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Micro-credentials linked to the
Bologna Key Commitments

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Working Group on QA

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12 January 2021



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Tips for a successful workshop

- This workshop is recorded, but will not be published.
- Please switch off all connected devices to limit the pressure on the internet connection.
- We are a large group of participants, so mute yourself at all times.
- There is a part which is informative, and a part which will be interactive.
- Chat can be used to discuss among participants and to ask a question, use 'raise hand function' to ask the floor during interactive part.



Structure working group meeting:

- State of play - Coordinator – 15'
- Presentation of the European Commission – 15'
- Presentation of the results of the MICROBOL survey – 30'
- Discussion on micro-credentials in national QA systems – 60'
- Breakout rooms in 3 smaller groups:
 - QA of the learning experience (1h15')
 - QA of the certificate/credential (1h15')
- Final remarks & roadmap for the future – 45'

State of play MICROBOL project

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Details project:

- Title: Micro-credentials linked to the Bologna Key Commitments
- Erasmus+ KA3: Initiatives to support the implementation of European Higher Education Area (EHEA) reforms, 2019
- Period: March 2020 – March 2022



Partners:

- Belgium – Flemish Ministry of Education and Training
- Finland – Ministry of Education and Culture
- Italy – CIMEA
- EUA
- ENQA

- Experts: Anthony F. Camilleri, Frederik De Decker, Ann Katherine Isaacs, George Ubachs, Peter Van der Hijden

Aim project:

- Raise awareness among national governments
- Encourage and guide national governments to include micro-credentials on the agenda and connect them in a compatible way to their various degree programmes
- Check whether existing Bologna tools are fit for micro-credentials and/or propose changes for adaptations on European level
- Recommendations to check and adapt national legislations
- Create a European Framework for micro-credentials to propose to ministers in BP

Structure:

- Desk research
- Kick-off conference
- Working groups:
 - Quality Assurance (Belgium – Flemish Community, Peter van der Hijden, Anthony Camilleri)
 - 50 participants, 27 countries, 6 stakeholder organisations
 - Qualification Frameworks (Finland, George Ubachs, Ann Katherine Isaacs)
 - 49 participants, 28 countries, 4 stakeholder organisations
 - Recognition (Italy, Frederik De Decker, Peter van der Hijden)
 - 48 participants, 24 countries, 4 stakeholder organisations
- European Framework for Micro-credentials
- Final Conference

Roadmap – where are we?

- 31/8/20: Draft report Desk Research Study
- 31/8/20: Kick-off conference MICROBOL
- 1/9/20: Kick-off working group on QA
- Mid Sept: Final report Desk Research Study
- Mid Oct: Send out survey to BFUG and nominees WGs
- Oct-Nov: National consultations on topic
- 15th Nov: Deadline survey, extended to 25th Nov
- Dec: Analysis results survey
- 12/1/21: First meeting working group QA



Working definition:

A micro-credential is a small volume of learning certified by a credential. In the EHEA context, it can be offered by higher education institutions or recognised by them using recognition procedures in line with the Lisbon Recognition Convention or recognition of prior learning, where applicable. A micro-credential is designed to provide the learner with specific knowledge, skills or competences that respond to societal, personal, cultural or labour market needs. Micro-credentials have explicitly defined learning outcomes at a QF-EHEA/NQF level, an indication of associated workload in ECTS credits, assessment methods and criteria, and are subject to quality assurance in line with the ESG.

Aim of the meeting today:

- Look at the challenges to be tackled in the application of the Bologna tools to the quality assurance of micro-credentials
- Solutions might already be proposed
- Include discussion on challenges linked to certain solutions
- Focus on two aspects:
 - QA of the learning experience (ESG, other standards & guidelines, ...)
 - QA of the certificate/credential (link to recognition, European Standard, ...)