

Peer-learning activity on
**Microcredentials
for the labour market**

**A sectoral approach:
manufacturing
and retail**

#microcredentials

 29 January 2024

 14.00-16.00 (CET)

 Virtual event

Microcredentials for VET and labour market – The manufacturing sector

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Reasons for selecting the manufacturing sector

- ❖ **A broad economic sector** – one of the largest and most dominant sectors in the EU, which employ a large portion of the EU working population .
- ❖ It possesses **different development trajectories** and **skills systems**.
- ❖ Historically the sector aims at **different demographics** for its workforce.
- ❖ Manufacturing has VET systems with **different starting points and trends** between countries.
- ❖ The manufacturing and service industries demand **continuous learning**, given that products and working conditions **are subject to rapid change**



Main changes taking place in manufacturing

| Manufacturing |
|---|
| Introduction of new production technologies and growing level of technological complexity |
| Advent of new materials |
| Growing atomisation and robotisation of industrial production through Industry 4.0 |
| Digitalisation and shortening of value chains |
| Growing need for interdisciplinary and broader basic knowledge |



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Source: Cedefop, 2023

Examples of sectoral and professional skills certificates

- ❖ Manufacturing operations for the **medical device/pharma industry** (life sciences manufacturing operations), offered in Ireland;
- ❖ the qualification in **additive manufacturing** offered in Portugal;
- ❖ and the **quality management system and welding coordination** offered in Denmark.

Information collected (via a template) in selected examples in manufacturing

(a) a title; (b) a provider or awarding body; (c) learning outcomes (LOs); (d) duration and pace; (e) notional workload or credits; (f) type of assessment; (g) option to accumulate and combine; (h) link to European qualifications framework (EQF) and national qualifications frameworks (NQF); (i) link to occupational standards; (j) mode of delivery; (k) format of certification; (l) prerequisites needed to start a learning activity; (m) target group; (n) country or region where available; (o) purpose; (p) costs and funding options; (q) additional information where and if relevant

Main characteristics of microcredentials in the manufacturing sector

| Sector | Title of microcredential | Location | Workload | Link to ECTS or ECVET specified | Mod. deliv. | | |
|---------------|--|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----|-----|
| Manufacturing | Safety procedures in medical processes | France | 12 modules 17 days | NO | In person | | |
| Manufacturing | Quality management system and welding coordination | Denmark | 22.5 hours, 3 days | NO | In person | | |
| Manufacturing | International Welding Engineer (IWE) | International (41 countries) | 448 hours | ECVET | person/blended | YES | YES |
| Manufacturing | International Welding Practitioner (IWP) | International (41 countries) | 150 hours | ECVET | person/blended | YES | YES |
| Manufacturing | | Germany, France, Italy, Spain, UK, Portugal and Turkey. | 60-70 hours | NO | Online/ble | | |
| | | Austria | 1 month (fulltime) | NO | In person | | |
| Manufacturing | | Malta | 125 hours | ECVET | In person | YES | YES |
| Industrial | | Czechia | NS | NO | In person | NO | NS |

Highly targeted/specialised types of training that are designed around specific occupational/professional

Focus on new and emerging topics and technologies

Microcredentials often describe learning outcomes. The remaining either do not mention their LOs or present them in the form of content description

Mode of delivery differs; it can be in-person training, online or blended.



Purpose of mapped MCs:

- (a) enhancing or building sector/occupation-specific skills (reskilling/upskilling);
- (b) responding to the changing and emerging needs of the labour market and industry.



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For further information:

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Project page

www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/projects/microcredentials-labour-market-education-and-training

Podcast

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/podcasts/cedefop-podcast-episode-23-how-microcredentials-empower-you-work>

Briefing Note

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications/9192>