Micro-credentials and European Digital Credentials for Learning

24 April 2024

Agenda

o A European Approach to Micro-credentials by **Isabel Ladrón Arroyo**

o Introduction to European Digital Credentials for Learning by **Céline Jambon**

o Creating an Annex I compliant European Digital Credential for Learning by **Ildiko Mazar**

o Available support and resources

o Q&A

o Wrap up by **Koen Nomden**

A European approach to micro-credentials

Isabel Ladrón Arroyo, DG EMPL.B3

Contents

EU Skills development policy

A European approach to micro-credentials

Potential of micro-credentials

Skills development in the EU

Lifelong upskilling and reskilling need to become the norm, ensuring

| sustainable competitiveness | social fairness | strong resilience |

EU targets by 2030 related to skills

60% of the adult population to participate in training each year

80% of Europeans to have at least basic digital skills

20 million ICT specialists

(**+ gender convergence**)

Current context for micro-credentials

Too few learners are engaging in training (after initial education)

Skills needs are continually changing

70.5% of employers provide training to employees, but less than 1/3 of these provide certification

Micro-credentials are actively used in some sectors but awareness and experience with micro-credentials is **low among employers**

Uptake of micro-credentials by workers is limited by lack of support from employers and **uncertainty about recognition of micro-credentials** by employers

European Commission

Micro-credentials for the labour market

Targeted, relevant learning

Small volume, short in duration

Flexibility to fit with how people live, learn and work

European Commission

European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability

Council Recommendation June 2022

European Commission

Rationale of the Council Recommendation

Quality	Trust	Uptake

To make micro-credentials more **comparable** and **understandable**
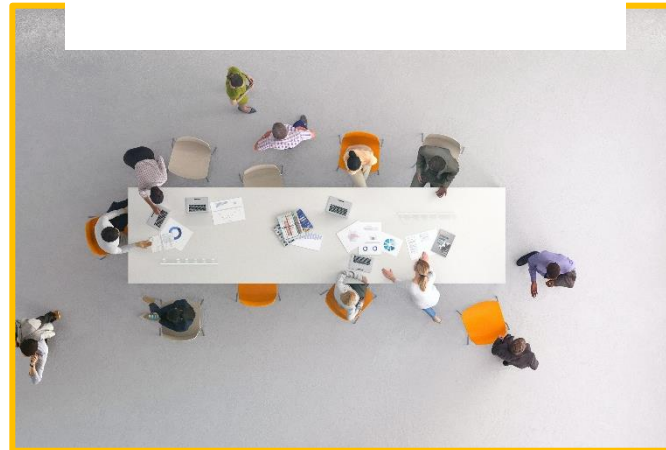
European Commission

Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability

'Building Blocks'

1. Common definition of micro-credentials

2. Standard elements

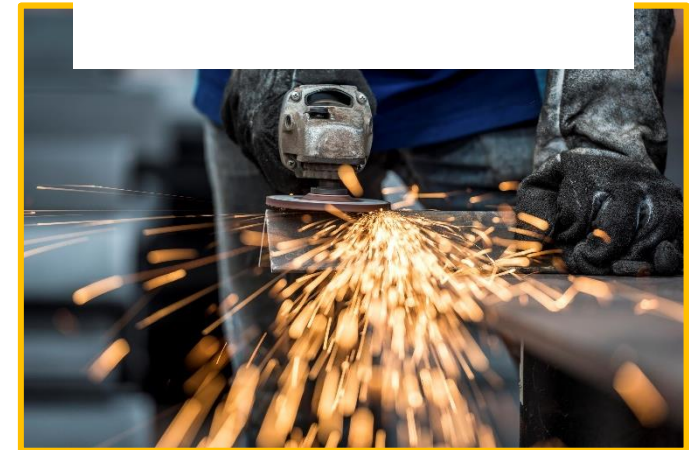3. Principles for the design and Issuance of micro-credentials

Key areas for action

Development of **ecosystems** for micro-credentials

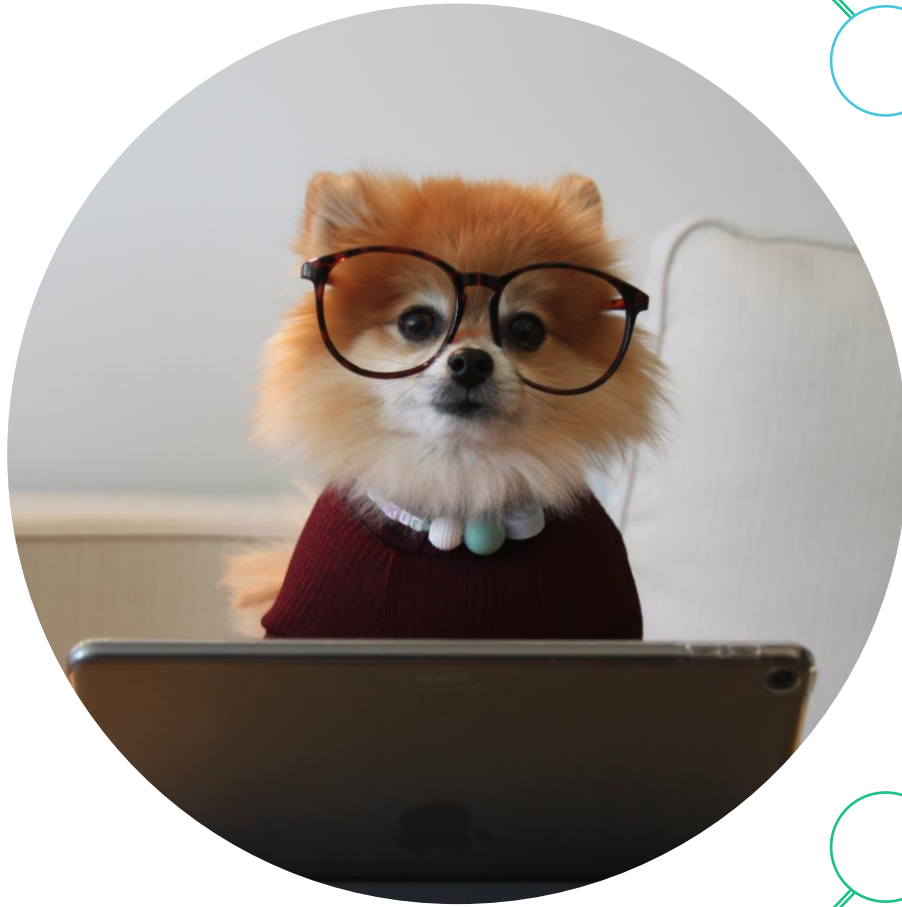Deliver on the **potential** of micro-credentials

