



MicroHE: What we have learned about digital and Micro-Credentials



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Knowledge Innovation Centre

Getting the Terminology Right

a **credential** is a documented statement made about a person (by another person)

Getting the Terminology Right

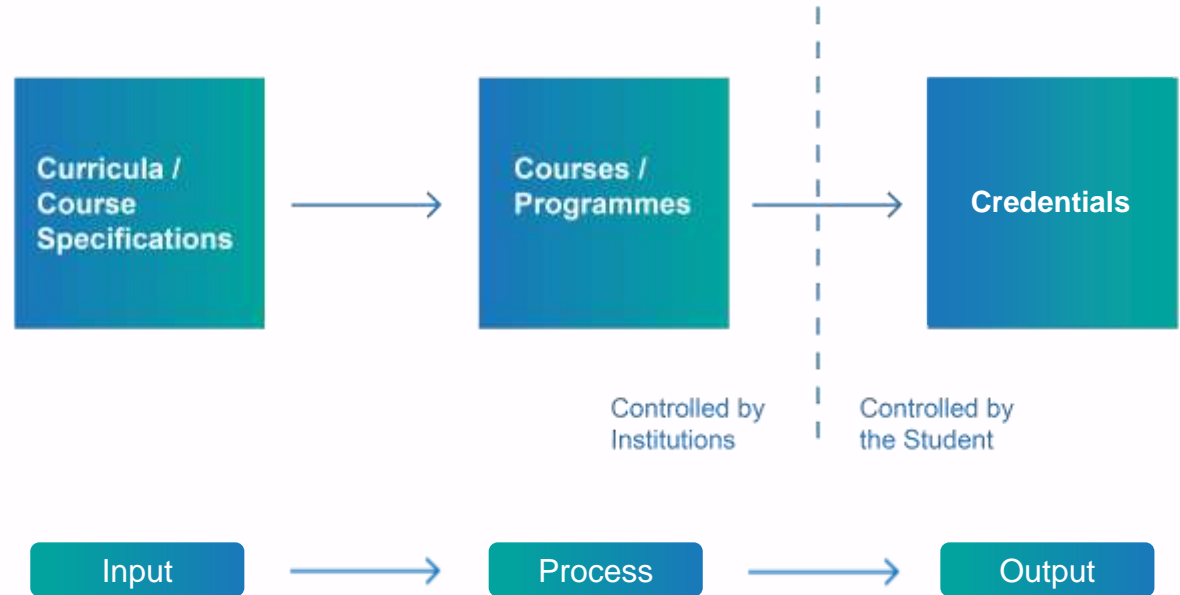
a **learning credential** is
a documented statement
made about a **person's learning**
(by another person)

Getting the Terminology Right

a **micro-credential**
is a subunit of a credential

Micro-Credentials instantiate learning which has happened at the end of a learning lifecycle

Getting the Terminology Right



Defining microcredentials

A system of interoperable building blocks

Micro Credentials are gaining prominence



Mariya Gabriel ✓ @GabrielMariya · May 26

🇪🇺 citizens should be able to gain skills at any stage of their [#careers](#).

We support higher [#education](#) institutions in offering micro-credentials - flexible & modular short [#learning](#) courses.

Today, we launch our 1st consultation group on this topic!



YUFE and 8 others

www.microcredentials.eu

Key Features of Micro Credentials



Modular



Stackable



Portable



Digital



Universal

Key Features of Micro Credentials



Modular



made up of distinct units

- Open Access
- Standardised Unit of Measure
 - credit system
 - expressed as learning outcomes
- Small
 - (10 ECTS-equivalents max?)

ECTS-equivalent = approx. 10 hours of teaching, and 15 hours of self-motivated study

Key Features of Micro Credentials



Stackable



Combining vs Stacking



Key Features of Micro Credentials



Stackable



Can be combined to create larger credentials

- Standardised
 - Credit system should express credit values
- Not *Too Small*
 - (1 ECTS equivalent min?)

