STEP-BY-STWP GUIDE TO T4EU MICRO-CREDENTIALS

What is a micro-credential?

A micro-credential is a small volume of learning within a lifelong learning programme that takes into account the needs of the European labour market and responds to the new and emerging needs of society as a whole to acquire an additional specialty or professional competency, and which leads to a certification and could lead to awarding of a certain amount of ECTS credit points, i.e. 1, 1.5, 2, etc. up to 30. These high-potential training offers are distinguished by their ability to combine.

Micro-credentials criteria:

- A small learning volume;

- A Lifelong Learning programme or a part of a BA or MA programme open to various target learners (BA, MA, professionals, adult learners, etc.;

- Stackability: micro-credentials can be combined to form more extensive certifications (micro-credential programmes);

- Storable: in a system and easily shareable (to ensure easy access to the content and verify authenticity) (e.g. in case Europass or another online system is used for certification);

- Accessible to a wide audience: targeting both working professionals seeking to develop new skills and students wishing to complete their academic training;

- Meet immediate labor market needs or new societal trends;

- Assessed (validation of informal learning via various tools such as quizzes, tests, solving practical problems, etc.).

How to achieve micro-credentials offering?

Transparency: Provide clear information on learning outcomes, workload, content, level (i.e. BA, MA, LLL, etc.), and the learning offer to ensure that learners understand what to expect and what they will gain.

Cooperation: Foster collaboration between universities, faculties, employers, social partners, and other stakeholders to ensure that the micro-credentials are relevant, high-quality, and meet market needs.

Dissemination: Develop and implement strategies to widely distribute information about micro-credentials, ensuring that a broad audience is aware of the opportunities available.

Compliance with Regulations: Ensure that all aspects of the training are clearly communicated, including hours, prerequisites, and any other relevant regulatory requirements, to maintain transparency and trust.

Learner's Feedback: Collect and incorporate feedback from learners to continuously improve the micro-credentials, making sure they remain relevant and effective in meeting the learners' needs.

Support Services: Provide comprehensive support services for learners, including academic and career counseling, and technical support to help them successfully complete the micro-credentials.

Recognition and Accreditation: Ensure that micro-credentials are recognized and accredited by relevant educational and professional bodies (if applicable).

Flexible Learning Pathways: Design micro-credentials to be flexible and modular, allowing learners to customize their learning pathways according to their personal and professional goals.

What kind of micro-credentials can T4EU offer?

T4EU would like to offer tailored micro-credential programmes that enhance diversity and inclusiveness. Micro-credential designers are then relatively free on the construction of their programme but shall overall respect the core values of the T4EU Alliance.

What is the ratio between credit points and course workload?

One ECTS credit will be approximately equal to 25 hours of work within the micro-credential programme. This includes both on-course hours and the hours needed for preparation and completing out-of-class activities which are part of the course.

What is the required mode of delivery?

There is no required format. Micro-credentials can be delivered in a face-to-face, blended, or entirely online format. The online part of micro-credential courses can be delivered synchronously or asynchronously depending on the target audience and their designers' vision.

If targeted at T4EU students, they should be available for registration through Meta-Campus.

What is the type of assessment?

The type of assessment is flexible; there is no obligatory assessment mode. It should correspond to the specific content of the micro-credential and the vision of its "designers". It could be a final exam, a project, a portfolio, etc. to demonstrate internalisation of the knowledge and acquisition of skills or an ongoing assessment mode can be implemented.

How much will the tuition fees be?

It is free for students and T4EU staff only. Indeed, other people should pay a certain amount if they want to participate. This amount will depend on the respective internal regulations of the university offering the micro-credential and paid to the relevant university authorities.

What will the format of certificates be?

In cases of one partner university providing a MC course to all alliance students and potential learners, this university will issue its own certificate detailing the course title, language of instruction, number of ECTS, number of teaching hours, mode of course delivery, mode of assessment and the final course grade (if applicable). In cases of a MC course developed and offered jointly by two or more T4EU universities, a joint certificate includes details on each of the completed courses: course title, language of instruction, number of ECTS, number of teaching hours, mode of course delivery, mode of assessment and the final course grade (if applicable).

Who is the contact person for micro-credentials?

Whether you are interested in developing a micro-credential programme, or a student willing to apply, you may contact Prof. Nikolina Tsvetkova .

If you are a future micro-credential designer, please describe your "project MC" using the template provided below.

Dissemination of micro-credentials

All micro-credential offers are advertised via the T4EU website.

Template for describing T4EU Micro-credentials

University	
Faculty / Department / Other structure	
Course title	
Short description	
Target group	
Language	
ECTS points	
Max number of participants	
Literature	
Participants' obligations	
Competences	
Course leaders	
Lecturers	
Time of delivery (i.e. once per semester/year/ every second week, etc.)	
Mode of delivery (F2F/online/hybrid)	
Registration (email, web link, etc.)	