



# A European approach to micro-credentials

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Context for skills development in the EU

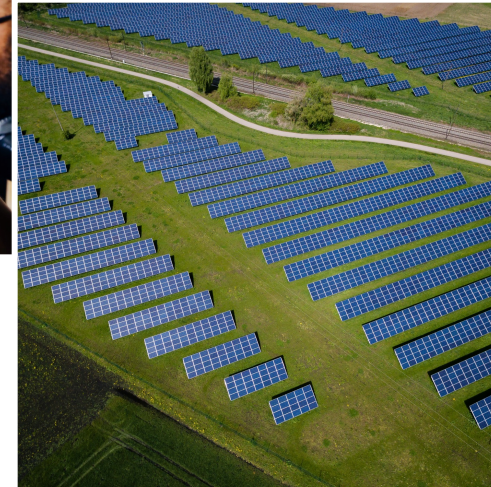
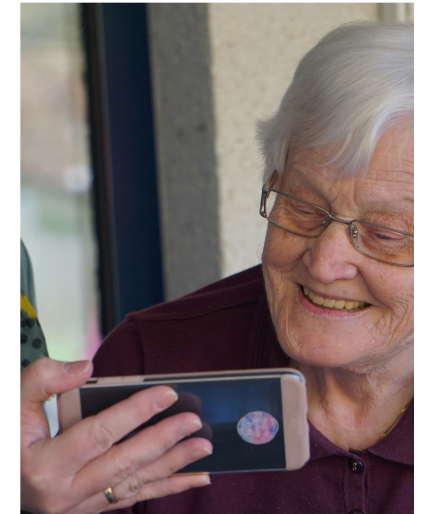
A European approach to micro-credentials

Micro-credentials in higher education

# EU context for skills development

Micro-credentials for lifelong learning

# Rapid changes, new skills needs





# Skills development in the EU

Lifelong upskilling and reskilling need to become the norm, ensuring

Sustainable competitiveness

Social fairness

Strong resilience



# EU targets by 2030 related to skills



**60% of the  
adult  
population to  
participate in  
training each  
year**



**80% of  
Europeans to  
have at least  
basic digital  
skills**



**20 million ICT  
specialists  
(+ gender  
convergence)**

# European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability

A Council Recommendation to promote quality, trust and uptake

# Micro-credentials: growth and concerns



# Rationale of the Council Recommendation

Quality

Trust

Uptake

To make micro-credentials more **comparable** and **understandable**

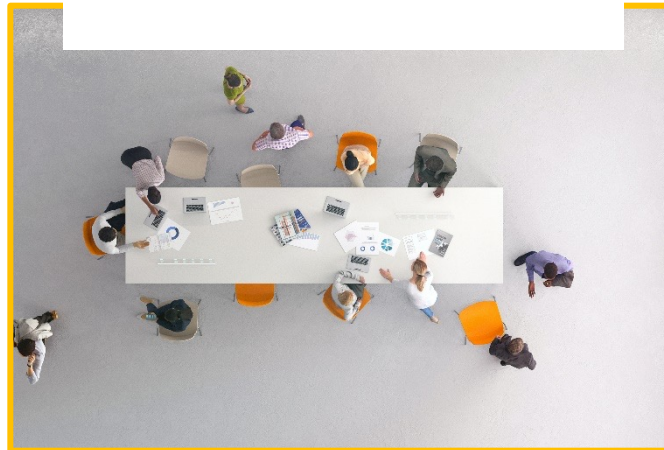
# Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability

## 'Building Blocks'



1. Common definition of micro-credentials
2. Standard elements
3. Principles for the design and issuance of micro-credentials

## Key areas for action

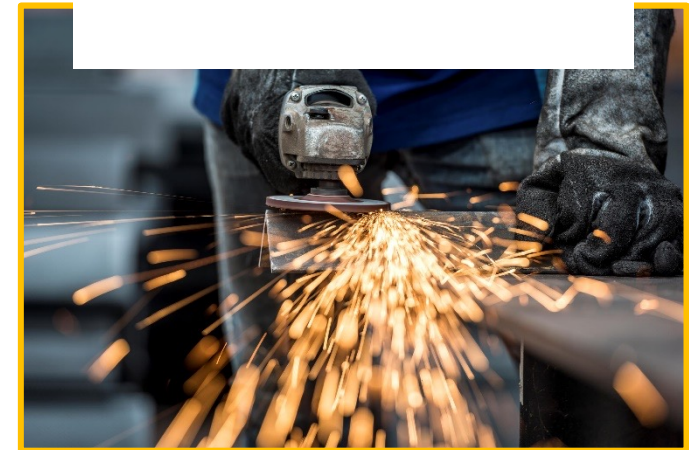


Development of **ecosystems** for micro-credentials

Deliver on the **potential** of micro-credentials

**Commission Support**

## Focus

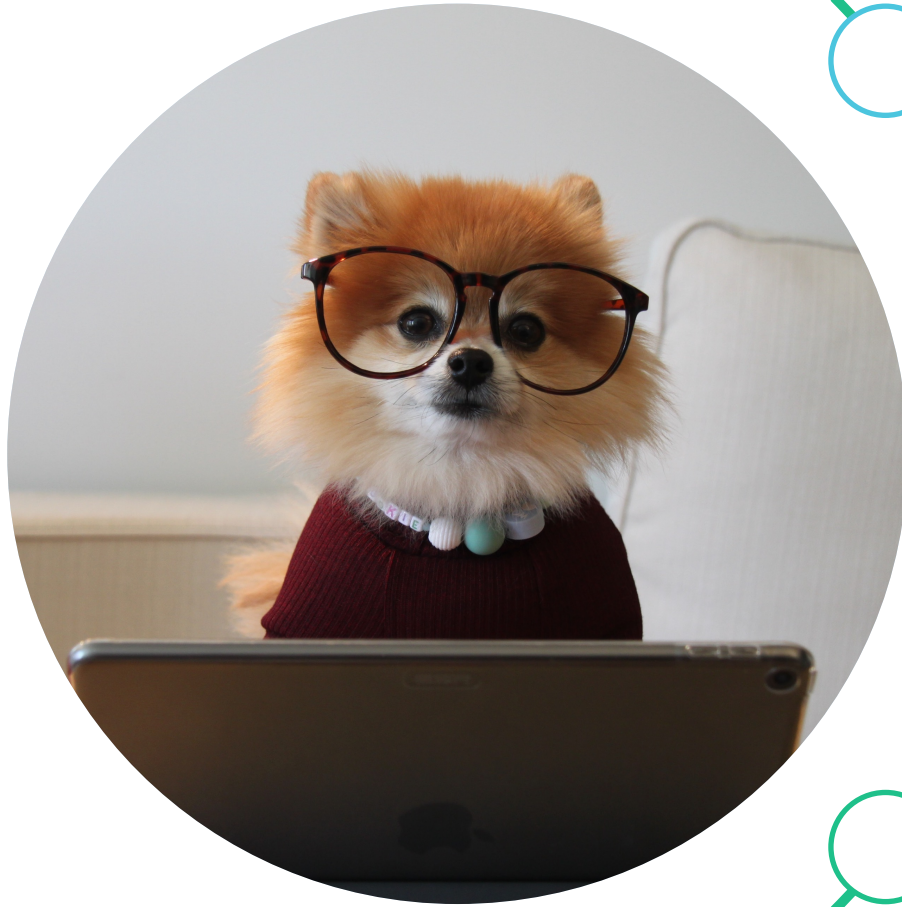


**Education, training and skills** policies

**Active Labour Market** Policies

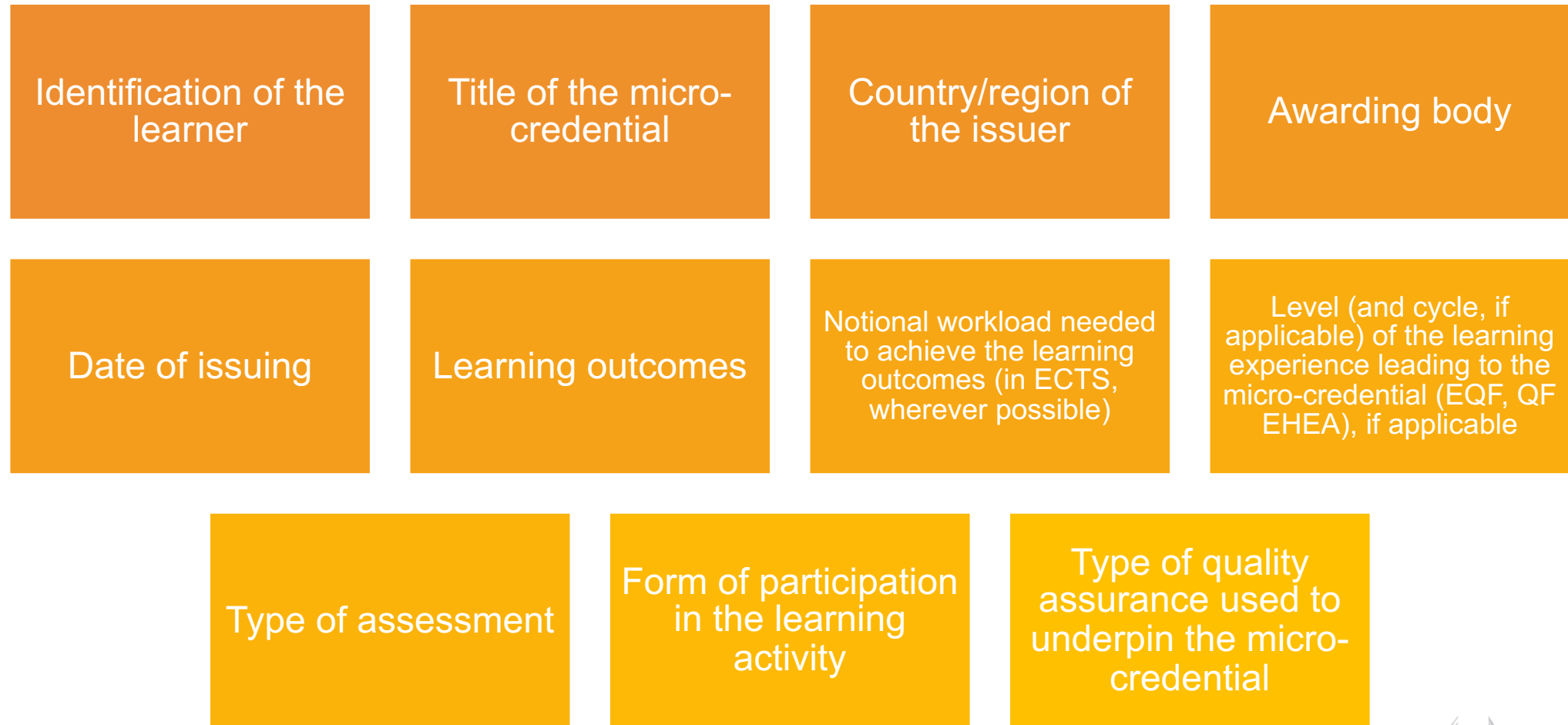


# 1. Common definition for micro-credentials



- Record
- Learning Outcomes
- Small volume of learning
- Assessed
- Owned by the learner
- Shared and portable
- Underpinned by quality assurance

## 2. Standard elements to describe a micro-credential



# 3. Principles for design and issuance of micro-credentials

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Quality

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Transparency

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Relevance

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Valid assessment

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Learning Pathways

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Recognition

---

Portable

---

Learner Centred

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Authentic

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Information and Guidance

# Micro-credentials in Higher Education

# European strategy for universities and Council Recommendations

Council Recommendation of 5 April 2022 on building bridges for **effective European higher education cooperation**

Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on a European approach to **micro-credentials** for lifelong learning and employability

Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on learning for **the green transition** and sustainable development





# A few words on stackability and ECTS





## European Universities Initiative projects – Examples (1/3)

### Micro-credentials

UIREKA SHIFT plans to develop at least three micro-credentials on sustainability and digital transitions

INVEST plans to develop a micro-credential and lifelong learning platform

UNITA developed a framework of micro-credentials





## European Universities Initiative projects – Examples (2/3)

### Digital transition

**ENHANCE** offers **ECTS micro-credentials** with a thorough quality assurance and formal assessment of learning outcomes (ENHANCE Label in data literacy). ENHANCE life-long learning courses leading to micro-credentials in digital transformation and Certificate in Higher Education Teaching designed for academic staff.



# European Universities Initiative projects – Examples (3/3)

## Green transition

ARQUS - a collaborative programme on “Rethinking Climate Risks”

AURORA developed 10 ECTS credit micro-credentials on “Sustainability & Climate Change”

UNA EUROPA micro-credential programme in sustainability

# Plans

Erasmus+ policy  
experimentation call  
and other priorities  
– 2024 Erasmus+  
Work Programme

Collection of data  
on micro-credentials



# Thank you



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