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Microcredentials und Interoperabilität im Europäischen Hochschulraum

UNIVERSITY:FUTURE FESTIVAL

24. Juni 2026

Colin Tück



Jochen Ehrenreich

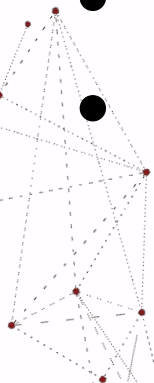
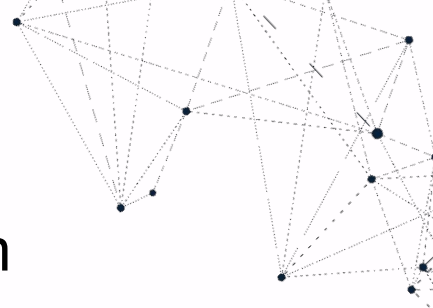


QualityLink



Agenda

- Interoperabilität im Europäischen Hochschulraum
- Projekt QualityLink
- open course data
- Datenstandards und -Spezifikationen zum Teilen von Kursdaten
- live demo: QualityLink course data aggregator
- Diskussion



European Digital Education Hub



European Education Area

Quality education and training for all

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European Digital Education Hub

Your online community for digital education enthusiasts in Europe and beyond.

Join our community



Why you should join

Find out what the Hub is about, who's part of it, and why it's the place to be for anyone passionate about digital education.

[See what we offer](#) →



Become a member

You need to become a member to access the Hub and its activities. It's free - and we'll confirm your membership within 5 working days.

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Get recent developments in digital education, highlights from the reading corner, and upcoming Hub activities and opportunities.

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<https://education.ec.europa.eu/focus-topics/digital-education/action-plan/european-digital-education-hub>

European Higher Education Interoperability Framework

EUROPEAN
DIGITAL
EDUCATION
HUB



European Higher Education Interoperability Framework

Under the umbrella of the European Digital Education Hub

Based on the following Objectives and Core Principles, help us make an impact by advocating for policies that promote interoperability, agreed and open standards, while engaging yourself and other stakeholders in this dialogue.

Aim

We, as the community of experts in the field of higher education are jointly developing a more **interconnected**, **efficient**, and **inclusive** European higher education landscape through enhanced interoperability. The European HE Interoperability Framework draws on collaboration within European University alliances and beyond, and existing best practices. It is being developed in an open stakeholder-driven approach, fostering co-creation.



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European Higher Education Interoperability Framework

USE CASE 1

Discover

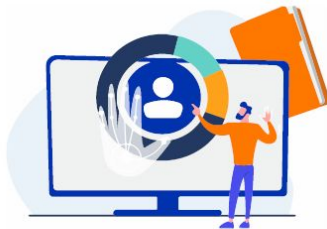


Enhancing the visibility and comparability of diverse learning and mobility opportunities across HEIs, emphasising the importance of machine-readable metadata for easy comparison and discovery.

CMS (Website) | Course catalogue
Curriculum management

USE CASE 2

Apply and get recognition



Simplifying credit recognition and cross-institutional enrolment, emphasising seamless data exchange to support all forms of learner mobility and academic continuity.

Admissions | Recognition

USE CASE 3

Access tools



Streamlining the management and governance of shared resources among alliance members, covering both physical and virtual assets.

Laboratory access | Library systems
Research tool registry

USE CASE 4

Manage educational resources



Promoting the accessibility and mobility of educational materials, fostering a collaborative and accessible educational environment.

Content generation | Sharing
Use and re-use

European Higher Education Interoperability Framework

USE CASE 5

Generate data



Establishing a standardised approach for the exchange of learners' activity data to ensure a seamless integration of various virtual learning environments.

Learning Analytics
Student Analytics

USE CASE 6

Earn a credential



The digital management of educational credentials (issuance, verification, revocation), affirming the achievements from diverse learning experiences.

Micro-credentials
Portable credentials

USE CASE 7

User identity



Achieving interoperability for user identities across educational transitions, ensuring consistent identification throughout their academic journey.

Access Federated identity
Student cards

USE CASE 8

Institutional identity

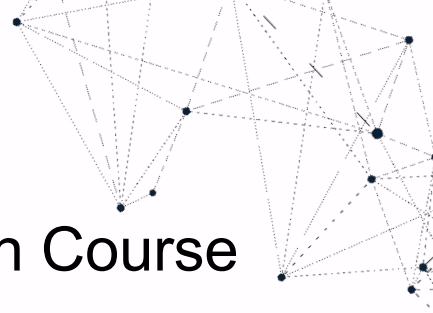


Developing a cohesive framework for trusted institutional identities, facilitating smoother collaborations and exchanges between HEIs.

Accreditation Ranking

Umfrage:

- Welche Chancen sehen Sie im Konzept der Open Course Data?
- Welche Risiken sehen Sie im Konzept der Open Course Data?



European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability



English

European Education Area

Quality education and training for all

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Micro-credentials

Joint European degree ▼

European Universities Initiative ▼

European Student Card Initiative

Relevant and high-quality higher education ▼

Inclusive and connected higher education ▼

Innovation in education ▼

A European approach to micro-credentials

Flexible, inclusive learning opportunities

On 16 June 2022, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted a [Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability](#) ^[1]. The Recommendation seeks to support the development, implementation and recognition of micro-credentials across institutions, businesses, sectors and borders.

An effective culture of lifelong learning is key to ensuring that everyone has the knowledge, skills and competences they need to thrive in their personal and professional lives.

Micro-credentials certify the learning outcomes of short-term learning experiences, for example a short course or training. They offer a flexible, targeted way to help people develop the knowledge, skills and competences they need for their personal and professional development.

Shorter forms of learning opportunities than traditional qualifications, such as micro-credentials, are being developed rapidly across Europe and around the world. These opportunities are made available by a wide variety of public and private providers in response to the demand for more flexible, learner-centred forms of education and training. They also have the potential to offer education and training opportunities to a wider range of learners, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

However, without common standards ensuring their quality, transparency, cross-border comparability, recognition and portability, micro-credentials cannot reach their full potential.

<https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/micro-credentials>

European Digital Credentials for Learning



Europäische
Union

Anmelden EN

Europass Lernen in Europa Arbeiten in Europa Über Europass Kontakt



Micro-Credential

Ausstellungsdatum: 01/12/2023 Gültig von: 31/12/2022 Art: Generic, Mandated Issue ID des Bildungsnachweises: urn:credential:8a18c034-4a85-4fe8-8d5b-3f363f89cfa2

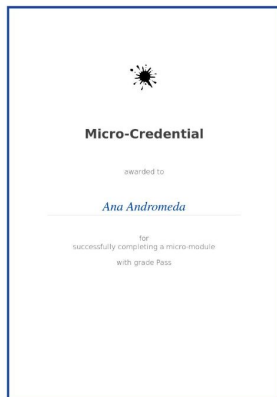
Home Export Weiteres Zertifikat hochladen

Teilen English

Ana Andromeda

Aussteller

Digital micro-credential creation



1 / 1

Authentication and Verification Checks

- ✓ **FORMAT**
This credential is technically valid.
- ✓ **SEAL**
The credential is Sealed by TEST SEAL.
This credential has not been tampered with since issue.
- **REVOCATION**
Function under development. Contact the awarding body for information about this credential's revocation status.
- **ACCREDITATION**
Accreditation does not apply to this Credential
- ✓ **VALIDITY**
The credential is still valid.
- ✓ **VERIFIED**

European Learning Model (ELM)



EN English

[Home](#) > [News](#) > Launch of the European Learning Model

[europass](#) [Europass tools](#) [Learn in Europe](#) [Work in Europe](#) [About Europass](#) [Stakeholders](#)

Login to Europass

03 May 2023 - update 1070 days ago

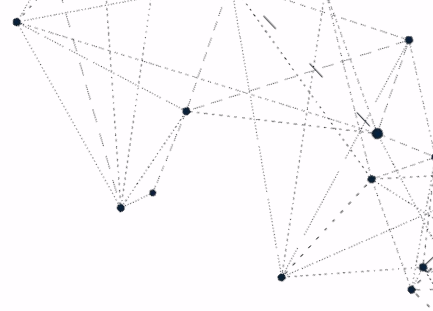
Launch of the European Learning Model

In the spirit of the [European Year of Skills](#), the European Learning Model supports the process of matching people's aspirations and skillsets with labour market needs and opportunities. By providing tools to support the recognition of qualifications and the validation of skills, the ELM promotes a mindset of up/reskilling and lifelong learning.

