

A European Approach to Micro-credentials



HEInnovate webinar

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European Commission

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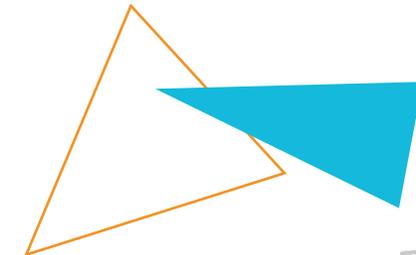
An initiative of
European Commissioners
Mariya Gabriel and
Nicolas Schmit



European Skills Agenda

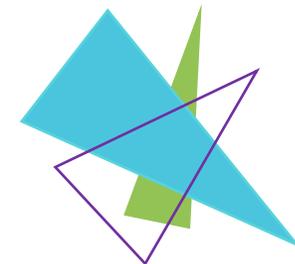
Achieving a European
Education Area by 2025

Digital Education
Action Plan



Importance of acting now

Policy challenges



1. Growing number of people need to update their knowledge, skills and competences (green and digital transitions, COVID-19 recovery)
2. Growing need for education and training to be more learner-centred and accessible for all
3. 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

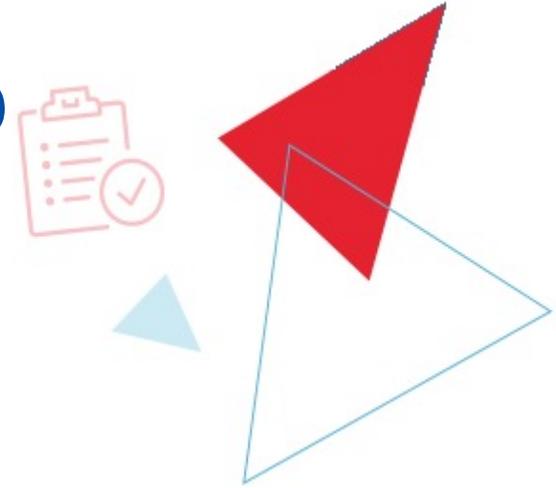
EU SKILLS AGENDA

- ✓ 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**

EUROPEAN EDUCATION AREA

- ✓ 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**

Higher Education Consultation Group



Final report (Dec-20): A European approach to micro-credentials - output of the micro-credentials higher education consultation group (and [executive summary](#))

Working definition

-Higher Education Consultation Group-

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

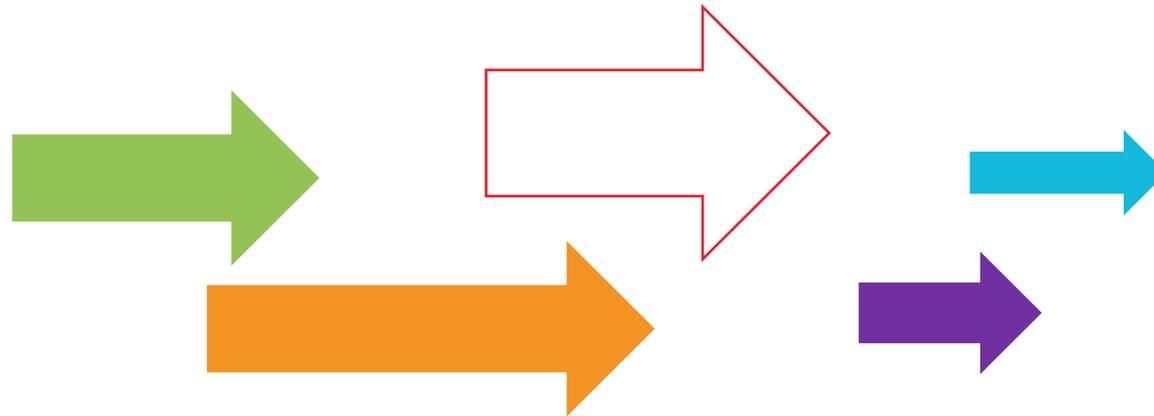
Building blocks for take-up of micro-credentials

-Higher Education Consultation Group-

- 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

Way forward

Ongoing:
Consultations
covering
education and
training and
labour market
stakeholders



Commission
proposal for a
Council
Recommendation
in December 2021

