Contribution ID: b138ceab-afa0-4f39-bc21-022c4e1b7761

Date: 07/07/2021 15:41:27

Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability

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Introduction

We would like to hear the views of citizens, governmental and non-governmental organisations (international, European, national, regional and local) as well as of education, training and employment stakeholders. You can respond to the public consultation in a personal or organisational/institutional capacity by filling in the questionnaire. Registered stakeholder organisations can also submit a position paper.

The European Commission is preparing a proposal for a Council Recommendation on micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability. This survey aims at collecting views of individuals and stakeholders on this initiative. Within Europe a growing number of people need to update their knowledge, skills and competences to fill the gap between their formal education and the needs of a fast-changing knowledgedevelopment society and labour market. The recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and the green and digital transitions require people to upskill or reskill, to maintain and acquire the competences that enable them to participate in society, ensure their personal, social and professional empowerment. Short learning courses and experiences are developing rapidly across Europe by a wide variety of public and private stakeholders, in response to the need for more flexible, learner-centred forms of provision of education and training. The potential role of and the interest in credentials that certify the outcomes of these short learning experiences is thus increasing. This is what we call 'micro-credentials'. Micro-credentials allow for a targeted acquisition of skills and competences, adapted to a fast changing society and labour market, while not replacing traditional qualifications. However, the value of micro-credentials is not always clear, due to a lack of standards for quality and transparency. The initiative aims at developing a common definition and European standards for quality, transparency, cross-border comparability, recognition and portability, for any awarding body, by building on existing tools, as far as possible. More flexible and modular learning pathways and a larger take-up of micro-credentials will serve social, economic and pedagogical innovation for all purposes (employability, personal development, active ageing in the digital age, etc.). This will contribute to more inclusive education systems and smoother labour market transitions.

About you

- *Language of my contribution
 - Bulgarian
 - Croatian

	Czech	
	Danish	
	Dutch	
	English	
	Estonian	
	Finnish	
	French	
	German	
	© Greek	
	Hungarian	
	Irish	
	Italian	
	Latvian	
	Lithuanian	
	Maltese	
	Polish	
	Portuguese	
	Romanian	
	Slovak	
	Slovenian	
	Spanish	
	Swedish	
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	Sara	
*Sı	ırname	
	Fasoli	
*Er	nail (this won't be published)	
	s.fasoli@hospeem.eu	
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	ganisation name 55 character(s) maximum	
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European Hospitals and Healthcare Employers' Association (HOSPEEM)	

*Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the <u>transparency register</u>. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

285977317289-74

*Country of origin

Argentina

Please add your country of c	origin, or that of your organis	sation.	
Afghanistan	Djibouti	Libya	Saint Martin
Åland Islands	Dominica	Liechtenstein	Saint Pierre
			and Miquelon
Albania	Dominican	Lithuania	Saint Vincent
	Republic		and the
			Grenadines
Algeria	Ecuador	Luxembourg	Samoa
American	Egypt	Macau	San Marino
Samoa			
Andorra	El Salvador	Madagascar	São Tomé and Príncipe
Angola	Equatorial	Malawi	Saudi Arabia
3	Guinea		
Anguilla	Eritrea	Malaysia	Senegal
Antarctica	Estonia	Maldives	Serbia
Antigua and	Eswatini	Mali	Seychelles
Barbuda			

Ethiopia

Malta

Sierra Leone

Armenia	Falkland Islands	MarshallIslands	Singapore
Aruba	Faroe Islands	Martinique	Sint Maarten
Australia	Fiji	Mauritania	Slovakia
Austria	Finland	Mauritius	Slovenia
Azerbaijan	France	Mayotte	Solomon
			Islands
Bahamas	French Guiana	Mexico	Somalia
Bahrain	French	Micronesia	South Africa
	Polynesia		
Bangladesh	French	Moldova	South Georgia
	Southern and		and the South
	Antarctic Lands		Sandwich
			Islands
Barbados	Gabon	Monaco	South Korea
Belarus	Georgia	Mongolia	South Sudan
Belgium	Germany	Montenegro	Spain
Belize	Ghana	Montserrat	Sri Lanka
Benin	Gibraltar	Morocco	Sudan
Bermuda	Greece	Mozambique	Suriname
Bhutan	Greenland	Myanmar	Svalbard and
		/Burma	Jan Mayen
Bolivia	Grenada	Namibia	Sweden
Bonaire Saint	Guadeloupe	Nauru	Switzerland
Eustatius and			
Saba	© Cuam	Nonel	O Cymin
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Guam	Nepal	Syria
Botswana	Guatemala	Netherlands	Taiwan
Bouvet Island	Guernsey	New Caledonia	Tajikistan
Brazil	Guinea	New Zealand	Tanzania
British Indian	Guinea-Bissau	Nicaragua	Thailand
Ocean Territory	Gamba Bioda	. Hodi agaa	. Hanaria
British Virgin	Guyana	Niger	The Gambia
Islands	•	Č	

