



Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en
Wetenschap

Microcredentials

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Microcredential defined

- The **record of the learning outcomes** that a learner has acquired following a small volume of learning.
- These learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent and clearly defined **standards**.
- Courses leading to micro-credentials are designed to provide the learner with specific **knowledge, skills and competences** that respond to societal, personal, cultural or labour market needs.
- Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared and are portable.
- They may be standalone or combined into larger credentials.
- They are underpinned by **quality assurance** following agreed standards in the relevant sector or area of activity.

Working definition of EU Council



Recommendation of EU Council

- to facilitate the ongoing and emerging development of micro-credentials within formal learning settings, as well as non-formal and informal learning settings
- to support the quality and transparency of micro-credentials
- to promote and support, where appropriate, effective experimentation, cooperation, governance and partnerships between higher education institutions, employers and industry, local organisations and authorities and other relevant stakeholders
- to integrate micro-credentials into both education and training systems and skills
- to ensure that information and advice on identifying and selecting micro-credentials is incorporated into lifelong learning guidance services



Position of The Netherlands

We support coordinated efforts and ambitions on life long learning and mobility

We also have hesitations:

- Are our HE institutions really able to reach out to employers and industry?
- Ministry bears little responsibility for informal learning
- Should we facilitate and support, or (also) recognize and register?



Recognized HE institutions

Public universities (50)

Accredited programmes

Private courses and training

Private HE-institutions (70)

Accredited programmes

Private courses and training

Private institutes (1000+)

Private courses and training



Pilot microcredentials

Aim

- institution-wide collaboration to create a system in which micro-credentials have recognised value.
- by acting together and **using a shared language** and a **common quality framework**, the institutions can assign independent value to the microcredentials.



Pilot microcredentials

Set up

- 32 Dutch higher education institutions
(10 universities, 22 universities of applied sciences)
- Under direction of national associations of universities (UNL, VH) and SURF / Acceleration plan Educational Innovation with ICT
- Issue digital certificate for course or programme (3 – 30 EC)
- Quality framework: aiming high (cf. NVAO-accreditation)
- Aimed at learning needs for professionals (lifelong learning only)



Pilot microcredentials

Quality framework

- Quality is guaranteed on the basis of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)
- Based on the institution's Lifelong Learning vision
- Internal QA process for the design and recognition of microcredentials
- Designated body that guarantees the final level of certified education
- Student evaluation, participation and possibility of submitting complaints



Next steps

Working group

- Start a working group with relevant actors and stakeholders
- The working group provides input and advice to create a national vision, strategy and concrete policy regarding micro-credentials.



Pilot microcredentials

See also

→ <https://www.versnellingsplan.nl/en/Kennisbank/pilot-microcredentials/>