



A Maturity Model for European Micro-credentials

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EUROPEAN
DIGITAL
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credentials: from strategy to
implementation Dec 6th 2024*



Who am I?



Neill Wylie

Learning Technologist at South East Technological University (Ireland)
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Development and policy implementation of micro-credentials nationally and at a European level (EDEH, EBSN PDS , Micro-credentials Squad).

Doctoral researcher on sustainable business models for micro-credentials for lifelong learning and access.

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Maturity Model Overview

- The Micro-credentials Squad: who, what and when
 - Design-based research process
 - A European Maturity Model for Micro-credentials
 - Self-assessment in the HEI boardroom
 - New business development
 - Technology
 - Quality assurance
- 

Main authors



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What are Micro-credentials?

- Micro-credentials can be seen as **mini-certifications**.
- They are usually **short**, and relatively low-cost courses that have a specific focus on demonstrating **proficiency in a particular skill**.
- **Measurable, comparable** and **understandable** containing clear information on learning outcomes, workload, content, level etc.
- Micro-credentials offer considerable opportunities for flexible learning, particularly in response to demands for **specific skills** and industry needs



A micro-credential is the record of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a small volume of learning. These learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent and clearly defined standards.

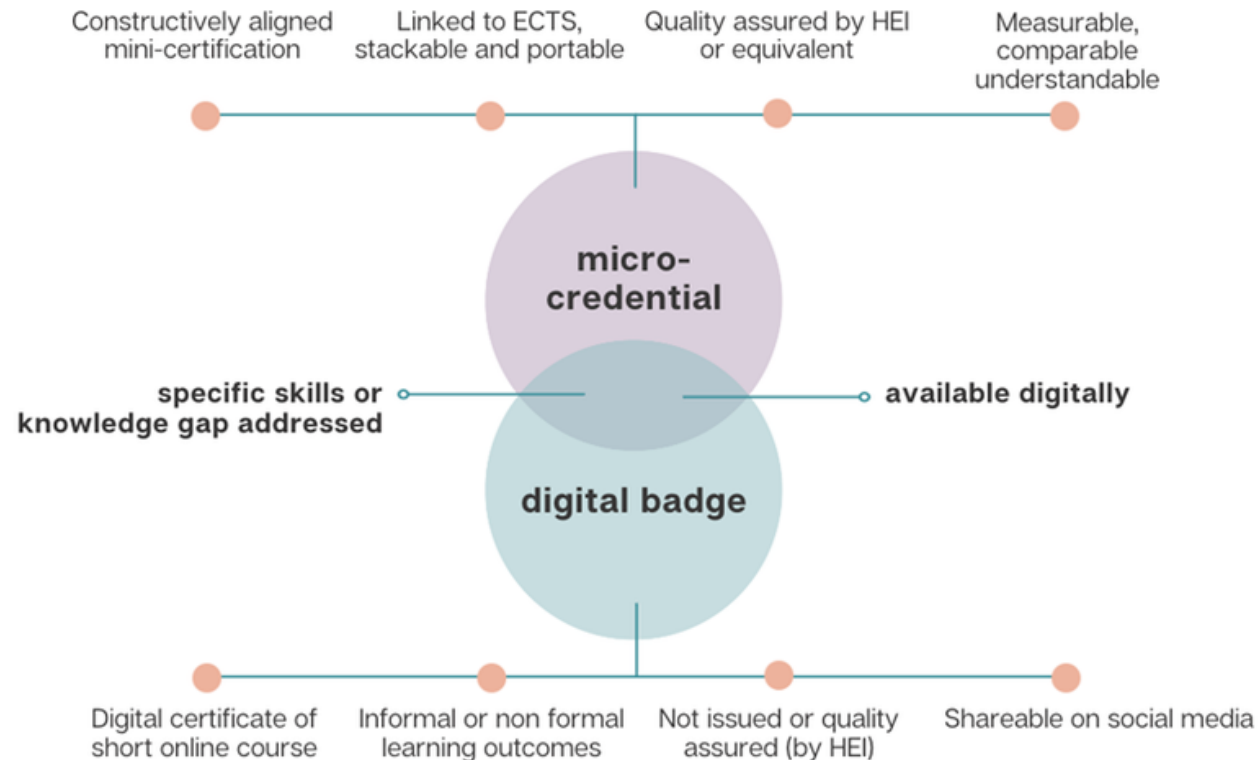
Courses leading to micro-credentials are designed to provide the learner with specific knowledge, skills and competences that respond to societal, personal, cultural or labour market needs.

Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared and are portable. They may be standalone or combined into larger credentials. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards in the relevant sector or area of activity.



Micro-credentials & digital badges

MICRO-CREDENTIALS VS DIGITAL BADGES



Flynn, Cullinane, Murphy & Wylie. (2023)

The Micro-credentials Squad

Who

- Over 20 education professionals
- From 12 member states

What

- Bottom-up
- Multidisciplinary
- *“How can we support HEIs in the implementation of the EC recommendation?”*

When

- Kick-off during Microcredentials Summit, March 2023, Barcelona, Spain
- 20 online meetings and workshops



photograph © Lavinia Hoesch

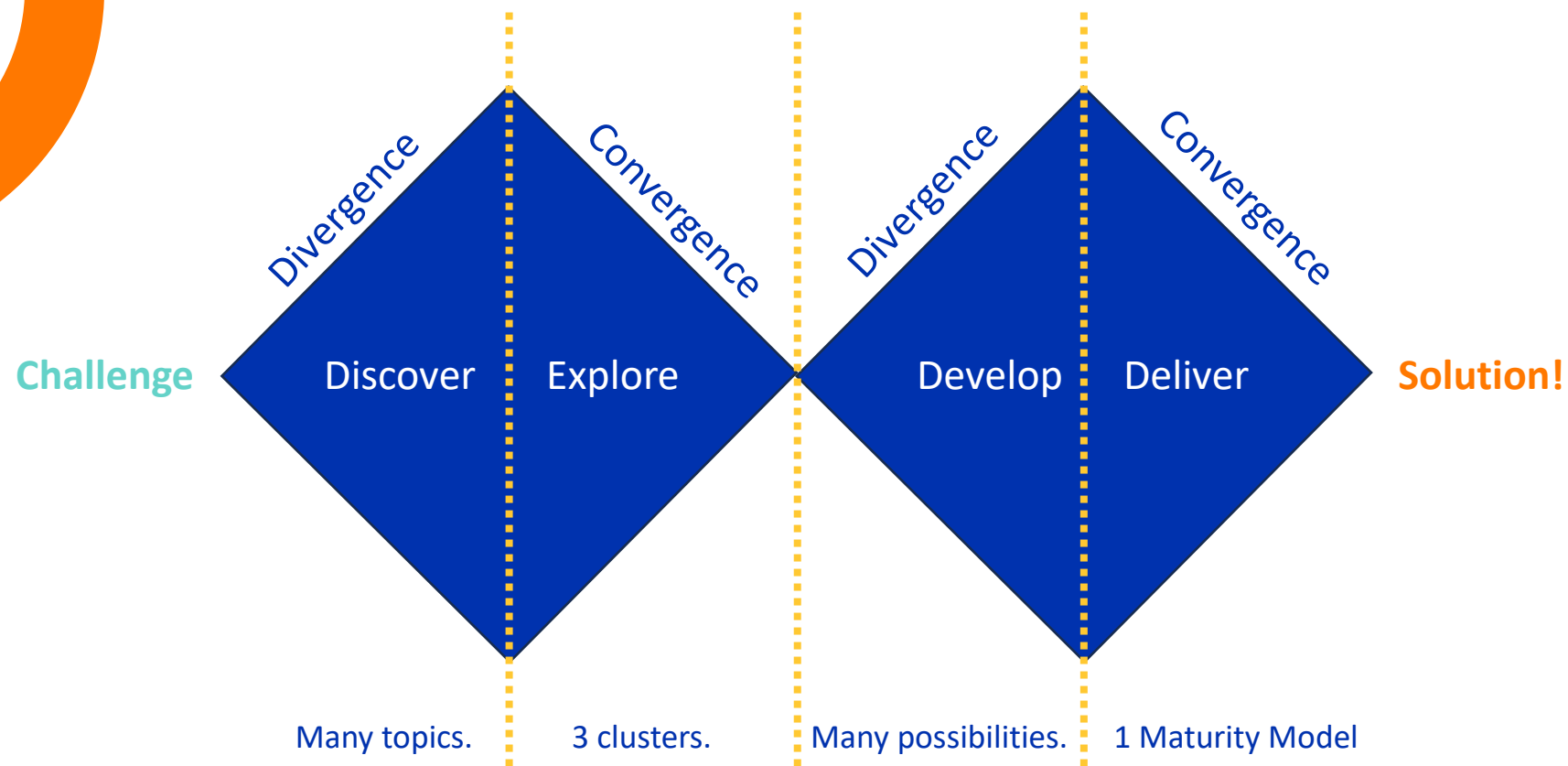
Components of Maturity Model for Micro-credentials



