Digitising
Academic
Catalogues for
Enhanced
Mobility

An Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership project
Project period: 2023-2026

The goal of the DACEM project is to provide an open-source software and cloud platform for online Course Catalogues (CCs) following ECTS Users' Guide. This will improve the mobility of students in European Higher Education Institutions (HEI) by providing a Course Catalogue solution with accessible, consistent, timely and interoperable information.

The provided software will support the integration with existing tools available in the context of Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) and Online Learning Agreement (OLA) initiatives. This will raise awareness and work in the digitalisation of the online Course Catalogues following the ECTS Users' Guide recommended elements.

Digitising Academic Catalogues for Enhanced Mobility

Goals & Objectives

- Open-source course catalogue software and platform
- Guidelines for students
- Training resources for university staff
- Policy recommendations and other documents

Results achieved

Given that the project is in its first year of development, its sub-goals are as follows:

- To create a map of the current situation on Course Catalogues in European HEIs considering their difficulties and problems to keep up to date information.
- To offer technical guidance for the development of CCs supporting end-users accessibility, consistency of the information, timely operation and interoperability with other information systems and software tools.
- To provide an open-source CC solution that can be installed on HEIs' own premises or used as a service in the cloud.
- To improve the operational workflows and efficiency of the university staff responsible for the maintenance of CC information following ECTS Users' Guide recommended elements.
- To improve the usefulness of the CCs for students regarding their mobilities in the context of the Erasmus programme.
- To devise how new technologies (big data, semantic web) can be used to improve the processes involved in the management of mobility in the context of the Erasmus programme.
- To support European University alliances in creating a joint educational offer, on the basis of their local CC instances avoiding redundant data input in various CC repositories.

Next actions

There has been little evidence that a majority of HEIs have entirely digitised their CC. ESN has received many complaints from its student members every year involving problems with course information. The DACEM proposal will advance the implementation of the European Student Card Initiative, by contributing to the full digitisation of course information and making this information available at the fingertips of the students.

The needs addressed by DACEM are:

- **Transparency.** CCs should ensure transparency and consistency in the information provided about the courses, including their content, learning outcomes, workload, and assessment methods.
- **Mobility.** HEIs should make it easier for students to compare and select courses, and ensure that the courses they take will be recognised by their home institution.
- **Efficiency.** HEIs should more easily populate, evaluate and compare the quality and relevance of course information offered.
- **Accreditation.** CCs should help HEIs meet accreditation and quality assurance requirements.

Project partners

Coordinating institution:
Universidade De Vigo (Spain)

Partner institutions:
- Tallinn University (Estonia)
- Virtual Campus Lda (Portugal)
- Thessaly University (Greece)
- European University Foundation-Campus Europae (Luxembourg)
- Erasmus Student Network Aisbl (Belgium)
- University of Maribor (Slovenia)
- Charles University (Czechia)
- University of Orleans (France)

@ Manuel Caeiro (UVIGO), coordinator: manuel.caeiro@det.uvigo.es   🌐 projects.uni-foundation.eu/dacem/