

Microcredentials at German universities

Results of a DAAD survey

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Erasmus+ National Agency Higher Education

German Academic Change Service (DAAD)

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Higher education

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- II. **EU survey on the Council recommendation (2024)**
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Microcredentials: EU Council recommendation (2022)

Definition and Characteristics

Definition

“**Micro-credential**’ means the record of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a small volume of learning. These learning outcomes will have been assessed against transparent and clearly defined criteria. Learning experiences 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 stand-alone or combined into larger credentials. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards in the relevant sector or area of activity.”

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.

EU-Survey on the Council Recommendation (2024)

Ziele



Mapping the development and use of micro-credentials in European Union Member States and associated countries with a focus on the implementation of the *Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability*.



Understanding how European countries are embedding micro-credentials in their education and training systems to enhance access to education and training and support the skills demands of the labour market.



Exploring the adoption of the European approach to micro-credentials in higher education, vocational education and training, and employment systems.

EU survey on the Council recommendation (2024)

Overall progress in higher education



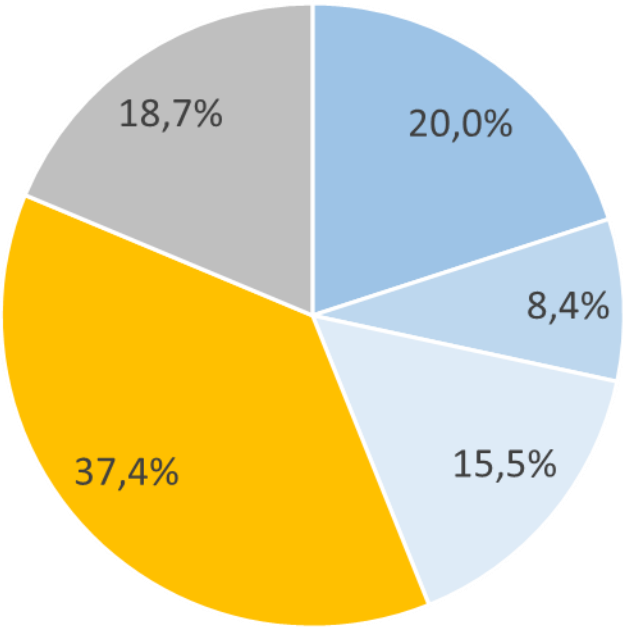
- Advanced
- Developing
- Initial stage
- Low adoption

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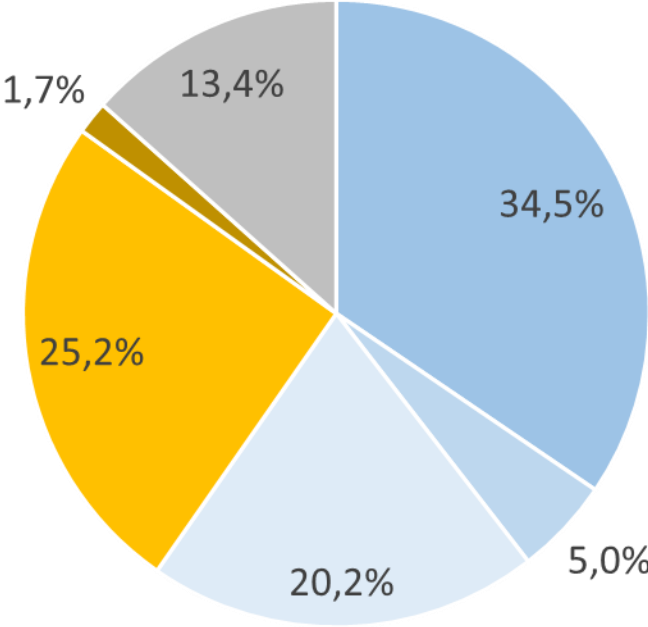
DAAD survey on microcredentials at German universities

Does your university offer microcredentials?



