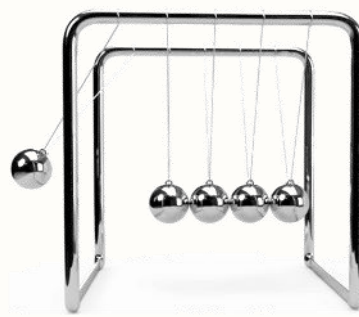




06 **innoLab**

ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION

Universities' Role in Developing Skills for an AI-Powered Future



Reka TOZSA
Director, Education Department
Asia-Europe Foundation



The Asia-Europe Foundation

- Created in **1997**, ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation based in Singapore
- We work with **53 members**: 51 countries and 2 organisations (the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat)
- Our work **facilitates bi-regional dialogue**, knowledge exchange, and collaboration
- We **connect civil society and governments** across Asia and Europe



What is #ASEFInnoLab?

Established in 2021, the ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory (ASEFInnoLab) creates **opportunities for higher education stakeholders from Asia and Europe** to expand their professional network, exchange knowledge, and collaboratively build their capacity to **address challenges around Universities' Role in AI Innovation Ecosystems**.



Learn

Exchange and build knowledge among representatives from higher education institutions



Network

Facilitate sustainable networking and support funding opportunities



Collaborate

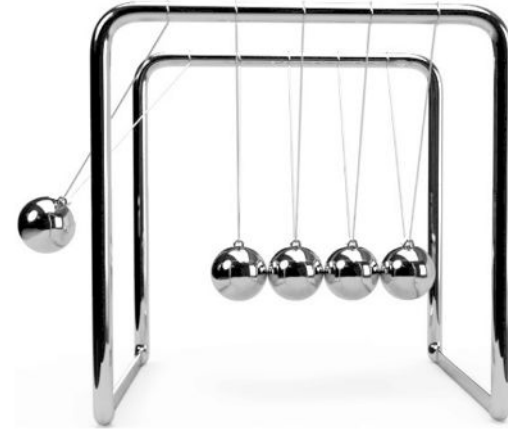
Create individual or joint outputs in a collaborative, supportive setting

06

ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION

innoLab

**Universities' Role in Developing Skills for an
AI-Powered Future**



Theme of 2026

“Universities' Role in Developing Skills for an AI-Powered Future”

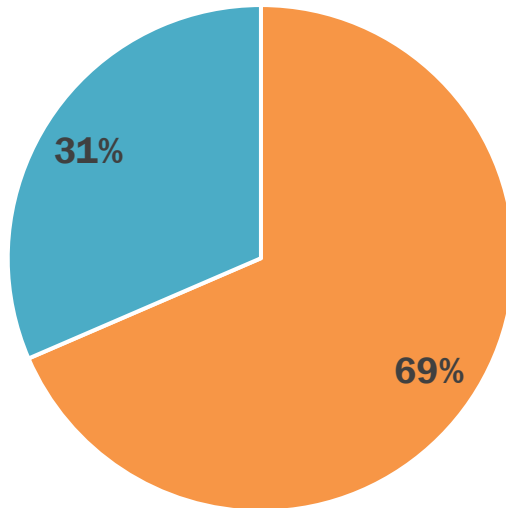
Spotlight on the critical role that universities play in developing skills for an AI-powered future. This includes anticipating emerging needs, designing inclusive and accessible learning pathways, and building interdisciplinary bridges that align academic knowledge with real-world concerns.

