

EU.ACE MICRO CREDENTIAL FRAMEWORK

GENERAL INFORMATION

Learners	General public, professionals, students, etc.
Title of the micro credential	Clearly stated and aligned with the course content
Language of instruction	The primary language(s) in which the micro-credential is delivered
Form of education	Online, blended, or face-to-face
Name(s) of institution(s) offering the credential	Name of the accredited institution(s) responsible for the course
Accreditation/Evaluation	Compliance with national and EU accreditation standards
Number of hours	The estimated time required, including contact and self-study hours
Entry requirements	Prerequisites for learners, including previous knowledge or skills
EQF Level	Alignment with the EQF to ensure transparency in skills recognition
Industry & Employer Collaboration	Engagement with industry stakeholders to ensure relevance and applicability of skills

LEARNING AND PEDAGOGICAL ASPECTS

Course aim	The purpose and overall goal of the micro-credential
Teaching methods	The methodologies employed, such as lectures, case studies, and interactive activities
Course contents	A structured breakdown of topics covered within the credential
Learning outcomes	Clearly defined, measurable outcomes based on knowledge, skills, and competencies
Assessment/verification criteria	Methods used to evaluate learner achievement, including exams, projects, or peer reviews

DIGITAL CREDENTIALS AND CERTIFICATION

Credential Format	Issuance of digital certificates compliant with the European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDC)
Verification Methods	Secure digital badges with metadata containing details on the credential
Micro-Credential Stackability	How the credential contributes to larger qualifications or professional pathways

QUALITY ASSURANCE MEASURES

Alignment with EU Guidelines	Ensuring consistency with EU frameworks for recognition and mobility
Institutional Accreditation	Providers must be recognized by national authorities and meet



	quality standards
Assessment Reliability	Transparent, fair, and standard-based assessments
Learner Feedback Mechanisms	Continuous monitoring through feedback and periodic reviews
Recognition & Portability	Ensuring the micro-credential is recognized across EU member states for employability and education pathways
Accessibility Measures	Ensuring inclusivity for diverse learners, including disabled individuals

To the question of learner **enrollment**, we offer several solutions tested across the consortium and other European Universities: either in all the universities that offer a micro credential jointly, at the home institution, or only in the University that issues the certificate. This can be decided during the design stage of the course.

One of the most important issues that we addressed was a **business plan model**, where we identified several choices:

1. No money should be exchanged between institutions so learners should pay the tuition fee at the University that delivers the content (it suits the best when we are offering pathways for a CAS, DAS or master’s degrees - stackable).
2. When the micro credential is design for joint delivery – tuition fees should be paid at home University or where the learner applied for the micro credential.
3. We should ensure that we offer reduced tuition fees for EU.ACE learners, academics, researchers, and administrative staff.
4. The most challenging avenue would be trying to harmonize tuition fees across EU.ACE and if we do make a choice in that direction, the task team for financial sustainability should work towards that.

The goal of EU.ACE should be to issue one single EU.ACE **certification**, but of course the certificate can be issued by the institution that delivers the program or the home institution, depending on the nature of the micro credential.

Digital certification as badges should be used and there is the choice of the Europass digital credentials. However EU.ACE executive board should commit resources to pilot a joint project for our own digital credentials and with the coordination of **HU**, a team will be set up to do that with the support of **UULM, LeCNAM, HSLU** and **CEU**.

We also addressed the question of micro credential stackability having very good examples within the consortium for CAS, DAS and micro credentials that lead to a master degree. However the stackability need to be connected to the type of micro credential designed (not all micro credentials can or should lead to a master degree).

Micro credentials can also be offered by EU.ACE as **fully funded courses (no tuition fee)**, including those that lead to advanced certification within funded projects – EU calls, national and international funding schemes, are well as projects that are designed and implemented with the support of private entities.