



Note from Chief Executive

Welcome to the EduCampus Winter Newsletter. This has been a year of significant achievement for EduCampus, and I am delighted to take the opportunity to share some of our highlights with you.

While we are still weathering the challenges that COVID-19 has brought, we have successfully grown our client community, supported the formation of new multi-campus Technological Universities, and implemented new contracts to ensure the future success of our clients. I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude for the support of the Higher Education Authority, THEA, the Department of Education, and to the Department of Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science. To our valued client community- thank you for your collaboration during this year

To the EduCampus staff, I wish to convey my heartfelt thanks for your dedication and commitment, I look forward to continue building on this positive momentum in 2022.

Happy Christmas to you and your families and Best Wishes for the coming year.

Paddy Naughton

Financial Management System

This year, EduCampus signed a new 3-year contract under an existing Framework Agreement with Unit4 for the provision and support of ERP solutions.

Under the MIS refresh programme, EduCampus also worked to migrate and upgrade key enterprise systems to modern, Cloud-based environments. We are proud to report that all clients have now been upgraded to the latest Unit4 ERP7 cloud-hosted solution.

Building on this project, planning is now underway to deliver additional features and functionality to our clients. This project will be completed in 2022.

eInvoicing

Phase one compliance of the European eInvoicing directive which requires all public bodies to be able to receive and process electronic invoices was achieved in April 2020.

Phase two, which involves integration with the Financial Management System is underway, and to date, two Institutes and three Technological Universities have completed this task.



HRP projects

In October, EduCampus successfully completed an Electronic Leave Management project for TCD. We also upgraded our clients to the latest version (People XD) of the HRM & Payroll software, which was completed in November 2021, ahead of the annual year-end release- a significant achievement to be completed in a three-month time frame.

We continue to provide ongoing assistance to the HEPSS Proof of Concept project, which supports the onboarding of the Royal Irish Academy in 2021 and the continued work with UL and TCD.

Student Records Management System

In 2020, EduCampus completed initial project planning with DXC and Ellucian to upgrade all existing clients to a feature-rich, cloud-based solution, called Banner 9. This application provides a more streamlined administrative process, and an improved self-service experience for students.

The first stage of the project spanned nine months and included 21 virtual workshops and feedback sessions with key stakeholders from our clients across the Institute of Technology (IoT) and Technological University (TU) sectors. This defined an optimised baseline configuration model for the Higher Education sector in Ireland, one that is flexible and extendable to respond to the needs of our current and future clients.

Our team are now engaged in stage 2 with our clients, the project implementation; this includes a pilot site (LyIT) and validation site (IT Carlow). We expect both sites to go live on the new Banner 9 system in early 2022. We will then focus on the remaining client's sites with a view to completing the implementation schedule by early 2023.



Student Credentials

We had great uptake amongst our client community with the implementation of the new document types, Registration Letter & Graduate Parchment. Clients have reported that there are tangible cost savings from a resource perspective, in terms of the staff and materials required to issue these documents manually versus the digital offering.

There has also been an increased prevalence in the news around life-long learning and Micro Credentials and how this is considered to be part of the solution for the challenges facing workers. In addition, the Digitary Badge functionality is a new offering made available to our clients this year, which is well placed to meet the need for credentialing micro courses, as well as allowing learners to showcase skills and knowledge.

To date, one client has successfully implemented Digitary Badges and our team are looking forward to engaging with others who have registered their interest in implementing the solution.

Library Management System

In October, EduCampus entered into a new call-off contract of up to three years under an existing framework agreement with Interleaf for the continued provision of the Koha Library Management System.

The annual upgrade of the Koha Library Management System was successfully completed for all 13 Library instances across the Institutes and Technological Universities. These upgrades are required to ensure the library instances are kept up to date with the most recent Koha versions, ensuring clients have access to security updates, support, and new functionality.



TU Merger Projects

EduCampus is proud to play a central role in working alongside our colleagues on their journey in establishing Technological Universities. A necessary evolution in EduCampus' governance model has taken place to incorporate the unique requirements presented by the TU consolidation projects. We will continue to work closely with each of the TUs and assist them in achieving the target of consolidated MIS systems, a crucial aspect in the support of operations in each of the Universities.

Following are some of the key highlights of this project over the last 12 months.

TU Dublin Unification project



EduCampus began TU Dublin's unification project by working in conjunction with Access People to identify options for unifying TU Dublin's HRM & Payroll systems. This project has since commenced and go-live is scheduled for January 2022.

Our team also worked in conjunction with Unit4 to establish the best options for unifying TU Dublin's FMS system. In April, a project to upgrade TU Dublin's City Campus to the latest cloud-hosted version was completed, and in September the new FMS system was delivered. EduCampus have also commenced engagement with TU Dublin and DXC to prepare and progress an approach to deliver a new single SRMS.