ECTS-equivalent = approx. 10 hours of teaching, and 15 hours of self-motivated study

Key Features of Micro Credentials



Portable



student-held and transferred

- Recognised by Different Institutions
 - To give access
 - To stack across institutions



content is
quality assured

envelope is
secured



Digital



Key Features of Micro Credentials

Assuming:

1000 Universities

50 Courses per Uni

Gives:

50000 micro-credentials

2 sextillion possible combinations!
(of 5-credential packages)

Key Features of Micro Credentials



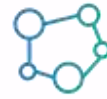
Digital



Micro-Credentials are Digital Documents:

- Earned in **any mode** but
 - Awarded digitally
 - Stacked digitally
 - Recognised digitally

Key Features of Micro Credentials



Universal



Micro-Credentials are Digital Documents

- Earned in **any mode** but
 - Awarded digitally
 - Stacked digitally
 - Recognised digitally

Key Features of Micro Credentials



Universal



useful in any formal or non-formal learning

- Applicable in Higher Education, VET, private training, continuing education)
- Can be used to create bridges between different learning contexts

Micro- Credentials in Higher Ed

**Higher Education is already
in the business of Micro-Credentials**
(as part of qualifications)

Results of Unbundling

Micro-Masters

NanoDegrees

Short
Learning
Programmes

Short Learning Programmes

1. **Short, between 5 to 30 ECTS, average: 10-20 ECTS**
2. Focus is on academic skills/programmes/competence
3. Offered mainly online; face-to-face only optional or if intrinsic part of the programme
4. Exams are taken by offering universities
5. Must be accredited, level (for example, BA/MA) needs to be mentioned

Results of Unbundling



Micro-Masters

NanoDegrees

Short
Learning
Programmes

MOU on SLPs signed by:

UniDistance, Switzerland, Università Telematica Internazionale UNINETTUNO, Italy, The Open University of The Netherlands, Open University of Cyprus, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Hellenic Open University, Greece, Open University of the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, Universidade Aberta, Portugal, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Spain, Fernuniversität in Hagen, Germany, Open University, United Kingdom, **University of Ljubljana, Slovenia**





MicroHe

Abendblatt Nr. 433 — Seite

Berliner Börse

Wie am 26. Aug. Die Börse war heute ausgesprochen schwach.
gestern ungedeutet, sind Maßnahmen anbringen. Abvor-
spricht Materialmangel an der Börse etwas ab. 4750 / 1000 an
worden, daß der jüdische Aktienbesitzer, Herr Engelhardt,
Börse. Zwar kommt das Material gerade /
an den Markt, aber die Wirkung
Gerade bei den hervorzuheben. Herr Engelhardt, Herrmann
gilligen Abschließen von /
u. a. bei Salzdettfurth. Herr Engelhardt, Herrmann
Rheinmetall u. a. /
Kugler auf Antrac

Digital Credentials

The Case against Paper

Key Features of Micro Credentials



4 Courses

Initiating and Planning Projects
Budgeting and Scheduling Projects
Managing Project Risks and Changes
Project Management Project

UCI Division of Continuing Education

01/24/2017

ILDIKÓ MÁZÁR

has successfully completed the online, non-credit Specialization

Introduction to Project Management Principles and Practices

A 4-course, on-demand Specialization authorized by University of California, Irvine Extension, and offered through Coursera.

