

# A European approach to micro-credentials

December 2020

## Context:

A micro-credential is a proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short, transparently-assessed learning experience awarded upon the completion of short stand-alone courses (or modules) done on-site or online (or in a blended format).

Micro-credentials open education up to more people because they are flexible, short-term, and open to all types of learners. They can be particularly helpful for people who are looking to build on their current knowledge rather than get a full degree want to bridge a gap between degrees or their initial formal education and emerging labour market skills want to upskill or reskill.

Linked to the [European Skills Agenda](#) & [EU Education Area](#), the European Commission's ad-hoc consultation group on **micro-credentials have recently launched a report**, including a roadmap which focuses on some potential actions around micro-credentials; such as developing common European standards for quality and transparency, developing a list of trusted providers and fostering quality assurance processes, working on guidelines for a quicker recognition process, facilitating showcasing of micro-credentials to employers, improving access to life long learning opportunities, providing EU support through Erasmus+, ESF+ & other EU funds.

These outputs will feed into wider consultations **covering all sectors of education and training** to prepare a **Council Recommendation on micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability**, by the end of 2021.

## Points for action and interest for EASPD

1. Facilitating ability of service providers (VET services, sheltered workshops, supported employment, etc) to **deliver micro-credentials to persons with disabilities. Impact:**
  - a. Facilitate inclusion in the labour market
  - b. Facilitate transition from education to the open labour market
  - c. Validate their skills acquired informally through employment
2. Re-skilling and **upskilling social services workforce. Impact:**
  - a. Identifying needed skills to facilitate high-quality support, in line with EU Social Rights
  - b. Facilitate the provision and exchange of competences within the sector
  - c. Profile instruments like the [European Care Certificate](#) in this framework
3. Foster the accessibility of the existing platforms providing micro-credentials. **Impact:**
  - a. Ensure accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities are included as crosscutting dimension in the Council Recommendation

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