

MicroHE & OEPass: What we have learned about micro-Credentials



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for the last 25 years

Bologna Process
has focused on

**Portability & Transparency
of Qualifications**

Higher Ed today is built around degrees

Qualifications

- defined as blocks of 60-240 ECTS
- mapped to the EQF
- made transparent with a diploma supplement
- the default unit of recognition for employment and/or academic progression

Modules

- Typically consist of 2 or more ECTS
- May be used for customised courses within institutions
- Transfer between institutions usually limited to Erasmus agreements or to RPL arrangements
- No standardised way to describe them (*no diploma supplement for credit-modules*)
- Not typically used except as a building block for qualifications

ECTS

- Current 'currency' of learning in HE
- ECTS are described in terms of **learning outcomes** and **workload**


Unbundling of HE + Labour Market Changes =

Radical Flexibility

Grow with Google Get Started **Career Certificates** Free Training For Partners Working from Home Latest About

Google Career Certificates

Learn job-ready skills to start or advance your career in high-demand fields. These certificates developed by Google connect you to top national employers who are hiring for related roles.



Yusef Craggs
Google IT Support Professional Certificate complete,
IT Helpdesk Technician

Why earn a Google Career Certificate?

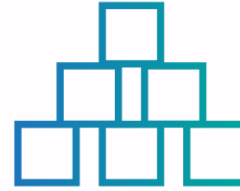
- **A pathway to jobs:** Certificate completers can directly connect with a group of top employers.
- **Become job-ready for in-demand, high-paying roles:** Qualify for jobs across fields with median average annual salaries of over \$50,000.
- **Earn a certificate that helps you stand out:** You can share your Google Career Certificate on your LinkedIn profile and on printed resumes, CVs and other documents to help stand out to employers.
- **Gain access to career resources:** Learners will have access to resources to facilitate their job search and interview preparation.

Degrees are increasingly not fit for purpose

Key Features of Micro Credentials



Modular



Stackable



Portable



Digital



Universal

Defining microcredentials

A system of interoperable building blocks



MicroHE & OEPASS

Components of Our Projects



Understanding
prevalence



Technology
standards



Technology
demonstrator



Forecasting

Our Partners



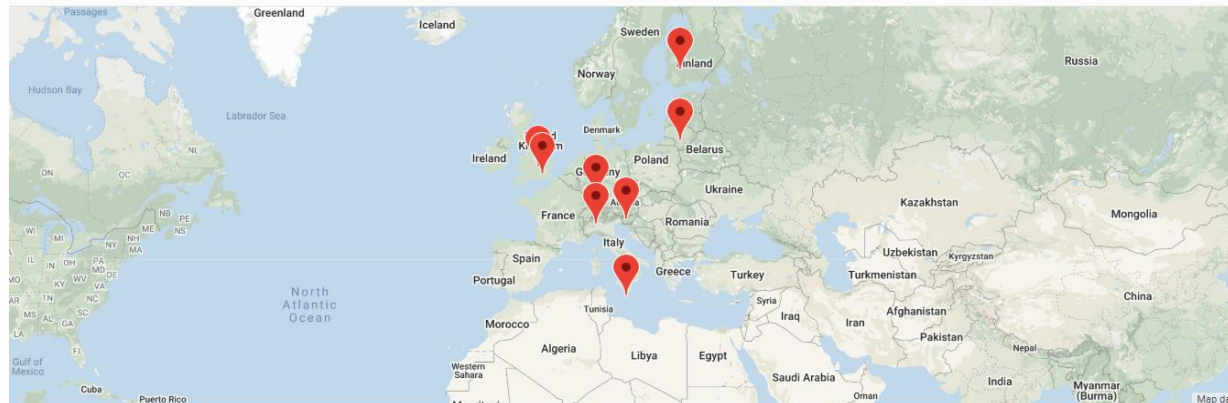
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Understanding Prevalence

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

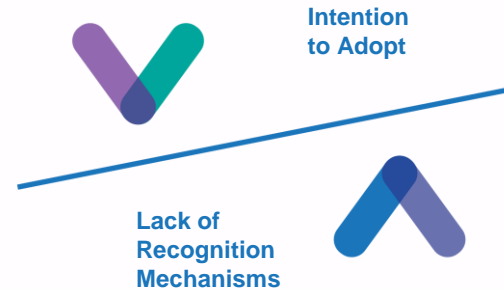
Understanding Prevalence

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."



Quality Assurance of Credentials



QA of Content
(ESGs part 1)

QA of the Envelope
(W3C Verifiable
Credentials, ILR)
*No European set of
Principles*



QA of the Recognition
Process
*(How easy is it to
recognise? No European
set of principles)*



OEPass Learning Passport

standardised
format for open and micro-credentials
Learning Passport

based on diploma supplement and Annexe VI of the EQF

Default Credential
Format
(preferred)

Supplement
(not preferred)