Margaret M. Meioni

Margaret Meioni, PhD,
MBA

Verify this certificate at:
coursera.org/verify/specialization/WRM9ZTAU975U

Key Features of Micro Credentials



4 Courses

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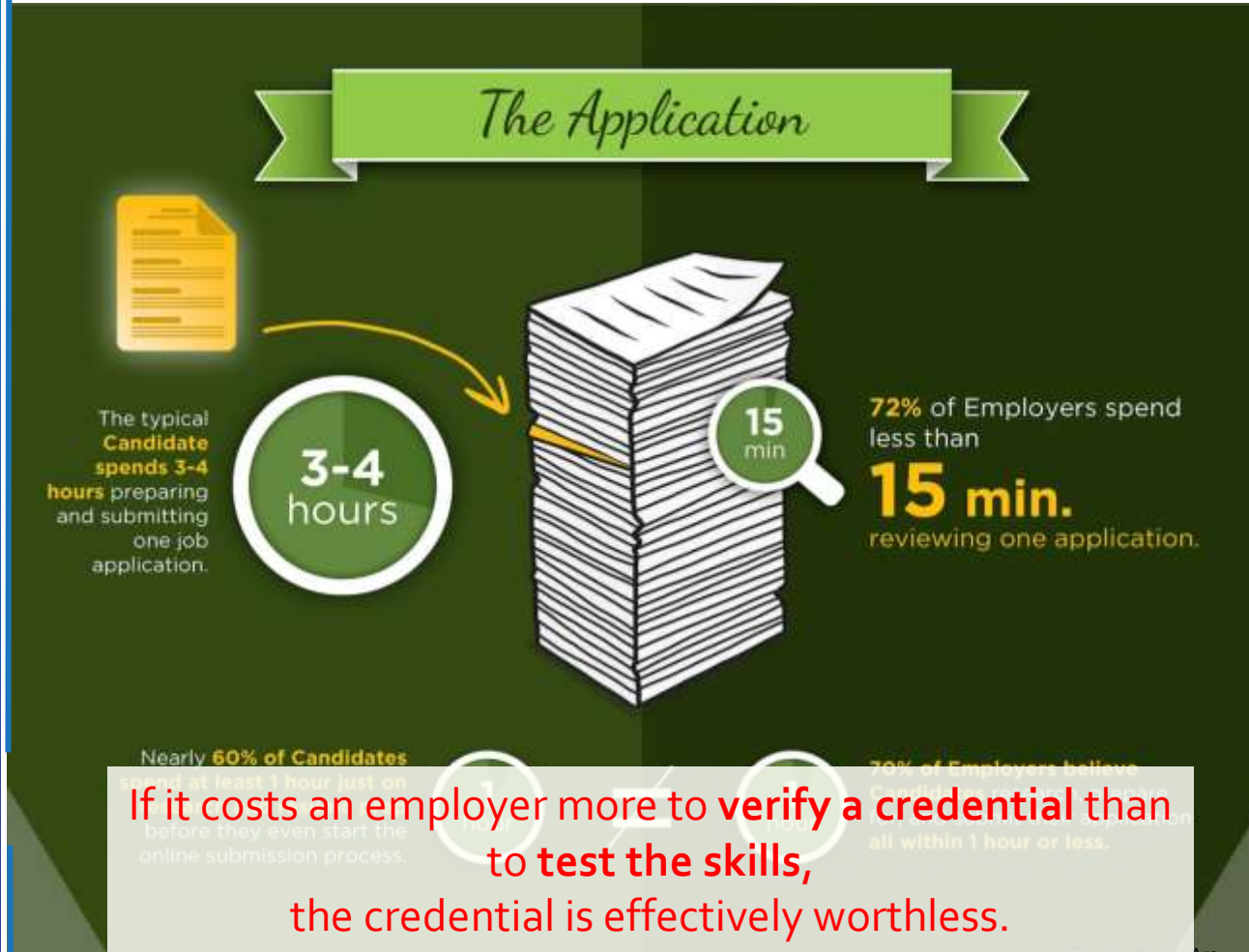
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Margaret M. Meloni

Margaret Meloni, PMP,
MBA

Verify this certificate at:
coursera.org/verify/specialization/wRM9ZTAU97BU

Complicated Credentials are devalued



Lack of Standards leads to Exclusion



Signing Intermediaries charge rent

DocuSign

Products Solutions Pricing Support Resources

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General Plans and Pricing

Choose the #1 eSignature solution with the leading System of Agreement platform

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\$10 per user, annually \$120 annually	\$25 per user, per month \$300 annually	\$40 per user, per month \$480 annually	Call for more info: 1-877-720-2040
BUY NOW	BUY NOW	BUY NOW	SCHEDULE A CALL
Single user only	For more than 1 user, call 1-877-720-2040	For more than 1 user, call 1-877-720-2040	All of our Business Pro features, plus:
Send documents for eSignature 5/month	Send documents for eSignature	Send documents for eSignature	Integrations, connectors
Basic fields	Basic fields	Basic fields	API's
	Personalized branding	Personalized branding	SSO
	Comments	Comments	Advanced branding
		Collect Payments	Customizable usage limits