Profile of Participants

216 higher education professionals, academics, and researchers from

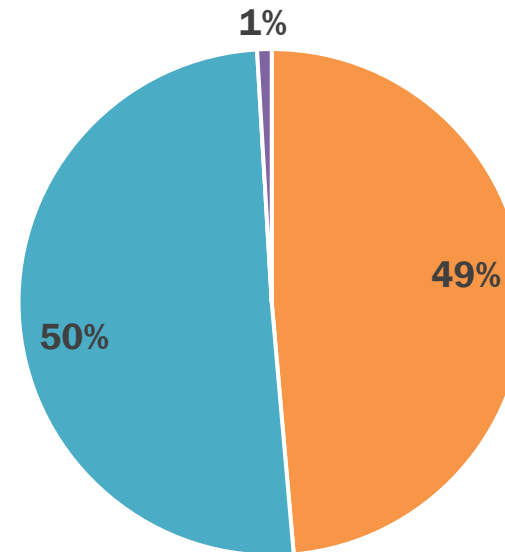
39 countries in Asia and Europe

Participants by Region



■ Asia ■ Europe

Participants by Gender



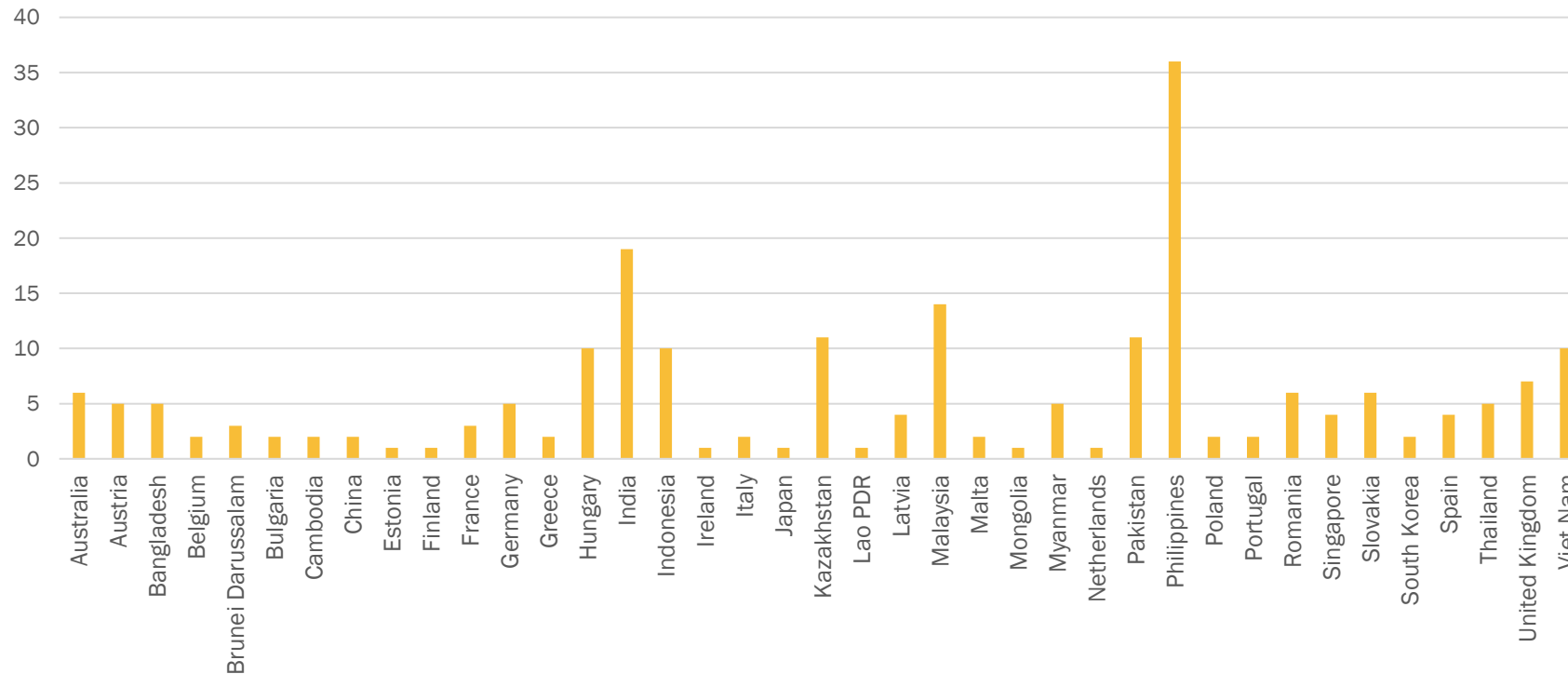
■ Male ■ Female ■ Others

Profile of Participants

216 higher education professionals, academics, and researchers from

