EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

A sneak peek into the updated Online Learning Agreement

Webinar

June 25, 2020

Online Learning Agreement

In focus today

AGENDA

01 **What ...doesn't work**
leveraging on 4 years of experience

02 **Making it work...**
from an IRO viewpoint

03 **How will it work...**
from the technical viewpoint

04 **More updates to come**
- Other features in the pipeline
- Announcement

05 **Timeline**
Steps ahead

06 **Q&A**
Via slido
#ola_updated

01

What needs to be improved

- 4 years of experience – working with students, HEIs, NAs, DG EAC
- Survey results
- Extensive feedback via helpdesk

OLA Survey

1170
IROs

End of 2019
Beginning of 2020

2690
Students

Key numbers

91% of students would recommend OLA to their peers

93% of IROs think LA should be managed online

But it can get better…

Key findings

Over 80%

Of IROs still see the workload surrounding Erasmus+ mobilties as high or very high

87%

Introduced OLA to decrease the workload

Usage

2200+ HEIs already have Dashboard accounts

5000+ Staff accounts

76%

Would recommend Dashboard to their colleagues

So what are the areas of improvement?

Thank you for the feedback!

Rigidity

“The biggest issue with the Dashboard is that it does not forgive mistakes”

“'Problems with emails, not knowing who the appropriate person is. If a mistake in filling in the contact was made, one had to start over. Takes time to find out if the coordinators [haven’t] received it or just haven’t yet filled it out. Had to email everyone anyway.”

From OLA Student survey

'To me, it's an extra tool which I have to use in addition to Mobility Tool and Mobility online. It's just too much. I'd rather have the implementation of OLA in Mobility online somehow.’
From OLA IRO survey

Correction of errors & Duplicate OLAs

Signing solution

From problems to opportunities

Making OLA work

Nikos Liolios

ARISTOTLE
UNIVERSITY
OF THESSALONIKI

OLA updates

Needs of the students

Needs of the HEIs

Needs of the Erasmus+ programme

Control over the contact data

- Up-to-date contact list
- Contact persons per HEI or per faculty
- Students will select the right contact from a drop-down list
- No typing – less errors

No more OLA duplicates

Authentication

ESI allows for mapping of the “right” OLA

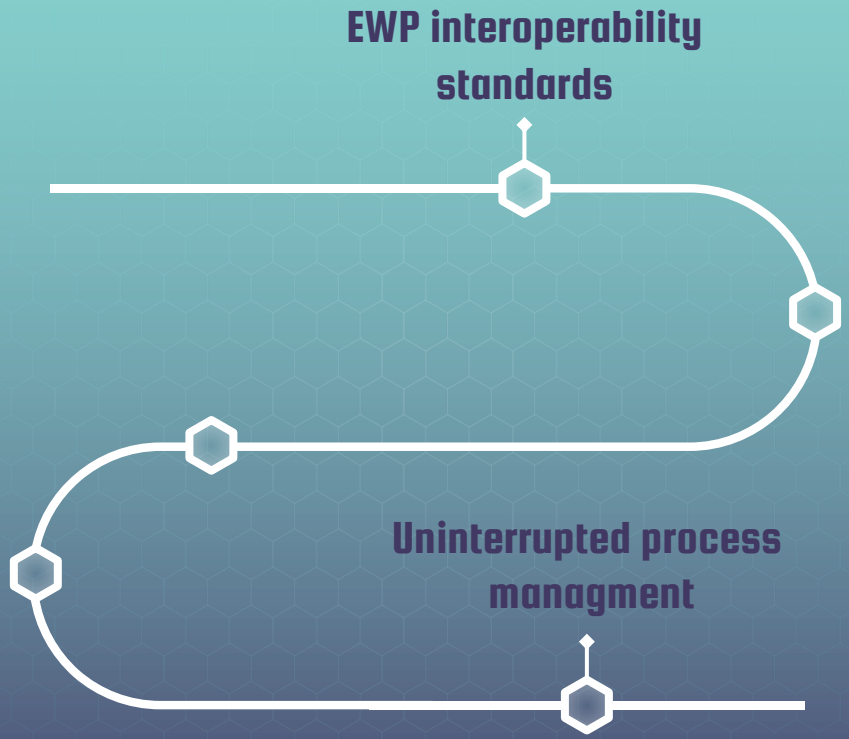
One OLA per student

Chance to turn-off self-service

- Changes to OLA is the rule, not the exception
- IROs need to see who made the changes and when
- Versioning aka “track changes”
- Clarity for the audit procedures

