

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

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

## WORKPACKAGE 4

### Sustainability Plan

Developing and adopting an effective and feasible sustainability plan leading to concrete mechanisms ensuring the longevity of project results is included in workpackage 4, lead by the „1 Decembrie 1918“ University of Alba Iulia and includes sustainability plan containing tasks, responsibilities, methods, periods and participants.

The sustainability plan established models at each partner for the phase of change and maintenance necessary in the development of information systems and crucial for the project general and specific objectives.

As stipulated in the Dissemination plan, a part of the sustainability strategy meant to ensure long-term impact and continued use of the EPIR results:

- The project website will remain active for at least 3 years post-project.
- Social media platforms will be maintained by the lead institution.
- All training modules will be integrated into regular academic activities.
- A Best Practices Manual will be distributed widely and archived.
- A follow-up EPIR collaboration network will be encouraged among interested HEIs.

The sustainability plan of the EPIR project aims to ensure that the tools, procedures, skills, and knowledge developed during the project lifetime will continue to deliver value beyond its funding period. This plan outlines the strategy to maintain, update, and promote the outcomes in the long term, thus contributing to the modernization and digitization of recognition procedures for international students in higher education institutions across Serbia, Croatia, Italy, and Romania.

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

The key objectives of the EPIR Sustainability Plan are to:

- Ensure the long-term use and maintenance of IT tools developed or improved during the project.
- Embed improved recognition procedures and institutional policies into the standard operational frameworks of partner universities.
- Continue capacity building efforts, including staff and student training, after the project concludes.
- Facilitate continued knowledge sharing and dissemination, both within partner institutions and across broader academic networks.
- Develop viable business and governance models for each partner institution to support technical and institutional sustainability.
- Establish a collaborative network for future projects and mutual support.

The key areas of sustainability are:

- Technological Sustainability:
  - Maintenance and updates of IT platforms: Each university will designate internal IT teams responsible for maintaining the recognition platforms. These teams will ensure compatibility with evolving legal and technical standards.
  - Documentation and open-source options: All tools developed will be well-documented and, where feasible, made open-source.
  - Scalability: Systems will be designed to handle increased volumes of users and additional features.
- Institutional and Policy Integration:
  - Embedding procedures in internal regulations: The digital recognition workflows and legal frameworks developed will be integrated into each institution's recognition policy documents.
  - Institutional support units: Dedicated offices will be responsible for enforcing and updating these policies.
- Human Resource Capacity:
  - Ongoing training and internal learning paths: Training modules will be included in professional development activities.
  - Knowledge transfer mechanisms: Mentoring or peer-learning approaches will ensure continuity among staff.
- Financial Sustainability:
  - Internal funding mechanisms: Institutions will allocate annual budgets for system maintenance and training.
  - External funding applications: Partners will pursue further funding opportunities.
  - Business models: Exploration of licensing and consultancy service models.
- Network and Strategic Partnerships:
  - Continued collaboration: Consortium will maintain an active network.
  - Advisory group: A post-project group will guide implementation and secure funding.

In order to measure the indicators of sustainability the table below illustrates key areas with corresponding sustainability measures and indicators:

Area	Sustainability Measure	Indicator
Technological Sustainability	Active IT platform with updates	Platform usage logs, system updates, user support data
Policy Integration	Recognition procedures adopted into university regulations	Number of updated documents and procedures
Human Resource Development	Regular internal training sessions	Number of trainings held, staff trained annually
Financial Sustainability	Budget allocation or external funding secured	Annual budget lines, funding applications submitted
Dissemination and Outreach	Continued online presence and event participation	Website/social media analytics, event participation

The roles and responsibilities are divided as such: The University of Novi Sad (UNS) is lead coordinator of post-project network activities and maintains the project website and support dissemination tools. „1 Decembrie 1918“ University of Alba Iulia (UAB) will maintain international student portal and digital platforms and will lead continued training activities. All Partner Institutions are to integrate recognition tools into local regulations, design and implement internal sustainability measures and participate in advisory group and new projects.

Key risks and mitigation strategies include:

Risk	Mitigation Strategy
Lack of funding for updates	Apply for additional grants; allocate internal funds
Staff turnover	Implement documentation and mentoring schemes
Legislative changes	Involve legal advisors; maintain flexible system architecture

The EPIR project is designed with a forward-looking approach, ensuring that the outputs produced will endure and evolve. Through a combination of technological robustness, institutional embedding, continuous training, and financial planning, the sustainability plan guarantees that the benefits of the project will continue to support students, staff, and stakeholders long after the project officially ends.