

Austrian Survey on Micro-credentials among HEIs

Results

Regina Aichner

Team Data, Analysis, Bologna Process

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Overview

- Taking stock: the Austrian situation
- Highlights of the survey results along topics covered
 - MC provision and HEIs' concept of MCs &
 - Development of MCs
 - Fees for MCs
 - Added value of MCs
 - Main target groups of MC offers
 - HEIs' perception and assessment of MCs
 - Need for further discussion concerning MCs

Level of knowledge about MC offers in June 2022

- **University of Innsbruck** (international micro-credential)
- **Montanuniversität Leoben** (under development)
- **FH Joanneum UAS** (international micro-credential)
- **UAS St. Pölten** (national and international micro-credentials)
- **Graz University of Technology** (<https://microcredentials.at/>)

... and other HEIs?

Taking stock: approach of the survey

- July – September 2022: Surveying state of debate at / actual offer of MCs by Austrian HEIs
- Distributed to HEI management, one submission per HEI demanded → response rate 79% (59 of 75 HEIs)
- Objective: What is the perception of MC offers (concept, added value, how are they discussed, which target groups do HEIs consider, what questions remain unanswered?)
- Explicitly not an objective: evaluating the Austrian HEIs' MC performance

Topics covered

- MC provision and HEIs' concept of MCs &
- Development of MCs
- Fees for MCs
- Added value of MCs
- Main target groups of MC offers
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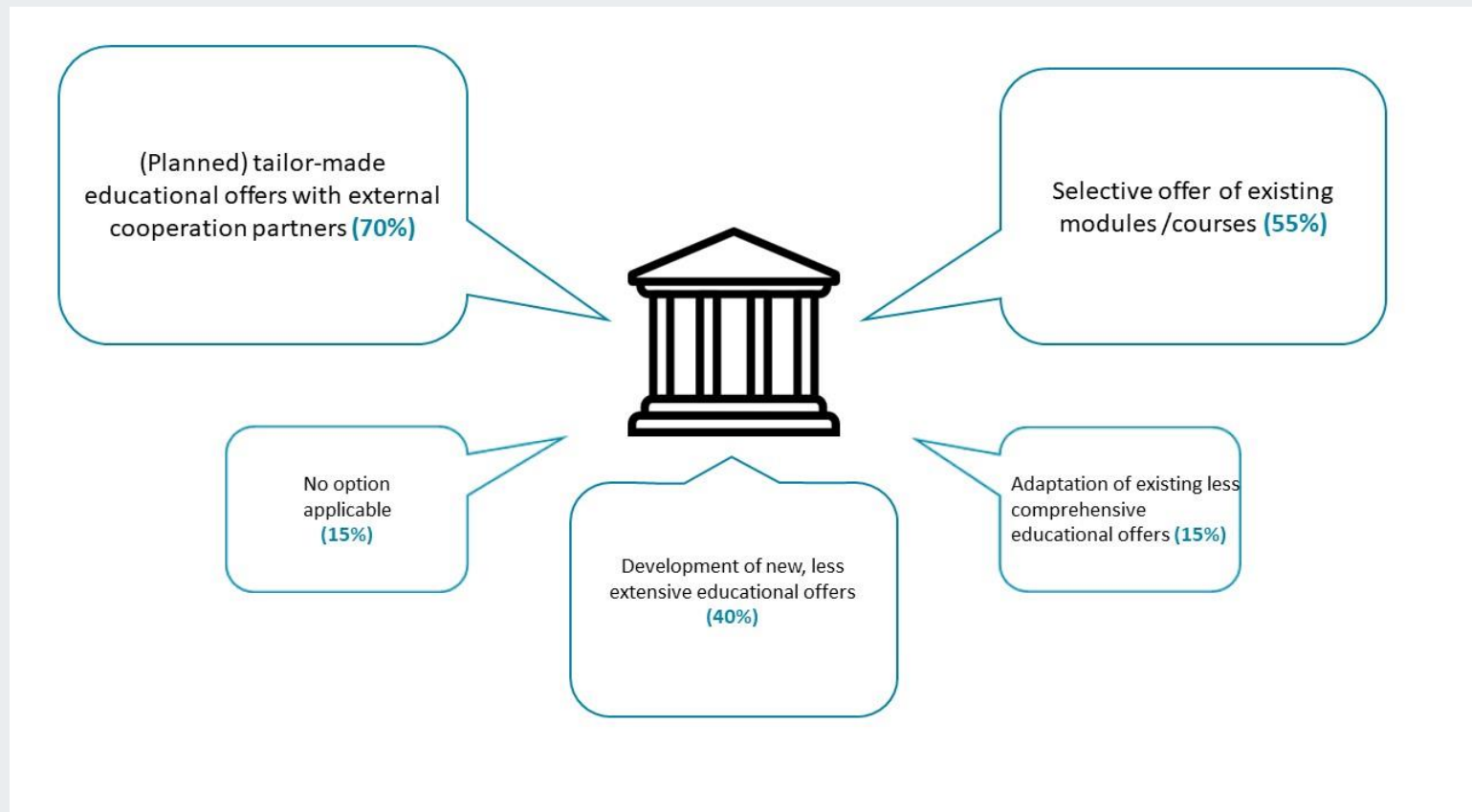
Austrian HEIs' concept of MCs