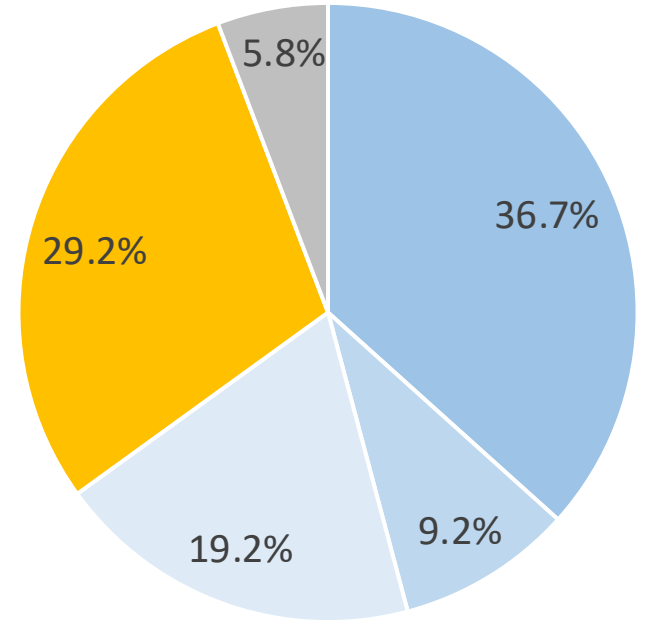
2022

Answers: 155



2023

Answers: 119



2025

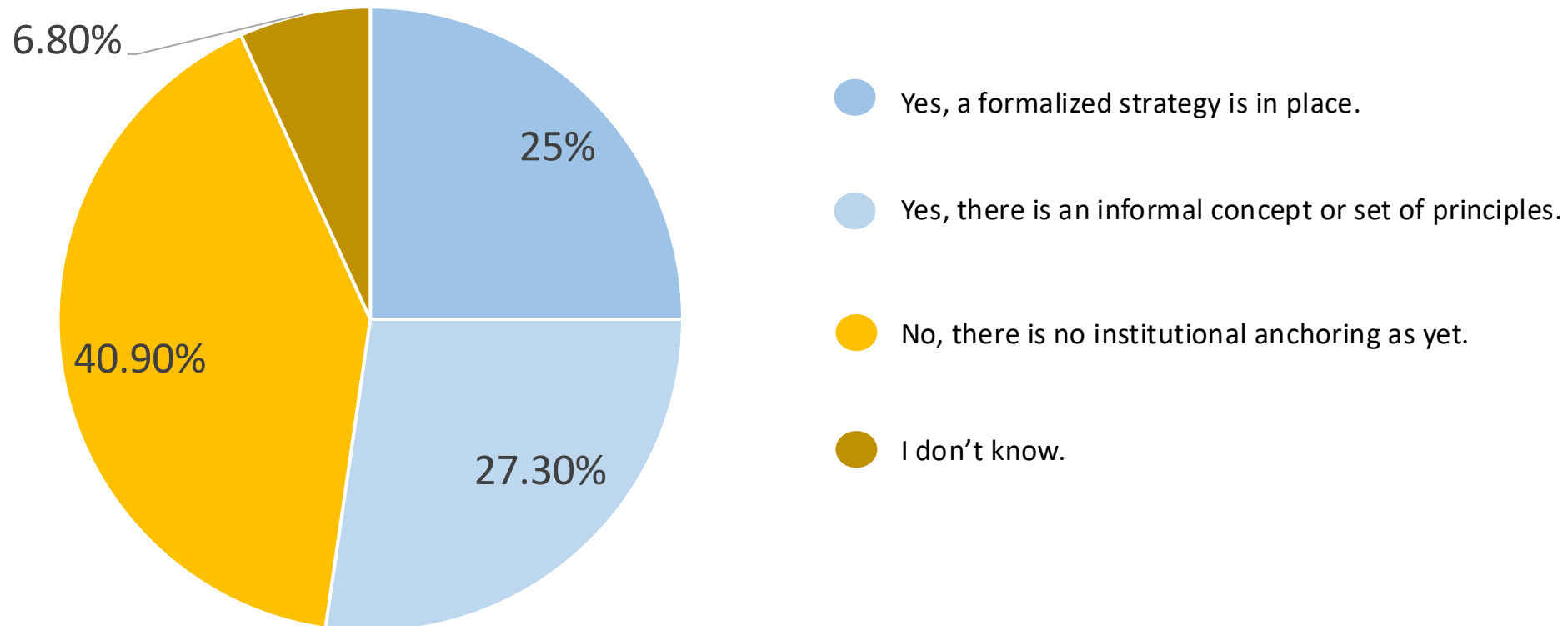
Answers: 120

- Yes.
- No, but there are already plans to introduce microcredentials.
- No, but microcredentials are an important topic of discussion.
- No, microcredentials are not currently a major topic of discussion.
- Don't know/no answer.
- No, without further information.

