

International Peer Learning Activity: Micro-credentials – implementing council recommendation and digital credential frameworks

Monday, 12th of December 2022, 09:00 – 16:00

University of Innsbruck, Kaiser-Leopold-Saal
Karl-Rahner-Platz 3, 2nd floor, room 203, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria

“We ask the BFUG to explore how and to what extent these smaller, flexible units, including those leading to microcredentials, can be defined, developed, implemented and recognised by our institutions using EHEA tools.”

Bologna Rome Communiqué 2020

— As the current cross-sectional topic of the EHEA; micro-credentials have been and are discussed at numerous occasions since the 2020 Bologna Ministerial Conference. Their provision poses new questions related to recognition, certification, digitalisation, and quality assurance but they also provide an opportunity to rethink concepts related to life-long learning and reinforce the discussion of learning-outcome oriented HE provision and the social dimension. Gaining more and more momentum, the discussion of micro-credentials has achieved a common understanding of the challenges to be faced and developed first answers to them, but until recently lacked a general reference framework. With the adoption of the EU Council Recommendation, this blank has been filled; countries now need to explore their HEIs’ needs and develop their national approaches to regulation and implementation of micro-credentials as part of tertiary education. Gathering representatives of national authorities and higher education institutions from about ten member countries of the EHEA, this PLA will consider different approaches to regulating micro-credentials and challenges at different stages of national discussion and implementation. Among the wide range of aspects of the regulation, provision and certification of micro-credentials, the PLA will focus on the following:

- Participating countries’ national perspectives on and their policies derived from and in relation to the EU Council Recommendation
- Institutional implementation of micro-credentials in selected countries
- Implementation and use of digital credential structures and the European Digital Credentials for learning (EDC)
- Interaction between micro-credentials and digital credential infrastructure
- Cooperation with non-higher education providers (e.g. enterprises)

In preparation of the event, participating country representatives will be asked to fill in a short questionnaire and return it to bologna@oead.at by 23 November 2022, resulting in country profiles that will be published as part of the documentation of the event.

This event is co-funded by the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research, as well as by the project „INterconnection/INnovation/INclusion: Austrian contributions to the EHEA 2030 – 3-IN-AT-PLUS“ – a KA3-activity of the European Commission. We thank the University of Innsbruck for their friendly support. The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Sunday, 11 December 2022

Informal pre-event dinner for those who registered: **Sunday, 11 December** at 19:30 at [Hotel Grauer Bär](#), Universitätsstraße 5 – 7, 6020 Innsbruck.

Monday, 12 December 2022

08:30 – 09:00 Registration & Coffee

09:00 – 09:10 **Welcome**

BERNHARD FÜGENSCHUH, Vice Rector for Teaching and Students, University of Innsbruck

STEPHAN DE PASQUALIN, Deputy Head of Department, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)

REGINA AICHNER, Team-Coordinator Data, Analysis and Bologna Process, OeAD – Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation

09:10 – 09:35 **Micro-credentials: From HEI's up- and reskilling provisions to a council recommendation and its implementation**

MAGALIE SOENEN, International Higher Education Policy Advisor, Flemish Ministry of Education and Training (online per Zoom)

09:35 – 09:50 **Results of the Austrian Survey on Micro-credentials among HEIs**

REGINA AICHNER, Team-Coordinator Data, Analysis and Bologna Process, OeAD – Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation

09:50 – 10:45 **Current developments and ongoing questions about the implementation of Micro-credentials**

CAITRÍONA NIC GIOLLA MICHIL, Micro-Credential Institutional Project Manager, Dublin City University

MARIJKE BLOM-WESTRIK, Policy Officer, NUFFIC

10:45 – 11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15 – 11:50 **Cases: cooperation with non-HEI sectors**

LAWRENCE AZZOPARDI, Head Accreditation and Quality Assurance, Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA)

ALISSON AVILA, Head of Applied Strategy, Nova School of Business and Economics), online per Zoom

CHRISTIAN FRIEDL, Head of Study Programme, FH Joanneum UAS, online per Zoom

11:50 – 12:30 **The European Digital Credentials Framework and its Use in Practice**

ALEXANDRA ENZI, EU Programm Officer Europass, OeAD

ILDIKO MAZAR, European Digital Credentials for Learning Implementation Support, NTT DATA, online per Zoom

CHIARA FINOCCHIETTI, Director, CIMEA-NARIC, online per Zoom

12:30 – 13:40 **Lunch break**

13:40 – 15:00 **Two parallel Breakout Sessions**

Breakout Session 1: Selected challenges for national policy making: How micro is micro and what does this mean in ECTS credits?

Extent of ECTS of micro-credentials& Assignment of micro-credentials to NQFs

JOLANTA URBANIK, Micro-credentials Expert, Ministry of Education and Science / University of Warsaw

Moderator: **KARIN RIEGLER**, Coordinator for Teaching/Learning and Career Paths, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

Breakout Session 2: Selected challenges for HEIs: Using the European digital credentials framework – further discussion of IT implementation

MARCO TABONE, Assistant Registrar, University of Malta

Moderator: **MARTIN EBNER**, Head of Department Educational Technology, Graz University of Technology

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee break

15:15 – 15:25 **Current developments and ongoing questions about the implementation of Micro-credentials**

TUULA HEIDE, Program Manager Digital Pedagogy

15:25 – 16:00 **Spotlights from Participants and Goodbye**