Easy overview of all changes made

No dead-ends

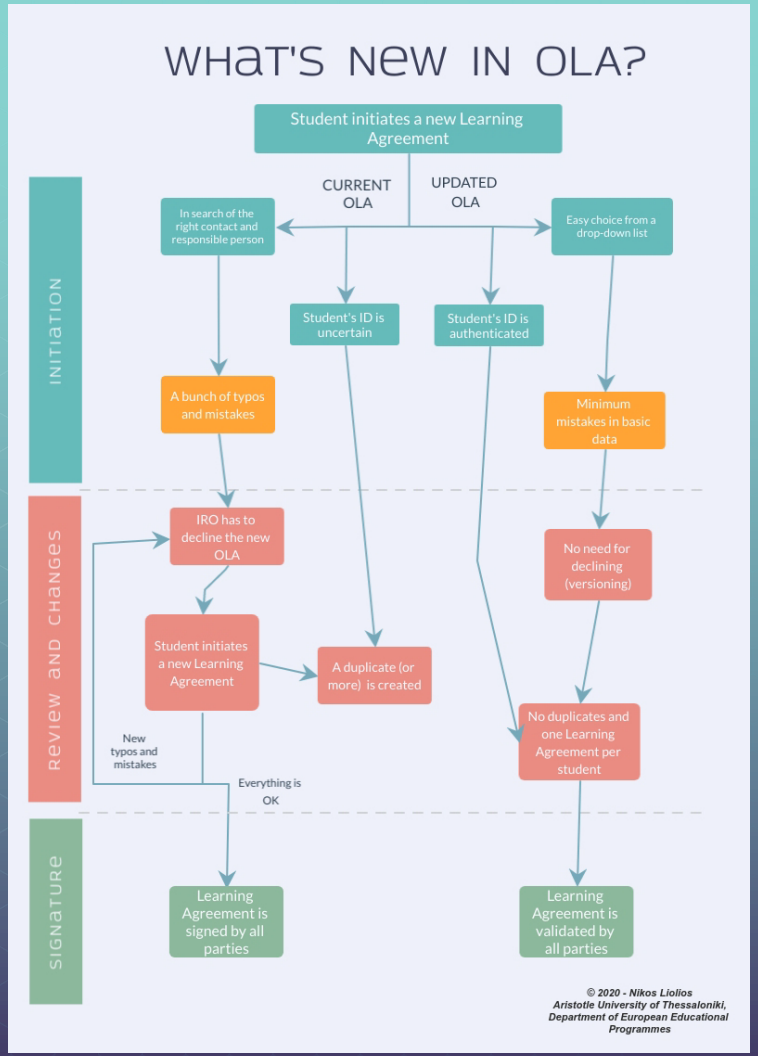

EWP interoperability standards
Uninterrupted process managment

Signing in the digital era

- Robust authentication of the signee

- Click to validate instead of signing

A more streamlined process



Updated OLA Launch

Early autumn 2020

Stay tuned!
Even more to come!

Features in the pipeline

Reminders

- Time-triggered and automatic?
- As an opt-in for summary on pending matters?
- ...

Transcript of Records

ICM and Non-Erasmus

Announcement

Something we all have been waiting for...

Ticketing System!

Extensive Knowledge base

Easier to find the necessary information

For students and HEIs

Making sure the question reaches the right addessee

Roll-out as of the end of summer!

Next steps

Next steps

eduGAIN

Consider giving your student access to eduGAIN (if that's not already the case)

Follow the guidelines in the tools

Nothing changes for the OLAs already made.
In autumn OLAs will be made via the updated platform.

More information to come

As the launch approaches – more details on transition period will follow!

Q&A

Slido
#ola_updated

Stay tuned!

