

Microqualifications and microcertificates and their implementation in the NQS in Latvia

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Jazeps Spridzans
Sectoral Council on Transport & Logistics

Micro-qualifications

- There are various approaches to microqualifications used from country to country. There is no common definition or standards which can encompass all kinds of microqualifications to be used in different industries;
- The common objective of programm is to provide the learner:
 - with specific knowledge, skills and competences that respond to societal, personal, cultural or labour market needs;
 - to support the professional development of workers and meet mandatory requirements for upskilling and reskilling in certain jobs and types of work;
 - updating and upgrading the skills of self-employed and non-standard workers competences;
 - upskill and reskill workers for new skills and jobs that are in demand on the labour market;

Micro-qualification programmes are:

- Smaller in volume, short unit programmes;
- More targeted, tailored for specified aim;
- More flexible in delivery - in person / Blended / Online;
- Length & time period – HRS, Days, Months. Quick to learn;
- Education providers:
 - HEIs;
 - Enterprises or employer organisations, Training centres;
 - Other vocational education institutions.

Cooperation, governance and partnerships

- education and training institutions;
- social partners;
- employers and industry;
- research and innovation organisations;
- civil society organisations;
- employment and social inclusion services;
- local, regional and national authorities.

Implementation

- Lifelong learning system;
 - continuing vocational education;
 - professional development programmes;
 - training in supporting upskilling and reskilling of adults;

EU definition

'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.

- Micro = small or short;
- Credential = record of learning;
- They may be stand-alone or combined into larger credentials.

Problems in implementation

- Different approaches from country to country;
- Credentials, certificates;
- Recognition in the labour market and in other countries;
- No clear QA procedures;
- No relevant guidances;
- insufficient experience.

Microcertificates (credentials)

- The certificates shall contain sufficient information:
 - Title of the certificate, purpose of the certificate, learning outcomes,
 - the identity of the holder (learner),
 - the legal identity of the issuer, contacts,
 - the date and place of issuance of the certificate;
 - The programme authorisation body;
 - others.

- The certificates should be recognised, where possible, by the competent authorities, for academic, training or employment purposes, based on the information provided in certificate.

Examples of microqualifications

- In case of modular VET programmes (NQF levels 2-4) - small units;
- The fast-changing needs of labour market and learners;
- Mandatory Training requirement in well regulated industries;
- To complement existing qualifications;
- Digital skills;
- Cyber security.

The microqualifications are not implemented yet in the NQS in Latvia, but are legalised in some industries by the national law.

Thanks for your attention!