AGENDA

ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts Webinar

FROM SKILLS NEEDS TO LEARNING PATHWAYS: THE ROLE OF AI IN MICRO-CREDENTIALS

30 September 2026, 10.00 – 12.00 CET

BACKGROUND

Education and training systems are under growing pressure to respond more quickly to changing skills needs, technological transformation and increasingly diverse learner profiles. In this context, micro-credentials are gaining importance as flexible, targeted and potentially stackable forms of learning that can support upskilling, reskilling and lifelong learning. At the same time, the rapid development of artificial intelligence is opening new possibilities for the design, delivery and assessment of learning, including through the identification of skills needs, the formulation of learning outcomes, personalised learning pathways and new forms of evidence-based assessment. However, these developments also raise important questions about quality, transparency, recognition, trust, inclusion and the ethical use of AI in education and training systems.

Recent European and international work has highlighted both the opportunities and the conditions required for micro-credentials to contribute meaningfully to lifelong learning and employability. The Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability provides a common reference point for improving the quality, transparency, comparability and recognition of micro-credentials. Building on this agenda, the European Training Foundation has developed practical guidance on how to design, issue and recognise micro-credentials, with a focus on their relevance for partner countries and for more flexible skills development systems. International organisations have also underlined the potential of micro-credentials in TVET and lifelong learning, while stressing the need to embed them in coherent quality assurance, recognition and governance frameworks[1]. Against this background, the integration of AI into micro-credential systems should be explored not only as a technical innovation, but also as a policy and institutional challenge requiring clear principles, human oversight and inclusive implementation.

Within this context, the webinar will explore how AI can support the design and delivery of micro-credentials, combining international, regional and practical perspectives. Following an ETF introduction to frame the topic, the presentations will provide an opportunity to reflect on how ethical AI can be used to strengthen micro-credentials while safeguarding quality, trust and learner-centred approaches.

[1] See for instance: ILO (2025), Microcredentials for youth and work. https://www.ilo.org/publications/microcredentials-youth-and-work or OECD (2023), Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/micro-credentials-for-lifelong-learning-and-employability_9c4b7b68-en.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
10.00-10.10	Opening, rules of engagement, overview of agenda	Cristiana Burzio, ETF
10.10-10.30	**AI and Microcredentials: From Skills Needs to Learning Pathways** *This presentation introduces how AI can support the development of microcredentials, from identifying skills needs to designing learning outcomes, assessment and learning pathways. It also highlights the importance of quality, transparency, inclusion, human oversight and trust.* Q&A 10'	Branka Andjelkovic, Skills Lab regional facilitator Satu Järvinen, Human Capital Development expert at ETF
10.30-10.50	**AI ethics at the crossroads: Lessons from Kurdistan's universities** *Universities across Kurdistan and Iraq are adopting AI faster than anyone can design ethical frameworks for it. The presentations will focus on survey results uncovering where the ethical pressure points are, and how universities can adopt ethical AI.* Q&A 10'	Branka Andjelkovic, Skills Lab regional facilitator Bareen Haval, Head of Cooperation and Coordination at Duhok Polytechnic University
10.50-11.10	**AI-enabled micro-credentials: From innovation to implementation** *Practical and regional perspectives on AI-enabled modular learning and micro-credentials in TVET and lifelong learning, focusing on quality assurance, recognition and inclusive, flexible skills pathways.* Q&A 10'	Chairperson: Begench Yazov, Skills Lab regional facilitator Zebo Isakova, Associate Professor at Kimyo International University in Tashkent
11.10-11.30	**Designing trusted micro-credentials with AI: A human-in-the-loop protocol from skills intelligence to learning pathways** *This presentation introduces a practical human-in-the-loop protocol for using AI to design high-quality micro-credentials. Drawing on UOC experience, it shows how AI can support skills analysis, learning outcomes, assessment, pathways and credential metadata while keeping human judgement, learner needs, and transparency at the centre.* Q&A 10'	Chairperson: Begench Yazov, Skills Lab regional facilitator Mitchell Peters, Open University of Catalunya (UOC)
11.30-11.50	**From AI tools to AI workflows: Rethinking skills and micro-credentials** *Drawing on practical experience, the presentation will consider the emerging skills required to design, supervise and validate AI workflows, and how such competencies could be translated into micro-credentials, particularly in the Albanian context.* Q&A 10'	Branka Andjelkovic, Skills Lab regional facilitator Sidita Duli, Researcher in Digital Transformation and AI
11.50-12.00	**Conclusions and wrap-up**	Cristiana Burzio, ETF