DAAD survey on microcredentials at German universities (2025)

Institutional anchoring

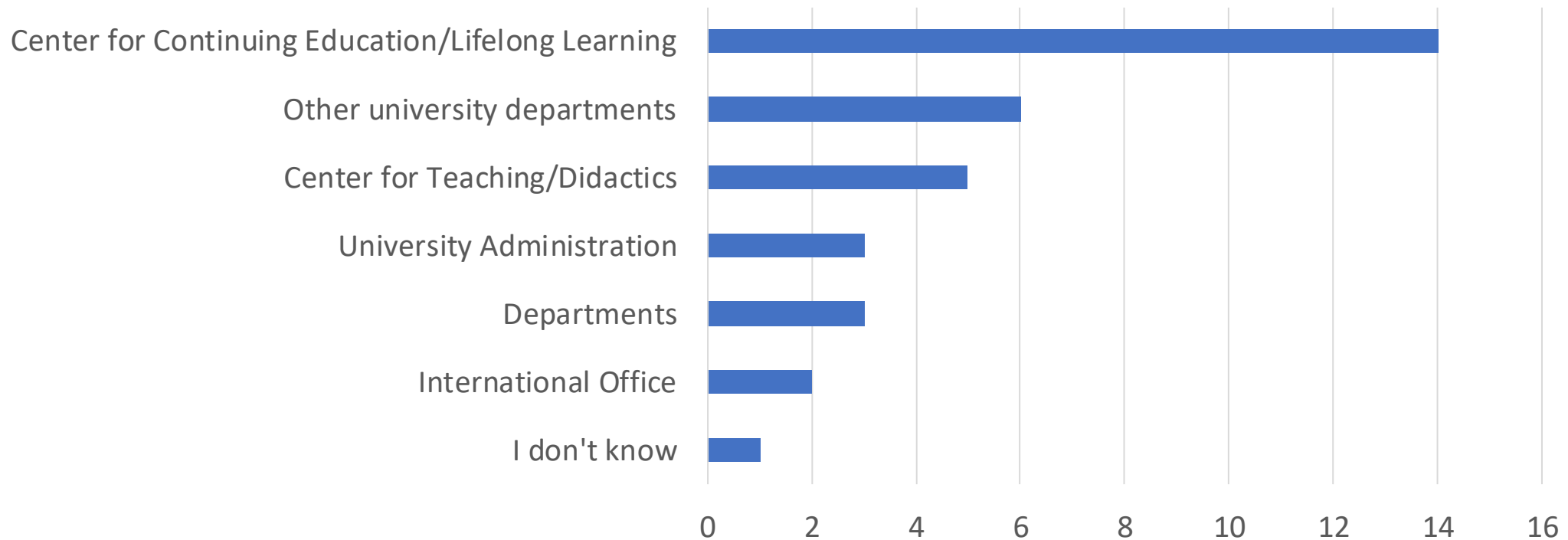
Is there an institutional framework or concept for the introduction and implementation of microcredentials at your university? (only universities offering microcredentials, n = 44)



DAAD survey on microcredentials at German universities (2025)