Due to the relatively young phenomenon of MCs, it is not surprising that the term "micro-credentials" is only used sporadically in the Austrian higher education sector as of September 2022.

At the time of the survey, out of 20 HEIs that already offered educational programmes that meet the definition of MCs in the EU Council Recommendation, only **four** also use the term micro-credentials in part or through. 16 HEIs do not use this term.

Development of MCs

Figure 4: Source: OeAD MC survey, n=20; Indication in %, multiple answers possible. Note: The percentages refer in each case to the number of higher education institutions that answered the respective question.



From this point in the survey, it was open to the participating HEIs to answer the questions - regardless of whether they offered educational programmes closely following the definition of MCs, or whether they actually offered MCs, or whether they used the questions as starting point for internal reflection.

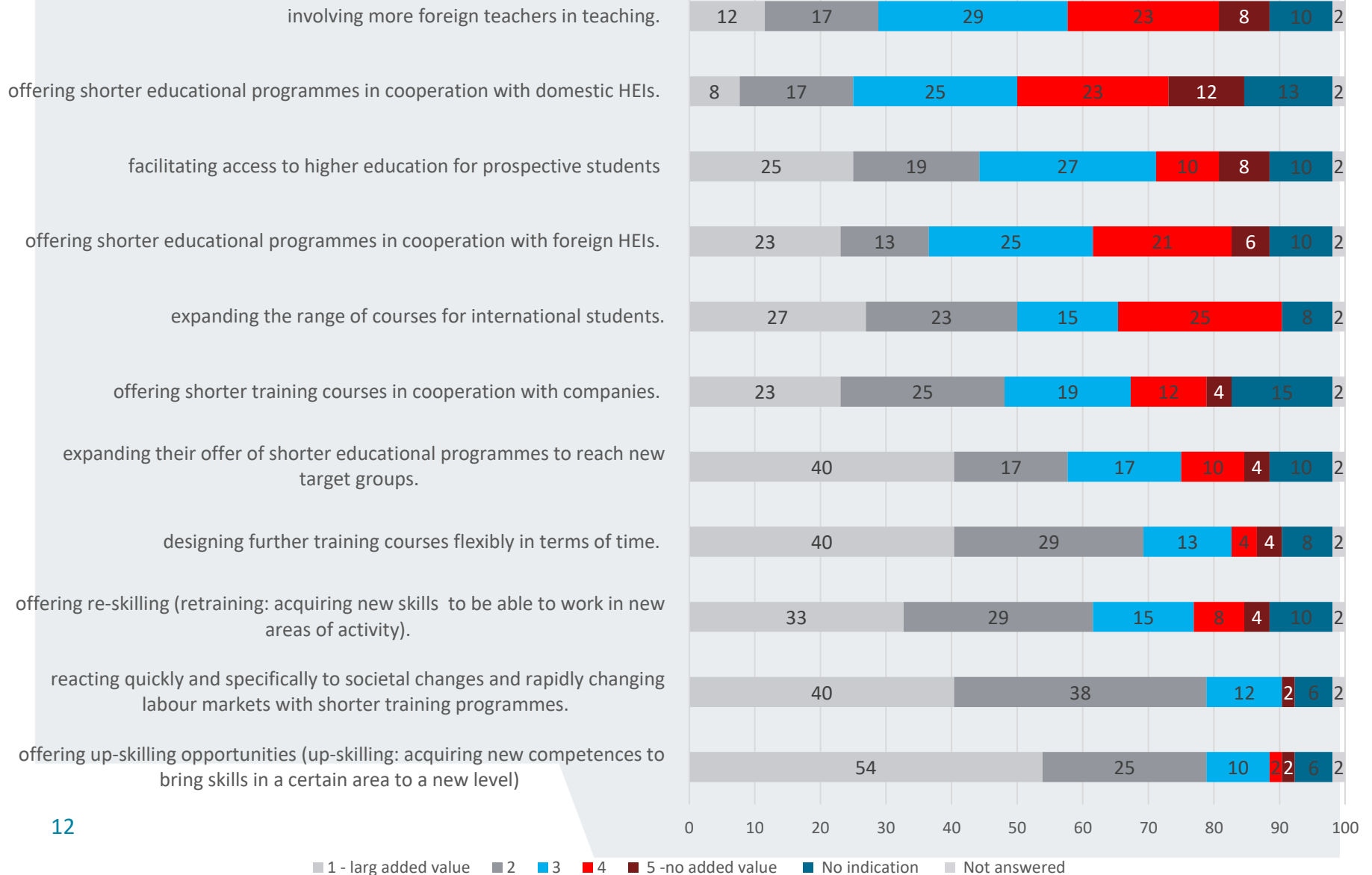
This results in n=52.

Added value of MCs

Figure 7: Source: OeAD MC survey, n=52, Indication in %, Note: percentages are rounded.

