



## Could micro-credentials become a Trojan horse for qualifications?

### **Micro-credentials are not “a threat” but rather “an opportunity” for higher education**

- While employer trust in traditional degree credentials is reported to be declining in some countries, degrees still seem to hold value in the labour markets
- Micro-credentials are often used to complement degree programmes
  - ◆ Either by being embedded or as an addition
  - ◆ Often supporting the development of highly industry-relevant knowledge and skills

Sources: OECD (2023), "Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability: Uses and possibilities", OECD Education Policy Perspectives, No. 66, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9c4b7b68-en>; OECD (2021), "Micro-credential innovations in higher education: Who, What and Why?", OECD Education Policy Perspectives, No. 39, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/f14ef041-en>.





## Do micro-credentials support or hinder equity in learning?

### **Without policy intervention, micro-credential innovations may deepen existing inequalities in higher education and lifelong learning**

- Access: Disadvantaged learners are less likely to enrol in micro-credential programmes
- Success: It also seems to be the case that they are less likely to complete
- Outcome: Mixed view, but micro-credentials seem to bring economic benefits to learners from a range of socio-economical backgrounds

Sources: OECD (2023), "Micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability: Uses and possibilities", OECD Education Policy Perspectives, No. 66, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9c4b7b68-en>; OECD (2021), "Quality and value of micro-credentials in higher education: Preparing for the future", OECD Education Policy Perspectives, No. 40, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9c4ad26d-en>.

