



EMREX User Group  
Yearly plan 2020



## 1. The EMREX User Group (EUG)

According to the statutes, the EMREX User Group is formed by organizations in the EMREX network and other interested parties to manage the network and to advance the use of EMREX. The abbreviation is EUG.

The purpose of the EMREX User Group is to:

- maintain the EMREX network including architecture and specifications,
- support the uptake of EMREX in new countries and with new services,
- plan and support dissemination activities around EMREX,
- maintain the EMREX policy agreement to be signed by all full members,
- contribute to relevant standardization work, especially around ELMO.

## 2. Yearly activities at a glance

The organization is still in an early stage. Therefore, the activities reflect this situation and consist partly of building a solid organization and taking part in ongoing activities around us. It is no surprise that many of the items in this document are the same as last year. Things takes long time to realize and one year is just a short period in any development phase. Since funds are limited, the tasks must be shared between the members according to their own capacity. Mainly the activities are the following.

- Investigate new needs for changes to the ELMO format.
- Maintain the emrex.eu website and maintain information material.
- Strengthen the collaboration with ongoing EU-projects.
- Seek other collaboration opportunities.
- Send regular newsletters to the members.
- Seek to increase membership

Specific goals and targets are set in the detailed descriptions. The outcomes of all activities should be presented at the Annual Assembly in 2021.



### **3. Funding**

During 2019 the Executive Committee found that the Vietsch foundation might be a good sponsor for the costs arising from administrative- and dissemination activities. During 2020 the goal is to apply for a smaller grant (30 000€) and use it for costs related to dissemination, support and information/marketing. The costs in this case is mostly travel and substinence. If the grant is accepted the intention is to use it as soon as the COVID19-situation allows.

### **4. Information**

All information material should be written in English as a standard but it is in a format that can be changed (like MS Word) so that every member may translate material to their own language.

#### **4.1. Website [emrex.eu](http://emrex.eu)**

In 2019 the website was rebuilt and an administrator took over the work. It is now in a stable condition but the work is of course ongoing forever. During 2020 the goal for the [emrex.eu](http://emrex.eu) is that all relevant information can be found on the web easily. Another goal is that the enrollment process as members is made easier.

#### **4.2. Information material**

Information material should exist mainly on the webpage. It should be updated at all times and easily accessible by the members. Material that should be available is:

- A general PowerPoint presentation of EMREX
- An electronic document with an overview of EMREX
- A text suitable for email with a summary of EMREX.
- A contact list for all NCPs and SMPs, plus partners.

#### **4.3. Newsletter**

A newsletter with highlights from activities, conferences and other events should be sent out to the members, at least two times during 2020.



## 4.4. Dissemination

When this document is being prepared we are all heavily affected by the COVID19-virus so it is now impossible to know what conferences will be available during the year. Therefore the goal for 2020 is to take part in conferences and other relevant occasions as much as possible.

## 5. Collaboration

There are lots of initiatives going on in the area of IT solutions for student data exchange. EMREX plays an important part in this domain which must be communicated at every possibility.

### 5.1. Ongoing EU-projects

EMREX has working communication channels with EU projects that work in the same area. It is still important to strengthen the collaboration with ongoing or recently finished EU projects. We aim at creating lasting partnerships with all projects concerning student mobility. One more goal for 2018 is to proactively connect with European projects regarding digitalization of education:

- EMREX will participate in the PIM-project, lead by the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, for exchanging result data between Germany and existing EMREX countries
- EMREX has a liaison with Europass on cooperate on the future format of Europass, to ensure the compatibility with ELMO.
- The European Blockchain Partnership arised in 2018, with the first projects starting up in 2019. EMREX is represented in the Diploma project.

### 5.2. Other collaboration opportunities

It is equally important to seek collaboration outside EU. EMREX does not set any boundaries. There are some connections known already and they should be continuously maintained. New possible collaborations should also be proactively looked for and followed up. The following is a non-exhaustive list of open collaborations:

- CHESICC,
- PESCC,



- VTAC.  
Digitary.

We will also keep in contact with the Groningen Declaration Network.

EMREX is involved in a project run by the Nordic Council of Ministers, on digitalization of recognition.

## **6. Membership retention and marketing**

EMREX User Group does not need members just for attaining high numbers. Each member should support the EMREX idea, for instance by building an NCP, SMP or by other forms of collaboration. However, it is imperative in the long run that more countries start using EMREX. Therefore, energy must be focused on marketing and helping interested parties to install EMREX software, especially for increase the use of the existing network which has great potential.

The specific goal for 2020 is that at least three new parties start using EMREX.

## **7. Standards work**

The standard used for data transport, the ELMO format, needs to be maintained and updated according to new demands. Better support for recognition and including results of recognition into EMREX will be the first tasks. Also the connection to block chain will be further investigated. During the year the goal is to assemble current demands, discuss them between the members and make a resolution of changes, if deemed necessary.

Furthermore, we intend to take part in and support projects with the goal to utilize eID national and cross-border nodes for authorization in the EMREX network.