	Brunei		Haiti		Nigeria		Timor-Leste
	Bulgaria	0	Heard Island and McDonald	0	Niue	0	Togo
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	Burundi		Hong Kong		Northern		Tonga
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	Cameroon		Iceland		North Macedonia		Tunisia
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0	Cape Verde	0		0	Oman Pakistan	0	Turks and
	Cayman Islands		Iran		Pakisian		Caicos Islands
0	Central African	0	Iraa	0	Palau	0	Tuvalu
	Republic		Iraq		i alau		Tuvalu
0	Chad	0	Ireland	0	Palestine	0	Uganda
0	Chile	0	Isle of Man	0	Panama	0	Ukraine
0	China	0	Israel	0	Papua New	0	United Arab
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0	Christmas	0	Italy	0	Paraguay	0	United
	Island		,		· araguay		Kingdom
0	Clipperton	0	Jamaica		Peru		United States
0	Cocos (Keeling)	0	Japan	0	Philippines	0	United States
	Islands		•				Minor Outlying
							Islands
0	Colombia		Jersey		Pitcairn Islands		Uruguay
	Comoros		Jordan		Poland		US Virgin
							Islands
0	Congo		Kazakhstan		Portugal		Uzbekistan
	Cook Islands		Kenya		Puerto Rico		Vanuatu
0	Costa Rica	0	Kiribati		Qatar		Vatican City
0	Côte d'Ivoire		Kosovo		Réunion		Venezuela
0	Croatia		Kuwait		Romania		Vietnam

Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Russia	Wallis and
			Futuna
Curação	Laos	Rwanda	Western
			Sahara
Cyprus	Latvia	Saint	Yemen
		Barthélemy	
Czechia	Lebanon	Saint Helena	Zambia
		Ascension and	
		Tristan da	
		Cunha	
Democratic	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and	Zimbabwe
Republic of the		Nevis	
Congo			
Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia	

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

*I am giving my contribution as
Academic/research institution
Business association
Company/business organisation
Consumer organisation
EU citizen
Environmental organisation
Non-EU citizen
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
Public authority
Trade union
Other
*Do you reply in your personal capacity? (EU or non-EU citizen, learner, staff or education and training organisations in personal capacity, worker, job-seeker) Yes No
*In which age group do you fall?
[©] 18-24
© 25-34
[®] 35-54
[©] 55-64
[©] 65+
* Is your main area of activity education and training?
Yes, in formal education and training (e.g. school, higher education
institution, vocational education and training provider, adult learning
provider, arts and music school)
Yes, in an industry, company or other organisation (eg chamber of
commerce, craft or industry) providing training

No

☑ I agree with the personal data protection provisions

7

Learning after finishing formal education and training gives people the opportunity to upgrade their knowledge, skills and competences in a rapidly changing society and labour market. Still, participation of adults in learning is low across Europe.

What do you think are the main reasons for this?

Please, select the 5 most important.

at least 1 choice(s)
Lack of time (including work, family and other commitments)
Lack of flexibility in the timing of training
lacktriangle It is difficult to attend physical training courses (independently of the
temporary COVID context)
Insufficient tailoring of training opportunities to individual needs
Fragmented/ insufficiently transparent information on available training
opportunities
Uncertainty about which skills are needed to improve employment and income prospects
income prospects
 Uncertainty about the quality of training opportunities Uncertainty about whether training outcomes will be recognised by any
Checitanity about whether training outcomes will be recognised by any
employer and/or education and training organisation for further learning
It is difficult to make the skills acquired through training visible to employers
Training does not give enough career improvement perspectives
Lack of support from employers (lack of opportunities for paid training,
training leave and others
Feeling of unease in group or class-based learning situations
Training courses are too expensive
Insufficient awareness of available financial support for adult learning
Lack of financial support for training costs
✓ Insufficient awareness of the benefits of adult learning
Other
*Who should have the main responsibility to overcome this difficulty (uncertainty
about recognition)?
Multiple choice allowed
It is the responsibility of the person
It is the responsibility of the employer
It is the responsibility of the public authorities of the country

