

ANOSR' perspective regarding Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability

In the light of the European Commission's public consultation regarding Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability, the National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania (ANOSR), the national Romanian students' federation is presenting their perspective regarding Micro-credentials and several significant elements which we think can be taken into account in the European approach to micro-credentials.

Firstly, we want to support the statement of the European Students' Union (ESU), the European stakeholder representing students, of which ANOSR is full member.

Furthermore:

- Regarding traditional higher education programmes, micro-credentials should be implemented as complementary short-learning opportunities, without creating additional workload for students and should be combined with supportive systems.;
- Micro-credentials should also be promoted and designed:
 - as a way to improve the recognition of short-learning experience in formal, as well as non-formal and informal environments;
 - as a way to certify skills previously gained by learners and simplify the return of non-traditional background students to the job market through educational institutions;
- The European approach to micro-credentials should offer specific guidelines for national authorities in order to achieve a common understanding among involved stakeholders, from higher education institutions to labour market;
- In reaching the aim of addressing the labour market, micro-credentials should follow high quality standards regarding the learning outcomes;
- In the means of portability and recognition of the micro-credentials, it is mandatory to avoid putting pressure on students to collect certain credentials, and „tokenization” of the

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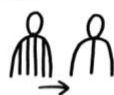
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individual educational path and also to avoid additional and redundant administrative burden for students, providers and administrative staff by ensuring the automatic and digital processes;

- Another relevant issue in management of the micro-credentials is privacy and digital security of data alongside effortless access of the learner to their own data;
- Regarding the quality assurance of the micro-credentials, the mechanism should be seen as an adaptation of the European Standards and Guidelines, should include periodical reviews and the process must involve a feedback system through which the learners and student representatives are directly engaged in the quality assurance process. Thus expressed, students should be involved in the development and periodical assessment and review of the micro-credentials.
- In the way of avoiding burden for learner, micro-credentials must be created in implemented with the main and first focus on the learners' needs and not on financial benefits for institutions or with the sole objective of meeting the labour market needs;
- National systems should provide relevant quality standards regarding how micro-credentials can be developed, defining and assessing the learning outcomes and a coherent recognition framework, in order to build trust for the learner and the labour market and to foster clear educational pathways.

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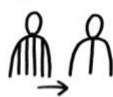
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