Microcredential courses

Microcredentials certify the learning outcomes of short-term learning experiences, for example 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.

Microcredentials courses:
- Can be offered by Universities or recognized by them.
- Designed to provide the learner with specific knowledge, skills and/or competences that respond to societal, personal, cultural or labor market needs.
- Have explicitly defined learning outcomes. An indication of associated workload in ECTS credits, assessment methods and criteria, and are subject to quality assurance.
- Credentials are owned by the learner, are portable and may be combined into larger credentials or qualifications (stacking).
- Microcredentials can be earned without, before, during and after higher education degree programmes.

Closed questions for activity description	Detailed description	
Place: • *On campus* • *Off campus (online)* • *Blended*	• *On campus* • *Off campus (online)* • *Blended*	*Microcredentials can be delivered in various places: on campus, off campus, blended - all modes are possible.*
Pace: • *Self-paced (at their own pace)* • *Time bound (synchronous/ asynchronous)*	• *Self-paced (at their own pace)* • *Time bound (synchronous/ asynchronous)*	*Microcredentials can be self-paced and time bounded, because in cases when course awarding microcredential is taken on-line, both options are possible. Otherwise, they can be time bound to ensure all learners finish their courses at the same time.*
Access: • *Open* • *Restricted* • *For limited number (add comment, what is the maximum number of participants)*	• *Open* • *For limited number (add comment, what is the maximum number of participants)*	*Microcredentials can be open for all, but also can be offered for a limited number of participants, depending on a decision of the University/ faculty.*
Funding: • *Self -funded* • *Grant/ Government funded* • *Alliance-funded/ project funded* • *Free of charge/ funded by university* • *Other (comment)*	• *Self -funded* • *Grant/ Government funded* • *Alliance-funded/ project funded* • *Free of charge/ funded by university* • *Other (comment)*	*Microcredentials may require a registration fee, also they can be funded from the government/ Alliance/ University. Self-funding is also possible.*

Inclusion into the curriculum:
• Part of the curriculum
   ○ the compulsory study subject
   ○ the elective study subject
• Extracurricular
• Both options are possible (included/ apart from it)
	• *Extracurricular*	*Microcredentials are usually optional and offered as extracurricular modules, they can be foreseen as part of Lifelong learning courses.*

Open questions of activity description	Detailed description	
Volume of the activity Length in ECTS/ semesters	*From 3 or 5 ECTS to 15 ETCS (depending on universities decisions).*	

Price of the activity If the academic offer activity has a fee (as indicated in question above), what is the fee	*Microcredentials could be funded from the Alliance level, or, funded by the university. They may require a registration fee. The fee is agreed at the institution level.*
Student application & selection How students can apply and/ or are selected/ approved for each activity	*Microcredentials courses application can be on Learning Management System or through university application procedures.*
Student evaluation What methods are used to evaluate student performance in each activity	*Assessment methods are set by professors.*
Recognition of student results How student results are transferred (if applicable)	*Student results are defined by ECTS credits. They are provided with a certificate after completing such course*
Sustainability strategy How the sustainability of each academic offer would be ensured	*Microcredential courses sustainability can be ensured through secure funding from the government/ University/ Alliance or even from learners. Also, their quality has to be regularly assessed.*
Support • How students are supported while studying through each academic offer activity • How teachers are supported to develop each academic offer activity (administrative, academic support, training, etc.)	*Students, who are participating in Microcredentials activities are strongly supported by their teachers or private entities, who send them to these courses.* *Teachers are supported from the administrative side, not only with consultations to develop and organize the microcredentials framework*
Infrastructure What infrastructure and technical equipment is necessary for successful implementation: • for teachers • for students.	*For both teachers and students, the most important technical equipment is their computers' video conferencing tools, because some of the microcredentials courses can be held on-line or in a mixed mode.*
Analysis and QA • What data (and how) is collected to evaluate each academic offer activity success; • What QA tools/ policies are existing to assure quality (if there are any)	*QA of Microcredentials courses depends on the decisions of implementing faculty. Each professor and faculty implementing the microcredential course is responsible for collecting the data and reviews not only from students, but also from business partners to check their relevance for the business sector.*