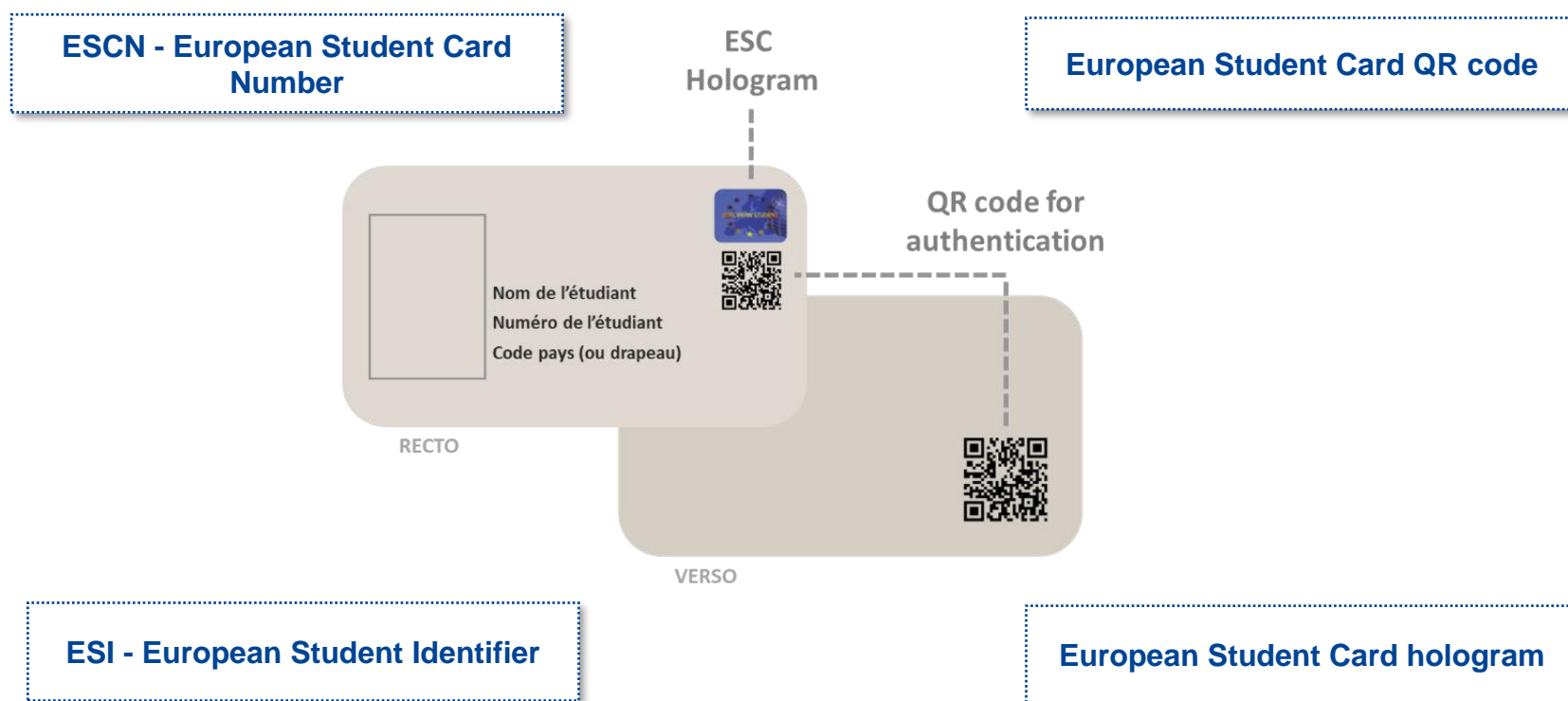
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2 | How does the ESC work?

HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

European Student Card features

Depending on the institution issuing the card, the ESC can take a **digital** or a **physical format** and can be included in student cards **with any type of technology** (e.g., chip technology, magnetic stripe, etc). The ESC is composed of the following features:



The European Student Card is not a new card to be issued. Its various components are integrated into the existing student card issued by the higher education institution, thereby legitimising the student card as an ESC.

