

# Approach to microcredentials

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT****REGULATION/LEGISLATION** SLOVENIA

## Timeline

**2021 Design** **2022 Design** **2023 Design** **2024 Design** **2025 Design****ID number 42550**

## Background

Slovenia is following up on the Proposal of the Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials to further enhance lifelong learning and employability. The Recommendation supports that the Member States should adopt a common European approach to micro-credentials.

## Objectives

- (a) enabling individuals to acquire knowledge, skills and competences they need to thrive in an evolving labour market and society, to benefit fully from a socially fair recovery and just transitions to the green and digital economy;
- (b) supporting preparedness of providers of microcredentials to enhance the transparency and flexibility of the learning offering in order to empower individuals to forge personalised learning and career pathways;
- (c) fostering inclusiveness and equal opportunities and contributing to the achievement of resilience, social fairness and prosperity for all, in a context of demographic change and throughout all phases of economic cycles.

## Description

There are continuing discussions on national level about definition, concept and approach to the microcredentials based on the Council Recommendation on a European approach to microcredentials for lifelong learning and employability.

### 2021 Design

In 2021, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport formed an informal interdepartmental consultation group that developed a position paper for the European Commission public consultation on microcredentials for higher education and higher VET. There are also discussions on microcredentials for VET.

### 2022 Design

In 2022, CPI, and more specifically the Slovenian Qualifications Framework (SQF)-European Qualifications Framework (EQF) national coordination point (NCP), organised a conference on micro-credentials with international experts. It was attended by over

80 participants from various institutions and stakeholders.

The aim of the conference was to stimulate discussion on the role and purpose of micro-credentials in Slovenia. The main points of the conference on micro-credentials were:

- (a) presentation of the Draft EU Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability;
- (b) presentation of the 'Europass digital credentials' system;
- (c) presentation of the intermediate results of the Cedefop project 'Micro-credentials for labour market education and training' with an emphasis on the case study of Slovenia;
- (d) presentation of a view of micro-credentials from the perspective of higher education.

The panel discussion was followed by expert workshops with key stakeholders on definition and quality assurance of micro-credentials as well as inclusion of micro-credentials in the Slovenian Qualifications Framework.

### **2023 Design**

In 2023, the SQF-EQF national coordination point (NCP) explored possibilities for including micro-credentials in the Slovenian Qualifications Framework (SQF). A desk research report on the state of play of micro-credentials in the Slovenian qualifications system was prepared, and two focus groups were organised to discuss this topic.

### **2024 Design**

In 2024, the SQF-EQF National Coordination Point (NCP) continued its efforts to integrate micro-credentials into the SQF by establishing and expanding an interdepartmental working group, which serves as a counselling body for the SQF. The working group comprises representatives of the ministries responsible for education, higher education and the labour market, as well as other stakeholders from the education sector, and meets regularly to further develop the inclusion of micro-credentials from the perspectives of VET, CVET, and higher education.

The SQF-EQF NCP also conducted a comparative desk research study on different countries' approaches to micro-credentials and their level of development. Additionally, it collaborated with key stakeholders, including the Employment Service of Slovenia, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, and the Ministry of Public Administration, by participating in events and presenting insights on micro-credentials from the SQF perspective.

### **2025 Design**

In this period, the interdepartmental working group, which serves as a counselling body for the SQF, reached a consensus on a national definition of microcredentials, which is now being considered in the process of legislative development. In 2025, an amendment to the Higher Education Act was adopted, establishing a regulatory framework for the system of microcredentials in higher education. A definition of micro-credentials has been adopted for higher education, together with the mandatory elements required in the description of short study programmes leading to micro-credentials. The legislation also specifies the compulsory information to be included on the micro-credential certificate. As an official public document, the micro-credential is issued to the candidate upon completion. In addition, the legislation regulates the establishment and management of the register of micro-credentials. The amendment entered into force on 8 September 2025.

The interdepartmental working group continues to actively engage in interdepartmental coordination and the exchange of practical experiences aimed at developing a system of micro-credentials at lower levels of education and training as well. At this stage, microcredentials of this education level are not yet included in the

Slovenian Qualifications Framework (SQF). However, intensive expert discussions are taking place on this possibility. These activities are coordinated also by the National Coordination Point for Slovenian Qualifications Framework–European Qualifications Framework (NCP SQF–EQF).

In addition, the expert group for the Slovenian Qualifications Framework, originally established for the development of the SQF and comprising representatives from the education and labour market sectors, was reactivated. It has been tasked with preparing a professional expertise on the possibilities of opening the SQF to establish a system of microcredentials.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZŠ) (until 2023)
- Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (CPI)
- Ministry of Education

## Target group

### Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)

### Other

Policy makers

## Thematic categories

### Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation

Diversifying modes of learning: face-to-face, digital and/or blended learning; adaptable/flexible training formats

### Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Using EU transparency tools (EQF, Europass, ESCO, ECTS, ECVET principles)

Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

Developing and applying qualifications smaller/shorter than full

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

### Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Promotion strategies and campaigns for VET and lifelong learning

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Conference on microcredentials](#)

## Related policy developments

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### 2025 Implementation

#### Slovenian Qualifications Framework Act (2016)

In July 2016, the Slovenian Qualifications Framework (SQF) Act came into force, serving as the legal basis for SQF implementation and full operationalisation.



SLOVENIA

##### Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

##### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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