MTU Merger Project



In 2021, the newly established MTU successfully launched its new cloud-based FMS and HR & Payroll systems. These new systems bring together the financial and HRP systems of both the Tralee and Cork campuses allowing MTU to begin finance and HRP operations as a new university.

We have also begun the process of consolidating MTU's SRMS system and have engaged with the supplier to identify options for this process. In addition, our team have also commenced the Design and Feasibility stage for the MTU Library Management Systems.

TU of the Shannon (TUS): Midlands Midwest Consortium Merger Projects

In October, a single unified FMS was successfully launched by our team. Work also continues on the HRM & Payroll system to implement any necessary changes to facilitate the operation of the new TU.



Atlantic Technological University (ATU)

In October GMIT, LYIT and IT Sligo were approved for designation as Ireland's newest technological university - Atlantic Technological University (ATU), which will formally commence on the 1st April 2022.

EduCampus are working with ATU to implement any changes required to support them in operating as a University and to plan for the successful consolidation of their MIS systems.

Technological University for the South-East (TUSEI) Merger Projects

In January 2021, the Project Working group, comprising representatives from EduCampus and the TUSEI institutions met to discuss the merging of the MIS systems. TUSEI identified the Finance Management System (FMS) as their key priority for consolidation which is expected to go-live in May 2022.

While work is also underway to merge the HRM & Payroll system, EduCampus have also commenced the Design and Feasibility stage for the SRMS systems and are currently exploring options for the best way of consolidating the system.

COVID-19 Management Initiative

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, EduCampus put in place a COVID-19 Management Initiative to assist our clients in adapting to the usage of the MIS applications whilst working remotely.

These weekly and fortnightly user group meetings that were established in April 2020 have gone from strength to strength and both EduCampus and the clients have found these regular engagements to be invaluable. Although the staff have returned to campus, we have agreed to retain these meetings going forward. Since January 1st, there have been 123 meetings held with the different system groups.

Security

A security advisory group has been established by EduCampus to advise on policy for a wide range of security items relating to ongoing implementations and management of the MIS suite of applications.



The ESSAG hosted the 'Ransomware in Focus: Challenges for Higher Education' webinar on June 30th, with industry security experts, BSI, for the benefit of the Higher Education sector. Managing Security to Mitigate an Attack. We wish to thank all attendees who participated in the event and for your positive feedback.

The group will continue in its capacity to advise the EduCampus Executive on IT, information and data related security matters pertaining to EduCampus procured applications, systems, and services for client institutions.

Welcoming new Higher Education Institutions

In 2021, EduCampus were thrilled to welcome NUI Galway as new members of our client community. Following an extensive engagement over an eight-month period, EduCampus finalised a Client Services Agreement with the university and contractual agreements with DXC and Digitary for the provision of a Student Record Management System, a Student Credentialing system, and associated services required by NUI Galway.

Partnering with EduCampus allows NUI Galway to replace their current student management solution with a platform that integrates associated systems and services and provides students with a digital pathway experience that will enhance the student journey at NUI Galway.

EduCampus also continued its valued relationship with ESBS this year, which allowed for the initiation of the HEPSS proof-of-concept pilot project. This will pave the way for the consolidation of payroll processing across the HEI sector in Ireland. As part of this project implementation, EduCampus facilitated the successful onboarding of Waterford Institute of Technology and Marino Institute of Education into the payroll processing service. In addition, EduCampus worked collaboratively with ESBS to facilitate the successful onboarding of 3 additional HEI's; University College Cork, NUI Galway, and the University of Limerick as early adopters of the Higher Education Payroll Shared Service (HEPSS). Under this scheme, the Royal Irish Academy also transitioned on to the HEPSS shared environment.

Client Survey 2021



The EduCampus engagement model is based on continuous collaboration with our client community. It is designed to build relationships with clients, to earn the trust of the user community and to facilitate the changes required for the client institutions to evolve their operations in meeting the needs of their students.

To service our client's needs better, we have asked our community to participate in our first client survey. The results of the survey will inform our decision making regarding our service improvement and enhancement over the coming years. Data will be collated before the end of the year, and we are excited to publish a summary of results in the Annual Reports in April 2022.

EduCampus Runners-Up for Company of the Year 2021

EduCampus and HEAnet were thrilled to be recognised by the IBEC Keep Well Awards. This achievement recognises us for our contribution and dedication to supporting the health and well-being of our employees at work, which significantly contributes to the emotional, physical, mental health and well-being of employees in the workplace.

We would like to thank and congratulate our team members, who have made this recognition possible. We would also like to recognise our client community for your continuous support and help in creating a positive working experience for our employees.

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