

ERASMUS+ PROJECT 2023-1-RS01-KA220-HED-000156660

## **EPIR** | E-Procedure of Institutional Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Documents

On July 16th, the Polytechnic University of Marche in Ancona organized the meeting of the responsible persons at the universities involved in the EPIR ERASMUS+ project. The representative of the “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia attended the meeting online, as the admission process for international students and Romanians everywhere was ongoing at that time.

The EPIR project is very important for the “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, a university located in the heart of Transylvania. Our university attracts students from the surrounding areas, as well as Romanian students living abroad – and a growing number of foreign non-EU students. In 2023 around 700 applications were submitted on the platform for the admission of non-EU candidates, while in 2024 there were around 1700 applications submitted on the platform.

During the past years, the “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia has benefited from an increased number of students for all the Faculties and study levels: bachelor, master and doctoral studies. Still, the university is facing competition in the area from other universities and therefore has introduced new fields of study as a response to the demands of the labor market.

The platform used for the admission of the international students and for recognition of documents is [intladmin.uab.ro](http://intladmin.uab.ro). The platform was designed in accordance to the national legal requirements and is a useful tool for candidates, intermediaries, university staff and coordinators.

For the user, the main features of the platform are:

EPIR project partners:



UNIVERSITY  
OF NOVI SAD



UNIVERSITÀ  
POLITECNICA  
DELLE MARCHE



ROMANIA  
1 DECEMBRIE 1918  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBA IULIA



50 years of  
University  
of Split



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
Qualifications Agency

- Account creation, verification, password reset, account updates,
- Can apply for the open Current intakes, available,
- Can easily and reliably apply for a study program at our university, using validated, dynamic forms and steps,
- Application preview and document generation,
- Email notifications at almost every step of the application process,
- 100% of the process is online, we only meet at enrolment.

For the intermediaries:

- Everything from **User** plus:
- The ability to register for more than one application during an Intake,
- Easy web interface for multiple application management.

The main features for the university **staff** and **coordinators** are:

- Create, update, view all Admission sessions,
- Configure and publish education offer,
- See all the applications and their status,
- View, validate, invalidate, reject applications,
- Generate all the documents needed for the application process,
- Upload documents for the **User** accounts,
- Log sent emails,
- See all accounts created,
- And many more features from security to easy data management.

The workflow on the platform is adapted to follow all the steps required by the legislation in Romania. It ensures communication between the candidate and the university staff involved in the admission process and is transparent in all stages.

The platform is essential to the admission process as it allows for continuous communication between the university and the candidates and ensures a transparent admission process.

Since the start of the EPIR project several of the improvements that were needed have been developed.

Firstly, there has been ongoing maintenance for flexibility and for solving minor issues arising from the normal usage of the platform.

Secondly, the platform now requires 2FA- two form factor authentication for admin accounts, implementing a custom voter system for user authorization, adding to the security features of the platform.

Furthermore, payment data collection for streamlining the refund process has been implemented. Before, the refund requests were made via email. Now, in case of visa denial or voluntary cancellation of the application, the candidates can request the reimbursement of their first year tuition fee on the platform, through their account. This feature not only increases the security of the reimbursement process, it also helps expedite the refund process. It also contributes to a better internal document management as the request forms that need to be approved according to UAB regulations are automatically generated.

In addition, the interface had UI/UX fixes for front-end and back-end users.

There are still developments in progress, such as:

- Adding the state-funded scholarship holders of the Romanian government on the platform – they are presently not on the platform and thus are not included in the statistics generated by it and their documents must be filled in by hand – after their inclusion on the platform their documents will be generated automatically,
- Adding the UAB scholarship holders on the platform – the possibility to become a UAB scholarship holder is a recent opportunity introduced in the Regulation for the admission of international students by UAB therefore this category of candidates has not yet been included on the platform.

We estimate that these developments will be made by late August.

With the help of the EPIR ERASMUS+ project we will be able to maintain and develop the platform and overcome all administrative challenges. Thus, the university will have a simple and smooth application process and the recognition of the foreign higher education documents enabling it to continue to develop and be recognized as a first option for international candidates.