Technology Standards

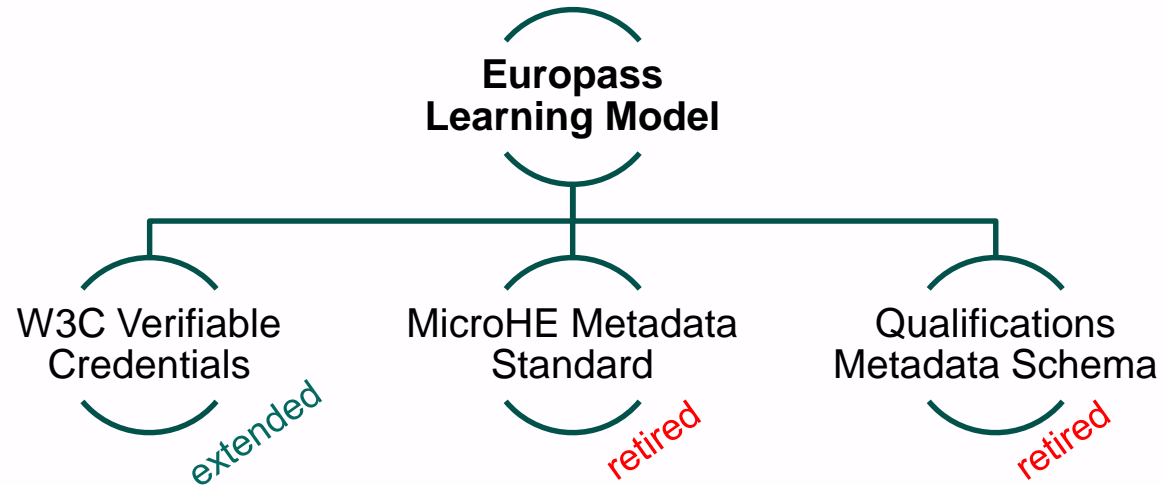
MicroHE Metadata Standard

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

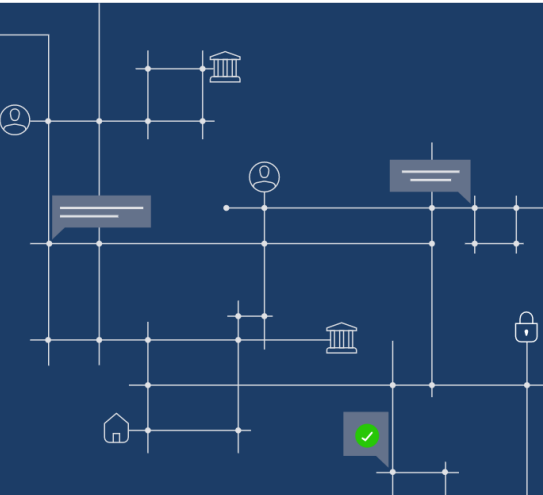
Evolution of Standards



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.

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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



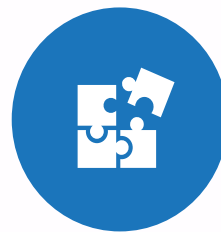
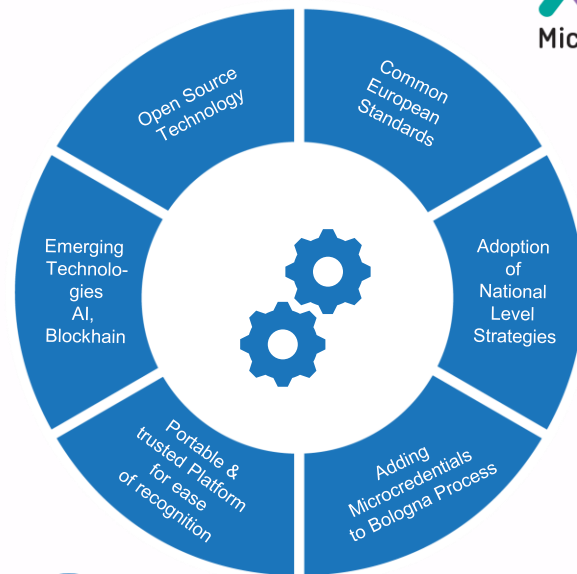
Redefining
Recognition

Improved quick
cycle education
access to the
disadvantaged



Societal Impact

Forecasting Impacts of Micro-credentials



**Drivers Facilitating
Micro-credential Adoption**

Some slides on DELPHI and OEPASS Scenarios

5 Possible Futures

A Global Micro-Credential Marketplace

Higher education institutions (HEIs) are no longer the most prominent provider of education - or skills and competencies in general. A wide range of public and private stakeholders operates in this global system, with different global and regional players dominating the market.

5 Possible Futures

A European Approach to Micro-Credentials

A European marketplace offers learners can access educational content in different languages, and micro-credentials earned at any accredited institution in the EU are recognised by HEIs and employers in the European labour market. Overall access to higher education is eased for European citizens.

5 Possible Futures

Lifelong Micro-learning across education and employment

The distinction between (degree-granting) higher education and continuing professional education becomes blurry. Learners switch seamlessly between the two systems, as well as the world of work. Citizens are lifelong learners. HEIs offer both forms of education and have efficient procedures for recognition and credit transfer in place.

5 Possible Futures

HEIs as Gatekeepers

HEIs embrace the possibilities of unbundling and place themselves at the heart of the emerging institutional architecture. Authorized to grant academic degrees, they act as guardians of quality. They screen and approve credentials, guaranteeing with their reputation that an awarded credential meets high academic and professional standards

5 Possible Futures

Ivory Towers

HEIs ignore the growing reputation of open learning. They do have recognition procedures in place, but they largely ignore the technological and labour-market changes around open learning and unbundling of education. Employment pathways become segmented, with universities remaining the institution of choice for some subjects, while being eschewed for other high-level positions.

Where do we
want to go?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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