The European Commission is launching the European Learning Model v.3 (ELM v.3). This first multilingual data model for learning is an exciting new development in the field of knowledge and skills data exchange, opening new possibilities for interoperability and credential exchange.

As part of the tasks set forward in the [Europass Decision](#), the ELM will help further the goals of the [European Skills Agenda](#), the [European Education Area](#) and the [Digital Education Action Plan](#). Up until now, almost every sector, country, level of education and training has had its unique way to provide data related to learning. This fragmentation has hindered possibilities for the creation of common systems and exchange of information. By establishing a single vocabulary for learning in Europe, ELM aims to help the recognition of and trust in qualifications and digital credentials across Europe, supporting the fight against fraud. Aligning with the ELM allows for the comparability, transparency and portability of all data related to learning. By providing a tool to ease recognition processes, the ELM contributes to the wider goals of the European Commission to promote labour and learning mobility in Europe. The data richness of the ELM supports the visibility of skills and contributes to a 'Skills first' approach.

<https://europass.europa.eu/en/news/launch-european-learning-model>



European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR)

eqar

Register Database Knowledge base News About

Database

Search

— By provider

— By report

Glossary

Visualise data

Download data

Connect to API

Synergies

Find out more

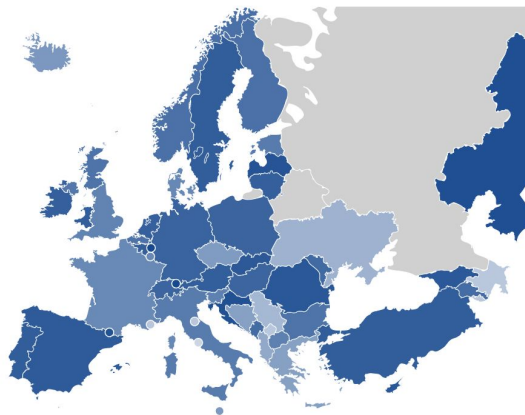
eqar.eu > Database > Search

Filter providers

Q Provider name, city, country, ETER ID or DEQARINST ID

search

Currently available: 132 316 reports on 5 111 institutions



Education providers in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

<https://www.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/>

European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO)



EN English

European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO)

[Home](#) [About ESCO](#) [Classification](#) [Use ESCO](#) [News & Events](#) [Get in touch](#)

[Home](#) > [About ESCO](#) > [ESCOpedia](#) > The European Learning Model

The European Learning Model

Search information



Search ...

Find

Hierarchy view ↗

Introduction to ESCO	+
Structure and features of the ESCO classification	+
ESCO development	+
ESCO glossary	+
How can ESCO be used in practice?	+

The European Learning Model

The **European Learning Model (ELM)** is the first multilingual Data Model for the Interoperability of learning opportunities, qualifications, accreditation, and credentials in Europe, developed by the European Commission. Built on open standards (**W3C Verifiable Credential data model**), the ELM provides the first unitary and comprehensive data model across the European Education Area. Available in 30 languages, it provides tools to facilitate the recognition of qualifications and validation of skills, promoting a culture of upskilling, reskilling, and lifelong learning.

With over 560 properties, the ELM allows for the capture and validation of all learning related data, including formal, non-formal and informal learning. It caters for the needs of all general education, vocational education and training, higher education, adult learning, and labour market training programmes. This allows for the creation and portability of rich data, that are not limited to a single

<https://esco.ec.europa.eu/en/about-esco/escopedia/escopedia/european-learning-model>

Erasmus Without Paper

European Student Card Initiative

Erasmus + App



English

European Education Area

Quality education and training for all

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Higher education ▲

About higher education

Micro-credentials

Joint European degree ▼

European Universities Initiative ▼

European Student Card Initiative

Relevant and high-quality higher education

European Student Card Initiative

Straightforward and secure online administrative procedures and putting information at the fingertips of students are essential to boosting student mobility across Europe.

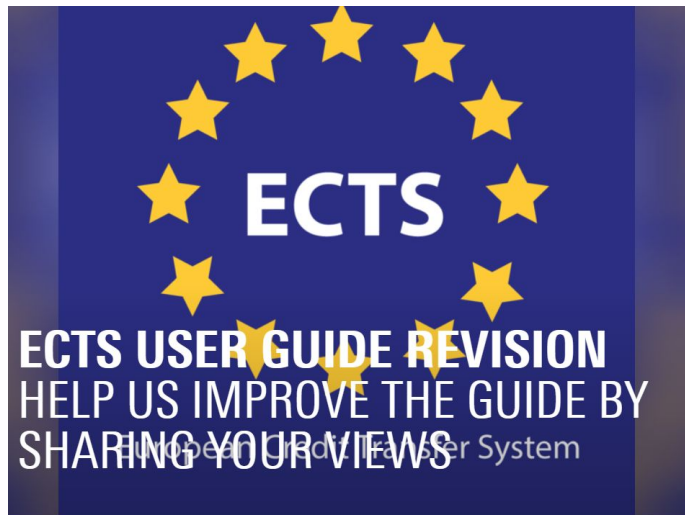
The European Student Card Initiative (ESCI) is crucial to promoting student participation in educational and cultural activities in line with the vision to create a [European Education Area](#) by 2025.

ESCI is composed of three building blocks

- **European Student Card** - transforming current student cards into a European Student Card so students can benefit from on- and off- campus services during their mobility
- **Erasmus+ App** - a single app to help Erasmus students with all their practical administration – before, during and after their mobility programme
- **Erasmus Without Paper** - a digital solution connecting systems in use at higher education institutions allowing to manage their Erasmus+ mobilities online

<https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-student-card-initiative>

ECTS User's Guide (Überarbeitung für 2027)



🕒 Thursday 10 April 2025

The European Commission has commissioned a Revision of the ECTS Users' Guide. To support the revision it is important to hear of its users.

The revision is supported by gathering a wide variety of views on the usefulness and potential areas for improvement of the [ECTS Users' Guide](#). This is your opportunity to share your thoughts on its contents and application. You may find the survey through this link [here](#).

<https://www.utwente.nl/en/education/student-services/news-events/news/2025/4/260815/ects-user-guide-revision>

European Standards and Guidelines (Überarbeitung für 2027)

ESG 2027 – DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION – 17 NOVEMBER 2025

Standards and Guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)

ESG 2027 for consultation – draft 17/11/2025

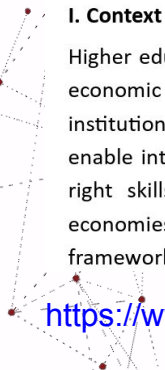
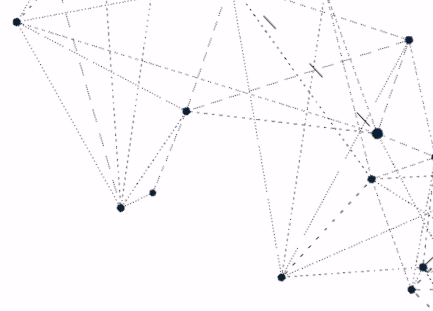
[Foreword to be added to final publication]

Context, scope, purposes and principles

I. Context

Higher education, research and innovation play a crucial role in supporting social cohesion, economic growth and global competitiveness. Our systems need resilient higher education institutions that operate within a shared framework of quality assurance standards that enable international cooperation and mutual recognition, ensure that learners achieve the right skills and competences to be active citizens in knowledge-based societies and economies, and support innovation through flexible and fit-for-purpose regulatory frameworks. The increasing demand for skills and competences requires higher education to

