MicroHE: What we have learned about Microcredentials

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Our Partners
a **credential** is a documented statement made about a person (by another person)
a learning credential is a documented statement made about a person’s learning (by another person)
Getting the Terminology Right

A micro-credential is a subunit of a credential
Micro-Credentials instantiate learning which has happened at the end of a learning lifecycle.
Defining microcredentials

A system of interoperable building blocks
Key Features of Micro Credentials

- Modular
- Stackable
- Portable
- Digital
- Universal

www.microcredentials.eu
Key Features of Micro Credentials

- Open Access
- Standardised Unit of Measure
  - credit system
    - expressed as learning outcomes
- Small
  - (10 ECTS-equivalents max?)

ECTS-equivalent = approx. 10 hours of teaching, and 15 hours of self-motivated study
Key Features of Micro Credentials

Combining vs Stacking

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Key Features of Micro Credentials

Can be combined to create larger credentials

- Standardised
  - Credit system should express credit values
- Not Too Small
  - (1 ECTS equivalent min?)

ECTS-equivalent = approx. 10 hours of teaching, and 15 hours of self-motivated study
Key Features of Micro Credentials

- Student-held and transferred
  - Recognised by Different Institutions
  - To give access
  - To stack across institutions

content is quality assured
envelope is secured
Key Features of Micro Credentials

Assuming:

- 1000 Universities
- 50 Courses per Uni

Gives:

- 50000 micro-credentials

2 sextillion possible combinations!
(of 5-credential packages)
Key Features of Micro Credentials

Micro-Credentials are Digital Documents:

• Earned in **any mode** but
  • Awarded digitally
  • Stacked digitally
  • Recognised digitally
Micro-Credentials are Digital Documents

- Earned in **any mode** but
  - Awarded digitally
  - Stacked digitally
  - Recognised digitally
Key Features of Micro Credentials

useful in any formal or non-formal learning

- Applicable in Higher Education, VET, private training, continuing education)
- Can be used to create bridges between different learning contexts
Components of Our Project

Understanding prevalence
Technology standards
Technology demonstrator
Forecasting
HE Institutions Lack Understanding of Micro-Credentials

- Institutions are lacking practical already existing examples of Short Learning Programmes & Micro-Credentials
- Institutional chain of command missing for SLPs/Micro-Credentials (e.g. roles are unclear)
- Business model is missing and considerable share without plans to develop one
Recognition mechanisms enable Micro-Credential adoption

Our study indicated that recognition mechanisms lead to increased intention to adopt Micro-Credentials

"...MCs need to be easily accredited by accreditation agencies."

"...MCs need to be compatible with national/European qualifications frameworks."
MicroHE Metadata Standard
Main Innovations

- Qualifications, Modules and Micro-Credentials to be expressed with same vocabulary across all levels of education
- Captures Formal, Non-Formal learning using same vocabulary
- Allows for credentials of different types from different providers to be bundled into larger credentials
Evolution of Standards

- Europass Learning Model
  - W3C Verifiable Credentials (extended)
  - MicroHE Metadata Standard (retired)
  - Qualifications Metadata Schema (retired)
Technology Demonstrator

Credentify

The first European issuer of blockchain-secured stackable ECTS credentials that are university and student owned, and verifiable anywhere, anytime.

GET STARTED

GET IN TOUCH

www.microcredentials.eu
‘Self-Sovereign’ model for managing MCs

- Allows user to collect micro-credentials from different institutions in the network and save them in the same wallet
- Allows user to collect a batch of credentials and request a new credential on the basis of them from any institution within the network
- Credentials stored on the blockchain

credentify.eu
Forecasting Key Drivers for Transformation

- Flexible and Personalized offerings
- New Learner Paradigms
- Resolving skill Mismatch
- Synergies between HEIs and Employers
- Demonstrating granular competence
- Improved quick cycle education access to the disadvantaged
- Redefining Recognition
- Societal Impact
Forecasting Impacts of Microcredentials

Drivers Facilitating Microcredential Adoption
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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You can download this presentation at:
https://www.microcredentials.eu