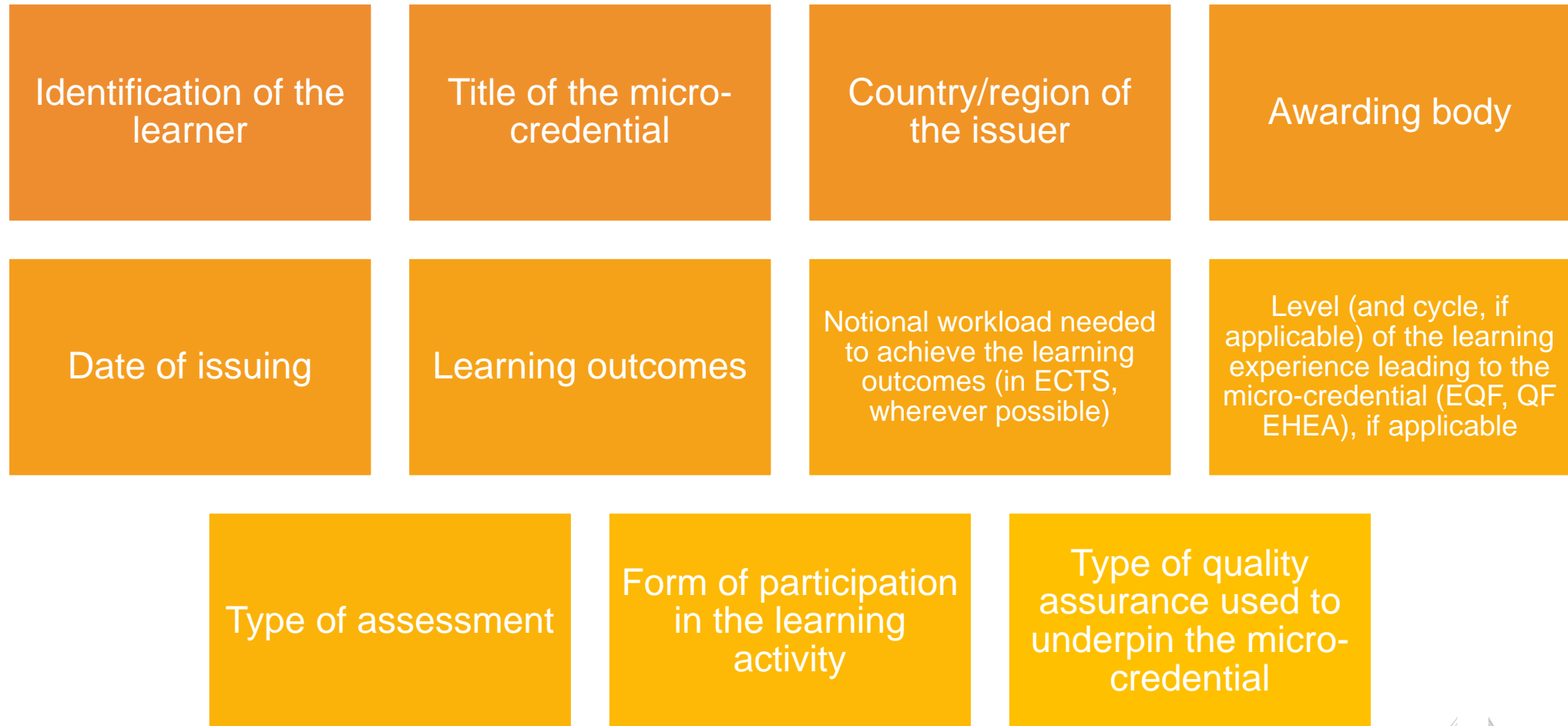**Commission Support**

Focus

Education, training and skills policies

Active Labour Market Policies

European Commission

1. Common definition for micro-credentials

- Record of learning outcomes
- Small volume of learning
- Assessed
- Owned by the learner
- Shared and portable
- Stand-alone or combined
- Underpinned by quality assurance

European Commission

2. Standard elements to describe a micro-credential

| Identification of the learner | Title of the micro-credential | Country/region of the issuer | Awarding body |

| Date of issuing | Learning outcomes | Notional workload needed to achieve the learning outcomes (in ECTS, wherever possible) | Level (and cycle, if applicable) of the learning experience leading to the micro-credential (EQF, QF EHEA), if applicable |

| Type of assessment | Form of participation in the learning activity | Type of quality assurance used to underpin the micro-credential |

European Commission

3. Principles for design and issuance of micro-credentials

Quality

Transparency

Relevance

Valid assessment

Learning Pathways

Recognition

Portable

Learner Centred

Authentic

Information and Guidance

European Commission

Potential of micro-credentials

Deliver on the potential of micro-credentials

Active labour market policies

- address **skills challenges (bottlenecks, skills shortages)**
- **upskill and reskill workers** (links with ILAs)
- **support target groups** (self-employed, vulnerable groups, youth)
- national implementation of **EASE Recommendation**
- to meet **regulatory requirements** for jobs/work (e.g. licences, mandatory training and permits)

Education, training and skills policies

- publish MCs in **national catalogues** of courses
- improve **access and transitions** in education and training for all learners, incl. disadvantaged + vulnerable
- improve **digital skills + green skills**
- use MCs for **teacher training**
- for the **prompt transfer** of the latest research findings into learning opportunities
- **challenge gender and other discriminatory stereotypes**

European Commission

Further research on micro-credentials

Micro-credentials for labour market education and training

1. *Mapping microcredentials in EU labour-market-related education and training* (October 2022).
2. *Microcredentials and evolving qualifications systems* (February 2023).
3. *Microcredentials and the added value for end-users* (December 2023).

