

Micro-credentials linked to the Bologna Key Commitments

Common framework for Micro-
credentials in the European
Higher Education Area

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Common definition

A micro-credential is a certified small volume of learning.

Purpose

Micro-credentials are designed to provide the learner with specific knowledge, skills, and competences that respond to societal, personal, cultural or labour market needs.

- A way to increase and diversify lifelong learning provision to support individual learning pathways and widen access to higher education.
- They provide a timely and relevant response to learners' and labour market needs.
- Collaboration is an important aspect for the provision of micro-credentials.



Use

Credentials are owned by the learner, are portable and may be combined into larger credentials or qualifications.

- Micro-credentials can be earned before, during and after higher education degree programmes and as a new way to certify competences acquired earlier in life.
- Learners are at the heart of micro-credentials.
- Catalogues of existing micro-credentials can be an important source of information for learners.
- Certificates for micro-credentials can be awarded in many formats.



Use

- **Stackability:** different micro-credentials can be combined into a degree or other type of certification.
- **Funding mechanisms:** it will be necessary to consider the costs of developing and delivering micro-credentials across different disciplines and how they are linked to higher education funding structures.
- **Link between education and research:** micro-credentials can facilitate a smooth knowledge transfer, translating the latest research results quickly into learning opportunities for the benefit of society.

=> Micro-credentials can be seen as a way to tailor the learning offer and to make visible the knowledge, skills and competences acquired.



Constitutive elements

- **Information on the learner:** identification of the learner
- **Information on the provider:** information on the provider, including country; information on the awarding body institution, including country (if different), including a signature or seal of the provider and/or awarding body institution
- **Information on the micro-credential:** title, date of issuance or date of assessment, verification of authenticity
- **Information on the learning experience:** learning outcomes, workload (in ECTS, when possible), assessment and form of quality assurance
- **Information on the QF level:** NQF level (when possible), QF-EHEA and EQF level (if self-certified/referenced), ISCED level & subject area code, SQF level (if needed)
- **Form of participation** in the learning activity
- **Access requirements**