Responsibility

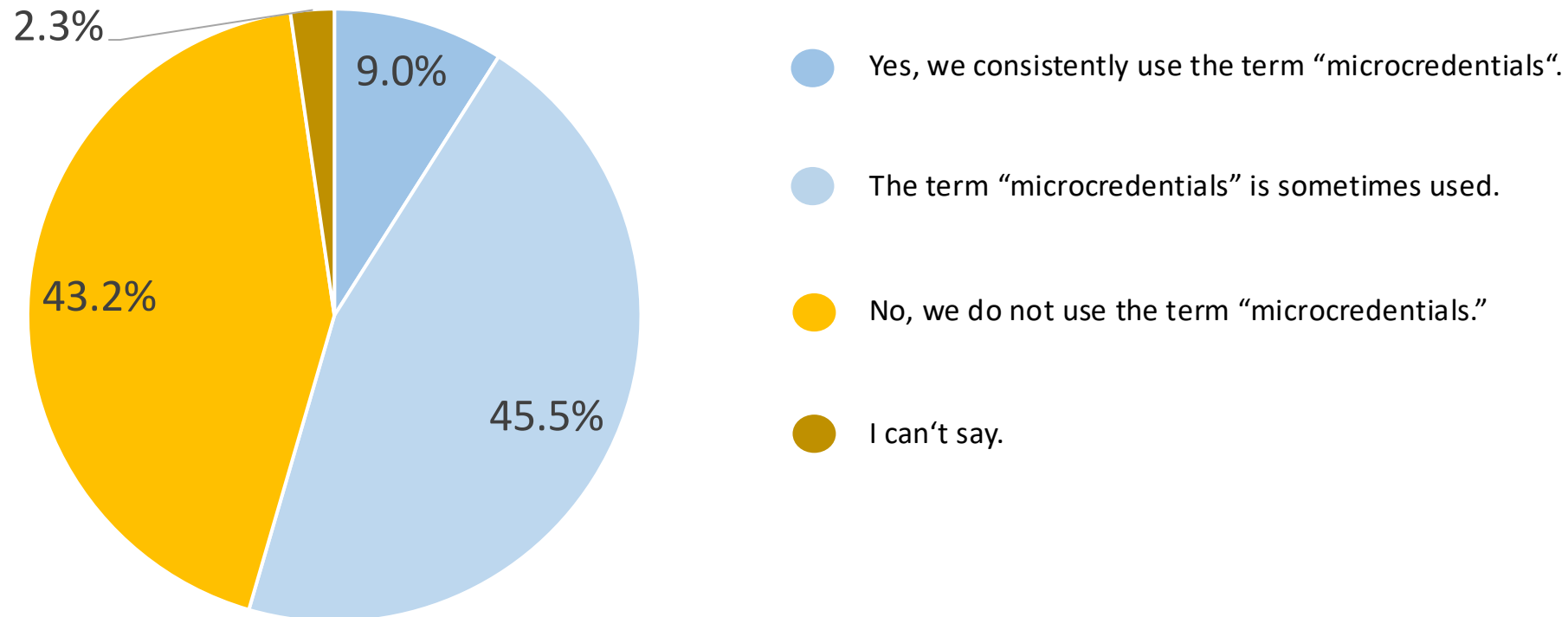
Who is responsible for microcredentials at your university? (only universities offering microcredentials, n = 44)



DAAD survey on microcredentials at German universities (2025)

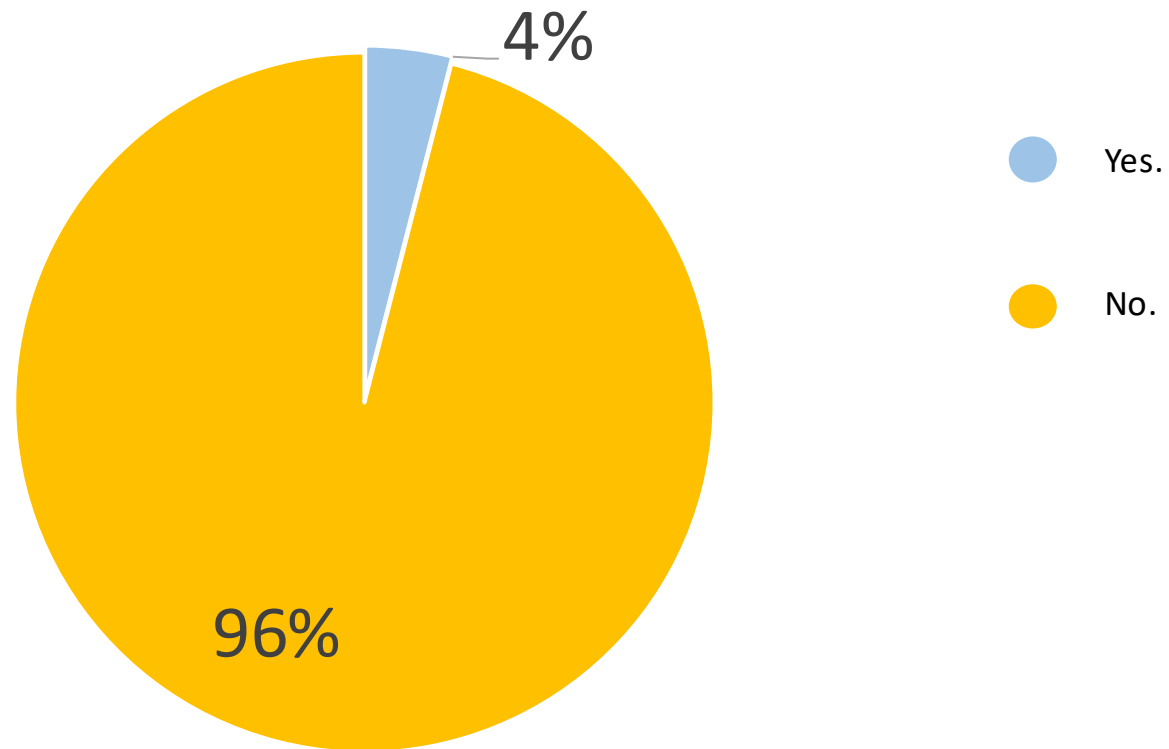
The term “microcredentials”

