

## **A Free Open source ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) for French Higher Education.**

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A software solution that was originally developed with the debut of La Rochelle University, France, in 1990. It is an ERP that has now evolved into its current version, a dynamic and flexible application, capable of adapting to the complex needs of the French higher education establishments. This has been achieved by successive developments in collaboration with the end-users.

The included functionalities are designed to be as large as possible, but emphasis has been given to the design of its unique shared data referential. This is the foundation brick of the global information base of an establishment. The various application modules available from the Cocktail consortium then link into this element.

Built-in compatibility is also ensured to enable the full integration of « non-Cocktail » modules from other existing applications.

It is a solution that is modern, evolutionary, with an assured longevity that has been tested and adopted by numerous universities and higher education establishments. It is also an inexpensive solution with many advantages that reply to the complex requirements of end-users.

Whether it is for the functions, the structure or the technology, it is a solution designed for the present but taking into account the future.

Among the different advantages we may focus upon:

- End user satisfaction, whose requirements are answered for. The Cocktail suite allows the use of an ERP with independent operable units that may be included depending upon your requirements. It is flexible and easy to install thanks to the simple reduced configuration parameters.
- A global data warehouse is readily accessible without the need of additional tools allowing precise analytical and provisional info centre data management. These unequalled and innovative tools for efficient management must be taken into account when comparing with similar available products.
- The proven flexibility and reactivity of the consortium guarantees the answer to the specific needs of higher education establishments.
- The consortium's Open Source collaborative economic model guarantees the longevity of the product thanks to the important and increasing number of the Cocktail community. This has recently been reinforced by the adoption by the SSLL, (Open Source software companies) who certify and include our applications within the recently created Government Open source expert centre.
- The collaborative model obliges a high degree of professionalism and responsibility of the application developers.
- The applications being freely available, combined with their flexibility confirms the amount of liberty given to each establishment, while at the same time allowing their full autonomy.
- Designed to be fully compatible with the most common Numeric Workspace projects (ENT) – Esup (U-Portal) and Ksup, show yet again the flexibility of the system.
- A rich catalogue of Open Source applications adapted to higher education requirements.
- The assistance of SSLL for the specific needs of establishments complete the momentary lack of internal know-how.
- Etc..

This work method and economic model allows each establishment the total control of their IT data system.

The consortium's programmers are all motivated and efficient civil servants thus guaranteeing the product's longevity and making it financially sound by eliminating personnel and infrastructure expenses necessary for other products.

Because of these personnel and financial savings, the establishments are allowed to concentrate and invest in their principal functions – higher education & research.

The AMUE's (The University Mutualisation Agency) recent choice for the product SAP shows that there now exists a real choice between two alternative and economically opposed solutions.

Maintaining a free and open solution for the community is a way of regulating and allowing a method of comparison for the establishments.

In a way Cocktail is a gift for the deciders, who now have the possibility to choose!