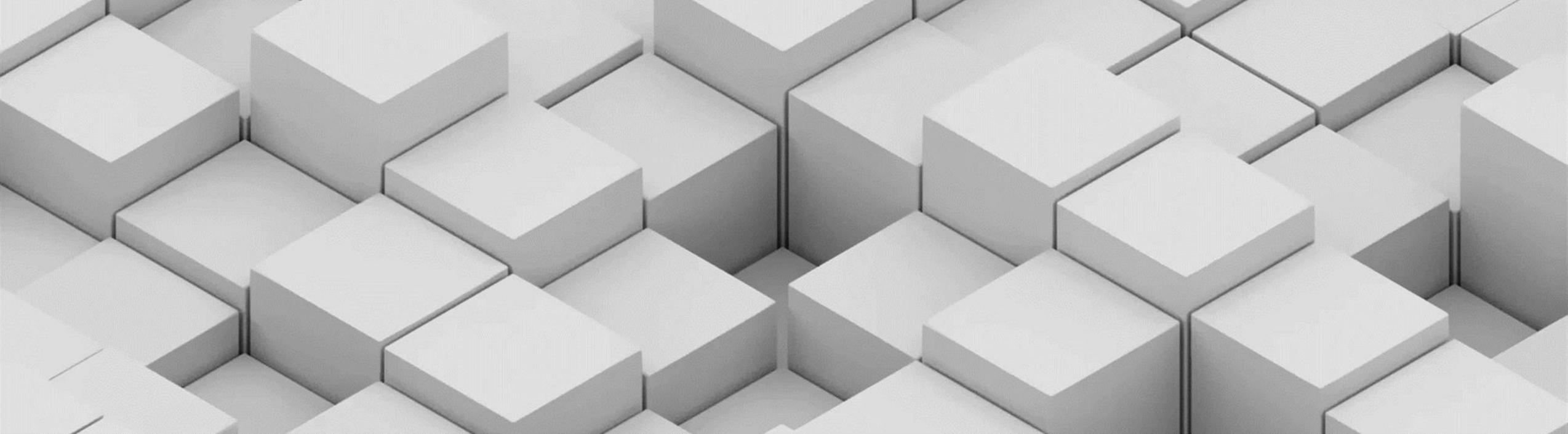# Topic 5

Micro-credentials - policy framework

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Rationale

The Recommendation sets out a definition and guidance for the design, issuance and description of micro-credentials to facilitate their **quality, transparency and uptake**.

The initiative establishes 'building blocks' to develop an EU approach to micro-credentials:

- A common **definition** of micro-credentials

- Union **standard elements** to describe a micro-credential

- Union **principles for design and issuance** of micro-credentials

Common definition for micro-credentials

Micro-credential means 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 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 standalone or combined into larger credentials. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards in the relevant sector or area of activity.

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EU Standard elements to describe a micro-credential

- Identification of the **learner**
- **Title** of the micro-credential
- **Country(ies)/Region(s) of the issuer**
- **Awarding body(ies)**
- Date of issuing
- **Learning outcomes**
- **Notional workload** needed to achieve the learning outcomes (in **ECTS**, wherever possible)
- **Level** (and cycle, if applicable) of the learning experience leading to the micro-credential (EQF, QF-EHEA), if applicable
- **Type of assessment**
- Form of participation in the learning activity
- Type of **quality assurance** used to underpin the micro-credential

Optional Information
- Prerequisites needed to enrol in the learning activity
- Supervision and identity verification during assessment
- Grade achieved
- Integration / stackability options
- Further information

