TRANSFORM4EUROPE:
THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY FOR
KNOWLEDGE ENTREPRENEURS

T4EU JOINT STRATEGY AND FRAMEWORK ON
MICROCREDENTIALS

Part I: T4EU JOINT STRATEGY MICROCREDENTIALS 2025-2030

Prepared by:
Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski
Work Package 3
Nikolina Tsvetkova
Contact: transform4europe.su.bg@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Approval

Approved by:
☒ USAAR
☒ UA
☒ EKA
☒ UCP
☒ UP
☒ JMU
☒ USil
☒ SU
☒ UNITS
☒ VMU

2. Executive summary

The T4EU Joint Strategy on Microcredentials (MC) outlines the main elements for elaborating T4EU MC offerings until 2030. It is developed to ensure that the joint T4EU Alliance MC courses/programmes are in line with the 10 EU-adopted principles of Quality, Transparency, Relevance, Valid assessment, Learning Pathways, Recognition, Portable, Learner-centred, Authentic, Information and guidance.[1]

The specific principles to follow include respecting existing (where available) national legal requirements as well as respecting the specific institutional, regional and national contexts of the T4EU partner universities and consideration of the various learners' needs.

Target learner audiences range from school leavers through university students to lifelong learning participants, making it beneficial for upskilling and reskilling current workers. Thus, microcredentials cater to the evolving needs of the workforce, aligning with trends in continuous professional development.

Hence T4EU Microcredentials courses/programmes shall offer variety and flexibility in terms of format, duration and mode of delivery based on real needs.

The Joint Strategy on Microcredentials (MC) is based on the agreed definition of Microcredentials below. The Strategy is accompanied by a Joint T4EU Framework on Microcredentials, which provides clear conceptual guidance to ensure that the Transform4Europe Alliance has the tools to become a leader in this area. The two documents should be regarded mutually complementary and revealing the Alliance vision with regard to Microcredentials.

Apart from the task force group, the T4EU Steering Committee, the Joint Quality Assurance Office, the Joint Communication Office and the Joint Mobility Office, relevant university structures, i.e. departments dealing with lifelong learning, post-graduate education, Erasmus offices, etc. will be consulted when offering T4EU MC courses.

3. Goals

In keeping with the principles outlined above, the Joint Strategy on Micro-Credentials 2030, outlines the hierarchy of goals and measures to be pursued by the T4EU Alliance namely:

- creating a portfolio of joint flexible microcredentials offer
- opening at least 25 microcredential courses by the end of 2027 including existing and newly developed ones
- establishing a sustainable mechanism for adapting and developing T4EU microcredentials offer beyond 2027.

4. Joint T4EU definition of microcredentials

The T4EU Alliance adopts the following definition on microcredentials.

Microcredential (MC) means the record of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a small volume of learning within a degree or a lifelong learning programme that takes into account the needs of the European labor market and responds to new and emerging societal needs. They lead to acquiring an additional specialisation or professional competence and/or provide added value to a degree but do not represent a degree as such.

MCs are owned by the learner; they can be shared; they are stackable and are portable[4]. They may be stand-alone or combined into larger sets of credentials. They may lead to certification and/or to awarding a certain number of ECTS credit points, i.e. 1, 1.5, 2, etc. up to 30 (depending on university). These high-potential training offers are distinguished by their ability to be combined (stacked).

Learning experiences leading to microcredentials are designed to provide the learner with specific knowledge, skills and competences that respond to societal, personal, cultural or labour market needs. Microcredentials learning outcomes are assessed against transparent and clearly defined criteria. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards in the relevant sector or area of activity ensuring their quality, transparency, cross-border comparability, recognition and portability.

---

[1] Council of the European Union (2022). COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION of 16 June 2022 on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability (2022/C 243/02), p. 23–25.

5. Measures

Addressed goal	Measure	Description	Timeline	Body[2]	Target group
1 Creating a portfolio of joint flexible microcredentials offer	Collation of a list of existing MC courses/programmes	Partner universities to collate the existing MC courses/programmes they consider suitable to become part of the joint T4EU Portfolio of flexible study offers.	Mid-February 2025	MC TF in consultation with relevant partner university structures.	Diverse learner groups: BA, MA & PhD students School leavers and recent high school graduates Auditors/guest students Executives Labour market entrants Mid-career professionals Long-time employees
	Toolbox on Microcredentials	A MC Toolbox based on a baseline study providing the necessary Guidelines (See Framework on Microcredentials) and templates describing T4EU MCs. The Toolbox will be used to describe existing MCs and new ones proposed to become part of the Joint T4EU offer of MCs.	End of February 2025	MC TF in consultation with relevant partner university structures.	
	Further MC developed	Further MC courses/programmes developed and added to the Portfolio of Joint MC	On a rolling basis by end of December 2026	Experts from the partner universities in consultation with MC TF and relevant partner university structures, JVMO and the JQAO.	
2 Opening at least 25 microcredential courses by the end of the project including	Common platform	Common platform allowing browsing, selection and registration of learners. It should be integrated with the platform for joint BA, MA, PhD and lifelong learning programmes.	TBC (subject to further negotiation)	MC TF in consultation with relevant partner university structures.	Diverse learner groups: BA, MA & PhD students School leavers and recent high school graduates Executives