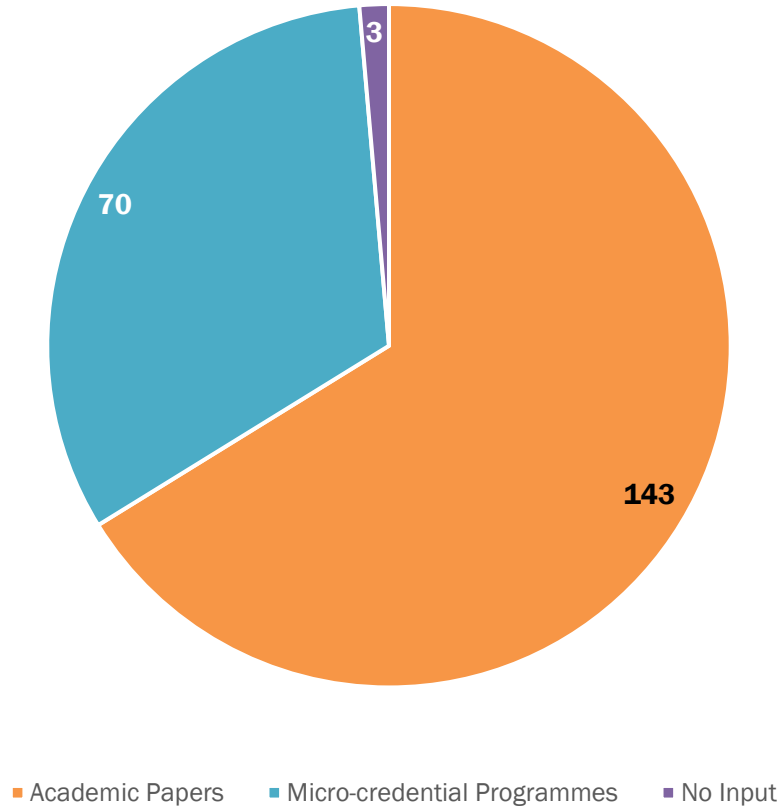
39 countries in Asia and Europe

Participants by Country of Residence

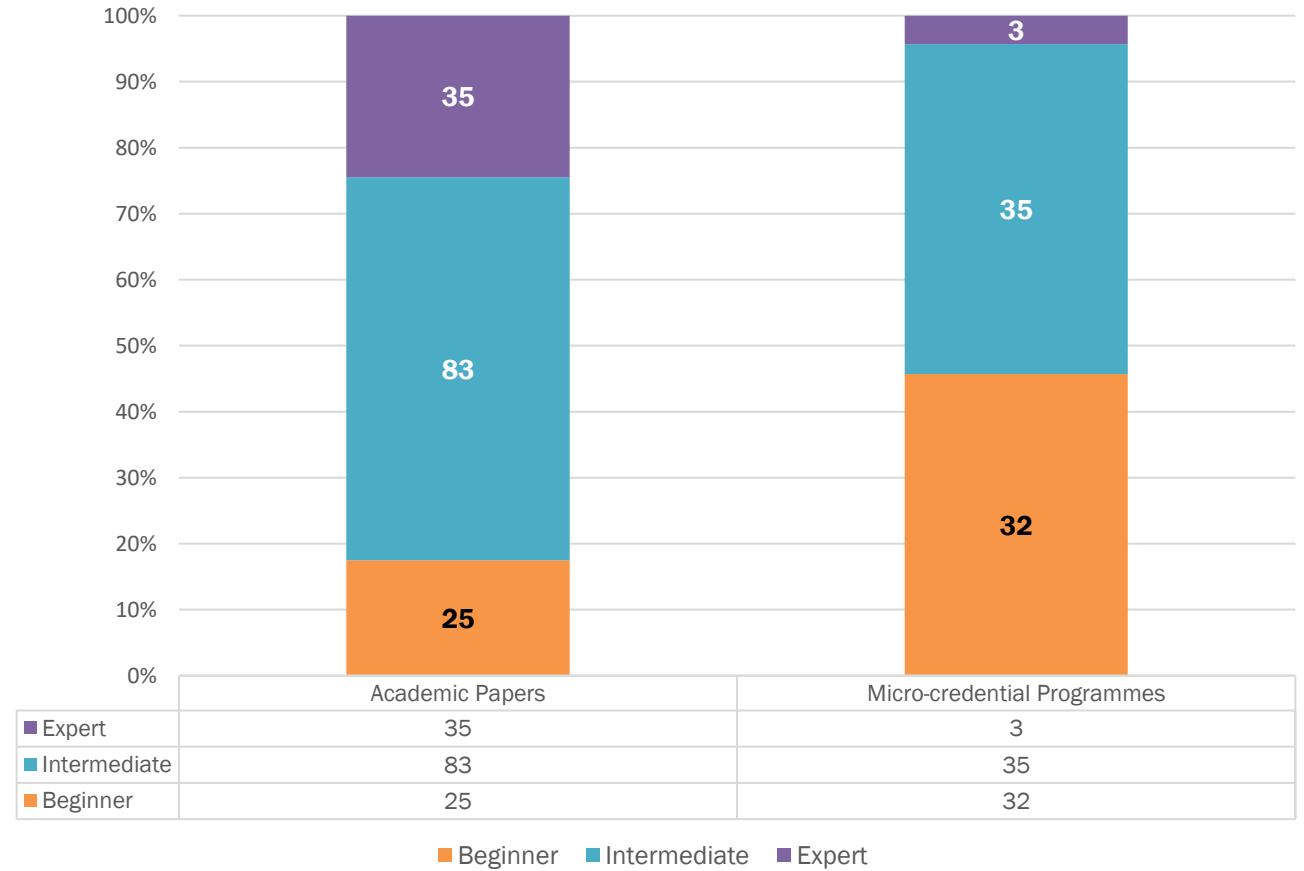


Profile of Participants

Programme Track Sign-Ups



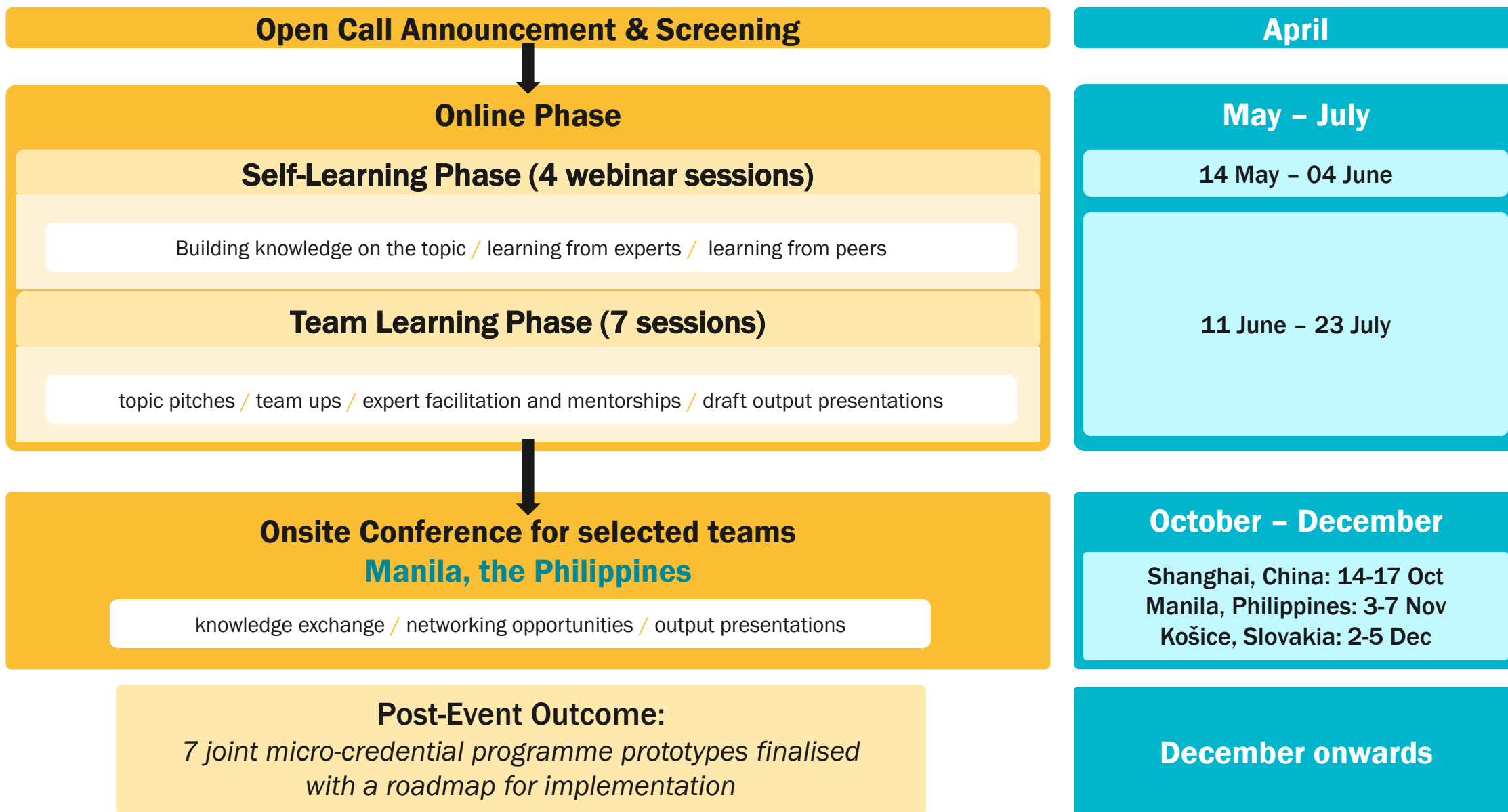
Experience Level: Programme Tracks



ASEFInnoLab6 Micro-credentials Programme Track Objectives



- Raising **awareness** on the potential of micro-credentials to equip students with needed skills for the AI era
- Providing **tools and knowhow** for designing micro-credential programmes compliant with QA requirements and viable in both Asian and European contexts
- Facilitating **knowledge exchange & collaboration** between Asian and European higher education institutions as they navigate the transformative impacts of AI