Please let us know whether these educational offerings are also referred to as “microcredentials” or whether you use other terms. (only universities offering microcredentials, n = 44)



DAAD student survey (2025)

Have you heard of the term “microcredentials”? (n = 7.569)

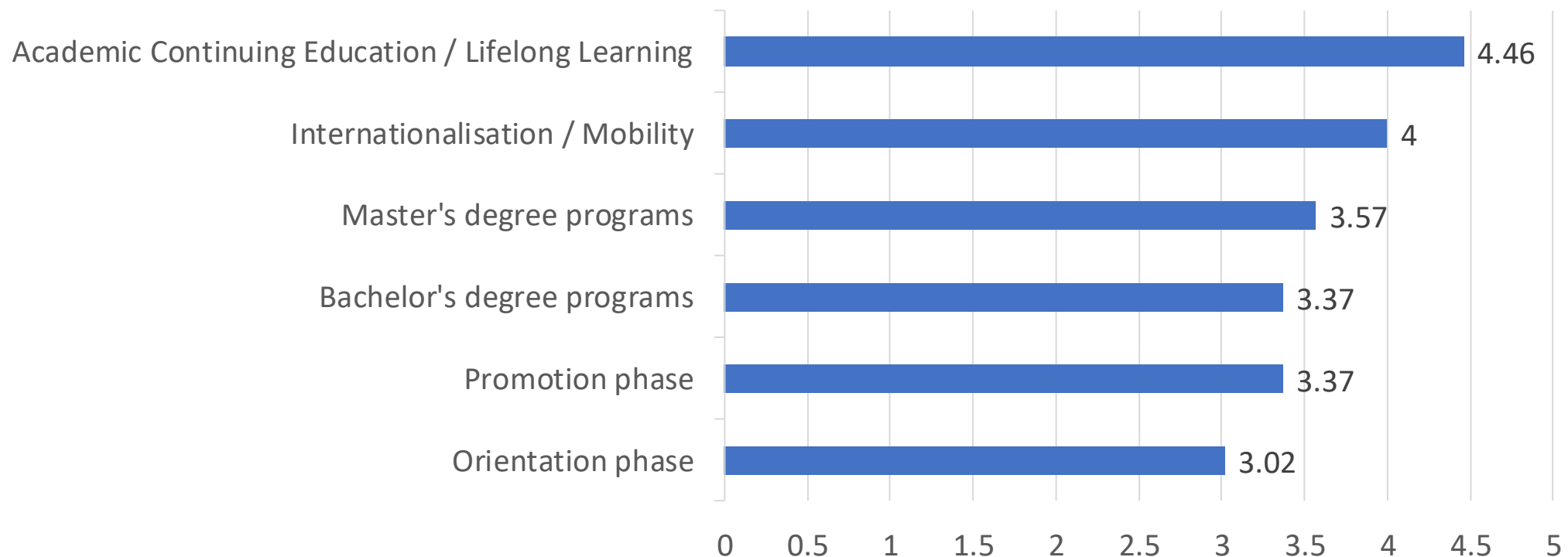


DAAD survey on microcredentials at German universities (2025)

Areas of application

How do you rate the use of microcredentials in the following study or continuing education phases? (n = 120)