2

HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

ESC card design

On the **digital** and **physical** cards issued by the card issuers, the hologram and QR code can be added.



It is the **free decision** of the card issuers on how to integrate the QR code and hologram on their current cards.



The co-branding with other cards (i.e. ISIC, EYCA, ESN cards) is possible.



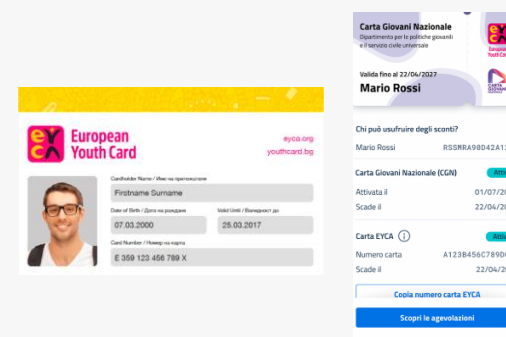
The minimum size of the QR code recommended on the card is **15mm x 15mm**.



The recommended format for the hologram can be found in SELP specifications.



For digital cards, only the QR code can be added on an extra screen or in a dedicated section of the app.

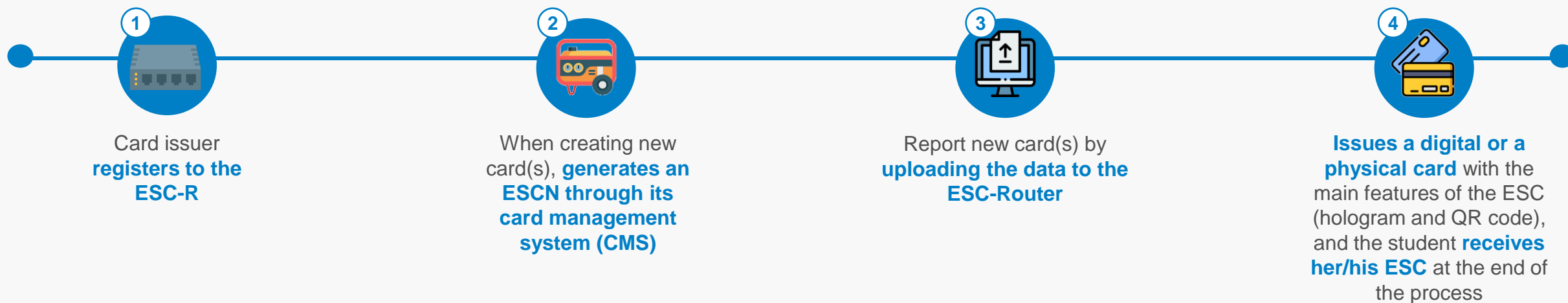


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HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

How to issue the ESC and activate cards?

The card issuing and activation process is made possible by the **ESC Router (ESC-R)***, which is a database that stores basic information on European Student Cards', allowing HEIs and other card issuers to manage and issue ESC, and enabling the validation of student status.



Institutions that do not have a Card Management System follow a different path; The ESCN is generated directly by the ESC-R

Scanning the QR code leads to a confirmation page on the ESC-R, which allows HEIs, students service providers and other relevant stakeholders to **validate the student's status**

* The existing ESC-R is currently being migrated to the European Commission's Cloud.

2

HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

Process of validation of student status

The process by which cardholders gain access to student service provider services includes the demand of services from the student to the service provider and the verification of student status. Different ways of validating student status exist, leveraging either **physical or digital** student cards. The verification of the student status can be done manually through the website or through the QR code or chip.