Paper Credentials

- expensive and time consuming to acquire
- hard to use and share
- hinder **Open Education** by failing to evidence flexible learning pathways in a transparent manner
- exclude the people who need them most
- can be abused by networks of intermediaries
- do not inform policy

Policy Initiatives #1

The screenshot shows the top portion of a website. At the top left is the European Commission logo. To the right is a language selector set to 'English' and a search bar. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'European Commission > Education & Training > European Education Area > Digital education action plan action 3 digitally signed qualifications >'. A dark blue header contains the text 'Education and Training'. Below the header is a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Education in the EU' (highlighted in pink), 'Policies', 'Resources and tools', 'News', and 'Events'. The main content area has a dark blue background with the title 'Digital Education Action Plan - Action 3 Digitally-Signed Qualifications' and the subtitle 'Storing and sharing qualifications online'.

European Commission

English EN

Search

European Commission > Education & Training > European Education Area > Digital education action plan action 3 digitally signed qualifications >

Education and Training

Home Education in the EU Policies Resources and tools News Events

Digital Education Action Plan - Action 3 Digitally-Signed Qualifications

Storing and sharing qualifications online

Policy Initiatives #2

9. Common European **skills data space**

The skills of its people are Europe's strongest asset. In a global race for talent, the European education and training systems and labour markets need to quickly adapt to new and emerging skills needs. This requires high-quality data on qualifications, learning opportunities, jobs and the skill sets of people. Over the past years, the Commission has put in place a range of open standards, reference frameworks and semantic assets to increase data quality and interoperability⁷⁰. As announced in the Digital Education Action Plan⁷¹, the Commission also developed the Europass Digital Credentials framework to issue credentials to learners in a secure and interoperable digital format.

The Commission will:

- Support Member States in the development of digital credential transformation plans and in the preparation of re-usable data-sets of qualifications and learning opportunities (2020-2022);
- Establish a governance model for the on-going management of the Europass Digital Credentials Framework in close cooperation with Member States and key stakeholders (by 2022).

MicroHE

Components of Our Project



Understanding
prevalence



Technology
standards



Technology
demonstrator



Forecasting

Our Partners



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[Credentify](#)



Partners

View all items: Home / Partners



VYTAUTAS MAGNUS
UNIVERSITY



Understanding Prevalence

HE Institutions Lack Understanding of Micro-Credentials



- Institutions are lacking practical already existing examples of Short Learning Programmes & Micro-Credentials
- Institutional chain of command missing for SLPs/Micro-Credentials (e.g. roles are unclear)
- Business model is missing and considerable share without plans to develop one

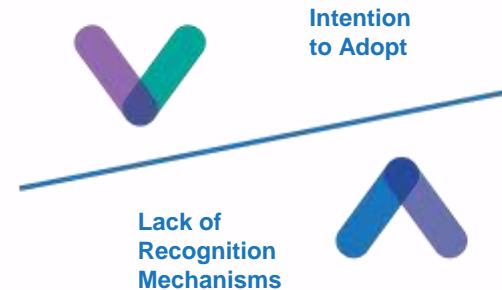
Understanding Prevalence

Recognition mechanisms enable Micro-Credential adoption

Our study indicated that recognition mechanisms lead to increased intention to adopt Micro-Credentials

"...MCs need to be easily accredited by accreditation agencies."

"...MCs need to be compatible with national/European qualifications frameworks."

