

MICROCREDENTIALS IN EUROPEAN PROJECTS. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Microcredentials for labour market education and training

The LAILA project will provide a better understanding of the role played by microcredentials in supporting labour-market-related and employment-relevant ADULT education, training and learning. The project findings will offer new knowledge on the characteristics of microcredentials, their added value to individual learners and employees, as well as their impact on existing qualifications and recognition systems.

1

Aim of the microcredentials for LAILA project

To address the limited evidence that exists on the general labour market value attached to microcredentials, Cedefop has launched a new study on the role of microcredentials in facilitating learning for employment, as part of its future of VET agenda. The new study will attempt to offer new and valuable knowledge on the characteristics of microcredentials, their added value to individual learners, employees and employers, as well as their impact on existing qualifications and recognition systems.

2

Paving the way to better learning opportunities

Qualifications frameworks are tools for describing qualifications of an education or training system by classifying them into levels. Each level provides a clear description of what the holder of a qualification knows, understands and is able to do. They are important tools for making qualifications transparent and comprehensible, within and across borders, and for promoting lifelong learning.

3

Practice political context

Microcredentials are frequently portrayed and promoted as a new way for individuals to build their own skills-profile (portfolio) by collecting and 'stacking' learning in a flexible way, at their own pace and according to their own priorities.

The increasing attention given to microcredentials is demonstrated in the 2020 EU skills agenda, which sees developments in this area as directly supporting adult upskilling and reskilling policies.

4

Benefits of microcredentials for training providers

. One key challenge will probably be to set a common and global standards about non-formal learning experiences provided by the employment system that enable employers to compare and adequately assess their added value for their business needs. Another challenge might be the profitability for private training centres of these short and rapidly changing training courses

5