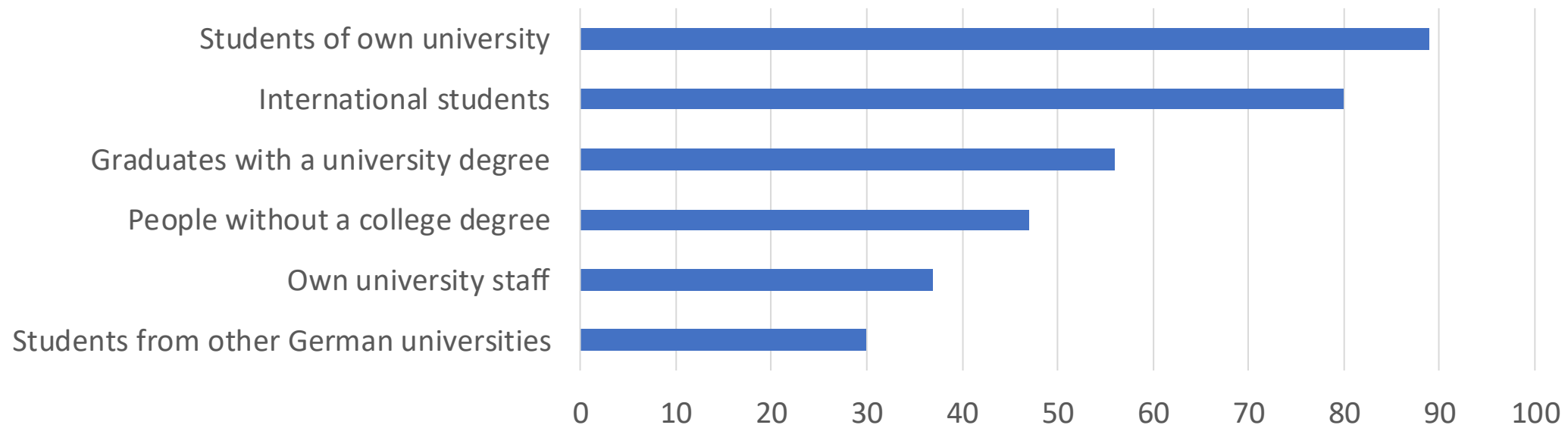
[Response scale 1-5: 1 = not useful at all, 5 = very useful]



DAAD survey on microcredentials at German universities (2025)

Target groups

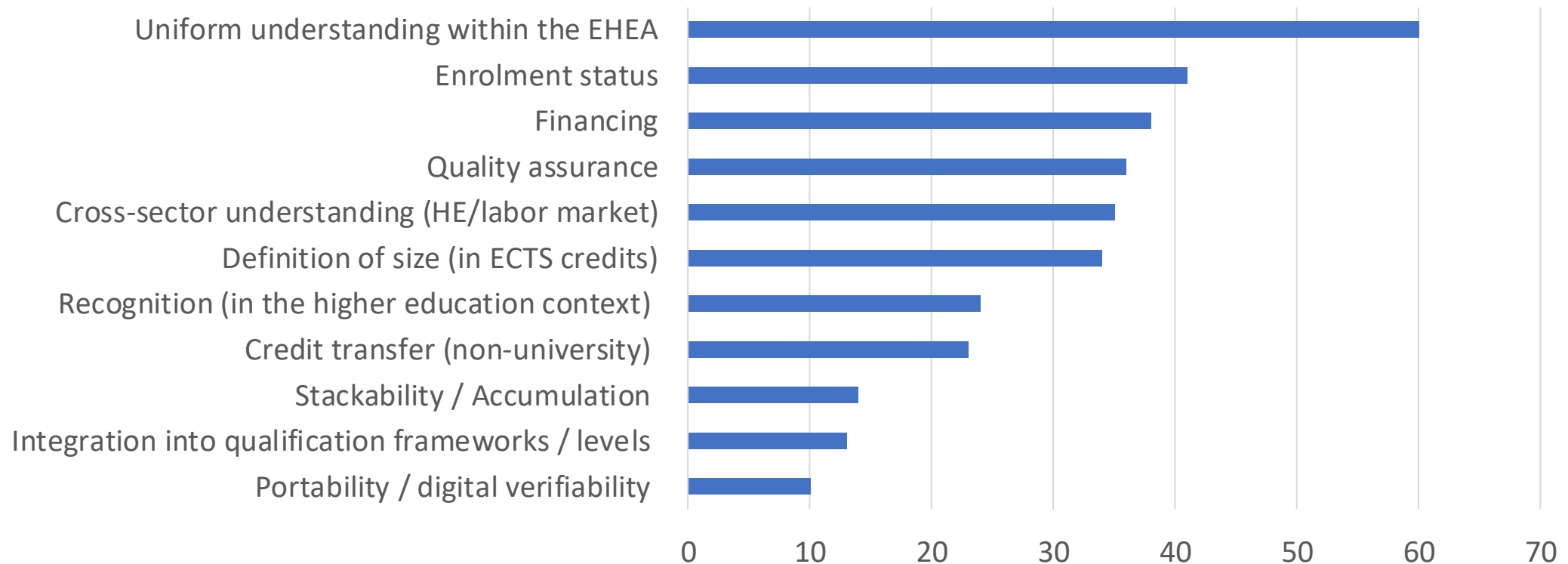
Which of the following groups of people do you consider to be the main target groups for microcredentials? (n = 120)