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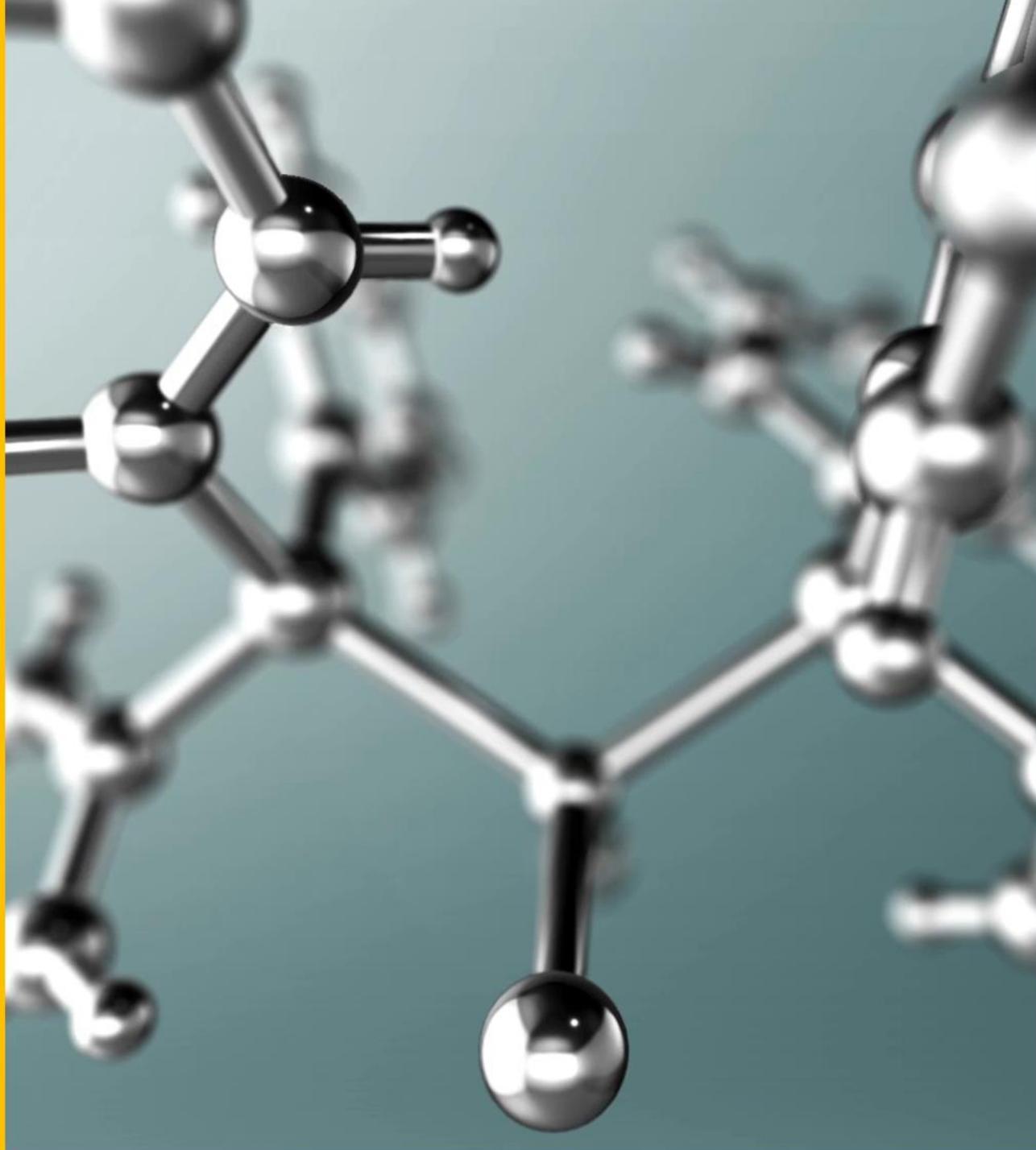
Union principles for design and issuance of micro-credentials

1. Quality

2. Transparency

3. Relevance

4. Valid assessment

5. Learning Pathways

6. Recognition

7. Portable

8. Learner Centred

9. Authentic

10. Information and Guidance

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Topic 5

Micro-credentials

Topic 5 - Providers

Providers of micro-credentials:

Education and training institutions,

Social partners, employers and industry, civil society organisations, public employment services (PES),

Regional and national authorities,

Other types of actors designing, delivering and issuing micro-credentials for formal, non-formal and informal learning.

Topic 5 - Eligibility

Under topic 5 'Micro-credentials', in order to be eligible, each project must include at least one public authority at national, regional, and/or local level as applicants (beneficiaries, not affiliated entities)

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Topic 5

Priority 12

Micro-credentials for the digital and green transitions

Priority 12 – Green and digital transitions

Photo by *Sarah Dorweiler* on *Unsplash*

- Focus:

  - **Learning pathways**

  - Diversity of **learning settings**

  - Designing **relevant micro-credentials** to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the **digital and green** transitions

- Implementation + **potential to be transferred**

Priority 12 – Activities that can be funded

- **Skills needs** for the **green and digital** transitions

- Needs and interests of **specific groups of learners**

- How micro-credentials could serve their needs

- Designing and implementing **learner-centred courses leading to micro-credentials**

- **Engaging companies** to design ad hoc courses and generate employment opportunities

Photo by Hannah Busing on Unsplash

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Topic 5

Provisions common to both priorities

Activities common to both priorities

Activities of the project
- Meetings
- Consultations
- Surveys
- Focus groups discussions
- Actual implementation of courses leading to micro-credentials
- Strategies/recommdations/guidance documents

Communication and dissemination plan
- Disseminating information on the call, objectives, results, etc.
- Final event

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Expected impact

Improved knowledge and evidence	European added value: share practices
Ensured transferability of conclusions	Ensured scalability

Existing research to consider

Micro-credentials for labour market education and training

1. *Mapping micro-credentials in EU labour-market-related education and training* (October 2022).
2. *Micro-credentials and evolving qualifications systems* (February 2023).
3. *Micro-credentials and the added value for end-users* (About to be published).

Guide to design, issue and recognise micro-credentials (May 2023).

Micro-credential innovations in higher education (September 2021).

Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability (March 2023).

Summary papers, including case studies from: **Finland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia** and **Spain** (about to be published).

Micro-credentials linked to the Bolonia key-commitments (March 2022).

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Thank you