Guide to design, issue and recognise micro-credentials (May 2023).

Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability (March 2023).

Public policies for effective micro-credential learning (December 2023).

Micro-credential policy implementation in Finland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Spain (December 2023).

European Commission

Ongoing work on micro-credentials

Reporting on the Council Recommendation by Member States

Erasmus+ Policy Experimentation Call

Peer Learning Activity May 2024

European Commission

European Digital Credentials for Learning
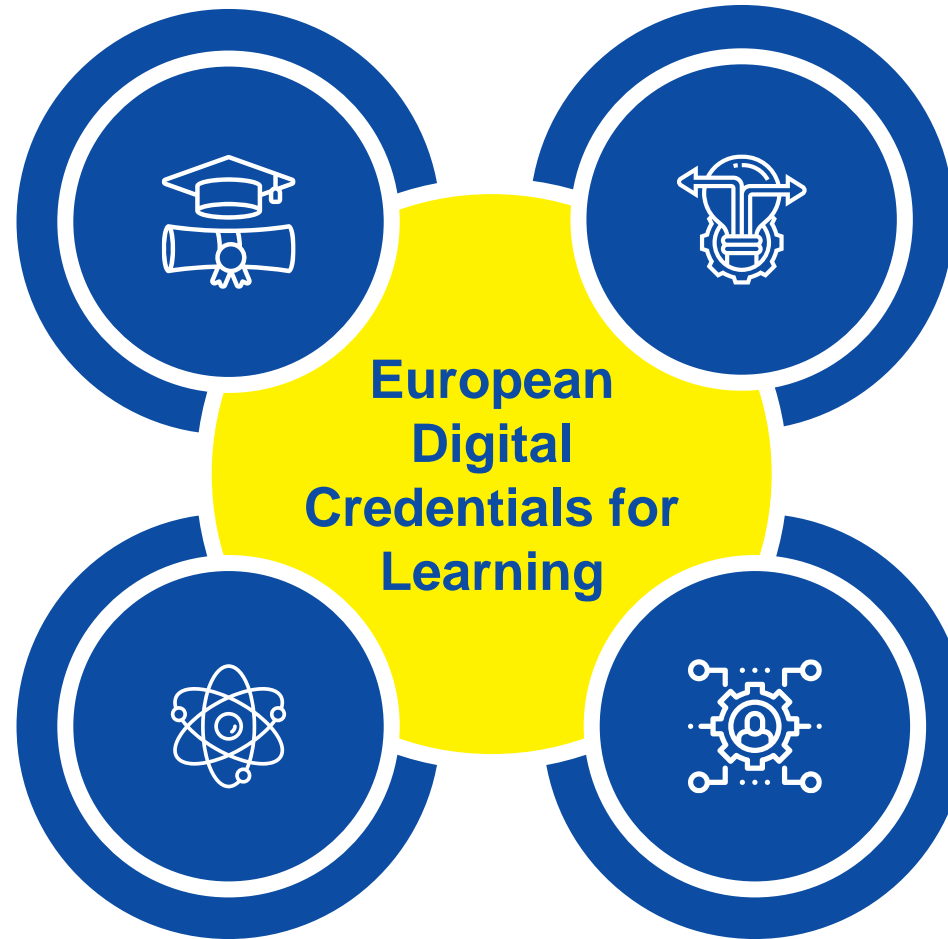
Céline Jambon, DG EMPL.B2

Policy context

European Pillar of Social Rights

European Skills Agenda

European Qualifications Framework

Micro-Credentials Recommendation

European Digital Credentials for Learning

Europass Decision

Individual Learning Account Recommendation

European Skills, Competences, and Occupations (ESCO)

Digital Education Action Plan

Achieving the European Education Area (2025)

Context of European Digital Credentials

Digitalising world

Security & Trust

Recognition

Showcasing Knowledge & Skills

Ownership of data

Current Status of uptake of EDC

o 14 institutions **actively** issuing EDCs

o 50+ organisations testing or exploring the use of EDCs across **25 countries**

o Ranging from VET providers, Universities, Training providers, and national implementations

o Close to **30.000** EDCs are stored in Europass wallets

o 5+ million wallets available

o Varied types of credentials: qualifications/diplomas, micro-credentials, transcript of records, certificates of participation, etc.

European Commission

What is a Digital Credential?