<https://www.eurashe.eu/document/esg-2027-draft/>



Das Projekt QualityLink

Auffindbarkeit: Informationen über Lernangebote aus verschiedenen Quellen

1. Kompetenzbedarfe am Arbeitsmarkt

- o z.B. Übereinstimmung der vermittelten Kompetenzen mit dem prognostiziertem Kompetenzbedarf

2. Lehr-/Lernmethoden und Pädagogik

- o z.B. aktivierende Lernmethoden (wie Challenges, Projekte)

3. Inklusion und Unterstützungsmöglichkeiten

- o z.B. Zusammensetzung der Lernenden

4. Zufriedenheit und Lernerfolg

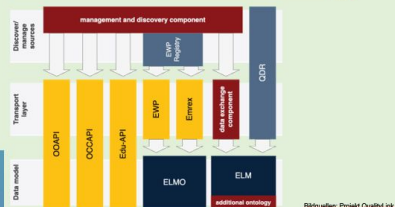
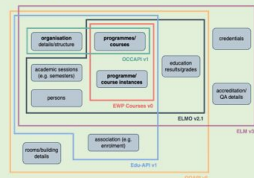
- o z.B. 5-Star Rating durch Teilnehmende

5. Institutionelle Reputation

- o z.B. Mitgliedschaft in Netzwerken (wie EUA, EURASHE)

Standards für Interoperabilität

- Unique Course Identifier
- Europe-wide Portal
- Data Sources and Access Policy
- Data Standards and Ontologies
- Data Aggregator
- Data Exchange Specification



Community Co-Creation

QualityLink Standards Consultation Board

• Europäische Hochschulallianzen

EU4Dual
CHARM-EU
EuroTeQ
UNITA!
ECIU
ENHANCE

• Policy

SURF
EHESO
EQAR
NAWA
EWP/Emrex

• EdTech

1EdTech

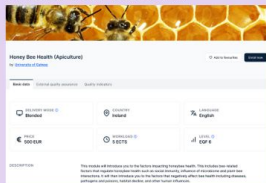
• European Digital Education Hub Interoperability Working Group



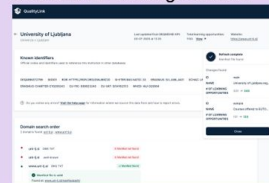
Institutionenübergreifender Kurskatalog

auf Basis von open course data

Frontend für Lernende



Backend für Bildungsanbieter

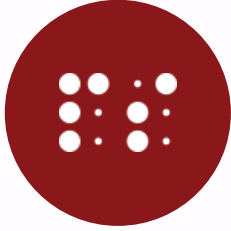


<https://quality-link.eu/>



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Zuverlässige Informationen über Kurse/Module und Lernergebnisse sind unerlässlich für ...



- Flexible Lernpfade
- Anerkennung
- Aussagefähige Zeugnisse



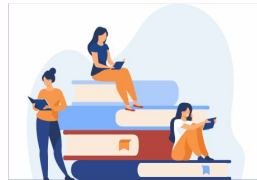
- Gemeinsame Kurskataloge



- Karriereberatung
- Skill- und Kompetenz-basiertes Recruiting
- ...

USE CASE 1

Discover

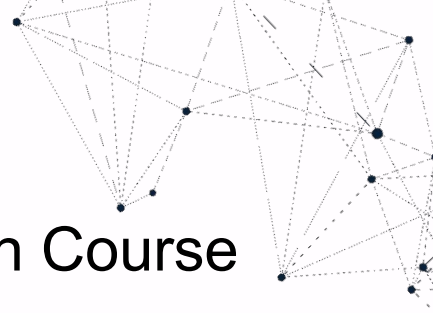


Enhancing the visibility and comparability of diverse learning and mobility opportunities across HEIs, emphasising the importance of machine-readable metadata for easy comparison and discovery.

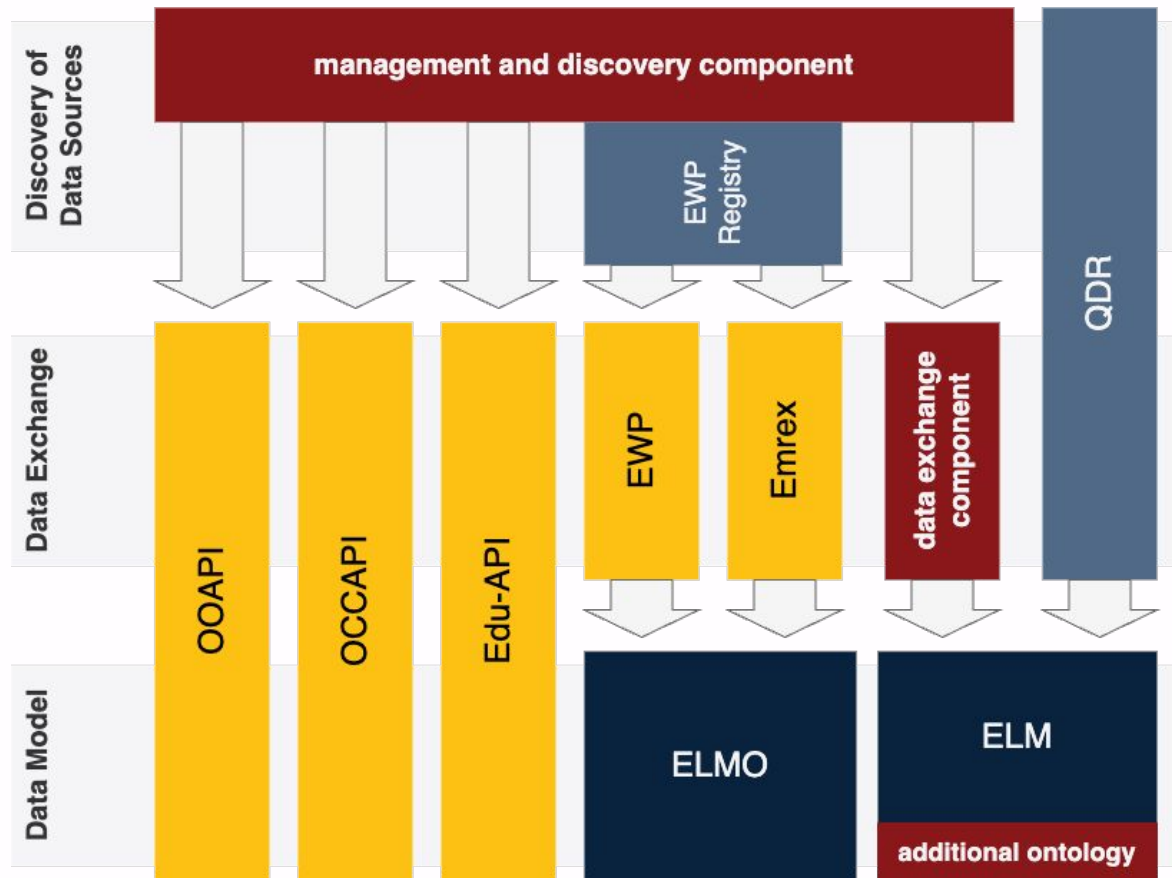
CMS (Website) Course catalogue
Curriculum management

Umfrage:

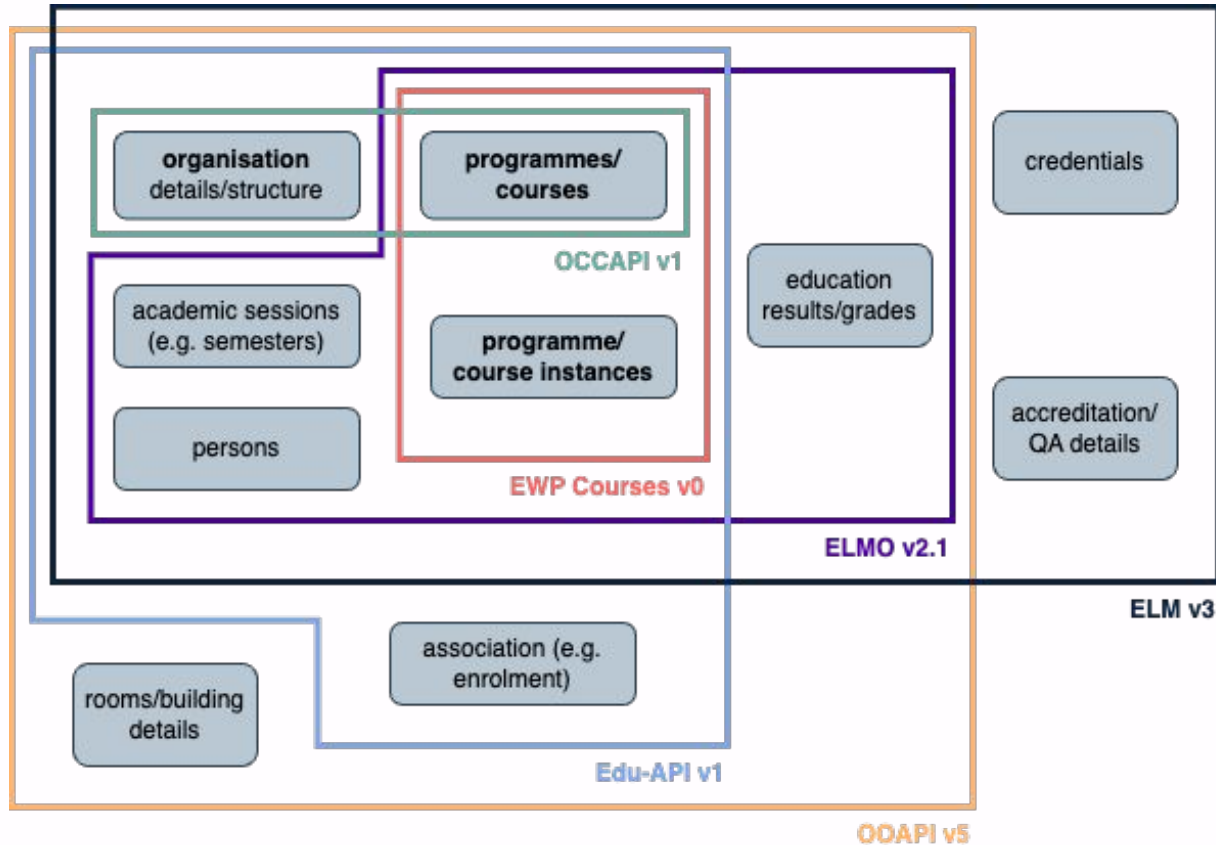
- Welche Chancen sehen Sie im Konzept der Open Course Data?
- Welche Risiken sehen Sie im Konzept der Open Course Data?



Status quo: mehrere verbreitete Standards, aber auch Lücken



Bestehende Standards decken unterschiedliche Bereiche ab:

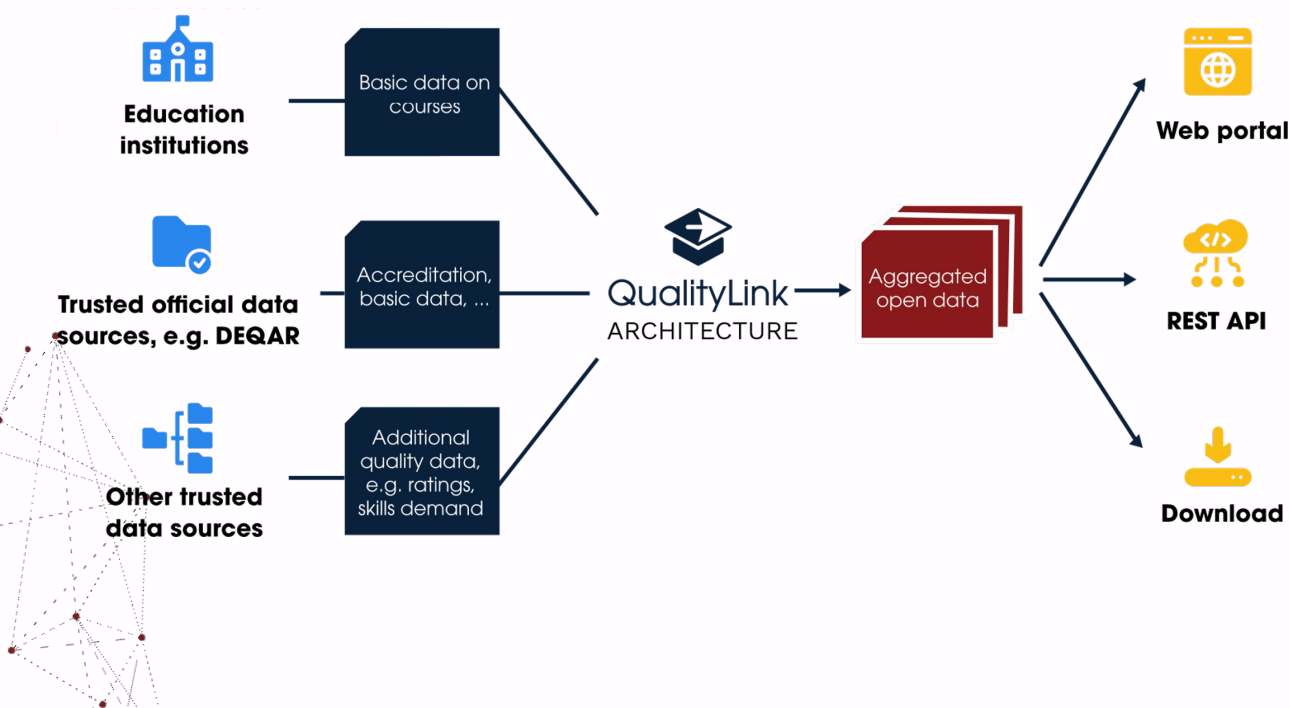


Das European Learning Model (ELM) ermöglicht die vollständigsten Beschreibungen

Element	ELM	OOAPI	Edu-API	OCCAPI
Title	yes	yes	yes	yes
Awarding body	yes	yes	yes	yes
Learning outcomes	text + ESCO	text	no	text
Workload/ECTS	yes	yes	yes	yes
Level	EQF	EQF	yes	EQF
Type of assessment	yes	yes	no	yes
Form of participation	yes	yes	yes	indirect
Type of QA	yes	no	no	no
Prerequisites	yes	indirect	no	yes
Supervision and verification	yes	no	no	no
Integration/stackability	indirect	no	no	no

ELM as
reference –
future OOAPI
& Edu-API
extensions
could cover
additional
elements

Vision: eine europaweite offene Infrastruktur, in der Daten direkt von Hochschulen (u.a.) bereitgestellt werden



Prinzipien

- aufbauen auf dem, was schon da ist
- niedrige Einstiegshürden
- flexibel
- offen für Erweiterungen
- Open Source

QualityLink hat drei bisher fehlende Komponenten entwickelt:



