

A European Approach to Micro-credentials



A NEW MICRO-CREDENTIAL ERA
IN VET?
SKILLS, QUALIFICATIONS
FRAMEWORK AND EU
APPROACHES

A European Approach to Micro-Credentials



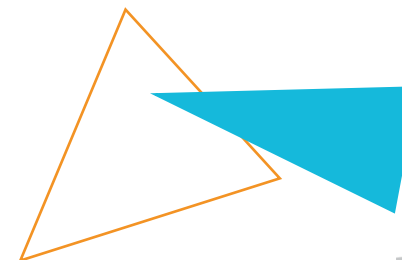
A joint initiative of
European Commissioners
Mariya Gabriel and Nicolas
Schmit



European Skills Agenda

Achieving a European
Education Area by 2025

Digital Education
Action Plan



European
Commission

Micro-credentials for economic recovery and green and digital transitions

- ✓ More than **1 million new jobs in the EU by 2030** and more than 2 million new jobs by 2050 expected thanks to the transition towards a low-carbon economy
- ✓ More than **90% of jobs require specific types of digital skills**
- ✓ Around **40% of new jobs were created in digitally intensive sectors** between 2005 and 2016
- ✓ Persistent **misalignment between demand and supply of skills and qualifications**, including for graduates
 - **Up and reskilling central** in this context – **micro-credentials offer a flexible and innovative tool** to acquire skills in a targeted, modular and flexible way in line with emerging skills needs

Examples for different micro-credentials



Future Learn Subjects Courses Using FutureLearn

Search online courses

Online Microcredential in **Business & Management**

FinTech - Financial Innovation

Investigate the changes brought about by FinTech innovation and harness evolving opportunities in the future of FinTech.

Speak to an advisor Join now \$1,659

Dates Starts on 24 Jan 2020 See more start dates	Duration 12 weeks	Cost \$1,659	Level Postgraduate See requirements
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[Overview](#) [Requirements](#) [Syllabus](#) [What you will receive](#) [Educators](#) [Start dates](#)

AMU Fun

Se vores udvalg af kurser indenfor transport & lager



ECIU

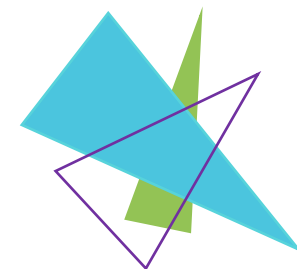
ECIU offers research-based micro-credentials, throughout Europe, that are at the core of personalised skills and competence development of its learners.

Online Microcredential in **Business & Management**

Sales Skills for Today: An Introduction to Entrepreneurial Sales

Learn how to sell in today's complex marketplace and gain in-demand sales skills to accelerate your career progression.

Problems to be tackled



- **Policy challenge:**
growing number of people need to update their knowledge, skills and competences (green and digital transitions, COVID-19 recovery)
- Rising number of micro-credentials globally and in Europe, but:
 - **value** and **understanding** of micro-credentials not always clear
 - wide range of providers (education and training, private sector)
 - questions on **quality, recognition, transparency** and **portability** of micro-credentials between and within countries, between sectors, from one job to another



Micro-credentials: action at European level

EU SKILLS AGENDA

A EUROPEAN APPROACH TO MICRO-CREDENTIALS WILL

- ✓ Develop* **European standards for quality and transparency.**
- ✓ Explore* the inclusion of **micro-credentials in qualifications frameworks.**
- ✓ Make it easier for individuals to **store and showcase** acquired micro-credentials through **Europass**

* **together with all relevant stakeholders**



Micro-credentials: action at European level

Achieving a EUROPEAN EDUCATION AREA by 2025

30 September 2020

- ✓ **EU approach to micro-credentials** will help:
 - Widen learning opportunities
 - Strengthen role of higher education and VET in lifelong learning
- ✓ Proposal for a **Council Recommendation in 2021**
 - Common definition and common approach
 - EU action will support **building trust** in **micro-credentials across Europe**
 - Have all the necessary steps in place by 2025 for their wider use, **portability** and **recognition**

Diversity of micro-credentials

Micro-credentials can be obtained in a **variety of settings** (e.g. on line, boot camps, in-company training, as a result of validation on non-formal and informal learning) ...

... and are issued by a **variety of providers** (e.g. universities, VET providers, private companies, chambers of commerce, skilled crafts and industry associations, NGOs)

Building blocks for take-up of micro-credentials

- A common and **transparent definition**
- EU standard: a defined list of **critical information elements** to describe micro-credentials
- Alignment to **National Qualifications Frameworks** (NQFs) and the **European Qualifications Framework** (EQF): defined levels, standards for describing learning outcomes
- **Quality assurance** standards
- Defined credits: European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), **defined learning outcomes** and notional workload
- **Recognition**: for further studies and/or employment purposes
- Portability: **issuing, storage and sharing** of micro-credentials
- Platform solutions for the **provision and promotion** of courses leading to micro-credentials
- Incentives to **stimulate the uptake** of micro-credentials



Working definition

A micro-credential is a proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience. These learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent standards.

The proof is contained in a **certified document** that lists the name of the holder, the achieved **learning outcomes**, the assessment method, the awarding body and, where applicable, the **qualifications framework level** and the **credits** gained. Micro-credentials are **owned by the learner**, can be shared, are **portable** and may be **combined into larger credentials** or qualifications. They are underpinned by **quality assurance** following agreed standards

The essence of an EU Standard

- Identification of the **learner**
- **Title** of the micro-credential
- **Country/Region of the issuer**
- **Awarding body**
- Date of issuing
- **Learning outcomes**
- **Level** (and cycle, if applicable) of the learning experience leading to the micro-credential (EQF, QF-EHEA)
- **Notional workload** needed to achieve the learning outcomes (in **ECTS**, wherever possible)
- **Type of assessment**
- **Quality assurance of the credential** and, where relevant, of the learning content

This information should offer **verifiable, free and secure access to data**, which is **available over time**, in order to support transparency and recognition.

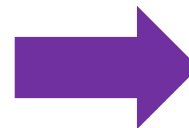
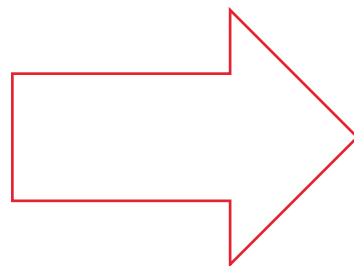
- Integration / stackability options*
- Supervision and identity verification during assessment *
- Grade achieved*
- Further information*

* Optional information

Way forward

Consultations covering
education and training
and labour market

**Open Public
Consultation Closes
13 July 2021**



Commission
proposal for a
Council
Recommendation
in December 2021



Thank You



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EU COMMISSION DG-EMPL

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