

Microcredentials - towards a harmonised approach

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** **CZECHIA**

Timeline

2025 Implementation**ID number 49892**

Background

The employment rate in the Czech Republic is the highest in the EU, reaching to 82.3 % in 2022. However, the Czech Republic faces significant labour shortages and skills mismatches, particularly in high-demand sectors (e.g. ICT). Unfortunately, the adult participation in education and training in Czechia remains below the EU average, with 45.7 % of adults participating in education and training in 2022. Czech Republic is aiming to create a robust micro-certificate framework that would help to increase participation in lifelong learning, bridge skills gaps, and support the goals set out in the Czech Republic's Education Policy Strategy until 2030+.

This policy responds to the Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on a European approach to microcredentials for lifelong learning and employability (2022/C 243/02). It is also reflected by the Strategic Plan of the Ministry for Higher Education for the period starting in 2021 and by the implementation plans for 2024 and 2025. Microcredentials are focused by the National Recovery Plan for Higher Education (2022 – 2024), under Component 3. 2 (Adaptation of the capacity and focus of the school programmes of the National Recovery Plan, 3.2.1 (Transform universities to adapt to new forms of learning and in response to changing labour market needs), (Specific Objective C1 – Improving access to education at the university level using microcredentials). This is also addressed in the Long-term plan for education and the development of the education system of the Czech Republic 2023–2027 (chapter 3.4 Lifelong learning and further education).

Objectives

- (a) to develop a unified national strategy for microcredentials across education and training sectors
- (b) to create a shared online catalogue of courses and a unified verification system for microcredentials across higher education and vocational providers
- (c) establish a standardised definition and format for microcredentials, enabling seamless recognition and transferability across higher education, vocational education, and non-formal education sectors.

Description

On December 14, 2021, a call was announced for public universities with the aim of

adapting the content and forms of teaching to digital transformation and the changing needs of the labour market. The two-year project (2022 – 2024) involved 26 Czech public universities coordinated by Charles University to share experiences and work systematically on the development of an analytical and methodological framework, along with supporting information systems, for the implementation of the microcredentials concept within public universities in the Czech Republic and their connection to the broader European framework. The project was financially supported by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Czech Republic with the overall budget CZK 51 million (approximately EUR 2.1 million).

The project analysed the current state of various types of certificates at the national level and examined foreign experiences with the aim of finding the most suitable foreign model. It also focused on creating a methodology for recognising existing education in courses that can meet the requirements for micro-certificates, proposing a uniform form for micro-certificates, and unifying the outputs of individual forms of short-term education using the ECTS credit system.

Microcredentials were introduced into the Czech higher education environment in 2024. The range of courses is available on the website studujnavs.gov.cz. Participation in courses is not conditional on higher education or current study at a university; the requirements for participants vary depending on the type of course.

The recommended study load for one microcredential is 2–15 ECTS, with a maximum of 60 ECTS. Credit valuation is determined according to a formula whereby 25 hours of study load corresponds to 1 ECTS.

The course offerings include programmes leading to micro-certificates that combine academic knowledge with practical skills—from language and cultural studies to modern technologies to professional training in medicine, education, or social sciences. They provide knowledge in the areas of effective communication in public administration, risk prevention, and even specific areas such as legal translation. Furthermore, these are primarily interdisciplinary, cross-sectional, foreign-language, or multilingual courses, which often also have a direct link to the application sphere. These are courses on new trends in energy, cyber security, artificial intelligence, but also, for example, new directions in international politics, etc.

Project outcomes:

- (a) The National Analysis of the Current State in Evidence of Completion of CVT (CVET) Courses and Lifelong Learning Programmes;
- (b) Analysis of foreign experience and standards in the field of Lifelong Learning;
- (c) Methodology for harmonising individual forms of short-term education using the ECTS credit system;
- (d) Joint online catalogue of courses leading to micro-certification;
- (e) Proposal for unified microcredentials and methodological manual;
- (f) Unified system for verifying micro-certificates;
- (g) Methodology for recognising education documented by micro-certificates.

