Improving the permeability of higher education through microcredentials

Specific Goal C1 within National recovery plan for higher education area
for the years 2022 – 2024

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The National Recovery Plan of the Czech Republic

► **All 26 Czech public higher education institutions included**

- to share experiences and
- to create an analytical and methodological framework
- to develop the necessary information systems infrastructure for
  the implementation of the microcredentials concept in the Czech Republic.

  ▸ Akademie múzických umění v Praze (The Academy of Performing Arts in Prague)
  ▸ Akademie výtvarných umění v Praze (Academy of Fine Arts in Prague)
  ▸ Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze (Czech University of Life Sciences Prague)
  ▸ České vysoké učení technické v Praze (Czech Technical University in Prague)
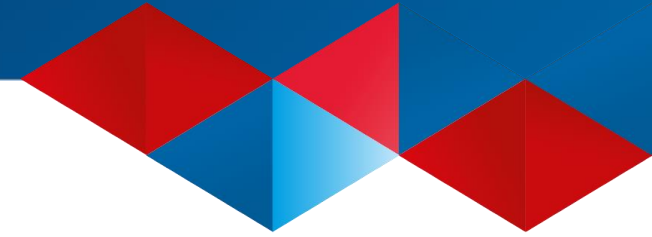 ▸ Janáčkova akademie múzických umění v Brně (The Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts Brno)
  ▸ Jihočeská univerzita v Českých Budějovicích (University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice)
  ▸ Masarykova univerzita v Brně (Masaryk University Brno)
  ▸ Mendelova zemědělská universita v Brně (Mendel University in Brno)

- [Ostravská univerzita (University of Ostrava)](#)
- [Slezská univerzita v Opavě (Silesian University in Opava)](#)
- [Technická univerzita v Liberci (Technical University of Liberec)](#)
- [Univerzita Hradec Králové (University of Hradec Králové)](#)
- [Univerzita Jana Evangelisty Purkyně v Ústí nad Labem (Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem)](#)
- [Univerzita Karlova (Charles University)](#)
- [Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci (Palacký University Olomouc)](#)
- [Univerzita Pardubice (University of Pardubice)](#)
- [Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně (Tomas Bata University in Zlín)](#)
- [Veterinární univerzita Brno (University of Veterinary Sciences Brno)](#)
- [Vysoká škola báňská – Technická univerzita Ostrava (VŠB – Technical University of Ostrava)](#)
- [Vysoká škola ekonomická v Praze (Prague University of Economics and Business)](#)
- [Vysoká škola chemicko-technologická v Praze (University of chemistry and technology Prague)](#)
- [Vysoká škola polytechnická Jihlava (College of Polytechnics Jihlava)](#)
- [Vysoká škola technická a ekonomická v Českých Budějovicích (Institute of Technology and Business in České Budějovice)](#)
- [Vysoká škola umělecko-průmyslová v Praze (Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague)](#)
- [Vysoké učení technické v Brně (Brno University of Technology)](#)
- [Západočeská univerzita v Plzni (University of West Bohemia)](#)

Definition of microcredentials

Microcredential (or mikrocertifikát in Czech) is an electronic record – a certificate – confirming completion of a small scale learning units expressed by ECTS credits and confirming the achievement of clearly defined and comprehensive learning outcomes – a set of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that constitute competencies.

Learning units are linked to the EQF, subject to a system of standardized quality assurance processes, and assessed according to transparent and well-defined criteria.
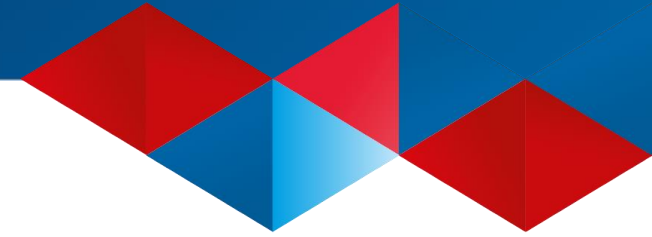
1. Analysis of Documentation for Skill-enhancing Education on a national level

Content of the Analysis

► Evaluation of current state of documentation

(certificates, etc.) for skill-enhancing education

(upskilling or reskilling courses, lifelong learning)

► **Results:** 9 specific recommendations for best

practices in document format and content for enhancing

the quality and consistency of documentation

2. Analysis of Documentation for Skill-enhancing Education on EU and international level

Content of the Analysis

▶ Extensive comparison of documentation practices and national frameworks + Survey among 21 universities from 15 different countries

▶ Analysis was focused on Europe and selected countries around the world (e.g. USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia)

▶ **Results**: Recommendations for best practices and open questions

3. Methodology for Unifying Short-Term Education through the ECTS

▶ Standardised methodology

▶ **Two-phase feedback** involving all 26 participating universities

▶ Aim to promote transparency and comparability in short-term education

▶ **Implications:** facilitating credit transfer and recognition of microcertificates

4. Unified Online Catalog of Courses Leading to Microcredentials

▶ **Aims:** The workgroup had defined a standardized format for exporting course data from the information systems of individual public universities

▶ Centralizes data repository allows presenting of courses not only through the online catalog but also possible other platforms

▶ **Implications:** to enhance accessibility, visibility and informed decision-making of target interested groups (e.g. graduates, highly skilled professionals)

5. Proposal for Unified Certificate Format

▶ The workgroup developed **unifed version** of the certificate and its manual

▶ Emphasis is on detailed analysis of standardized items listed on the certificate and its electronic form ensuring its full compatibility with Unified Information System for Education Results Verification

▶ **Importance:** academic recognition and credibility

6. Unified Information System for Education Results Verification

▶ **Aim:** to introduce a unified information system facilitating education results verification process (for both academic and professional purposes)

▶ Based on an analysis of the technical possibilities for the information system a solution based on EDCI principle (Europass) was chosen - *using a structured text file (JSON) containing all the required information about the course and microcredential holder in an unencrypted form and an electronic seal of the issuing institution.*

▶ **Importance:** Implementing basic principle of designing and issuing microcredentials at the EU level – portability (the ability of the holder to easily store and share microcredentials)

7. Methodology for Recognizing Education Verified by Microcredentials

- **Aims:** The workgroup is developing a draft version of the standardized methodology for recognizing education verified by microcredentials for academic purposes

- **Two-phase feedback** involving all 26 participating universities **follows**

- Aim to align with relevant legislation and regulations **while fulfill a fundamental principle** of microcertificates on the European level: **academic recognition**

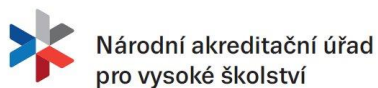- **Implications:** standardization and academic acceptance

Beyond the project

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS ⟺ application on the Czech labor market

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORTS ⟺ data sets on certificats

MINISTRY OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CZ ⟺ digital wallets

Národní akreditační úřad pro vysoké školství ⟺ quality standards

Contact

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YOUTH AND SPORTS