

POWERING INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY – A SOFTWARE INTEGRATION EXPERIENCE ACROSS EUROPE

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Student and teaching staff mobility plays a key role in establishing the future European Higher Education Area. In the context of the new Lifelong Learning Program the European Commission invited Higher Education Institutions to further stimulate mobility to achieve among other things the objective of reaching 3 million Erasmus students by 2012. It is therefore necessary for these institutions to ensure high quality in the organization of student and staff mobility.

The international nature of mobility calls for the implementation of multi-node, integrated systems which allow the seamless and automated management of the entire process.

This document firstly describes the ideal process in which the management of student mobility should be carried out in the International Office and thereby defines the requirements of tools for managing student mobility.

This document goes on to describe the technical implementation of these processes with particular reference to the integration of the leading student management systems in Italy (ESSE3 by KION) and a popular software adopted in many European universities for the management of exchange agreements and student mobility (moveon by unisolution).

The main aim of the cooperation between unisolution and KION is to provide a solution for the integrated management of international student mobility activities within a university and across national borders. The approach followed during this cooperation allows the institutions to combine the advantages provided by the existing student management system and by moveon in the area of international activities and also to improve the data exchange with their partner institutions abroad. This paper outlines the innovative and effective concepts developed by unisolution and Kion for data exchange between institutions, concerning processes such as nominations, agreements and transcripts of records, as needed at various stages of the mobility lifecycle.

moveon is the standard software used by more than 250 European Institutions of Higher Education to manage their international activities.

ESSE3 is a student management system in place in over 70% of all Italian Higher Education Institutions.