*Who should have the main respons awareness on financial support)?	ibility to overcome th	nis difficulty (lack of	
Multiple choice allowed			
$^{lacktrel{V}}$ It is the responsibility of the pe	erson		
It is the responsibility of the en	nployer		
It is the responsibility of the put	iblic authorities of the	e country	
*Who should have the main respons	ibility to overcome th	nis difficulty (lack of	
awareness on benefits)?			
Multiple choice allowed			
$^{lacktrel{ ilde{V}}}$ It is the responsibility of the pe	erson		
$^{ m extbf{ iny I}}$ It is the responsibility of the en	nployer		
It is the responsibility of the put	blic authorities of the	e country	
Your vision on European standa	ards for micro-cred	entials	
The European Commission's working definition	on of micro-credentials is a	s follows:	
Ilearning experience. These learning outcomes. The proof is contained in a certified document outcomes, the assessment method, the award level and the credits gained. Micro-credentials may be combined into larger credentials or que following agreed standards. This section includes questions on the main of the contained in a certified document outcome.	t that lists the name of the ding body and, where app. s are owned by the learne valifications. They are und	holder, the achieved learning licable, the qualifications fran r, can be shared, are portable erpinned by quality assurance	g nework e and e
to implement these.			
*Does your institution/organisation a	ward micro-credentia	als (according to the	
working definition above)?*			
Yes			
No			
I don't know			
What would be the most important a	aspects of high quali	ty micro-credentials?	
Please rank all aspects below.			
			l do
			not know
			/do
			9

	Very important	Rather important	Rather not important	Not important	not wish to answer
* They are recognised by national authorities	•	0	0	0	0
* They are recognised by education and training organisations	•	0	0	0	0
* They are accepted by employers	0	•	0	0	0
* They are available in my native language	0	•	0	0	0
* They are available in a widely spoken language	0	•	0	©	0
* They are not expensive to obtain	•	0	0	©	0
* Content originates from reputable education and training providers	•	0	0	0	0
* Content was created in collaboration with employers, business associations, or chambers of commerce	•	0	0	0	0
* Content is linked to labour market needs	•	0	0	0	0
* They are available on online learning platforms	0	•	0	0	0
* They offer skills and competences that are of direct use for my current or future job	•	0	0	0	0
* They offer skills and competences that are useful for my further learning	•	0	0	0	0
* They help me being mobile across countries	0	0	0	0	•
* They can be building blocks towards partial or full qualifications	0	0	0	0	•
* They can be obtained through a validation of my skills	•	0	0	0	0
* Their quality assurance is based on transparent quality standards	•	0	0	0	0

Any others aspects?

Please specify

Please be aware that in some Member States the social partners have already reached agreements that esure the quality checks and the transparency of micro-credentials.

The European Commission's working definition of micro-credentials is as follows. The objective is to have a definition that looks simple, is easy to understand and is applicable to any sector and provider.

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.

Your feedback on the working definition is welcomed.

For each of its elements, please indicate whether you consider it to be essential, recommended, optional, not relevant:

	Essential	Recommended	Optional	Not relevant
* Focus on learning outcomes	•	0	0	0
* Focus on the short learning experience (can be a course or validation of an experience)	0	0	0	•
* Assessment of learning outcomes against transparent standards	•	0	0	0
* Proof of learning contained in a certified document	0	•	0	0
* Inclusion in a qualifications framework	•	0	0	0
* Credits or other expression of workload (e.g. hours of learning)	0	•	0	0
* Portability across Europe	0	•	0	0
* Possibility to combine micro-credentials into larger credentials or qualifications	0	•	0	0
* Underpinning by quality assurance	•	0	0	0

Do you consider any element missing in this working definition? *If yes, please specify:*

HOSPEEM considers that micro-credentials could play an important role in developing transversal competences, proven to be so relevant during the last year in the health sector and not only. A strong connection between micro-credentials and traditional qualifications is necessary for many sectors, but we underline that those micro-credentials cannot replace and cannot be recognized as traditional qualifications, and this should be clear as well when defining the micro-credentials.

We support the idea of a set of standard elements that should be included in micro-credentials. But we

emphasize that the standards elements should not create administrative burdens that could harm or slowdown some of the micro-credential's providers.

What EU-level actions and measures would facilitate the take-up of micro-credentials? *Please rank all aspects below.*

	Very important	Rather important	Rather not important	Not important	I do not know /do not wish to answer
Clear definition of micro-credentials	•	0	0	0	0
* EU standard for the elements of information to be included in the certificate	•	0	0	0	0
Setting Europe-wide quality standards to ensure high quality in all Member States	•	0	0	0	0
Regularly updated regulatory frameworks, for example alignment of micro-credentials in national qualifications frameworks where applicable	•	0	0	0	0
Include information on workload expressed in (ECTS) credits or duration	•	0	0	0	0
* Ensure recognition of micro-credentials	•	0	0	0	0
Provide digital tools to improve uptake, storage and recognition of micro-credentials	0	•	0	0	0
Ensure that micro-credentials can be used in all Member States	0	•	0	0	0
Ensure that the learner can use his/her micro-credentials in different sectors of education and training (vocational education and training, higher education, providers outside of formal education and training, etc.)	0	•	0	0	0
Support closer cooperation between education and training institutions/organisations and other actors (businesses, NGOs, local and regional authorities etc.)	•	0	0	0	0
Support the possibility that micro-credentials can be combined into larger credentials	•	0	0	0	0

* Encourage Member States to set up lists trusted providers of micro-credentials at national level	©	•	0	0	0
Encourage the integration of micro-credentials in national guidance services at national and local levels	0	•	0	0	0
No opinion	0	0	0	0	•

What other EU-level actions would help?

Please specify

HOSPEEM stresses how the initiative should consider the differences between the industrial relations systems across EU. We believe that EU actions aimed at fostering the involvement of social partners at EU level are essential for improving the quality, the relevance of micro-credentials and increasing the incentives for take-up.

The alignment with national qualification frameworks is important and institutional support is needed for micro-credential providers to make this assessment.

Further we consider important to gather and exchange data for improving micro-credentials relevance and features for medium and low skills. We are looking forward to seeing more data on this, in particular the results of a mapping of micro-credentials in the upcoming report of the Commission, with CEDEFOP' inputs as well.

Which of the following should be included in EU standard elements to characterise micro-credentials under a European approach?

Please indicate whether you consider these as essential, recommended, optional or not relevant

	Essential	Recommended	Optional	Not relevant
* Identification of the holder of the micro-credential	•	0	0	0
* Title of the micro-credential	0	•	0	0
* Country/Region of the issuer	•	0	0	0
* Awarding body	•	0	0	0
* Date of issuing	0	0	0	0
* Notional workload needed to achieve the learning outcomes (expressed in ECTS, wherever possible, or duration/hours)	•	0	0	0
* Level (and cycle, if applicable) of the learning experience leading to the micro-credential (EQF, QF-EHEA)	•	0	0	0
* Learning outcomes	•	0	0	0
* Form of participation in the learning activity (online, onsite, blended)	0	•	0	0
* Type of assessment	•	0	0	0
* Quality assurance of the credential	•	0	0	0
* Quality assurance of the learning content (not applicable to validation)	•	0	0	0

* Grade achieved	0	•	0	0
* Integration and stackability options	0	0	0	•
* Supervision and identity verification during assessment	0	•	0	0

Any other elements you consider essentia	!?
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Ple	ease specify				

Do you think that a European Approach to micro-credentials can help achieve the following aims?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know/ I don't wish to answer
* Empowering individuals to participate in upand reskilling	0	•	0	0	0
* Fast development of new training offers to respond to demand on the labour market	0	0	•	0	0
* Easier understanding of competences and skills of learners and workers by employers and education and training providers	•	0	•	0	0
* Learning outcomes easily understood across the EU	0	0	•	0	0
* Innovative and engaging ways of learning	0	•	0	0	0
* Flexibility to learn according to own pace and needs	0	0	•	0	0
* Portability of the credential from one job to another, from one education and training institution to another	•	0	0	0	0
* Better links between education and training providers with the labour market	0	•	0	0	0
* More use of innovative tools and online platforms to support learning	0	0	•	0	0
* More use of innovative learning content and materials to support learning	0	0	•	0	0

What other aims can be achieved?

Please specify

Given the increasing shortages in the healthcare sector, which translates for specific block of countries also in the so called "brain drain" we hope that this initiative, if properly framed and implemented, could help in ensuring better self-sufficiency at national level to have well prepared health workforce able to face the current challenges in the sector and to guarantee patients' health and safety.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

500 character(s) maximum

HOSPEEM supports that all forms of micro-credentials should be able to be certified as long as the provider can prove the type of quality assurance used to underpin the micro-credential.

Part III: Position paper

Should you wish to provide additional information (e.g. a position paper, report) or raise specific points not covered by the questionnaire, you can upload your additional document(s) here:

Please upload your file

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

Contact

Contact Form