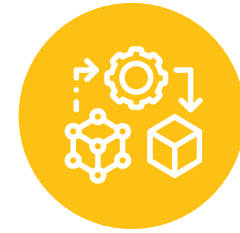
1. Erweiterung des ELM

um alle für “open course data” notwendigen Daten und Attribute



2. Skalierbarer Ansatz

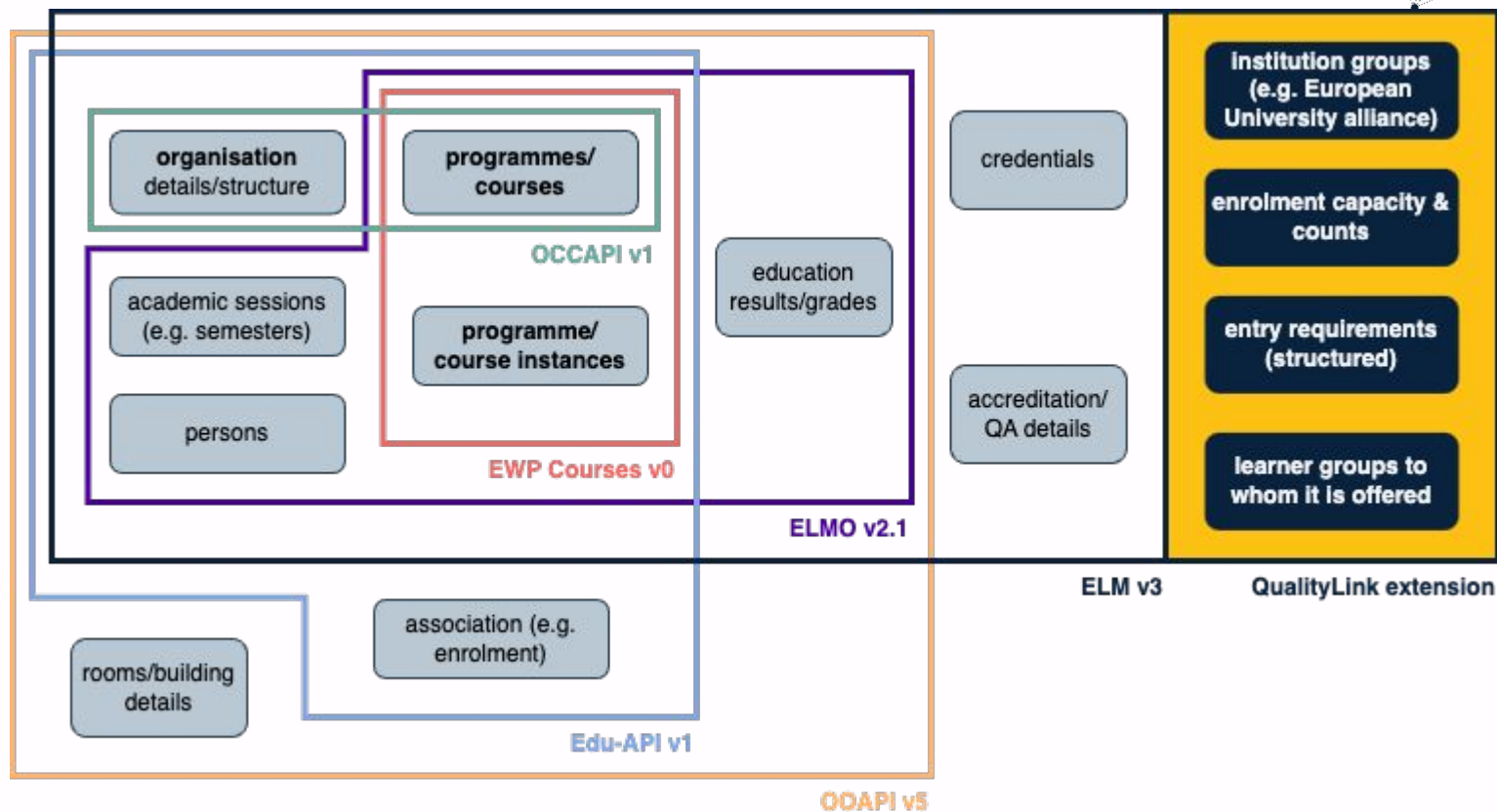
für das Auffinden und Einbinden von Datenquellen, nicht nur innerhalb von Allianzen oder Netzwerken



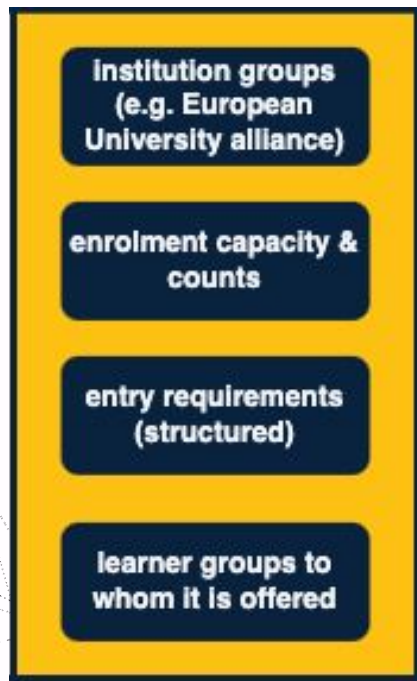
3. Erweiterung existierender Datenstandards

und Mapping der Datenfelder zum ELM

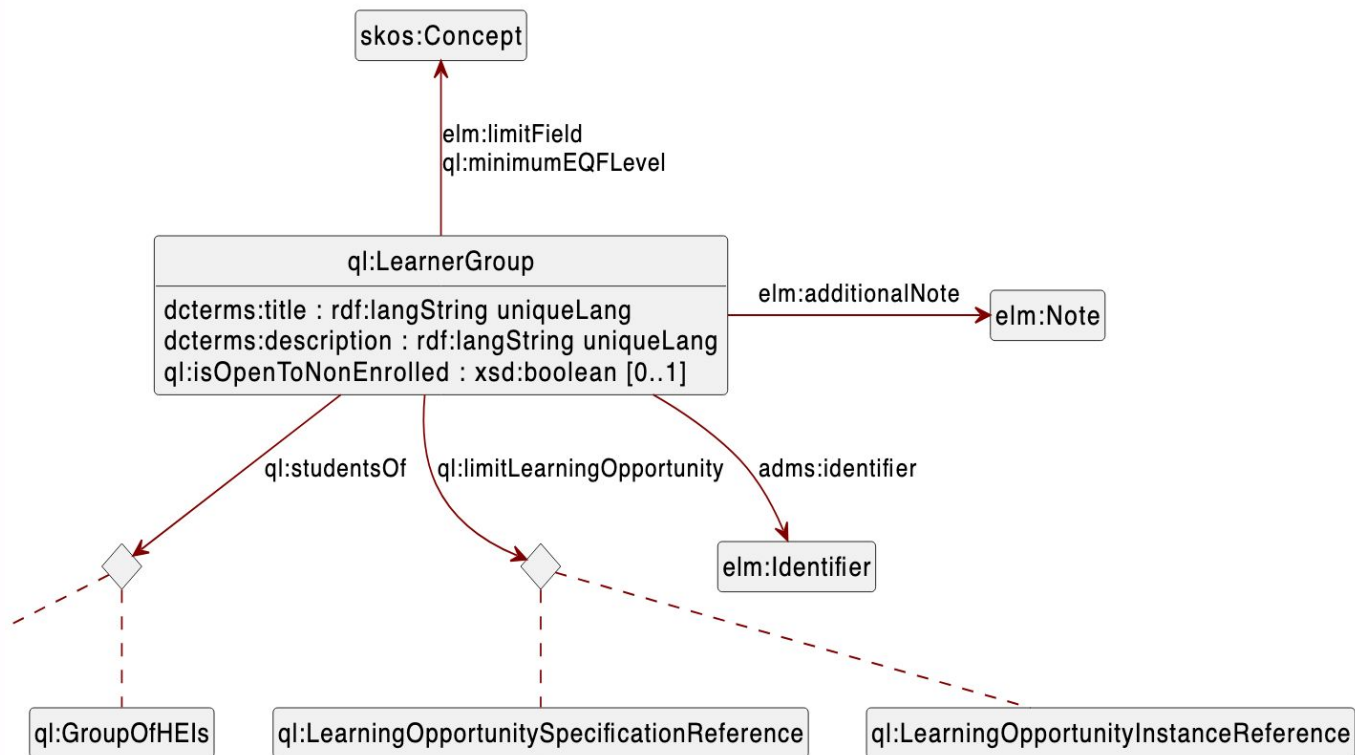
1. Erweiterung des ELM deckt zusätzliche Use Cases ab