ASEFInnoLab6 Micro-credentials Programme Track

Milestones

Self Learning Phase

14 May to 4 June 2025

- Introduction and Orientation
- Skills Foresight: Predicting Competencies for the AI Era
- Skills Development Frameworks across Asia & Europe
- Beyond the Binary: AI and Human Skills Development

Team Learning Phase

14 May to 4 June 2025

- Establishing the Groundwork for Joint Outputs
- Identifying Shared Points of Interest: Pitching Ideas
- Announcement of Teams and Team Building
- Pitching MC Course Outlines & Selectin for conference

Manila Conference

3-7 November 2025

- Expert keynotes, Learning workshops to polish proposal
- Team presentation and feedback sessions

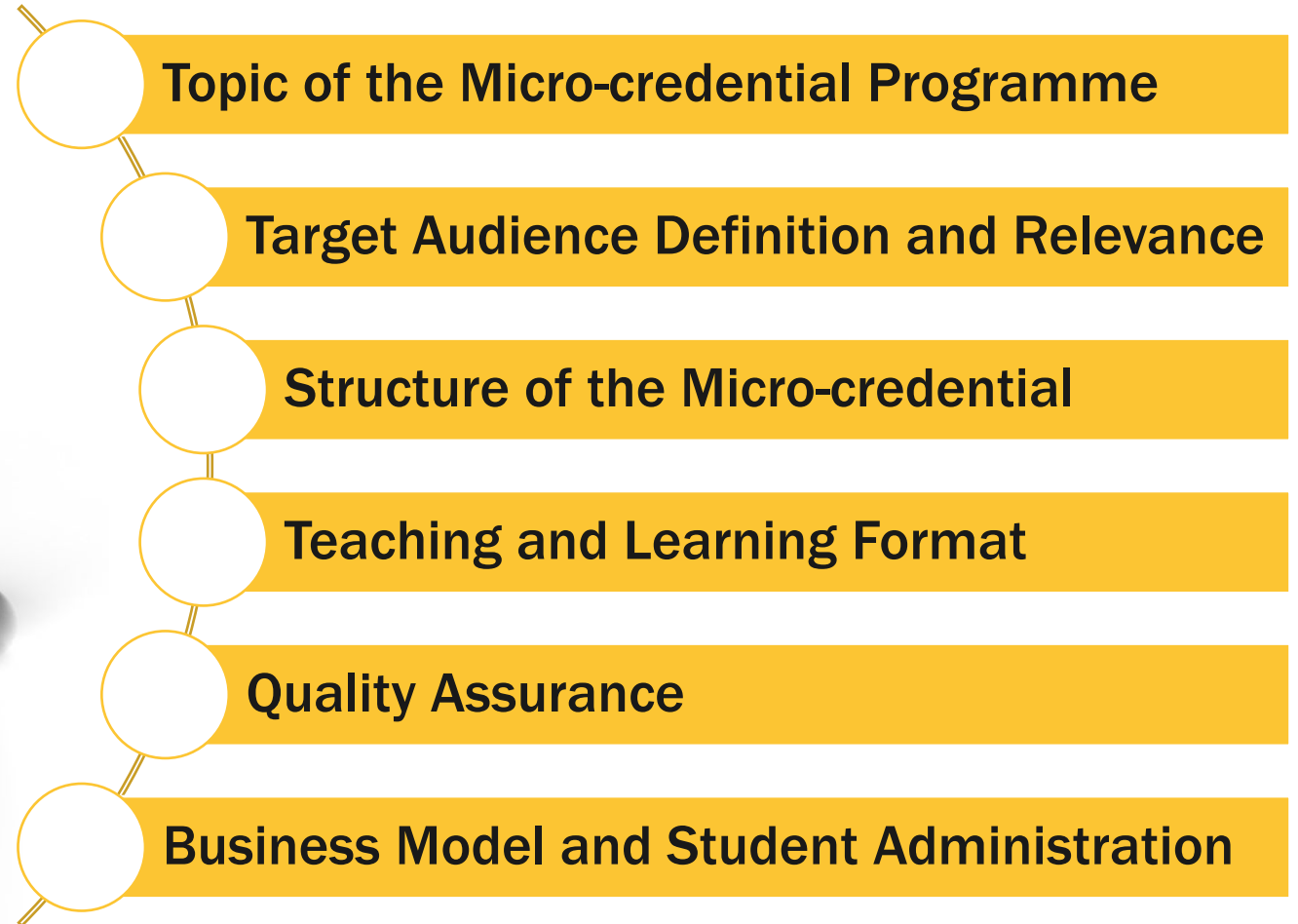
Prototypes

Ongoing from December 2025

- Prototype submission
- Expert feedback, design revision

ASEFinnoLab6 Micro-credentials Programme Track

Methodology of Developing MCs



Microcredential Prototypes Produced

7 multidisciplinary, intercultural teams produced the following prototypes:

- Micro-Credential for Real-Life Learning, Supporting Lifelong Learners Beyond the Classroom
- Creativity in the Era of AI: Changing Education and Employer Paradigm
- Universities Accelerating Digital Research
- AI & Digital Ethics: A Micro-credential Program for Responsible Innovation & Trustworthy AI
- Digital Transformation and Industry 5.0: A Joint Contribution from Asian and European Aul (Augmented Intelligence)
- Fraud Risk Management: Theory and Practice in the AI-Powered Higher Education Environment
- Incorporating AI Tools in Teaching and Assessment

Expert Facilitator for the Micro-credential Programmes Track



Dr Lara SORRENTINO

University of Florence, Italy

**Expert Facilitator for the Micro-
credential Programmes Track**

ASEFInnoLab6 Micro-credentials Programme Track

What Our Participants Said



Irina Dimitrova
Human Resources
Development Center
Bulgaria

I realised how naturally our teams created synergy—between individuals in each team and between teams. The differences didn't divide us; they simply added more layers of perspective.

What really mattered was the professionalism, the curiosity, and the drive each person brought to the table. **That mix created a feeling of building something genuinely new, while also feeling unmistakably part of a community.** It's rare to experience that kind of belonging in an international setting.



Henrique O'Neill
University Institute of
Lisbon (ICSTE)
Portugal

