

Roundtable with European university alliances on a European approach to Micro-credentials

7 February 2022 – 10:00 – 11:30 CET

AGENDA

09:30 – 10:00	Participants are invited to connect
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and opening speech by Commissioner Gabriel
10:10 – 11:20	Roundtable on A European approach to micro-credentials with European universities alliances Interventions of 21 Rectors/Presidents (maximum 3 minutes per intervention)
11:20 – 11:30	Feedback on discussions by Commissioner Gabriel and closing remarks

Moderation by Themis Christophidou, Director-General of DG EAC

BACKGROUND

A [proposal for a Council Recommendation on Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability](#) was adopted by the Commission on 10 December 2021. Micro-credentials certify the learning outcomes following a small learning experience (e.g. a short course or training). They offer a flexible, targeted way to help people develop the knowledge, skills and competences they need for their personal and professional development.

The proposal aims to:

- **Enable individuals to acquire the knowledge, skills and competences** they need to thrive in an evolving labour market and society, to benefit fully from a socially fair recovery and just transitions to the green and digital economy;
- Support the **preparedness of providers** of micro-credentials to enhance the flexibility and transparency of the learning offer in order to empower individuals to forge personalised learning and career pathways;
- **Foster inclusiveness and equal opportunities**, contributing to the achievement of resilience, social fairness and prosperity for all, in a context of demographic change and throughout all economic cycles.

To achieve these objectives, the proposal for a Council recommendation on micro-credentials sets out a European approach recommending to Member States to:

- Apply a **common European definition, standard elements, and key principles for the design and issuance of micro-credentials**; (see the **brochure attached**)
- Develop and use micro-credentials with education, training and labour market systems to support lifelong learning and employability.

As a result, **micro-credentials can be developed, used and compared in a coherent way among the Member States, stakeholders, and the different providers** (from education and training institutions to private companies) across different sectors, fields and borders.

The European approach aims to support the ongoing work by Member States, stakeholders and diverse groups of providers across the EU on micro-credentials. It offers key resources and guidance for those providers, and others interested in exploring micro-credentials, to support their value, quality, recognition, transparency, portability and uptake in a consistent and coherent way. It thus contributes to a lifelong learning culture and to increase the employability of people.

The proposal fully respect the diversity and flexibility inherent to micro-credentials. For this reason, the proposal does not suggest any new systems or types of micro-credentials but instead seeks to support readiness of Member States and providers to deliver on the potential of micro-credentials to enhance lifelong learning and to leverage existing tools for the development of micro-credentials.

The European approach does not aim at replacing traditional qualifications. Neither does it aim at substituting existing national processes in organising education and training, employment, or labour markets. Micro-credentials are complementary to these. Moreover, the proposal builds on and recommends adapting, where necessary, the existing provisions on administrative processes or governance mechanisms (e.g in terms of quality assurance and recognition processes) at national and institutional levels, rather than establishing new ones.

The European approach to micro-credentials is a key flagship to achieve a [European Education Area by 2025](#). European University alliances act as frontrunners and test beds to pave the way and inspire their peers. Many of them (such as and not limited to: ECIU, YUFE, EUniWell, CIVIS, EuroTeQ, CHARM-EU, Una Europa...) are already working on developing micro-credentials on a larger scale, working towards the establishment of European higher education inter-university campuses offering flexible learning opportunities and alternative learning pathways to learners at all stages of their life, across disciplines and sectors.

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Based on your experience or future plans of your European University, how can micro-credentials contribute to lifelong learning and inclusion in higher education and to **make learning pathways more flexible and adapted to learners' needs**?
2. How do you **intend to make use of the building blocks** of European approach to micro-credentials (definition, standard elements, principles for the design and issuance of micro-credentials)?
3. How can the EU support you in **developing and offering high quality micro-credentials**, and how can we help you to **reach the widest possible audience**, especially to disadvantaged groups?
4. How do you intend to **share your best practices** in developing and offering micro-credentials to inspire your peers and contribute to the take-up by the entire higher education sector?

ANNEX: Brochure on the European approach building blocks

Webex Connection details

Click on the green link below to join the meeting from your PC - (recommended browser: Chrome)

Monday 7 February 2022

10:00 | (UTC+01:00) Brussels, Copenhagen, Madrid, Paris | 2 hrs 30 mins

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