1. Erweiterung des ELM deckt zusätzliche Use Cases ab



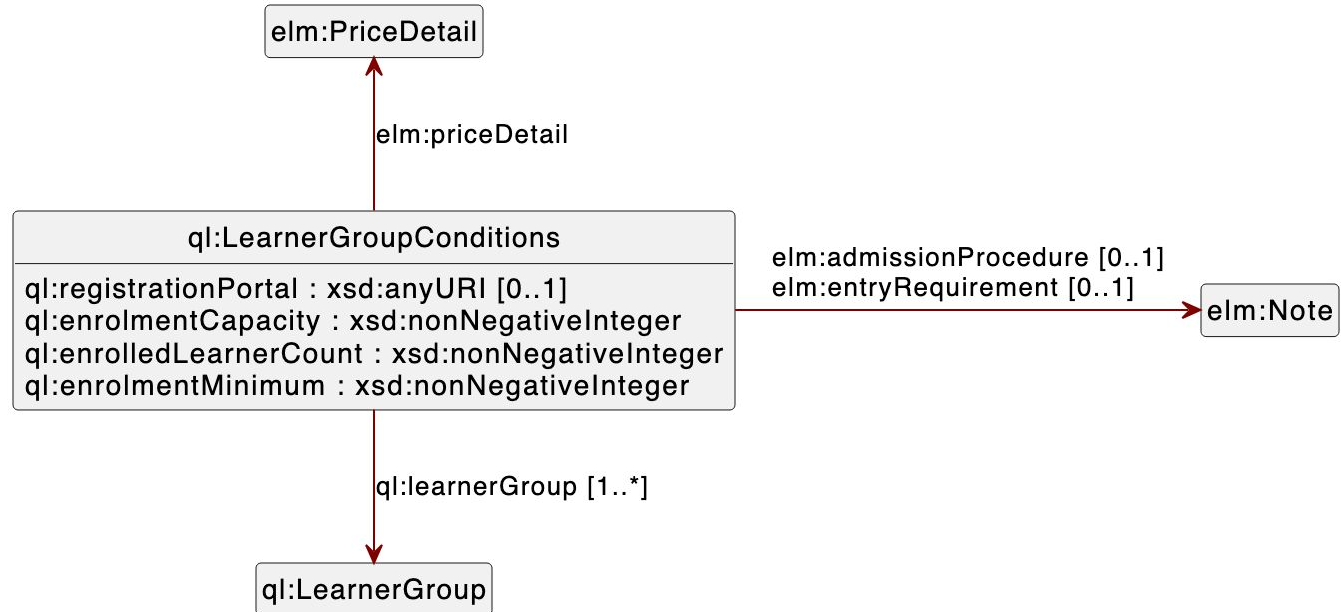
QualityLink extension



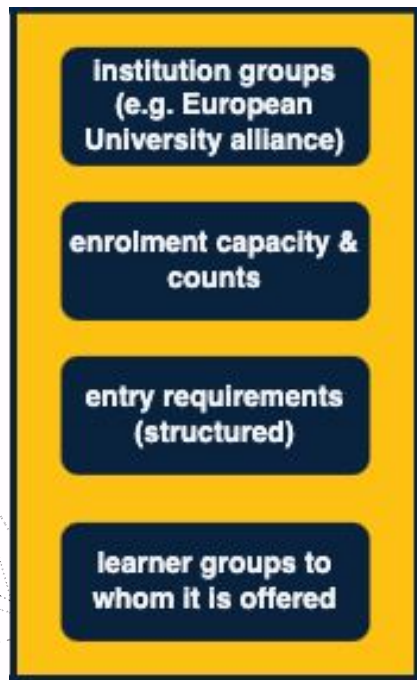
1. Erweiterung des ELM deckt zusätzliche Use Cases ab



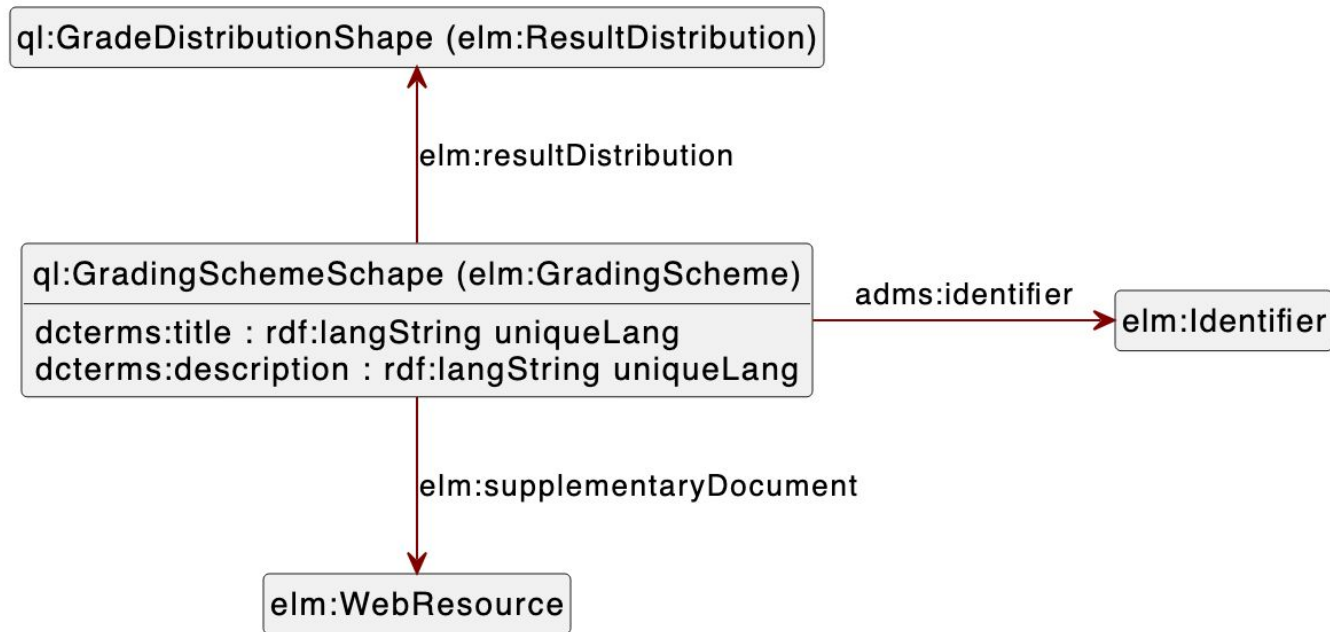
QualityLink extension



1. Erweiterung des ELM deckt zusätzliche Use Cases ab



QualityLink extension

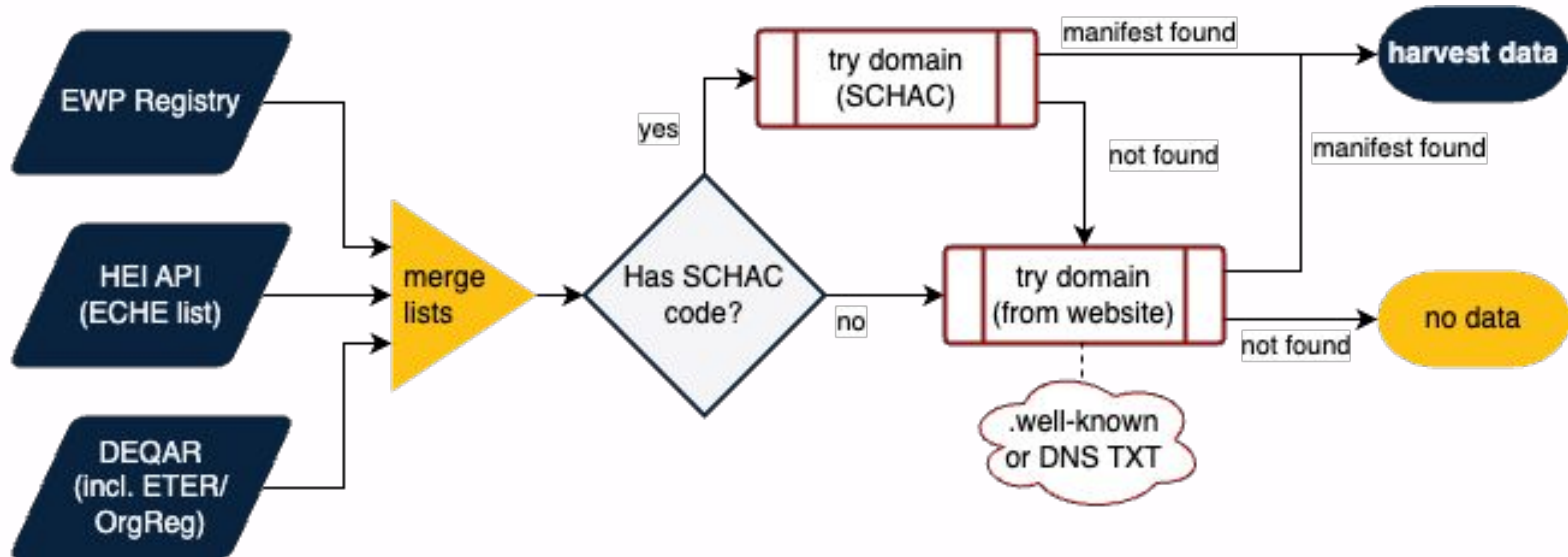


2. Mechanismus zur Datenbereitstellung baut auf existierender Infrastruktur auf

Verzeichnis anerkannter
Hochschulen (von DEQAR)