Webinar – The ESI: what and how?
28 May 2020
10.30 – 12.00

Webinar – What to expect of the new Erasmus App?
11 June 2020
10.30 – 12.00

Webinar – A sneak peek into the new OLA!
25 June 2020
10.30 – 12.00

https://uni-foundation.eu/

Progress of Development Work in the updated OLA

Maria Tsiakmaki | Argyris Mpesinas | Nikolaos Saoulidis | Konstantinos Karaoglanoglou

IT Center of AUTh

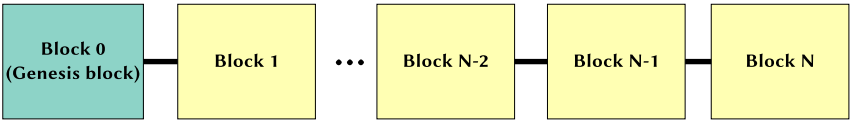
kkaraogl@it.auth.gr

OLA3 Blockchain Feasibility Study

George Vlahavas

Data & Web Science Laboratory
https://datalab.csd.auth.gr/
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

What is a blockchain? (I)



What is a blockchain? (II)

- Each block is securely linked to the previous one using a cryptographic value (hash)
- It takes enormous computing resources to produce each next block, but negligible to verify correct results (proof-of-work)
- The blockchain contents are replicated on every computer in the network
- Initially used only for transferring digital money, but now can be used for other purposes as well

Blockchain interesting characteristics

- Immutable
- Decentralized ledger that can store any type of data
- Allows for trustless interactions
- Smart contracts (ability to automate processes)

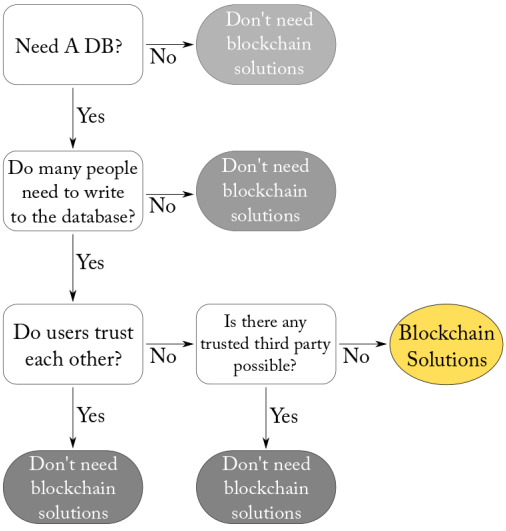
Blockchain technologies

- Public
  - Open to anyone (permissionless)
  - Anonymous
  - Fully transparent
  - Examples: Bitcoin, Ethereum
- Private
  - Requires an invitation to join (permissioned)
  - No anonymity
  - No transparency
  - Targetted primarily at enterprize usage
  - Examples: Hyperledger Fabric, Corda

OLA3 Motivation and challenges

- Interoperability
- Unified authentication for all institutions
- Strict verification of consent/Identity management
- Security
- System robustness

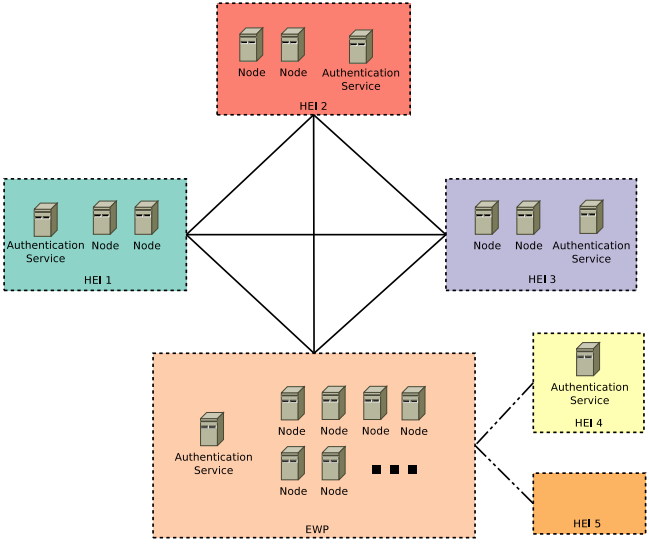
Blockchain Feasibility Flowchart



Proposed solution (I)

- Based on Hyperledger Fabric
- Replace existing data stores with blockchain
- Each institution should deploy at least one node in the network
- For institutions that cannot host blockchain nodes, the EWP could function as an intermediate provider of infrastructure
- Considerably difficult to implement

Proposed solution (II)



Alternative solution

- Keep existing infrastrure and processes
- Only store transaction hashes on the blockchain
- Allows for universal validation of data
- Can be trivially implemented with public blockchains: No infrastructure required!
- Not how institutions are used to operate

Conclusions

- On a technical level, blockchain technologies are capable of supporting OLA
- GDPR?
- Two different architectures proposed
- To proceed, a more in-depth technical study should be conducted