A digital presentation of our traditional learning credentials, securely received directly in one's digital wallet

digital /interoperable

ANY
credential

directly issued to

wallet

verifiable / secure

European
Commission
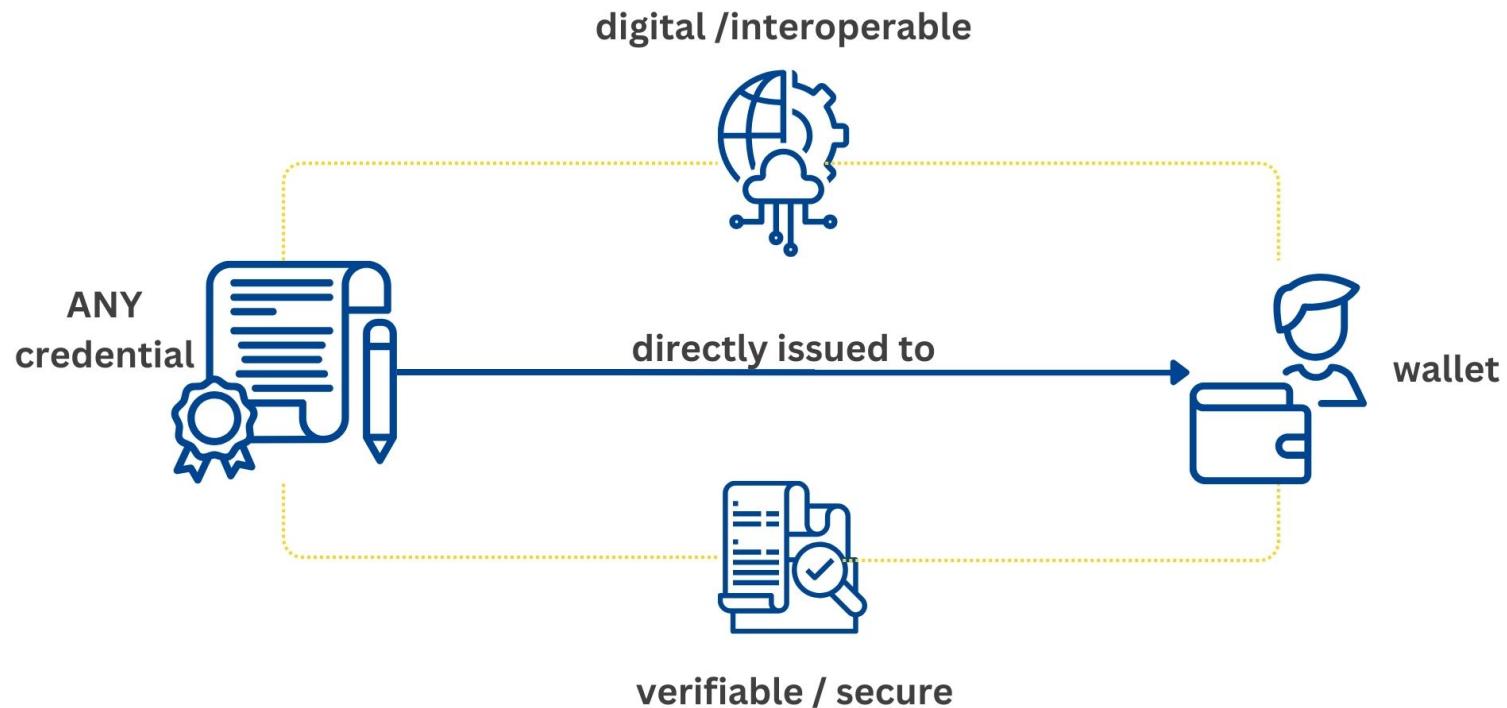
What is offered by the EDC infrastructure?

Start with web-based free tools

Adopt custom-built implementation with open-source code

BUILD → **ISSUE** → **STORE** → **SHARE** → **VERIFY**

credential templates in the Online Builder

Seal and award credentials to owners

credentials securely in one wallet

credential information with one click

credential's authenticity and validity
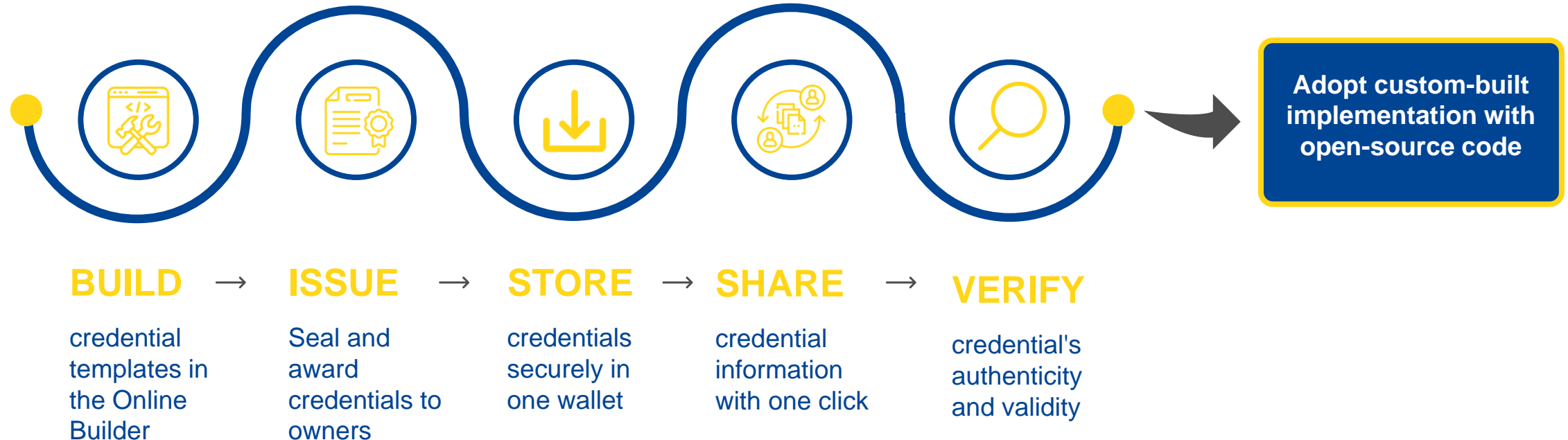
For a more detailed introduction to EDC – see our last Webinar

