MobiAbility: A European standard on support measures in the EHEA for international students with disabilities

KA2 2016-1-ES01-KA203-025001

Jornadas Tecnologías de la información para una universidad accesible, UPCT, 23-24 nov 2017

TICs Movilidad y empleo“

Miguel Á. Pérez (coordinador)
MobiAbility project
• Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices
  – Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education

• **MobiAbility**: A European standard on support measures in the EHEA for international students with disabilities
  – Most relevant horizontal priority: *Inclusive education, training and youth*
  – Background: Promoting the international mobility of people with disabilities contributes to their academic training and social inclusion.

• Duration: 36 months

• Applicant (coordinator): University of Murcia (PIC 999844282)
• **Background**
  
  – Erasmus students with special needs

Sources:

• Outgoing Erasmus Disability UMU students and Staff
• Background

– A clear disadvantage:

Evidence shows that students with low socio-economic background or students with disabilities are less likely to participate in mobility programmes (Hauschildt et al., 2015; King, Findlay and Ahrens, 2010; Souto Otero, 2008), further deepening their already disadvantaged position among their peers.

Source:
• **Background**
  
  – Possible causes
    
    • High costs (Insufficient support)
    
    • Lack of general information on the host centre
    
    • Lack of personalised monitoring
    
    • Uncertainty on adaptations and accessibility
    
    • Others: family overprotection, medical impediments, etc.
• Objectives

Intellectual outcome 1: A European standard of measures and reasonable accommodations at academic level for mobility students with disabilities

Intellectual outcome 2: An online and multilingual platform that house a catalog of universities meeting the standard, and some communication tools between attention-to-diversity services for a more personalized monitoring.
• Work plan overview

YEAR 1 (2017)
Situation Analysis

- Estate of the art (comparative study)

Draft of the standard
Draft of the comm. tools

YEAR 2 (2018)
Standard measures & comm. tools

- Drafts evaluation

Standard
Communication tools though web platform

YEAR 3 (2019)
Web platform & dissemination

- Informatics development
- Results dissemination
Partners
• Partner Institutions organisation
  – Universities
• **Partner Institutions organisation**
  – Foundations and NGOs
• **Coordination**

Management: Organizing Kick-off and transnational meetings. Transfer and management of the grant. Reporting to EACEA and Spanish National Agency.

**Academic work**
Team work and intellectual outcomes development. Disseminations

**Quality assurance system**
(Commission led by UAIC)
• Partner Institutions organisation
Outcomes
• Objectives

**Intellectual outcome 1**: A European standard of measures and reasonable accommodations at academic level for mobility students with disabilities

**Intellectual outcome 2**: An online and multilingual platform that house a catalog of universities meeting the standard, and some communication tools between attention-to-diversity services for a more personalized monitoring.
## Standard of measures (a hypothetical example)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of interest</th>
<th>Mandatory standard</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access and admission to university</td>
<td>□ Information to new students with disabilities</td>
<td>□ Welcome programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying and mobility in university</td>
<td>□ Bilateral agreement concerning mobility students</td>
<td>□ Special consideration for expelling causes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility to technological, instrumental or</td>
<td>□ Accessible website</td>
<td>□ Teaching material adapted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>information resources</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching-learning process: Support, and reasonable</td>
<td>□ Language Sign Interpreter</td>
<td>□ Psychological counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accommodations</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation and exams: Support, and reasonable</td>
<td>□ Extra time</td>
<td>□ No penalty in spelling errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accommodations.</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other programs/actions</td>
<td>□ Services of dedicated staff</td>
<td>□ Adapted residence halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ Staff training on disabilities</td>
<td>□ Tertiary studies fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcome 2: Web platform (general design)

Users
- Super Admin
- University staff
- Erasmus+ Institutions
- Mobility students
- Any person

Information (database)
- Student profiles: special needs, reasonable accommodations, etc
- Proposal and agreement between universities

Functions
- Search university
- Manage users
- Generate reports
- Evaluate satisfaction
- Generate stats

Objective 1
- Standard or measures
- Other information of interest
- Student profiles: special needs, reasonable accommodations, etc
- Proposal and agreement between universities

Objective 2
- Search university
- Manage users
- Generate reports
- Evaluate satisfaction
- Generate stats

- Standard or measures
- Other information of interest
Outcome 2: Communication protocol

1. Check standards accomplished by universities in the web platform, can make a preference list, and select a proper host.