Internet-Domain
(Webseite & SCHAC)

Datenquellen in einer
Manifest-Datei



2. Hochschulen managen ihre Daten selbst

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    "eterid": "AT0005",
    "deqarid": "DEQARINST0005"
  },
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        "value": "d+XI9buSoxKqxFDveh0lwvy8jtd140qd0Q6pDfXitD7U11VBbxdDgc8FN3dU8T9b0KubhC  
oe2Kbil0mxHMSUzNp1PhnAN09khN3YUtr/rJB/SJ6ySLa6yM4ZwTkF17cyaXhBuf99QE60Y  
VN56C8zXS0R1UxcchugrZT7mkvrbkMFHydvGbm9AYxo2R0TKAb7NnmMwxjft7ThgFv0gV  
Zb9lI9K4Jkoo0K+fi97a0DQzbDxhCnxIRNDgcHuukj4RAHb0D5sld061GSKLb3nSE940A  
fGALh4/udQa6623ECvrvo6HYI09ZdBaLAdZTxnwtGI06Ns1zBfxJmK08xZge1sH4+SLQm+"
      }
    }
  }
}
```



Domain search order

4 domains found

- tuwien.ac.at DNS TXT Manifest not found
- tuwien.ac.at .well-known Manifest not found
- at0005-ql-dev.test.36ada.eu DNS TXT Manifest not found
- at0005-ql-dev.test.36ada.eu .well-known Manifest found

Manifest file is valid

Found at: <https://at0005-ql-dev.test.36ada.eu/.well-known/quality-link-manifest.json>

Refresh

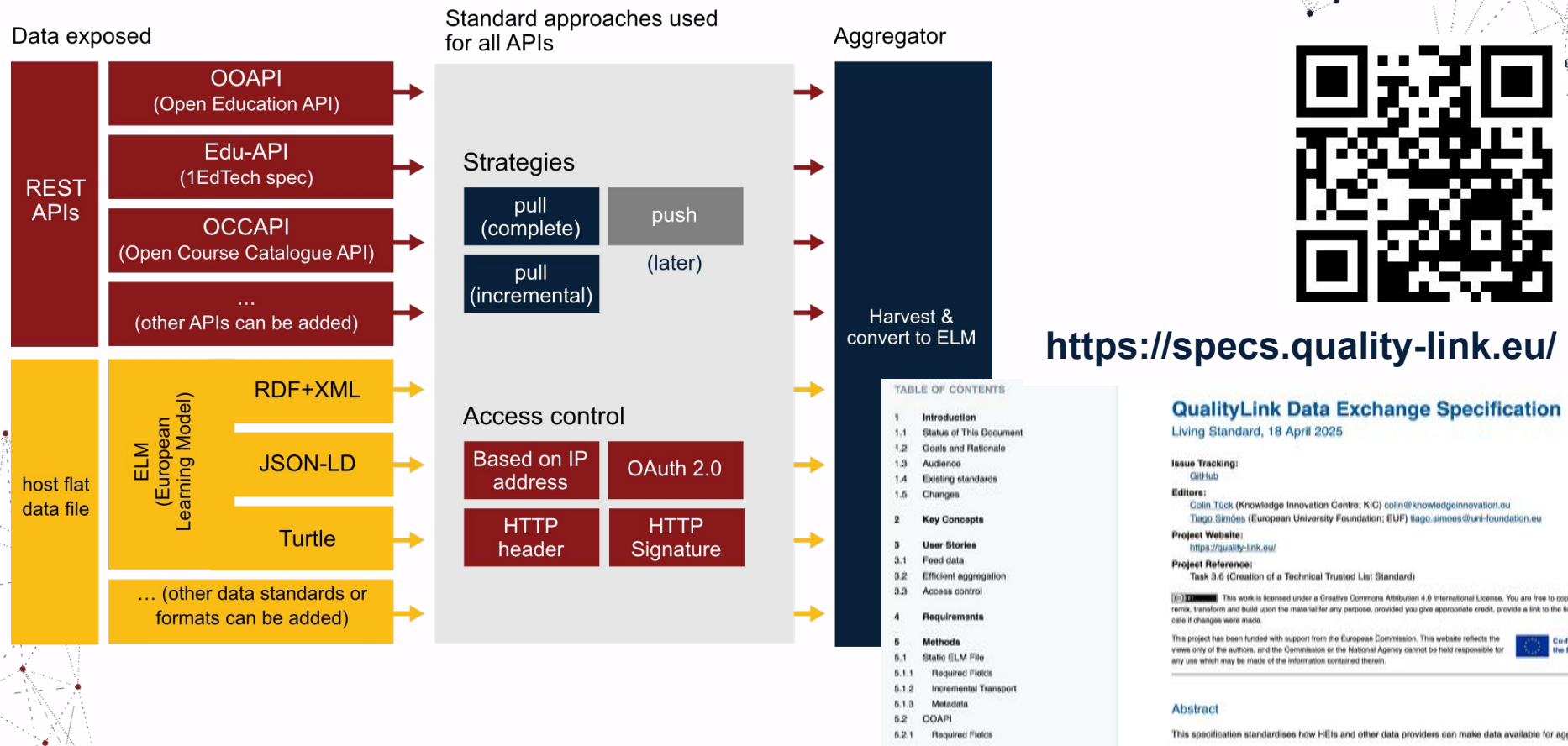
Was your manifest file not found? [Visit the help page](#)

Data sources

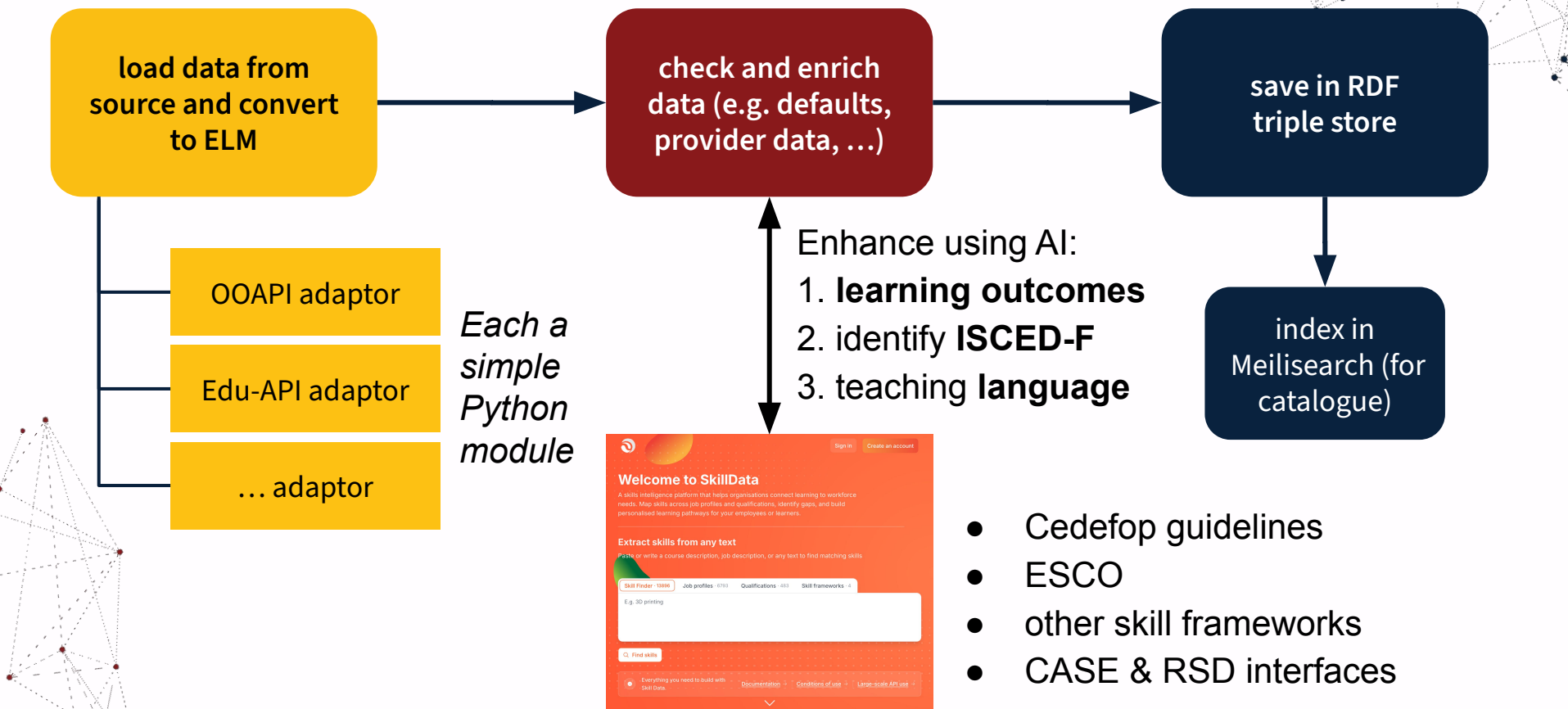
The following data sources were found in the manifest file

ID	NAME	TYPE	PUSHED
bf68fbc1...	additional courses	ELM	—
1edtech	1EdTech testing endpoint	EDU-API	29 Apr 2026
e93e48fb...	main source	ELM	4 May 2026

3. Einheitliche Ansätze über verschiedene Standards hinweg



3. QualityLink Pilot Aggregator ergänzt Kursdaten mit zusätzlichen relevanten Informationen



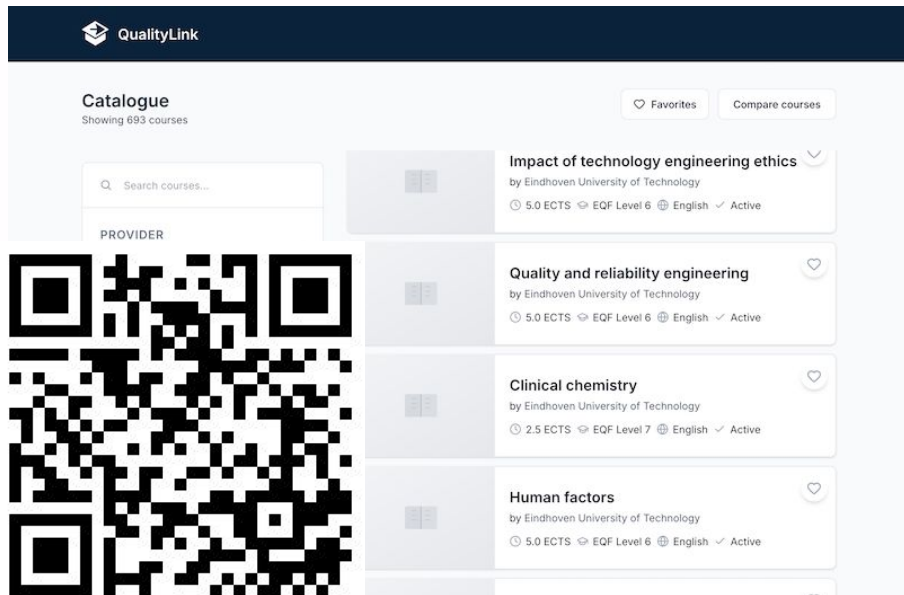
Überblick: Datenspezifikationen

- **Data Sources and Access Policy** – terms and conditions for data use
- **Ontology** – extends the **European Learning Model (ELM)**
- **QualityLink Application Profile** – extends the ELM profile for Learning Opportunities and Qualifications (LOQ)
- **Course Identifier Specification** – common format for unique course identifiers
- **Data Source Discovery Specification** – mechanism to discover data sources exposed by institutions
- **Data Exchange Specification** – describes use of supported formats (**ELM**, **OOAPI**, **Edu-API** and **OCCAPI**)



<https://specs.quality-link.eu/>

Pilot Aggregator & Katalog: QualityLink in der Praxis



<https://courses.app.quality-link.eu/>



<https://dashboard.app.quality-link.eu/>

QualityLink aims to address all stakeholders' needs by furnishing them with all relevant information about courses and micro-credentials from a diversity of sources to improve recognition decisions and allow learners to follow flexible learning pathways. To make sure that the standards are of high quality and have ownership in the community, the consortium has created a Standards Consultation Board – a group of higher education interoperability experts from across different countries. Through creating open standards and collaboration, the project aims to establish the infrastructure for aggregating quality information from a wide range of sources.