European Commission

Expressing Annex VI content with EDC

One of the key sources of ELM is the **EQF Recommendation**:

o Annex VI: "Elements of data fields for the electronic publication of information on qualifications with an EQF level"

o Recital 24: "[…] The use of common data structures and formats would […] facilitate the understanding and use of published information on qualifications"

ANNEX VI

Elements for data fields for the electronic publication of information on qualifications with an EQF level

DATA			Required/Optional
Title of the qualification			Required
Field (*1)			Required
Country/Region (code)			Required
EQF Level			Required
Description of the qualification (*3)	Either	Knowledge	Required
		Skills	Required
		Responsibility and autonomy	Required
	Or	Open text field describing what the learner is expected to know, understand and able to do	Required
Awarding body or competent authority (*2)			Required
Credit points/notional workload needed to achieve the learning outcomes			Optional

Expressing Annex 1 content with EDC

The **Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials** for lifelong learning and employability:

o These standard elements are included in the European Learning Model, that specifies a common format for describing (micro-)credentials. The data model is available as an open standard to be used by providers of micro-credentials, where relevant, and could support interoperability and easier exchange of data on micro-credentials.

o Recommendation 6: "Member States are recommended to adopt and promote the use of […] the European standard elements to describe a micro-credential (as described in Annex I)"

o Annex I: "European standard elements to describe a micro-credential"

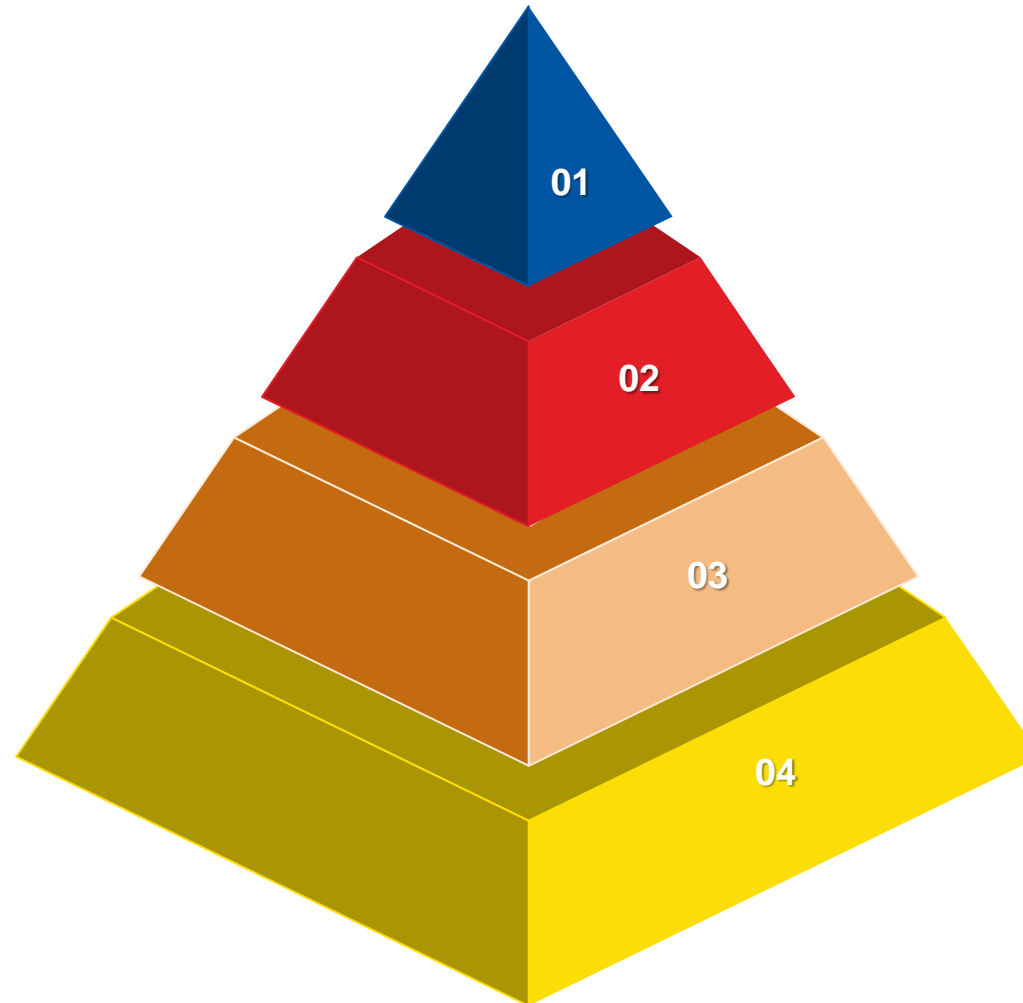| Mandatory elements:	Identification of the learner
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	Further information

European Learning Model

01 European Information Model

Definitions and Standards in EQF Recommendation, Diploma Supplement, Europass Decision, etc. supplemented by glossaries for additional terms

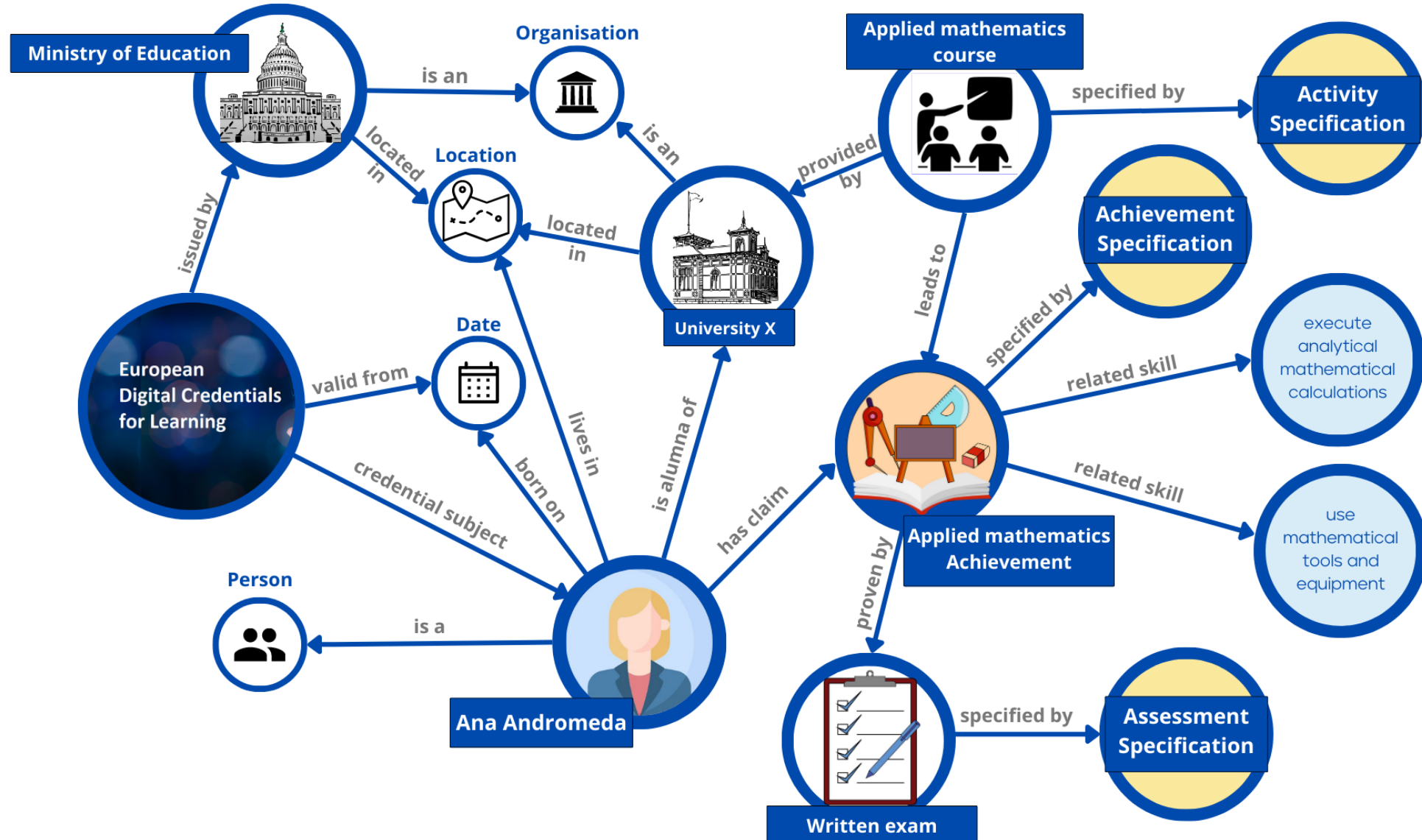## 02 European Learning Model

A Linked Open Data publication of concepts to be used in educational and employment use cases throughout Europe

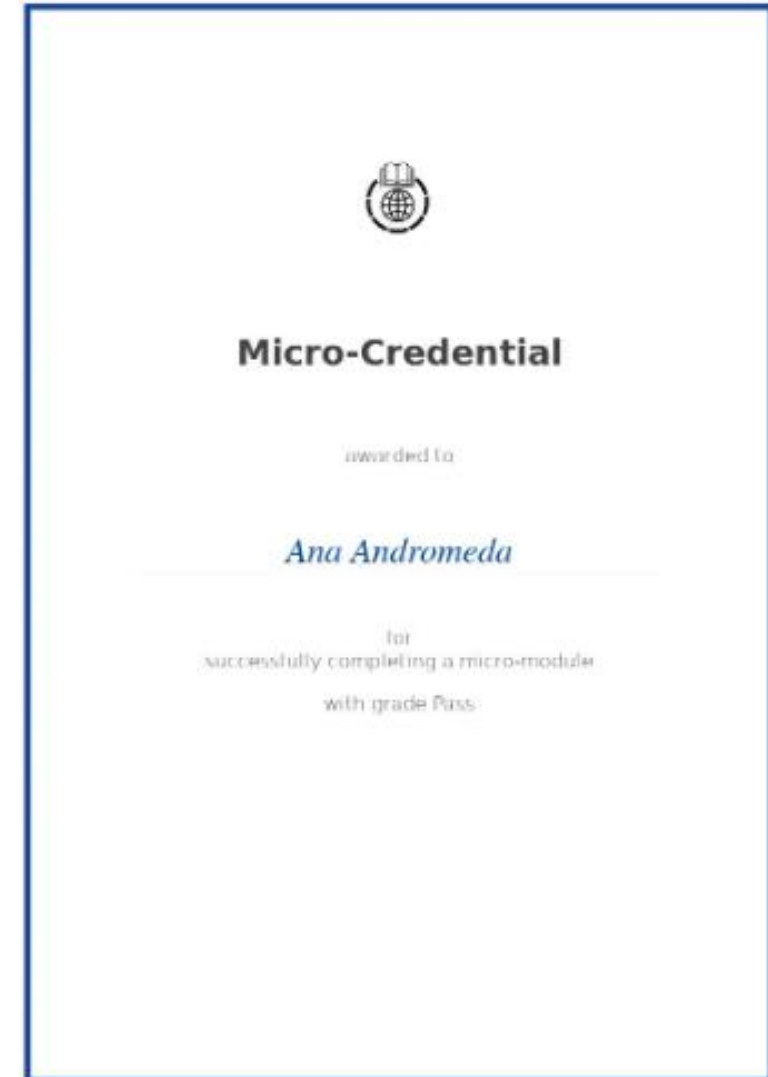## 03 Application Profiles

Specific sets of rules for publishing learning opportunities, qualifications, accreditations and credentials in Europass

04 Extensions

National, Regional or Sectoral extensions of the data model & application profiles to deal with specific use cases

Simplified diagramme of the ELM

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Micro-Credential

awarded to

Ana Andromeda

for
successfully completing a micro-module

with grade Pass

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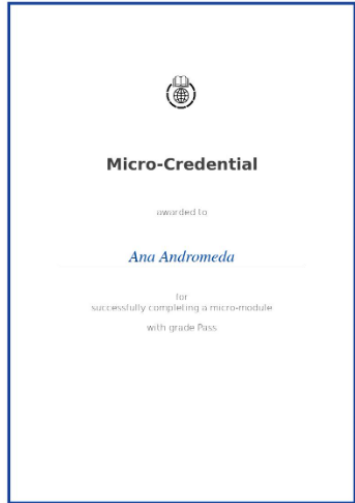
Issuer

Digital micro-credential creation

Ana Andromeda

Country of Citizenship
Italy

Gender
female

Place of birth
Rome, Italy

Date of birth
02 Oct 1999

⌃ **Contact**

Via da Vinci, 12, Rome, Italy

ana.andromeda@email.com

⌃ **Identifiers**

National Identifier
IT-12345678

Student Card ID
87654321

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Micro-Credential

Issuing date: 22/04/2024   **Valid from:** 01/01/2024 | **Type:** Generic,Mandated Issue | **Credential id:** urn:credential:693d2c8c-37cc-4908-b83f-03d8f9181162
This credential link will expire: 01/09/2025 23:59

◉ Credential summary   ⬆ Export   ☁ Upload another credential   ⤴ Share   [English ▾]

👤 Ana Andromeda

🏛 Issuer

🏆 Digital micro-credential creation ▾

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« < 1 / 1 ▾ > »

Authentication and Verification Check

✅ **FORMAT**
This credential is technically valid.

✅ **SEAL**
The credential is Sealed by TEST SEAL. This credential has not been tampered with since issue.

○ **REVOCATION**
Function under development. Contact the awarding body for information about this credential's revocation status.

○ **ACCREDITATION**
Accreditation does not apply to this Credential

✅ **VALIDITY**
The credential is still valid.

🏅 **VERIFIED**

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Ana Andromeda

Issuer

Digital micro-credential creation

Awarding bodies

∨ Learning Provider

Signed by

ORGANIZACION TEST

Also known as
TEST SEAL

Legal address
Spain

Seal validation information

✔ The credential is Sealed. This credential has not been tampered with since it was issued by TEST SEALZETES TSP ROOT CA 001 ;ZETES TSP CA FOR TSA 001 ;ANF AC Qualified Certificates for eSeal Responder 1468 ;ANF AC Qualified Certificates for eSeal ;ZETES TSP ROOT CA 001 OCSP responder ;ZetesConfidens EC Qualified TSU17 ;TEST SEAL ;ANF Global Root CA ;, on 4/22/24, 4:21 PM.

Evidence statement
Every claim inside this credential is to be construed as having been made by the indicated awarding body, who maintains sole responsibility for said claim. By applying its electronic seal, the signing organisation certifies the correctness of origin of each claim, as having been made by the indicated awarding body.

∧ Identifiers

EIDAS Identifier
VATES-A00000000

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Issuer

Digital micro-credential creation

Awarding bodies

Learning Provider

Learning Provider

Also known as
LProv

Homepage
https://learningprovider.edu

Legal address
Instant Street 16, D08 Dublin, Ireland

Member of
Research Alliance (info@resa.org)

Identifiers

| **Legal ID** | **Research Alliance ID** |
| 0000 | Res1818 |

Signed by

ORGANIZACION TEST

Also known as
TEST SEAL

33

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Credential summary   Export   Upload another credential   Share   English

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Issuer
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Issuer

Digital micro-credential creation ⌄

Digital micro-credential creation

Learning Provider
Show less ⌃

Legal ID
0000

Research Alliance ID
Res1818

⌃ Learning Outcomes

Communication, collaboration and creativity

Related ESCO Skills
establish collaborative relations ,
communicate with target community ,
stimulate creativity in the team

Related Skills
manage findable accessible
interoperable and reusable data

Show less ⌃

Developing digital content

Reusability Level
cross-sector skills and competences

Related ESCO Skills
develop digital content

Related Skills
Developing digital content ,

Developing digital content Level 4

Show less ⌃

⌃ Achievement information

⏳ **Volume of Learning**
60 hours

⬙ **EQF Level**
Level 6

⬙ **NQF Level**
IE NQF Level 6

✨ **Credit points**
European Credit
Transfer System 2

◯◯ **Learning Settings**
non-formal learning

▭ **Mode of Learning**
Blended

35

Expressing Annex 1 content with EDC

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Issuer

Digital micro-credential creation ⌄

Digital micro-credential creation

Learning Provider   Show less ⌃

Legal ID   **Research Alliance ID**
0000   Res1818

⌃ **Learning Outcomes**

Communication, collaboration and creativity

Related ESCO Skills
establish collaborative relations ,
communicate with target community ,
stimulate creativity in the team

Related Skills
manage findable accessible interoperable and reusable data

Developing digital content

Reusability Level
cross-sector skills and competences

Related ESCO Skills
develop digital content

Related Skills
Developing digital content ,
Developing digital content Level 4

Show less ⌃   Show less ⌃

⌃ **Achievement information**

⧗ **Volume of Learning**   ⬙ **EQF Level**   ⬙ **NQF Level**
60 hours   Level 6   IE NQF Level 6

✦ **Credit points**   ⦾ **Learning Settings**   ▭ **Mode of Learning**
European Credit   non-formal learning   Blended
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Issuer

Digital micro-credential creation ⌄

Digital micro-credential creation

Learning Provider
Show less ⌃

Legal ID
0000

Research Alliance ID
Res1818

⌃ **Learning Outcomes**

Communication, collaboration and creativity

Related ESCO Skills
establish collaborative relations ,
communicate with target community ,
stimulate creativity in the team

Related Skills
manage findable accessible
interoperable and reusable data

Developing digital content

Reusability Level
cross-sector skills and competences

Related ESCO Skills
develop digital content

Related Skills
Developing digital content ,

Developing digital content Level 4

Show less ⌃

Show less ⌃

⌃ **Achievement information**

⏳ **Volume of Learning**	⬨ **EQF Level**	⬨ **NQF Level**
60 hours	Level 6	IE NQF Level 6
✦ **Credit points**	⊂⊃ **Learning Settings**	▭ **Mode of Learning**
European Credit Transfer System 2	non-formal learning	Blended

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- Ana Andromeda
- Issuer
- Digital micro-credential creation ∧
  - 🏃 EDC building training course
  - 📄 **Digital artefact assessment**

Digital artefact assessment

Awarded By

Learning Provider   Show less ∧

Legal ID   Research Alliance
0000   ID
                            Res1818

Grade
Pass

∧ **Assessment Information**

△ Assessment Type artefact assessment	🖥 Mode of Assessment Online	👆 Assessment reliability proven by Unsupervised without ID Verification

∧ **Grading Scheme**

Title
Generic grading

Description
The learner will have passed the assessment upon the successful submission of an ELM standard compliant un-signed sample credential.

Expressing Annex 1 content with EDC

Mandatory elements:	Identification of the learner
	Title of the micro-credential
	Country/Region of the issuer
	Awarding body
	Date of issuing
	Learning outcomes
	Notional workload needed to achieve the learning outcomes (in ECTS credits, wherever possible)
	Level (and cycle, if applicable) of the learning experience leading to the micro-credential (EQF, QF-EHEA), if applicable
	Type of assessment
	Form of participation in the learning activity
	Type of quality assurance used to underpin the micro-credential
Optional elements, where relevant (non-exhaustive list)	Prerequisites needed to enrol in the learning activity
	Supervision and identity verification during assessment (unsupervised with no identity verification, supervised with no identity verification, supervised online, or onsite with identity verification)
	Grade achieved
	Integration/stackability options (standalone, independent micro-credential/integrated, stackable towards another credential)
	Further information

Ana Andromeda

Issuer

Digital micro-credential creation

EDC building training course

Digital artefact assessment

EDC building training course

Awarded By

Learning Provider   Show less ∧

Legal ID   **Research Alliance ID**
0000   Res1818

Description

This online course allows the learner to familiarise themselves with the process of creating ELM standard compliant digital micro-credentials that contain data on all mandatory elements specified in Annex 1 of the Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability.

∧ **Activity information**

Volume of Learning   **Languages of Instruction**   **Mode of Learning**
4 hours   English   Blended

Type
e-learning coursework

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Accreditation

Accreditation name
Institutional review

Accreditation type
Institutional License

Date of accreditation
02/11/2021 00:00

Decision
positive

Accrediting agent

Accreditation report

EQF Level of accreditation
Level 6
Level 8
Level 5
Level 7

Review date
02/11/2027 00:00

Related documents
Assessment report

Expressing Annex 1 content with EDC

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Ana Andromeda

Issuer

Digital micro-credential creation ⌃

🚶 EDC building training course

📄 Digital artefact assessment

Digital micro-credential creation

Learning Provider   Show more ⌄

⌄ Learning Outcomes

⌄ Achievement information

⌃ Learning activities

EDC building
training course

⌃ Assessed by

Digital artefact
assessment

⌃ Other information

Alternative Name
Digital micro-credential creation

Entry Requirements   Show less ⌃
The learner needs to have an EDC Online Credential Builder account, that requires an EU Login ID.

Expressing Annex 1 content with EDC

Mandatory elements:	Identification of the learner
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Ana Andromeda

Issuer

Digital micro-credential creation ⌃

  EDC building training course

  Digital artefact assessment

Digital artefact assessment

Awarded By
Learning Provider   Show less ⌃

Legal ID   Research Alliance
0000   ID
                  Res1818

Grade
Pass

⌃ **Assessment Information**

Assessment Type   **Mode of**   **Assessment**
artefact assessment   **Assessment**   **reliability proven**
                         Online   **by**
                                              Unsupervised
                                              without ID
                                              Verification

⌃ **Grading Scheme**

Title
Generic grading

Description
The learner will have passed the assessment upon the successful submission of an ELM standard compliant un-signed sample credential.

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Expressing Annex 1 content with EDC

Mandatory elements:	Identification of the learner
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Ana Andromeda

Issuer

Digital micro-credential creation ︿

EDC building training course

Digital artefact assessment

Digital artefact assessment

Awarded By
Learning Provider   Show less ︿

Legal ID   **Research Alliance ID**
0000   Res1818

Grade
Pass

︿ **Assessment Information**

Assessment Type   **Mode of Assessment**   **Assessment reliability proven by**
artefact assessment   Online   Unsupervised without ID Verification

︿ **Grading Scheme**

Title
Generic grading

Description
The learner will have passed the assessment upon the successful submission of an ELM standard compliant un-signed sample credential.

New support materials

o Training on 'How to create an Annex 1 compliant micro-credential' as a video and handout

o Mapping of the European Learning Model to Annex 1

o Still have questions? Contact the EMPL-ELM-SUPPORT@ec.europa.eu

Q&A

Slido

You can send questions
at **slido.com** with **#EDC-MC**

https://app.sli.do/event/xxDXdvXaNfjk2H9kTgWKT3

Thank you!

Contact the EDC Team at
EMPL-ELM-SUPPORT@ec.europa.eu