DAAD survey on microcredentials at German universities (2025)

Need for regulation

In your opinion, which of the following areas currently have the greatest or most urgent need for regulation? Please select up to three areas. (n = 120)

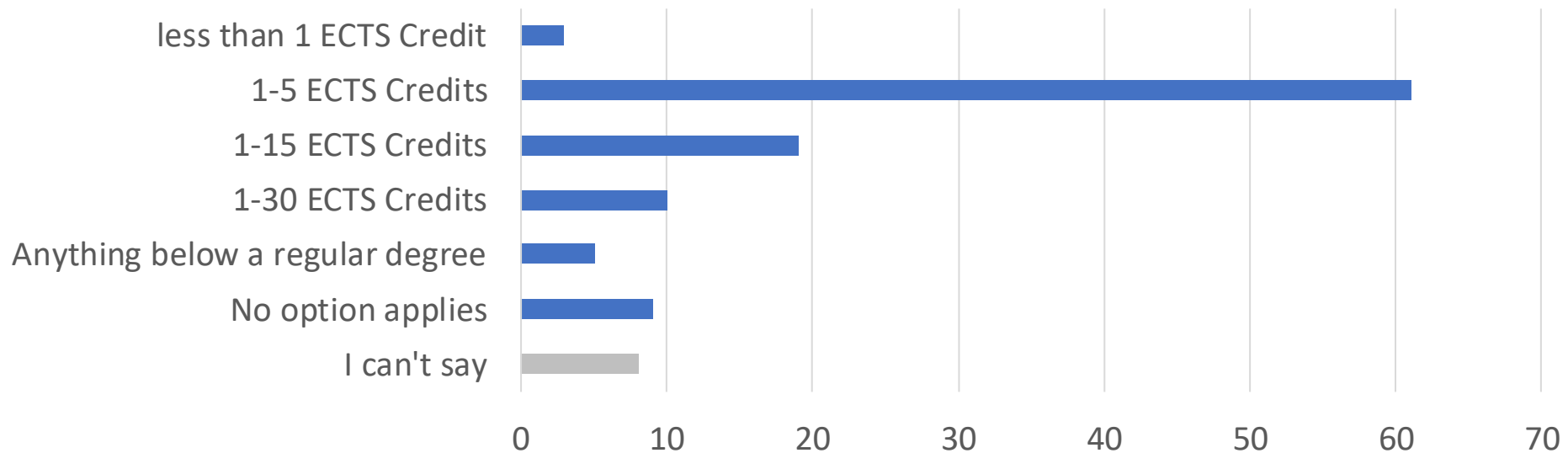


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Scope of microcredentials

In your opinion, for learning units of what size (expressed in ECTS credits) should the term “microcredentials” be used primarily?

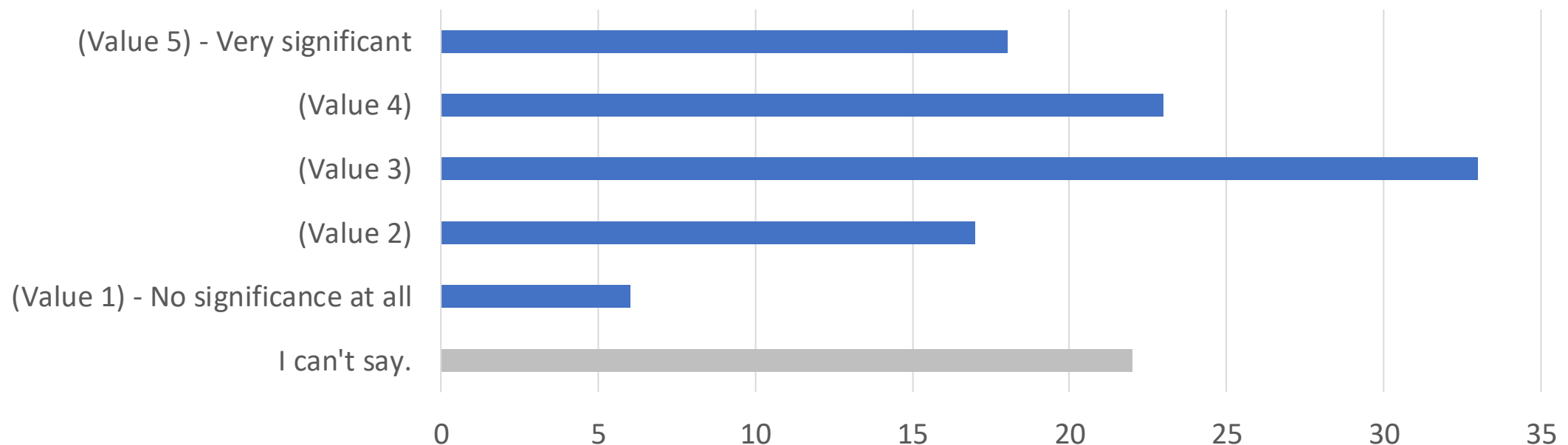
(n = 115)