2. Send info about completion of selection of universities to home university staff.

3. Check the info and send thought the web platform a proposal of measures to perform by host university.

4. Agreement
   - A) Direct acceptance
   - B) Initiate negotiation

5. Student
   - A) Rejection
   - B) Acceptance

6. Home University
   - Go to 1: Rejection
   - Go to 4: Direct acceptance
   - Go to 6: Rejection

A) Rejection
B) Acceptance

Host University

Agreement
Outcome 2

KA2 2016-1-ES01-KA203-025001

Draft 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main function</th>
<th>Anonymous (any person)</th>
<th>Mobility student</th>
<th>University staff</th>
<th>Institutional Erasmus +</th>
<th>Super Admin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Searching</td>
<td>yes/no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes/no</td>
<td>yes/no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobiability student management</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes/no</td>
<td>yes/no</td>
<td>yes/no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal management</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes/no</td>
<td>yes/no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes/no</td>
<td>yes/no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary management</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### List of functionalities realized in frame of MobiAbility Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main function</th>
<th>Detailed description of functionalities</th>
<th>Anonymous (any person)</th>
<th>Mobility student</th>
<th>University staff</th>
<th>Institutional Erasmus +</th>
<th>Super Admin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Browsing information about: | • the project,  
• the standard of measures,  
• repository of documents,  
• reports and statistics,  
• other (which one – decision of advisory group) | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Searching universities using the following criteria (filters level 1): | • country,  
• university name,  
• university type,  
• disability category. | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| As the result of this activity the main screen has been displayed that contains the table with following columns: | • country name,  
• university name,  
• university type,  
• disability category,  
• application deadline,  
• rank position based on students’ evaluation,  
• details (link or button). | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Clicking on Details a new window has been opened with information about: faculty name, category and subcategory of disability. | | | |
| Adding/removing university to “Favourites” (unlimited length) | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | |
| Adding/removing university to “Preferred” (limited length) | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | |
| Sending search results (all, favourites, preferred) into e-mail, file or printer | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
# Outcome 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main function</th>
<th>Detailed description of function</th>
<th>Anonymous (any person)</th>
<th>Mobility student</th>
<th>University staff</th>
<th>Institutional Erasmus +</th>
<th>Super Admin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EVALUATION</strong></td>
<td>Confirmation of the student’s stay at the host university.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluation of the stay by the student. Student can evaluate own mobility within 30 days upon return. There are different criteria (and subcriteria) of evaluation. <strong>They have to be defined by the advisory group.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Evaluation is performed using scale 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 for each criterion.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REPORTING</strong></td>
<td>Generating the academic report. This report will contain:</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• information that identifies the student,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• her/his academic background,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• academic proposal defined and accepted for her/him.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To create this report it will be necessary to indicate the student (using her/his ID or name).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Generating the list of incoming and outgoing students including academic background and proposal for everyone. To create this type of report it is necessary to define additional criteria that narrow the scope of students included in the report. <strong>The set of these criteria should be defined by the advisory group.</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Generating the list of universities registered in the system. The report contains information about country, date of registration, number of incoming and outgoing students. To create this type of report it is necessary to define additional criteria that narrow the scope of universities included in the report.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>Role/Function</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Fundación ONCE</td>
<td>Technical Commissioner for University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>CERMI</td>
<td>President CERMI-RM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech</td>
<td>Masaryk University</td>
<td>Centre for Students with Special Needs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>UAIC</td>
<td>Erasmus office</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Lublin University of Technology</td>
<td>Institute of Computer Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Artesis Plantijn University</td>
<td>Specialist in inclusive education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Universidad de Lisboa</td>
<td>Disability support service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>University of Amsterdam</td>
<td>Internationalization office</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3</td>
<td>International office</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>ESN España</td>
<td>Association of Erasmus students (Spain)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alemania</td>
<td>DAAD</td>
<td>Erasmus+ Partnerships projects</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Focus group

**Forums**

**MOBIABILITY: Focus Group**  New Topic | Forum Settings | More▼

Please, watch the PDF presentation you will find in "View full description" for an overview of the project and to know the main aim of this focus group.

- View Full Description and Attachment(s)

- **Topic 1. General features of the web platform**  0 unread of 0 messages  Topic Settings | More▼

The following image (view full description) shows a schematic description of the information, the users and the functionalities of the web platform. It is just a context for the following topics.

