

Take of European chambers of commerce and industry on a micro-credentials framework

Policy messages and examples

CEDEFOP conference on micro-credentials,
26/11/2021

 EUROCHAMBRES

Skills shortages as a main concern for European businesses



Our four guiding principles on implementation of micro-credentials



Micro-credentials should adhere to four guiding principles that will ensure their usefulness to both businesses and learners while also contributing to labor market performance:

- prioritization of courses based on their relevance to labor market needs;
- no threat to current formal qualifications in vocational education;
- a provider's voluntary submission to the framework;
- an increase of trust and transparency in training opportunities.



Prioritization of courses based on their relevance to labor market needs

- promote courses that are relevant to labour market needs.
- Higher education frequently encourages educational opportunities that are not developed in accordance with labour market needs, resulting in growing skills gaps.
- micro-credentials can also increase the availability of recognisable training opportunities.
- Because the framework will also serve as validation of prior learning, micro-credentials can be a useful tool for recruitment.
- Micro-credentials should support reskilling and upskilling by allowing learners to develop competencies through flexible courses.
- The framework should specifically support the digital offer of courses to ensure flexibility and wider access to training.



No threat to current formal qualifications in vocational education

- vocational education and training have proven to be successful in many European countries.
- it must not allow for a possibility of building qualifications or degrees from a collection of various micro-credentials,
- the pursuit of professional activities must continue to be based on formal qualifications.



A provider's voluntary submission to the framework;

- It has to be up to a provider to determine whether to apply the European framework of micro-credentials.
- Some existing training courses do not require an assessment for completion, hence they cannot be classified as a micro-credential.
- The framework must not lead to excessive regulation, which would compromise the flexibility of the offer, but should instead support smooth training provision.



An increase of trust and transparency in training opportunities.

- Quality assurance procedures in higher education and vocational training have been developed for many years, and best practices should be drawn from this experience.
- the procedures should not impose a bureaucratic burden on training providers, as this would result in the ineffective implementation of the framework.
- Companies, particularly SMEs, will lose trust in the framework if their experts and representatives from the businesses associations are not involved in the governance of micro-credentials and in overseeing practical quality assurance procedures suitable in a VET context.



Chambers in provision of short courses



Chambers in provision of training

- Chambers are active players in the development and delivery of education and training policies.
- 80% of Chambers of Commerce and Industry are involved in education and training
- 48% deliver initial or continuous vocational education and training.
- Every year, nearly 1.8 million people receive training qualifications via the Chamber network.
- Chambers play a key role in the delivery, management and governance of apprenticeship schemes in many EU and candidate countries.
- Every year, approximately 600,000 apprenticeships are managed directly by Chambers.



WKO – Austrian chamber

- WIFI is the largest and most renowned further education partner for Austrian businesses. For over 70 years, we have been developing new offers on an ongoing basis and opening up innovative educational paths.
- Education paths
- 350,000 course participants each year
- Over 30,000 courses, seminars and programs throughout Austria
- Over 200 state-of-the-art workshops and laboratories all over Austria
- 12,000 top trainers for the transfer of practical knowledge



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the WIFI Österreich website. It features the WKO logo (WIFI and WKO) and the text 'WIFI ÖSTERREICH'. Below this is a search bar with the text 'KURSE UND MEHR' and a magnifying glass icon. To the right are two buttons: 'SERVICE' and 'ÜBER UNS'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled 'WIFI-Kursangebot' and lists various course categories with icons and right-pointing arrows. The right column is titled 'WIFI für Unternehmen' and lists three options: 'Firmen-Intern-Trainings', 'Unternehmer-Kurse', and 'WIFI International'.

WIFI-Kursangebot	WIFI für Unternehmen
Akademische Ausbildungen >	Firmen-Intern-Trainings
Betriebswirtschaft, Recht >	Unternehmer-Kurse
Gesundheit, Wellness >	WIFI International
Handel, Verkehr >	
Handwerk, weitere Gewerbe >	
IT, Medien >	
Management, Unternehmen >	
Matura, Werkmeister, Schulen >	
Persönlichkeit >	
Sprachen >	
Technik, technische Gewerbe >	
Tourismus >	
Online Lernen >	

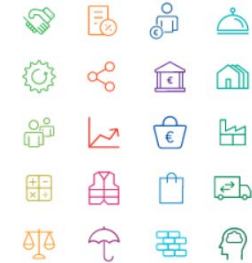
WKO – Austrian chamber

- Virtual Learning Platform - WISE UP - A Learning World for All Learning Space for Life-Long Learning of Individuals
- personalised learning paths and learning offers ;
- track record of learning outcomes and qualifications;
- functions supporting VET training and personnel development in companies;
- A new initiative, not yet published!










CCI Luxembourg

- The House of Training - created in 2015 by the Chamber of Commerce and the Luxembourg Bankers' Association (ABBL), the House of Training's vocation and principal mission is to offer continuing vocational training programmes designed to meet the needs of the Luxembourgish economy.
- Some key figures
- + 40.000 man-days of training provided in 2020
- + 1000 training courses on offer
- + 50 collaborations with our partners
- + 800 trainers and experts in our portfolio
- 50 staff members at your service
- 4 languages: FR 63%, EN 32%, DE 4% and LU 1%



Types of courses

-  Face-to-face training
-  Blended Learning
-  Distance learning
-  E-Learning
-  Daily class
-  Cours du soir
-  Certifications



Summary



Summary



○ Providers

- How can private providers be added to the list of providers in a transparent manner?
- How can we ensure that private providers can be included in the submission process without creating undue bureaucracy?
- Why should existing short courses be made available as micro-credentials?

○ Usefulness for employers

- To ensure that micro-credentials are considered trustworthy information by employers, they must be issued in an easily understandable and useful format.
- Current vocational education and higher education qualifications are regarded as reliable sources of information about employees' competencies; this should not be compromised.

○ Upskilling tool

- In light of the twin transitions, a broader offering of short and specialized courses may assist in addressing skill gaps, particularly in the area of advanced skills.
- Sharing knowledge and competences provided by VET and HE to a wider public.

○ Labour market relevance

- What employers and newcomers to the labor market truly necessitate is improved job preparation; thus, micro-credentials can be a good first step toward more job-relevant education.
- Intelligence about skills shortages should be used to develop new courses.



Thank you for your participation today!

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