The two-year project (September 2024 – August 2026), Towards a harmonised approach to microcredentials in the Czech Republic aims to support the creation of a harmonised approach to microcredentials that will link higher education, vocational education and training, and continuing education. This project is a collaboration between the OECD, the European Commission, and the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports of the Czech Republic with the aim of promoting a flexible, open, and labour market-responsive education ecosystem in the Czech Republic.

Based on EU Council recommendations and national initiatives, including the microcredential pilot project among 26 public universities under the Czech Republic's National Recovery Plan, the project focuses on three main objectives:

- (a) Harmonisation: Creating a standardised definition and format for microcredentials enabling seamless recognition and transferability across sectors;
- (b) Relevance to the labour market: Strengthening partnerships between microcredential providers and employers to align with evolving labour market and societal needs;

- (c) Accessibility: Expanding access to flexible learning for individuals from different backgrounds and creating inclusive opportunities for lifelong learning.

The project includes four key activities, each designed to create a solid foundation for a harmonised approach to micro-certificates in the Czech Republic:

- (a) Evaluation of existing approaches: Analysis of the current state of microcredentials in the Czech Republic through research and interviews with national stakeholders to understand the current situation;
- (b) Evaluation of relevant international approaches: Identification of best practices in OECD and EU countries for the needs of the Czech Republic. An international peer learning event will be held in the first quarter of 2025;
- (c) Consultation with stakeholders: Involvement of stakeholders in the Czech Republic to gain insights and feedback on the proposed plans. Focus groups will be held in six locations in the Czech Republic during the second and third quarters of 2025;
- (d) Draft strategy and implementation plan: Development of a draft harmonised approach to microcredentials based on findings from previous activities. The project results and final recommendations will be presented in a publication and shared at a final conference in the second quarter of 2026.

The opening conference on the topic, 'Towards a Harmonised Microcredential Ecosystem in Czechia' took place on October 3, 2024, at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. This event officially launched a two-year project of the same name by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the OECD. The aim of the project is to support the creation of a national strategy for microcredentials that will bring together the higher education, vocational education, and informal education sectors.

2025 Implementation

A peer-to-peer international online event took place in January 2025. This event brought together experts and stakeholders from Czechia and abroad to exchange experiences and best practices for implementing microcredentials and to provide input for developing the Czech national strategy for microcredentials.

To further support the creation of this strategy, the OECD-MŠMT-EU project organised a series of consultation workshops in various regions of the Czech Republic and with representatives of various economic sectors.

The consultations took place from spring to autumn 2025 and were attended by representatives of employers, education and training providers, and other entities active in the field of adult education. The workshops focused on the current situation in adult education in the relevant region and sector, and then focused on options to develop the micro-certificate system.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Learners with disabilities
Adult learners

Entities providing VET

Companies

Thematic categories

Modernising VET infrastructure

Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

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

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[Proposal for unified microcredentials and methodological manual](#)

[Joint online catalogue of courses leading to micro-certification](#)

[Methodology for harmonising individual forms of short-term education using the ECTS credit system](#)

[The National Analysis of the Current state in Evidence of Completion of CVT Courses and Lifelong Learning Programmes](#)

[Unified system for verifying micro-certificates](#)

Related policy developments

2025 **Approved/Agreed**

Short-cycle programmes (EQF level 5) in Higher Vocational Education

An amendment to the School Act adopted in June 2025 introduced so-called short-cycle programmes, i.e. innovative short-cycle tertiary vocational education programmes, developed in cooperation with social partners.

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 **Pilot**

Database of reskilling and upskilling courses

The target groups of the Database include all the adults with links to the labour market (including students aged 18+ who are preparing to enter the labour market).

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

2025 Completed

VET-related measures in the Czech National recovery and resilience plan

Section 3 of the plan, Education and labour market, proposes the following reforms and measures in education and training:

Transforming HE institutions to adapt to new forms of learning and changing the labour market needs by 2026:

 CZECHIA

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Microcredentials – towards a harmonised approach: Czechia. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/49892>