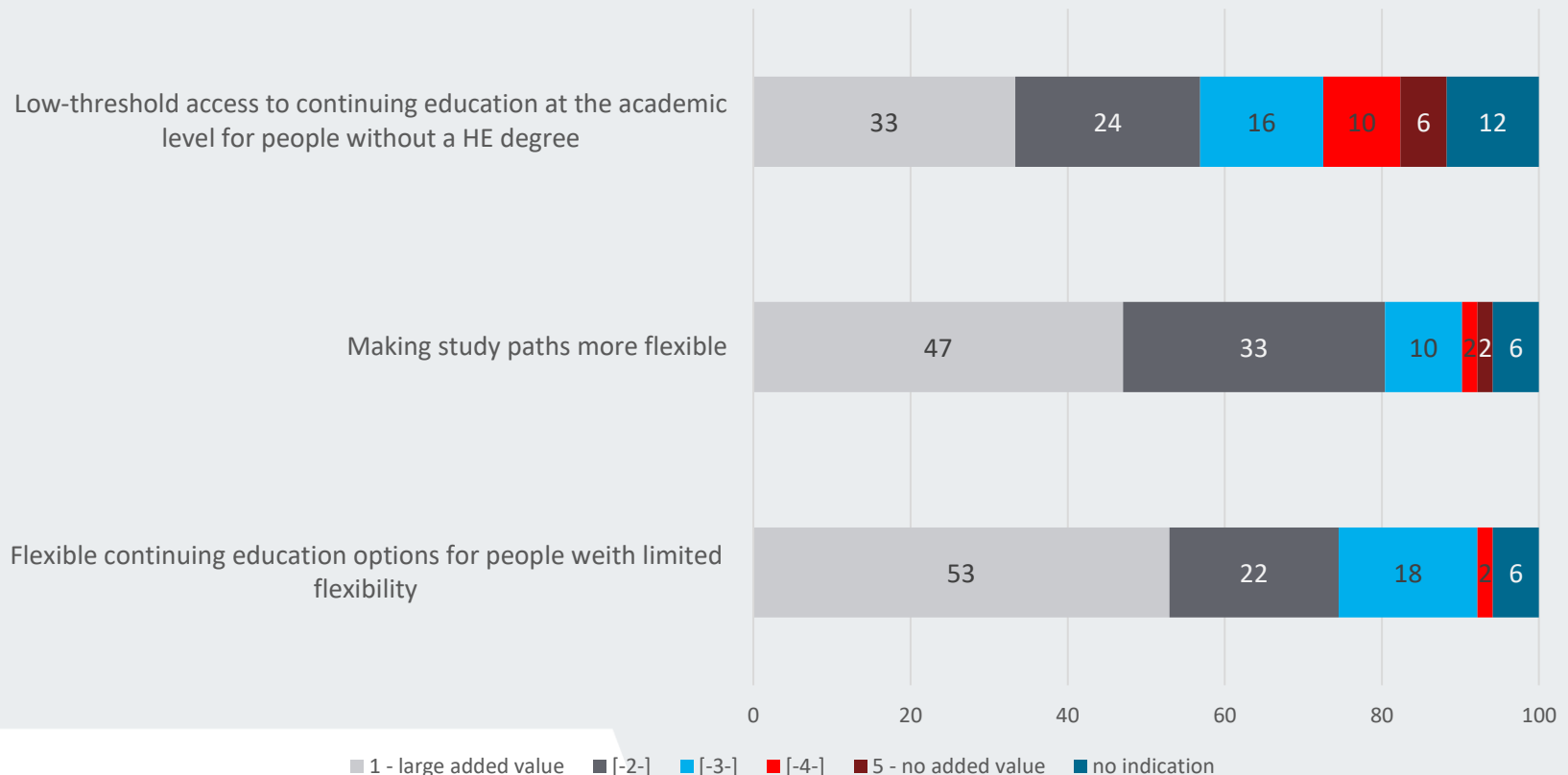


MCs support the HEI in ...