The **cardholder demands a service** to the student service provider



The service provider **asks for student status verification**



The cardholder **presents their European Student Card**



The student service provider **verifies the student status**



The **student status is verified**, and the student service provider provides **access to its service**

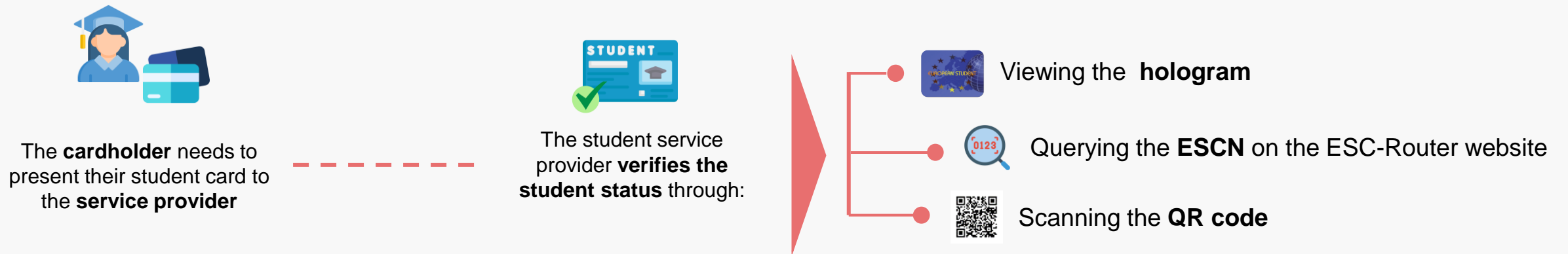
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HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

Student status verification

This process includes the **demand of services** from the student to the student service provider and the **verification of student status**. Three main ways currently exist to verify student status through the ESC: the ESC hologram, the QR code, or manually through the website.

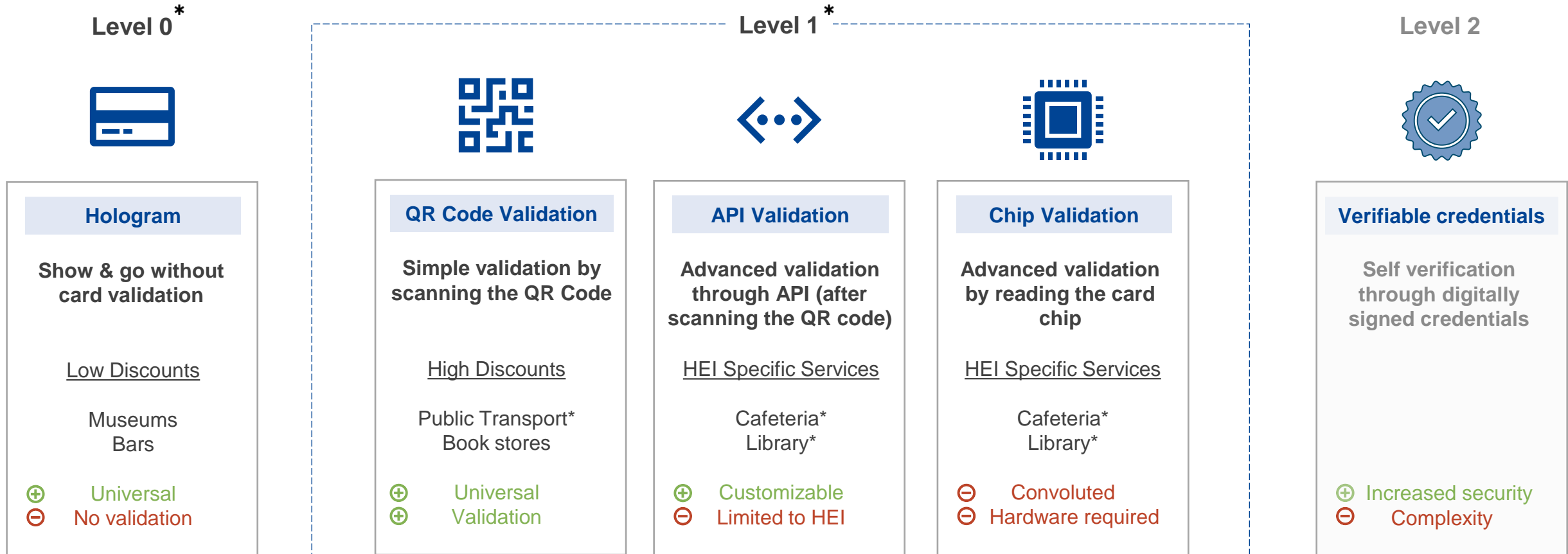


*In addition, different **levels of validation** can be foreseen.*

HOW DOES THE ESC WORK?