- **Three whitepapers** reviewing the latest academic insights on
 - new business developments
 - technology and data and
 - quality assurance (QA).
- **Strategy workshop**
 - to facilitate a multidisciplinary discussion
 - scaffold an implementation strategy
- **Indicators**
 - for self assessment and maturity

Design Based Research (DBR)

“How can we support HEI’s in the implementation of the EC recommendation?”



A Maturity Model for European Micro-credentials

Our Maturity Model is **not**.....

- A tool for benchmarking or ranking
- Intended to compare HEI's
- An online tool (yet -work in progress!)

Our Maturity Model **is**...

- A toolbox that facilitates Socratic dialogue
- Designed to get all relevant stakeholders in discussion
- Intended for reflection, dialogue and self-assessment

Some Key Insights from the MMM

Business Models

- Micro-credential design, development and delivery incorporated in normal faculty structures
- Responsibility lies with an existing central unit that already supports online learning

Technology & Data for Micro-credentials

- Aligning with the ELMv.3 allows for comparability and transferability
- Several member states possess unique digital authentication systems
- EUDI wallet is a tool to allow portability of micro-credentials (coming soon)

Quality Assurance

- Underpinned by QA following agreed standards (distinguishing factor)
- Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR) extended to be able to map alternative providers of micro-credentials

Self-assessment in the HEI boardroom

New Business Opportunities

Triple Helix collaboration

- Are micro-credential offerings developed in cooperation with government and the labour market in order to increase relevance, and in what way?
- Is labour market feedback applied in the development of new courses and the improvement of existing offerings and if so, how?

Technology

Authenticity

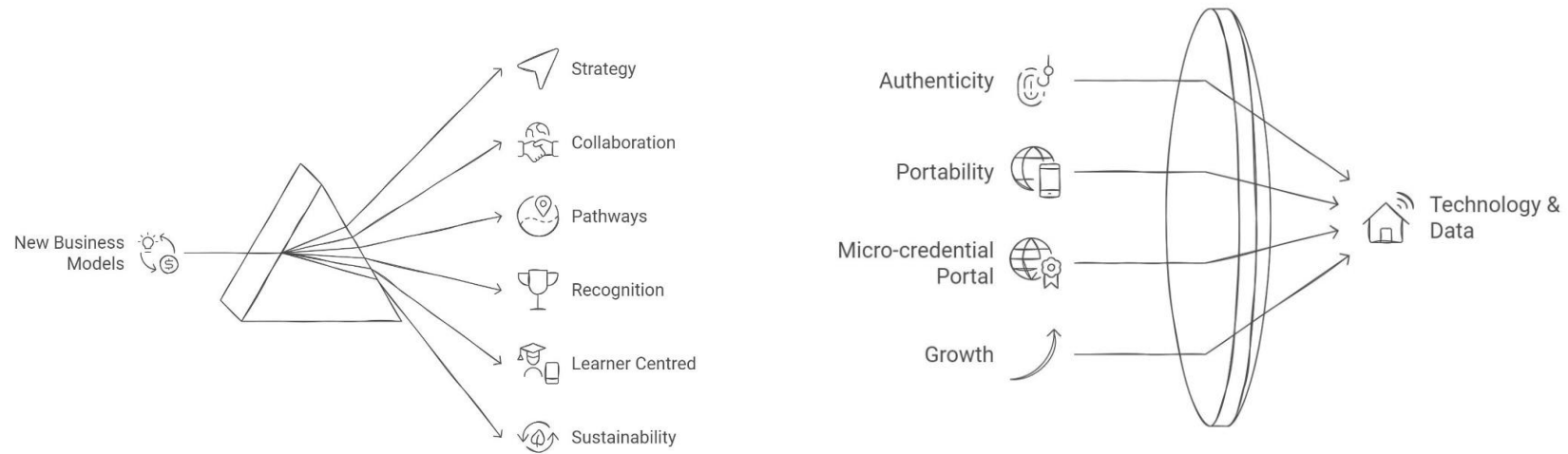
- Is the HEI able to verify the identity of the learner upon enrolment, assessment and issuing of the micro-credential?
- Can the integrity of the micro-credential - upon request - be digitally verified at the authentic source?