Digital Transformation has emphasised the importance of lifelong learning. The advent of AI stresses the need for upskilling and reskilling as a strategic imperative for maintaining workforce relevance and economic competitiveness.

Joining the ASEFInnoLab6 MP Track **helped me to become a better educator by reinforcing my capabilities to design and implement courses able to help those that look for flexible, focused, and competency-based learning opportunities** that align directly with industry demands.



Kristaline Leyte
Eötvös Loránd
University
Hungary

At the ASEFInnoLab6 Conference in Manila, I realised that micro-credentials are strategic tools for shaping educational futures.

Through the collaborative workshops and discussions, I **understood that well-designed micro-credentials can respond rapidly to emerging digital and AI skill needs** while still supporting inclusivity and accessibility across disciplines.



Nang Thaingi Myo
UNESCO Myanmar

Learning how to design and actually working hands-on on a micro-credential programme was a valuable experience. It really **highlighted for me the value of cross-regional collaboration in building AI skills.**

It's been inspiring to see how diverse perspectives come together to create something meaningful. I'm excited to carry this momentum forward and **turn our ideas into action.**

ASEFinnoLab6 Micro-credentials Programme Track

Lessons Learned



The track's **hands-on bootcamp design** with intercultural collaboration at its core was widely praised, even by expert speakers, who lauded its novelty and effectiveness.



Intercultural team dynamics can be a challenge. Uneven participation will have an impact on the design process, especially if major partnership prospects are affected.



Peer-led presentation and feedback sessions are useful, especially if framed properly as an opportunity to help each other succeed with their programme.



Expert consultation and mentoring sessions are extremely helpful especially for teams new to micro-credentials.

ASEFinnoLab6 Micro-credentials Programme Track Future Prospects

The **AE4AI Network** was established in October 2023 in Shanghai, China. It was founded by academics and managers of higher education institutions from Asia and Europe who are **Alumni of the ASEFinnoLab programme**.

It now has **200+ members**, with its work organised around three thematic areas. There is currently growing interest in a lifelong learning & microcredentials focused working group.



Thank you!

ASEFInnoLab6 was co-organised with:



With the support of:

