

Micro-credentials: The View of the Students



CEDEFOP Conference

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**Fighting for
students' rights
since 1982**



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European Students' Union - ESU

- The European Students' Union (ESU) is the umbrella organisation of 46 National Unions of Students (NUS) from 41 different countries.
- The NUSes are open to all students in their respective country regardless of political persuasion, religion, ethnic or cultural origin, sexual orientation or social standing.
- Our members are also student-run, autonomous, representative and operate according to democratic principles.





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A micro -credential is a proof of learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience. The learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent standards.

- *European Commission*

ESU Statement on Micro-credentials

- ESU believes that micro-credentials should be developed by putting **learners' perspective at the centre**.
- They should not substitute but rather **complement the current conventional learning opportunities** and serve as a lifelong learning opportunity to all.
- A high-quality higher education system is characterised by **removing all obstacles to access**, facilitating progress and completion, **implementing a student-centred approach to learning and teaching**, developed recognition procedures, and fairly assessing students. ESU believes that the **same set of requirements and principles must apply** to any high-quality learning offerings, including micro-credentials.

Link [here](#).

Still up for discussion

- Is *anything* a micro -credential?
 - Course from a programm
 - Designed specifically
- How small is micro?
 - Nano / micro / mini / macro ?
 - 3 / 6 / 12 / 24 ECTS ? -> Or not ECTS ?
- Private providers vs HEIs
 - Validation? Recognition? Regulations?
- Infrastructure ecosystem
 - Storage? Europass?
- Stackability
 - Independent
 - Horizontally? Vertically? Diagonal?
- New learning vs prior -learning?
- Enroll ->Take->Leave
 - What about QA? Students' input
 - Alignment with NQFs
- Who is to benefit?
 - Free?

Example 1

Micro credentials provided in Ireland

- **Reskilling, upskilling** - lifelong learning
 - Engagement of the employers
- Many **public-private partnerships** on the matter

Irish Universities Association, “A micro-credential is a proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience. Learners may choose to undertake a micro-credential as a standalone award or stack their learning towards a larger award.”

Example 2

Micro credentials considered in Croatia

- **Mostly not** called a micro credential
- Present for a long time already at some universities
- Dominantly **HEIs** providing it through specially formed committees, but at the University of Rijeka, there is also a University board
 - Non-formal and informal learning
 - Obtainable for example via **student union** work, volunteering, project management etc. (but the learning outcomes have to be proven)

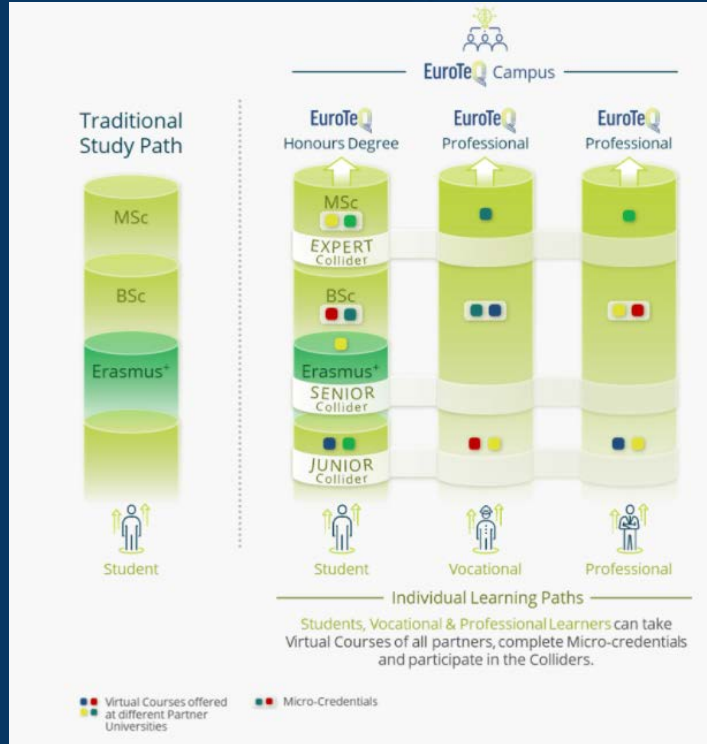
Example 3

Micro credentials provided in Estonia

- 3 Public and 1 private University providing them
 - University of Tartu - [here](#)
 - Tallinn University of Technology - [here](#)
- Part of the lifelong learning programmes
- Up to 24 ECTS
- Open for all
- For a fee
 - From 350€ to 1900 €
 - Classic degree education in Estonia is free of charge

Example 4

EuroTeQ “Create a continuous education stream”



EuroTeQ Engineering University – Six strong partners for Europe

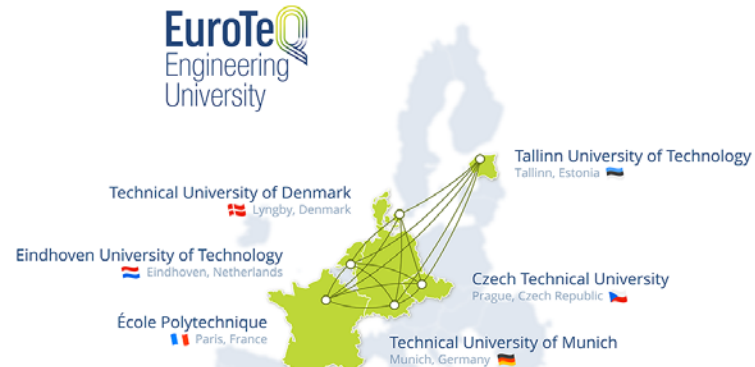


Figure 2: The six partner universities of the EuroTeQ Engineering University are strongly interconnected and represent Northern, Western as well as Central and Eastern Europe.



Thank you!

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In case of further questions:
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