Virtual Campus as a Core Information Infrastructure of the European University

Dr. Ognjen Orel, CIO, University Computing Centre, University of Zagreb
Alen Novosel, UNIC VC development lead, University Computing Centre, University of Zagreb
European Universities

Transnational alliances

Formed under European Universities initiative, part of Erasmus+ programme

https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-universities
European Universities

Currently:
44 alliances
with around
340 HEIs in
31 countries

European strategy for universities goal:
60 alliances
involving more than
500 HEIs
by mid-2024
over 220,500 students
more than 29,000 staff members
Most common goals of European universities
Most common goals of European universities

- Increase **student mobility**
- Support student identification (a form of a **student card**)
- Create and implement **joint study programmes**
- Promote **research output**, especially related to open science
- Increase **teacher and researcher networking / mobility**
Virtual Campus should support those processes:

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Virtual Campus should support those processes

due to it should be an information system (database, applications, APIs, procedures, organization, support ...)

and not be
a website
a news portal
a file repository
...

Challenges

Limited IT budget

Each partner holds multiple information systems (SMSs, LMSs, ...)

Different levels of technological readiness and organisation

Some standards and systems are in place
Limited IT budget

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Different levels of technological readiness and organisation

Some standards and systems are in place

A central hub for data exchange between alliance members, not a comprehensive database

Minimal impact on the existing processes

Provide multiple ways of doing things

Rely on existing standards whenever possible
Our vision of VC
Our vision of VC

Provides public access to some information
and protected access to authorized users

Administrators
Students
Researchers
...

...
Specific alliance European Student Card

Course catalogue

Joint programmes catalogue

Virtual mobility – course selection, enrolment, grade exchange

Promoting Open Science

Holds minimal set of data in order to support the processes

Heavily relies on data exchange
Most of the data coming from local systems

VC connects the dots, builds the top layer on the available data

A small set of actions needs to be done inside the VC apps
Basic rules

All have their electronical identity provider (IdP)

IdP is part of eduGAIN

All students have ESI

ECTS grading scale (A-F) is used
The architecture
UNIC perspective

Central Campus

API

Virtual Campus

Bochum broker

Cork broker

Deusto broker

Lige broker

Rotterdam broker

Koc broker

Oulu broker

Zagreb broker

Malmö broker

Łodz broker

Bochum

Cork

Bilbao

Lige

Rotterdam

Istanbul

Oulu

Zagreb

Malmö

Łodz
The present and the future
Where we are now?

- University broker
- Public portal
- Student portal
- Admin portal
- Researcher portal
- Database
- API
- ORCID client
- OpenAIRE client

Central Campus

5/10 = In production
5/10 = TODO

⚠️ = TODO
>i = In progress
| = In production
Lessons learned

Continuous communication

Having the right people in the meetings

Inadequate budgeting

IT needs more visibility and inclusion

Not all partners are at the same place
Future work

- Finish what we promised to do
- Broker development
- EWP integration
- Basic analytics (dashboards)
- UNIC 2.0
We are open for collaboration!
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