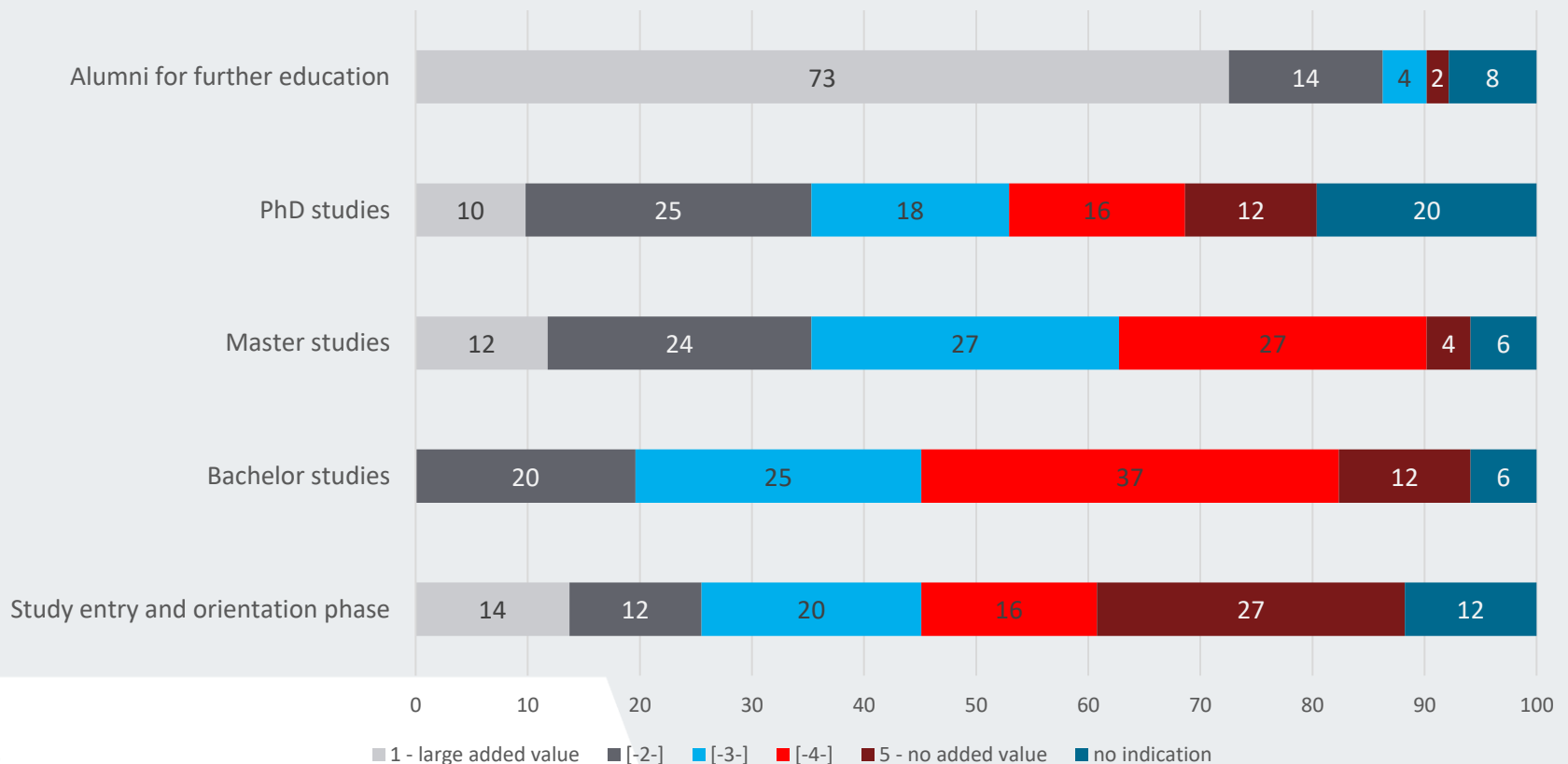
Added value of MCs for the social dimension and flexible learning paths

Figure 8: Source: OeAD MC survey, “Please rate the added value that micro-credentials (can) have for different target groups” n=51, Indication in %, Note: percentages are rounded.



Added value of MCs in different study phases

Figure 9: Source: OeAD MC survey, “Please think specifically about students and their academic careers and assess the added value that micro-credentials (can) have at different stages of an academic career.” n=51, Indication in %, Note: percentages are rounded



MC provision: ranking of target groups

Target groups	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
Alumni of your HEI	14	20	5
Persons working in a specific field, irrespective of their formal qualifications	13	9	11
Persons with previous academic education	9	7	9
Own students	8	4	11
Students in the framework of a European University Alliance	6	0	3
Students of other HEIs	1	2	7
International students	0	9	5

Table 1: Source: OeAD MC survey, “Now think specifically about your HEI: Which of the groups of people listed do you consider to be the main target group for MCs? Please answer this question even if you do not yet offer MC at your HEI.” n=51,

Wrap-up

- Main relevant documents: EU Council Recommendation, national position paper and [website](#) (German only)
- A lot of discussion, Austrian HEIs still hesitant, “on hold”
- The Austrian Federal Ministry of Education Science and Research (BMBWF) supports development at HEIs (responsible from the ministry side; stephan.depasqualin@bmbwf.gv.at)
- Stackability & cooperation as sticking points for HEIs
- Pushing factors: online provision, European University Initiative

