



# Academic Micro-Credentials

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Rialtas na hÉireann  
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# Micro-Credentials: Context

- Growing recognition that people will need to update and improve their knowledge, skills and competences to fill the gap between their formal education and training and the needs of a fast-changing society and labour market
- According to the OECD's Skills for Jobs database, at least 80 million workers in Europe have skills mismatched with their jobs
- On the other hand, 40% of employers have difficulties filling positions due to lack of required skills
- Given the skills needs and potential for labour market skills restructuring towards green, digital, and sustainability skillsets, this percentage is likely to grow





# Micro-Credentials: Context

- Conventional study programmes are arguably ill-suited to providing for accelerated demand for specific skill sets
- HEI processes cannot keep up with the increasingly nuanced combinations of rapidly changing expectations posed by their students and the workplace
- Micro-credentials have the potential to respond to a more dynamic landscape of labour market repute and societal imperative in the area of sustainability



Brussels, 25 May 2022  
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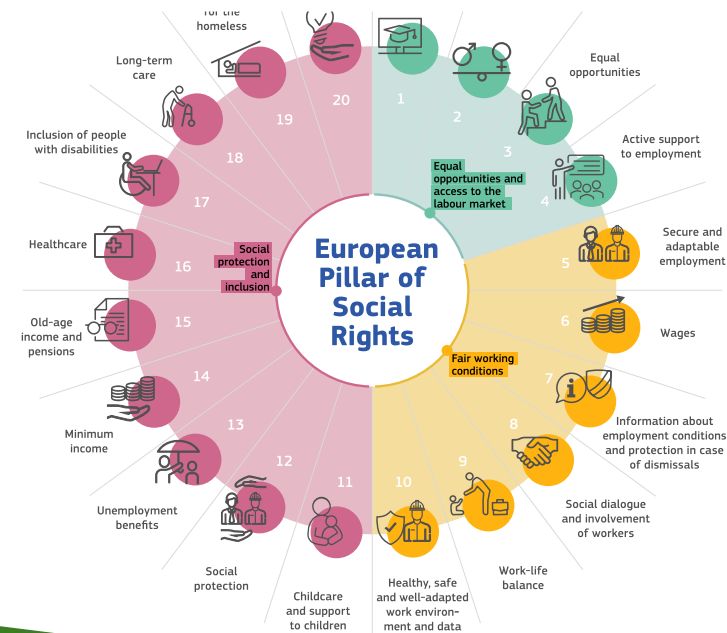
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Interinstitutional File:  
2021/0402(NLE)

#### '/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  
Subject: Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability  
- Adoption





# What are Micro-Credentials?

- Micro-credentials are designed to be flexible and part-time programmes of study
- Some are delivered online or take a blended approach, fitting with the demands of everyday life and responsibilities that can make studying larger programmes more complicated
- Content is broken down into a series of sessions, grouping relative chunks of learning together so that it is more digestible and efficient for the learner to absorb (5-30 ECTS)
- Micro-credentials allows students to assemble portfolios of learning within and across institutions, piecing together different competencies and areas of knowledge and skills that make up new forms of qualifications and align with employer requirements
- They tend to be 'stackable' and integrated allowing the pursuit of a bigger educational objective/qualification in a structured manner





# ‘Good’ Micro-Credentials

- Quality Assured from established universities or equivalent educational providers
- Flexible, part-time, with online or hybrid delivery, to fit into a busy lifestyles
- Accredited and provide learners with ECTS, which have world-wide recognition
- Designed by academics, so they are grounded in research and delivered by experts in the field
- Labour-market, ensuring content and topics are in-line with skills demand and societal need





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 UCD Professional Diploma  20 credits

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 Begin your MSc in Sustainable Development with 20 credits!



# Micro-Credentials

Relevant public authorities struggle in managing the various providers of microcredentials, developing definitions, building connections to national qualification frameworks (NQF) and European Qualification Framework (EQF) and quality assurance standards.

Despite this, micro-credentials are an important MoI for achieving Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) objectives by 2030.



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Thank You!



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