

## Microcredentials: are they here to stay?

Cedefop Brussels seminar  
9 June 2022, 10.00-12.30 (CET), Brussels, Belgium

### General information

**Organiser** Cedefop  
**In cooperation with** The French Presidency of the Council of the EU

**Venue** Online

**Participant profile** Brussels-based stakeholders from the Permanent Representations of Member States to the EU, European Commission, the European Parliament, European business and sector associations, trade unions and employee organisations

**Working language** English

Cedefop, together with the French Presidency of the Council of the EU, has the pleasure to invite you to the 12th Cedefop Brussels seminar. Organised in cooperation with the rotating EU Presidency, these seminars build on Cedefop's research and analyses and address issues relevant to European debates on vocational education and training (VET), skills and employment.

### Focus of the seminar

The 12th Brussels seminar will present Cedefop's research activities related to the theme of microcredentials and their role in supporting labour-market-related and employment-relevant education, training, and learning, including vocational education and training.

Building on research carried out by Cedefop in recent years, the seminar complements the ongoing political discussion on tools and initiatives supporting people in their lifelong learning pathways set in the July [2020 Skills Agenda](#), the [Council Recommendation on Vocational Education and Training \(VET\)](#) and the recent proposal for a [Council Recommendation on a European approach to microcredentials](#).

Microcredentials are increasingly regarded as a new and more flexible way of recognising knowledge, skills, and competences. Allowing learners and employees to collect and combine smaller units of learning according to their specific needs, microcredentials can act as building blocks of lifelong and life-wide learning. It is, however, not always clear whether they represent a genuinely new and innovative recognition model.

Although recent research has focused on their increasing use in higher, academic education, Cedefop's study aims to examine the potential role of microcredentials in vocational and professional education and training, with emphasis on their role outside formal education and training, notably for upskilling and re-skilling purposes in companies and labour market sectors. It aims to offer new knowledge on the characteristics of microcredentials, their added value for individual learners and employees, and their impact on existing qualifications and recognition systems.

Microcredentials are awarded by various stakeholders, operating at different levels and institutional contexts. Many countries have modularised VET systems with numerous smaller learning units, which can be flexibly combined and accumulated to meet the needs of

individuals and employers better. Several European countries have already opened up their national qualifications frameworks (NQFs) to include private, international and/or non-formal qualifications and certificates. A discussion of these issues, and of the extent to which international organisations and bodies issuing microcredentials could potentially challenge the traditional national governance of qualifications and credentials systems, will be the focus of the seminar. Discussions will also aim at exploring the current situation of the negotiation of the proposal on a European approach to microcredentials with the Education Committee of the Council of the EU.

### Seminar objectives

Drawing on Cedefop research, participants will learn more about microcredentials and discuss:

- the characteristics and the potential roles microcredentials may play in supporting labour-market-related and employment-relevant education, training, and learning, including vocational education and training;
- the methodology and interim findings of Cedefop's study on [microcredentials](#);
- their broad uptake and function as they are increasingly regarded as independent building blocks in national and international skills strategies responding to several drivers (fast-changing labour market demands, digitalisation, ageing populations, re-skilling and upskilling needs, etc).

More information on Cedefop research:

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/projects/microcredentials-labour-market-education-and-training>

12th Cedefop Brussels seminar  
Microcredentials: are they here to stay?  
**PROGRAMME**  
Thursday, 9 June 2022, 10.00-12.30 (CET)

**9.30-10.00 Accessing the event platform – technical check**

**10.00-10.15 Welcome and introduction to the seminar**

*Moderator: Loukas Zahilas, Head of Department, Cedefop*

- Aline Humbert – Chair of the Education Committee, French Presidency of the Council of the EU
- Jürgen Siebel – Executive Director, Cedefop

**10.15-10.30 Setting the scene: microcredentials and the political context**

- Chiara Riondino – Head of Unit B3, DG EMPL – *Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European approach to microcredentials for lifelong learning*

**10.30-10.45 State of play and negotiations on microcredentials**

- Aline Humbert – Chair of the Education Committee, French Presidency of the Council of the EU

**10.45-11.00 Q&A session**

**11.00-11.30 Microcredentials for labour market education and training**

- Anastasia Pouliou – Expert, Cedefop
- Q&A

-----10-minute break-----

**11.40-12.20 Panel discussion with European stakeholders: are microcredentials here to stay?**

*Moderator: Loukas Zahilas, Head of Department, Cedefop*

- Chiara Riondino – Head of Unit B3, DG EMPL
- Tony Donohoe – Business Europe
- Agnes Roman – Advisor, European Trade Union Confederation
- Anastasia Pouliou – Expert, Cedefop

**12.20-12.30 Concluding remarks**

- Loukas Zahilas – Head of Department, Cedefop
- Anastasia Pouliou – Expert, Cedefop

-----End of the seminar-----