- View Full Description

- **Topic 2. User profiles**  0 unread of 9 messages  Topic Settings | More▼

Please click on this topic to see the guidance questions

- **Topic 3. Information (dictionary management)**  0 unread of 8 messages  Topic Settings | More▼

Please find in "View full description" more information and technical specifications for this functionality, and click on the topic to see the guidance questions

- View Full Description

- **Topic 4. Browsing and searching information inside the website**  0 unread of 11 messages  Topic Settings | More▼

Please find in "View full description" more information and technical specifications for this functionality, and click on the topic to see the guidance questions

- View Full Description

- **Topic 5. Mobility student management.**  0 unread of 17 messages  Topic Settings | More▼

Please find in "View full description" more information and technical specifications for this functionality, and click on the topic to see the guidance questions

- View Full Description

- **Topic 6. Evaluation (student satisfaction)**  0 unread of 4 messages  Topic Settings | More▼
Guidance question 5.1. Students’ accounts management: creation and validation

MIGUEL ANGEL PEREZ SANCHEZ (maperez@um.es) (Sep 24, 2017 10:46 PM) - Read by: 6

- Students’ accounts, including information about the disability and special needs, can be created by themselves or by staff from their universities, but always university staff must validate registrations. After this, university staff is mainly in charge of the management of their student accounts.
- What do you think about it? Any suggestions?

Re: Guidance question 5.1. Students’ accounts management: creation and validation

ESTER BUENO (benu.schaeppen@ap.be) (Oct 4, 2017 4:40 PM) - Read by: 4

I think that’s up to the students with disabilities to describe themselves and not to put themselves in a category. Instead of asking about the disability, it should be sufficient to know about their strengths and talents/ barriers and challenges and support needs to participate, previous education, to get an idea how this student can function in an higher education environment. For me working in higher education, I don’t need to know more… of course the student always can give more specific information.

Transforming disability categories in support categories and end up in the following list: I need support in mobility, communication, social intercourse, learning activities, daily activities (feeding, bathing, …)

Re: Guidance question 5.1. Students’ accounts management: creation and validation

ESTER BUENO (benu.schaeppen@ap.be) (Oct 4, 2017 4:45 PM) - Read by: 4

This is in fact an answer to 5.2.

Re: Guidance question 5.1. Students’ accounts management: creation and validation

ESTER BUENO (benu.schaeppen@ap.be) (Oct 4, 2017 4:45 PM) - Read by: 4

Is it not possible to keep the account managed by the student? Is that too complex or not necessary at all?
2. Topic 2: User profiles

• What do you think about the following: is there should be other kind of user?
  - Number of comments from participants: 7
  - Number of comments from different participants: 4
  - Responses from administrator (giving more data, clarifying something, etc.): 1
  - Comments (without names):
    1. I think is good. The only users that can edit are the Super administrator and the University staff, is this right?
    2. We had a meeting with our Disability team and they suggest that providers of services for people with disabilities should be able to offer their services in the City (ex. Rent of wheelchair, care services...)
    3. I think this sums up all kinds of users quite nicely. If possible it might be a good idea to have two of three different levels in University Staff:
       ▪ 1. disability staff - more access to sensitive information
       ▪ 2. international/academic staff- access to student data but not to details
    4. I agree with comment 3
    5. Comment 3 sounds reasonable. So, if a student wants to add information he/she could address either the administrator or the university staff to have it published, right? By including students in the process to gather Information (e.g. if a building is barrier free) one can raise their awareness for these sensitive topics.
    6. I do agree with comment 3
    7. I think that they are the right users but security levels must be established in the access the data.

- Evaluation of the topic asked: in general, right.
- Suggestions for improvement:
  1. Including different levels in university staff: disability staff (having access to more sensitive information) and international/academic staff
  2. Specifying security levels in data accessing.
  3. Include information of providers of services for people with disabilities
Outcome 2

Draft 1 → Focus group → Draft 2 → Partners → Definitive design

Politechnika Lubelska

Universidad de Murcia
• Transversal benefit

Students with disabilities in the EHEA

Attention-to-diversity Services, International Offices, etc.

Academics staff
Teaching innovation services

Politicians, institutions, social organizations

Partner organization
• **Use of results**
  - Public, for free and downloadable
  - Translated to the main European languages
  - Sent to European institutions and social organisations
Thank you very much for your attention!

maperez@um.es