Quality Assurance

Design of the micro-credential

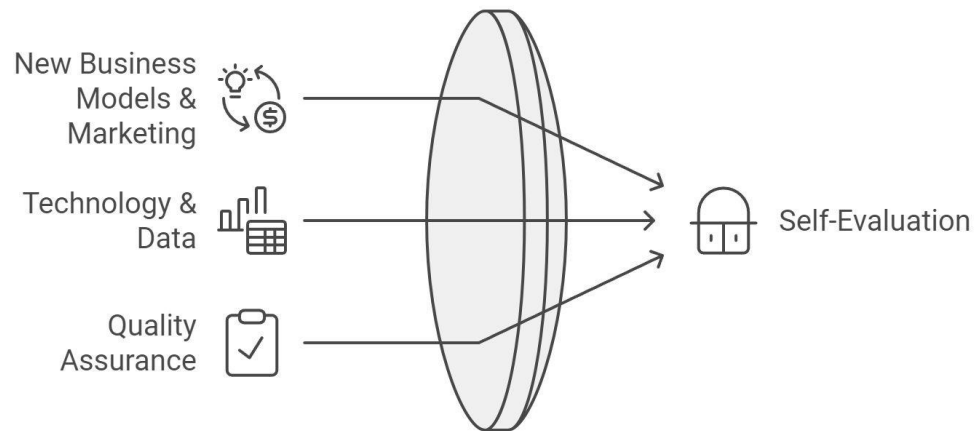
- How is it ensured that assessment methods authentically capture how learners would apply the learning outcomes in the workplace?
- How is it ensured that assessment is something an employer would regard as evidence that learners are capable of performing relevant tasks in real workplace situations?

Indicators



Indicators of Maturity for Micro-credentials

Indicators of the European Maturity Model for Micro-credentials



Indicators of Maturity for Micro-credentials in Higher Education

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Indicators of Maturity for Micro-credentials in Higher Education
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Schoerg, K., van den Brande, L., Den Hertog, P., Wylie, N. & Widger, L. (2024). Indicators of Maturity for Micro-credentials in Higher Education. SFU University Press.

How to measure Maturity?

- Feedback received @EUCEN Conference, Cork
- Feedback received @University Future Festival, Berlin
- Feedback received @OEB, Berlin

The aim of the maturity model and the defined indicators is to systematically record the **current status** of the implementation of micro-credentials and ultimately identify ways to **optimize** or **change** them.

The indicators were not formulated with the intention of using them to compare Higher Education Institutions or to create rankings. They are intended purely as an instrument for self-evaluation.

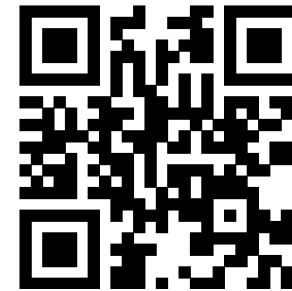
- Maturity does not equal quality!

Additional resources

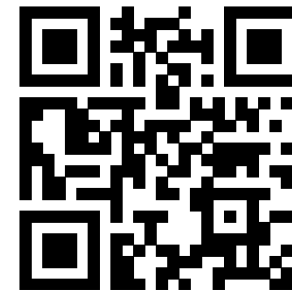
- Our Publication
- The European Digital Education Hub
- EC Brochure Micro-credentials



edu.nl/74ev4



edu.nl/3gujr



edu.nl/k6jmb

Thank you

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