**Co-funded by
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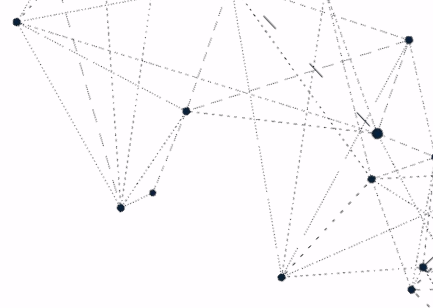
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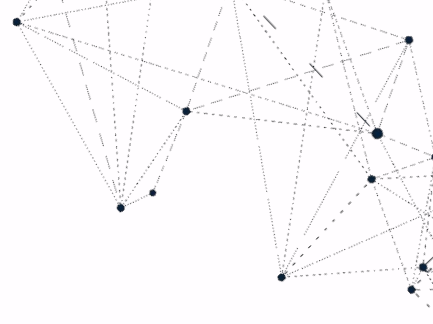
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Backup



What information are we looking at

1. Basic elements

Required

- Title of the micro-credential
- Country(ies)/Region(s) of the issuer;
- Awarding body(ies)
- Learning outcomes
- Notional workload/ECTS
- Level (EQF, QF-EHEA)
- Type of assessment
- Form of participation
- Type of quality assurance

Optional

- Prerequisites
- Supervision and identity verification
- Integration/stackability options

(Council Recommendation on a European Approach to MCs, 2022 - non-individual elements only)

2. Quality indicators

1. Content Relevance, Labour Market Demand and Accuracy	1.1 Accurate and up-to-date
	1.2 Demand for skills
	1.3 Stackability
2. Teaching Methods and Pedagogy	2.1 Quality Assurance
	2.2 Tutoring
	2.3 Virtual learning env.
3. Accessibility and Inclusivity	3.1 Recognition of prior learning
4. Learner-Centred Approach Satisfaction and Success	4.1 Student ratings
5. Institutional Reputation	5.1 Expertise of Lecturers
	5.2 Networks
	5.3 Recognition history of the micro-credential

3. Alliance use cases

Enrolment

- Capacity
- Application period
- Enrolment process

Pathways

- Requirements and prerequisites
- Conditions for specific learner groups

Recognition

- Grade distribution details

Use cases



Potential learners,
guidance



Recognition and
labour market



Alliances' joint
catalogues



Mapping and
benchmarking



Interoperability for
other apps



Europe-wide
visibility



Web portal

- Publicly accessible
- Basic search, filtering, ...
- Preset views for alliances, etc.



REST API

- Integration into other applications
- Custom course catalogue frontend
- Free, but with rate limits



Download

- Research or analysis
- Freely accessible without restriction

Dataset available under
Creative Commons
Attribution-NonCommercial:

- requires that users give credit
- allows to distribute, remix, adapt – but for noncommercial purposes only



Status of implementation



QualityLink

Data standards

ELM	v3
OOAPI	v5 & v6
Edu-API	v1
OCCAPI	work in progress

Access control

IP address whitelisting	supported
HTTP request header	supported
OAuth 2.0	supported
HTTP Signature	on hold



[https://quality-link.eu/
step-by-step/](https://quality-link.eu/step-by-step/)

Implementation options for institutions and alliances

