

# AGENDA

## TITLE:

## Quality assurance of microcredentials - webinar of ETF Forum for quality assurance in vocational education and training

## DATE & TIME:

28 April, 10.00 – 11.30 Central European Time

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## SUMMARY:

The rapid expansion of short learning programmes (whether offered in formal or non-formal settings) from one side, and the ever-growing need for people to enhance, update or recalibrate their skills throughout their life & through high quality training, makes it increasingly important to find shared grounds and principles for supply and demand for such learning programmes.

In June 2022, the European Union issued a [Recommendation to its Members States on the a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability](#) .

In the situation when there was no common understanding, definition or standards for microcredentials in Europe, the Recommendation aimed “to support the building of trust in micro-credentials across Europe among all those involved, whether providers or beneficiaries”<sup>1</sup>. In 2023, the ETF took this forward by publishing practical [Guidelines to design, issue and recognise microcredentials](#).

The following definition is applied by the European Union:

*“Micro-credential’ means the record of the learning outcomes that a learner **has acquired following a small volume of learning**. These learning outcomes will have been **assessed against transparent and clearly defined criteria**. Learning experiences leading to micro-credentials are designed to provide the learner with specific knowledge, skills and competences that **respond to societal, personal, cultural or labour market needs**. Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared and are portable. They may be **stand-alone or combined** into larger credentials. They are*

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<sup>1</sup> Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability 2022/C 243/02

**underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards in the relevant sector or area of activity**<sup>2</sup>.

The webinar of the ETF QA Forum will focus on the quality assurance mechanisms of microcredentials. Through conversations with experts and practitioners from several countries, it will explore:

- How are microcredentials defined and regulated,
- What is the added value of microcredentials for individuals, businesses and society,
- Why quality assurance of microcredentials is important, what types of external and internal quality assurance mechanisms can underpin microcredentials,
- Place and links of microcredentials to other systemic mechanisms, such as NQFs, qualifications standards, validation of non-formal and informal learning,
- Place and links of microcredentials in the wider policy frameworks: active labour market policies, lifelong learning and related financing.

Please register in advance: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/N-vErYnkRpSaWI75hW78nQ>

Time	Agenda Item
10:00 - 10:10	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p><i>Nadezda Solodjankina, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</i></p>
10:10 - 10:30	<p><b>Microcredentials in the European Union – Recommendation on the EU approach and implementation in the EU</b></p> <p><i>Anastasia Pouliou Expert   Qualifications and credentials - Future of VET   Department for VET and Qualifications - CEDEFOP</i></p>
10:30 – 10:40	Q & A
10:40 – 11:25	<p><b>Panel discussion on QA of micro-credentials with experts from the CEDEFOP, ETF and European Union members states</b></p> <p><i>Satu Järvinen, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF, facilitator</i></p> <p><i>Anastasia Pouliou, Expert   Qualifications and credentials - Future of VET   Department for VET and Qualifications- CEDEFOP</i></p> <p><i>Katrin Maack, Head of Continuing Education, Estonian Quality Agency for Education (HAKA)</i></p> <p><i>Ildikó Pathóová, Director Adult Education Department, Ministry of Education, Development, Research and Youth of the Slovak Republic</i></p> <p><i>Mario Vučić, Assistant Director for Adult Education Development at the Agency for Vocational Education and Adult Education, Croatia</i></p>
11:25 – 11:30	<p><b>Final words</b></p> <p><i>Mounir Baati, Senior Human Capital Development Expert, Team Leader for Quality Assurance, ETF</i></p>

<sup>2</sup> Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability 2022/C 243/02