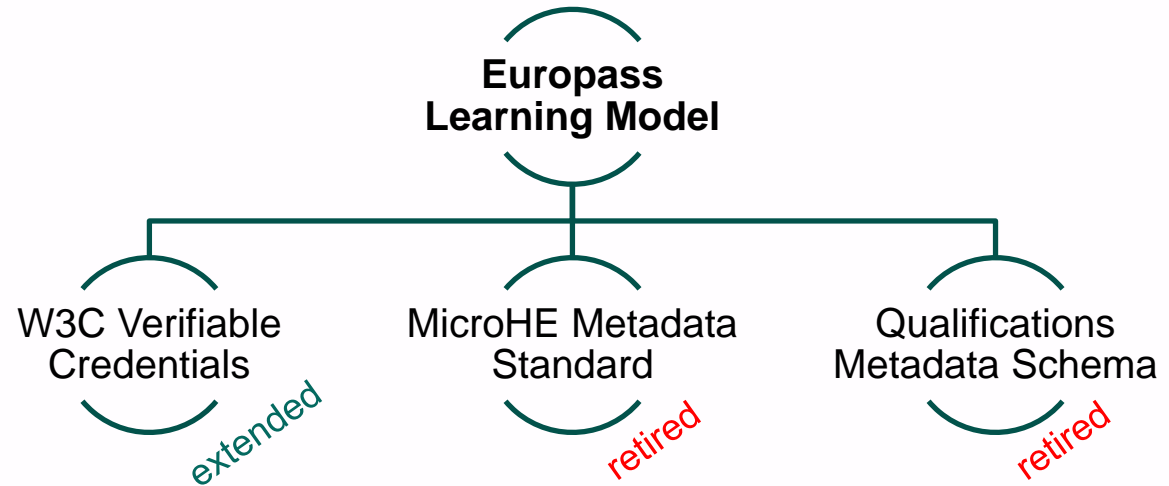


MicroHE Metadata Standard Main Innovations



- Qualifications, Modules and Micro-Credentials to be expressed with same vocabulary across all levels of education
- Captures Formal, Non-Formal learning using same vocabulary
- Allows for credentials of different types from different providers to be bundled into larger credentials

Evolution of Standards



Technology Demonstrator



ABOUT

SCIENCE

BLOCKCHAIN

CASE STUDIES

GET STARTED

The first European issuer of blockchain-secured stackable ECTS credentials that are university and student owned, and verifiable anywhere, anytime.

GET STARTED

GET IN TOUCH

Technology Demonstrator

'Self-Sovereign' model for managing MCs



- Allows user to collect micro-credentials from different institutions in the network and save them in the same wallet
- Allows user to collect a batch of credentials and request a new credential on the basis of them from any institution within the network
- Credentials stored on the blockchain

credentify.eu

Forecasting Key Drivers for Transformation

Flexible and Personalized offerings



New Learner Paradigms

Resolving skill Mismatch



Synergies between HEIs and Employers

Demonstrating granular competence

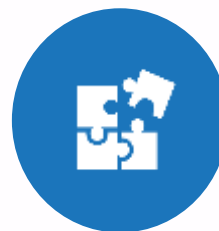
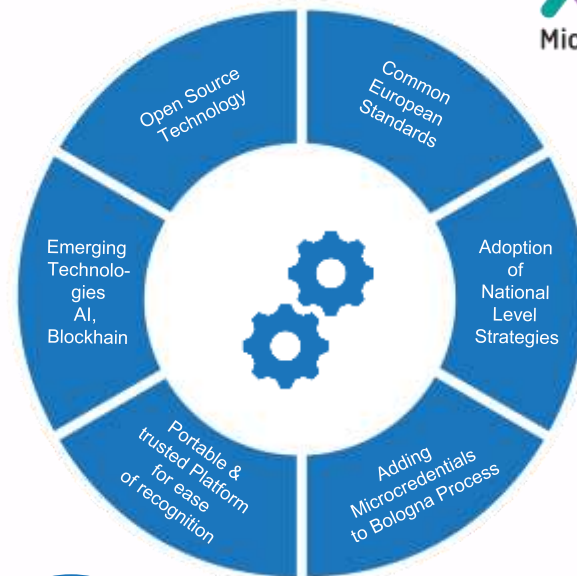


Redefining Recognition

Improved quick cycle education access to the disadvantaged



Societal Impact



**Drivers Facilitating
Microcredential Adoption**

Forecasting Impacts of Micro-credentials

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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anthony@knowledgeinnovation.eu

You can download this presentation at:
<https://www.microcredentials.eu>