Levels of validation

Different ways of validating student status exist, leveraging either **physical or digital** student cards.



* Existing validation methods



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3 | IT Updates on the ESC

3

IT UPDATES ON THE ESC

ESC Router – Basic principles

The **European Student Card Router (ESC-R)** is a database that stores basic information on European student cards, allowing HEIs and other card issuers to manage and issues ESCs (directly from their own Card Management System).

Principles of the ESC-R

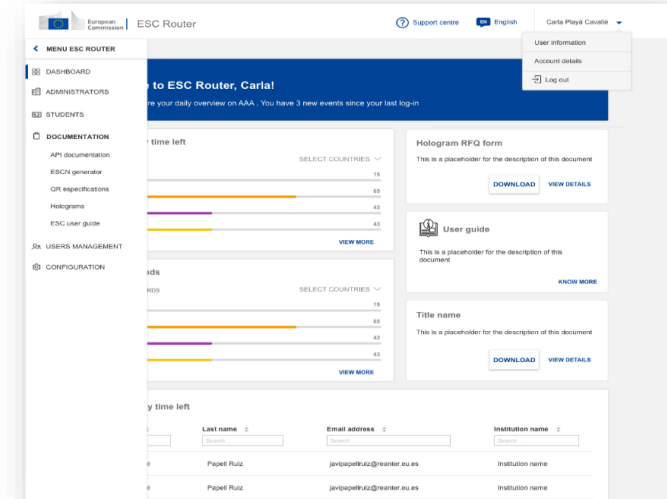
Higher Education Institutions (or other card issuers) can register to the ESC-R to start issuing European Student Cards to their students.

By making use of the ESC Router, card issuers can:

- Manage and update **information** about their organisation;
- Generate an API key, to **send cards data to the ESC-R** directly from their own Card Management System;
- Issue **new European Student Cards** directly from the ESC-R, generating a ESCN and assigning the card to a student;
- Have access to relevant **technical documentation** (API documentation, QR code specifications, ESCN generator, etc.)

ESC-R Migration

- More **stable and secure infrastructure and environment**
- **Scalable data model** based on EU standards
- Design a **new User Interface** following EU design guidelines.



The existing ESC-R has been **migrated** to the European Commission's Cloud with no downtime for current card users



By collecting basic information on the issued European student cards, the ESC-R enables relevant stakeholders (higher education institutions, service providers, etc) to validate the status of students



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4 | Future vision for the ESC

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FUTURE VISION FOR THE ESC

Underlying principles



The ESC aims to provide a **toolbox for card issuers**, enabling different use cases and allowing them to make their student cards more international, flexible and interoperable



The vision underlying the ESC is not to create a new card, but to **build on and scale-up existing cards** and reinforce synergies across HEIs all around Europe, **promoting the digitalisation** of student cards in the process



In line with current digital trends we are exploring a strategy for the **evolution of the ESC logo**. The goal is to streamline the issuing of ESCs and facilitate their recognition



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- facilitate access to student services

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5 | Resources

ESCI Website

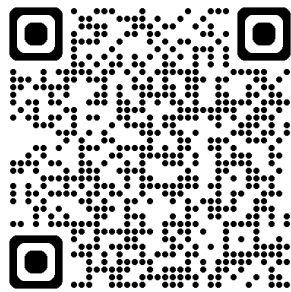
Stay tuned on the **latest news about the ESCI and the ESC** through accessing the ESCI website.



Scan me!

How does the ESC work?

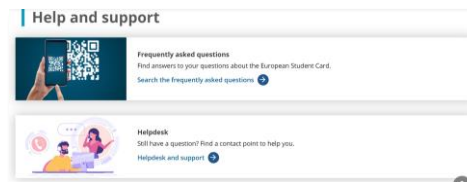
On the ESCI website you can also find an explanation of **how to get started with the ESC**



Scan me!

FAQs

FAQs are also available under the ESCI Website



ESCI Helpdesk

If you don't find the answer to your question, contact the **ESC.support** through our **helpdesk**:



esc.support@nttdata.com