DAAD survey on microcredentials at German universities (2025)

Strategic importance

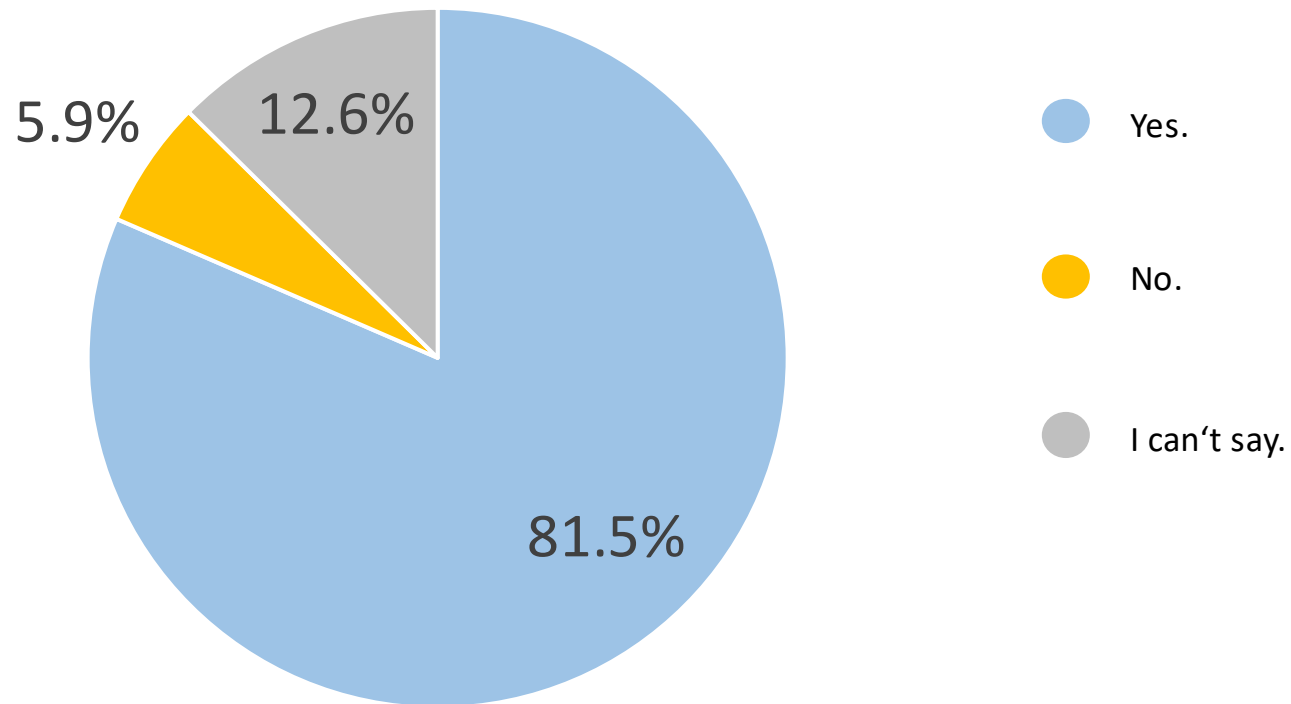
How do you assess the strategic importance of microcredentials for your university over the next five years? (n = 119)



DAAD survey on microcredentials at German universities (2025)

Focus: Internationalization

Do you consider microcredentials—in general—to be a useful tool for internationalization and promoting mobility? (n = 119)



Summary

Development of microcredentials at universities

- Increase in the availability of microcredentials since 2022
- Emergence of initial institutional strategies

Heterogeneous picture for microcredentials

- Different interpretations of terms
- Different responsibilities, target groups, and areas of application

Potential & Challenges

- Great potential for microcredentials in Germany
- Future exploitation of this potential depends on:
 - Creation of clearer framework conditions
 - Increased visibility and comprehensibility of offerings
 - Coherent integration into university continuing education and internationalization strategies

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