---

[2] The Bodies are the managing and other structures of the T4EU Alliance and the relevant partner university structures.

existing and newly developed ones					Labour market entrants Long-time employees T4EU academic and admin staff
	Piloting	Agreed existing MC course of a short duration provided by one partner to be opened to learners from the whole Alliance to pilot and evaluate the MC Toolbox	End of August 2025	MC TF in consultation with relevant partner university structures, JVMO and the JQAO	Diverse learner groups: BA, MA & PhD students School leavers and recent high school graduates Auditors/guest students Executives Labour market entrants Long-time employees T4EU academic and admin staff
	Knowledge Entrepreneurship MC	Knowledge Entrepreneurship MC available based on the core module of BA tracks	End of academic year 2024-2025		BA Students
	MC for T4EU staff	MC for T4EU staff as part of lifelong learning opportunities	End of academic year 2025-2026		T4EU employees
	Roll out of at least 25 MCs	Prior to the beginning of each semester partners agree which MC courses from the Portfolio will be opened for enrolment (with a total of 25 by the end of spring semester of 2026-2027)	First "mass" rollout of MC courses to take place in the academic year 2025-2026.		Diverse learner groups (See above)
	Regular update of the Portfolio of T4EU MCs	The list of MC courses/programmes in the	Twice per academic year		Diverse learner groups (See above)

		Portfolio will be updated regularly, before the start of each semester.	– 2 months prior to the beginning of each semester (based on the academic calendar of the university which starts the earliest.		
3 Establishing a sustainable mechanism for adapting and developing T4EU microcredentials offer beyond 2027	Initiating dialogue with the relevant national authorities to achieve uptake at the policy level and to lead to legislative change *where applicable*.	Encouraging members of MC TF, interested T4EU experts and specialists engaged in relevant departments to participate in working meetings with the relevant national authorities and events organised by these authorities	As appropriate	MC TF Specialists from relevant departments – lifelong learning, IROs, etc., Teachers University management structures University legal departments University financial administration	University management T4EU MB University employees EU-level specialists National-level specialists in MC Other European University Alliances Other stakeholder groups (i.e. employers, professional organisations, vocational education providers, etc.)
		MC TF, T4EU experts/course authors and specialists engaged in relevant departments to participate in working meetings with the relevant national authorities and events organised by these authorities (as applicable).			
	Online forum (webinar, info-day or mini-conference) for T4EU academic and admin staff, relevant national and EU-level authorities and stakeholders	T4EU MC forums to be held online and open to EU-level specialists, national authorities and other stakeholders to showcase the potential of MCs in general and the MCs offered by the T4EU Alliance.	December 2025 October 2027 January 2030		

		First online forum to be held after the rollout and evaluation of the Knowledge Entrepreneurship MC. Second online forum to be held by October 2027.			
	MCs reflecting the changing societal and labour market needs and personal needs for higher qualification	MC courses/programmes shall be updated to reflect the changing societal and labour market needs and personal needs for higher qualification following the forms of needs analysis usually applied by the partners. The changes in content and newly proposed MCs shall be consulted with the JQAO.	On a rolling basis – at least 2 months prior to inclusion of a new or updated course in the Portfolio	MC TF, Specialists from relevant departments – lifelong learning, etc. Teachers JQAO JVCO	Diverse learner and stakeholder groups (see Framework)
	Promotion of T4EU MCs	The Portfolio will be accessible from the T4EU website. When a new MC course/programme is launched, the partners involved will publicise this on their dedicated websites and following the agreed rules for dissemination, on the T4EU webpage. The partners involved will also use their regular channels such as mailing lists and social media to popularise MCs among various potential target learners.	As appropriate, on a rolling basis	MC TF Specialists from relevant departments – lifelong learning, IROs, etc., Teachers JQAO JVCO	

6. Glossary

MC – microcredential

MC TF – Microcredential task force. Currently this is an informal structure – a group of experts representing the partner universities.

IRO – International Relations Office

JQAO – Joint Quality Assurance Office

JVMO – Joint Virtual Mobility Office

JVCO – Joint Virtual Communication Office

T4EU MB – Transform4Europe Management Board