

Building Bridges for Lifelong Learning: Scaling Micro-credentials Across Borders

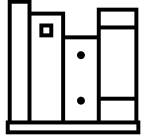


Co-funded by the
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*This project has been funded with support
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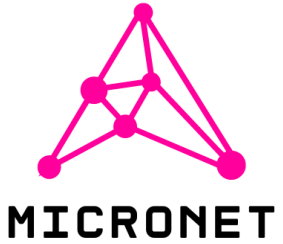


Why Micro-Credentials Matter



Micro-credentials have emerged as a strategic policy priority across Europe as they offer flexible, targeted and inclusive ways for people to access learning.

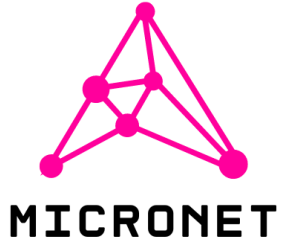
- ❑ European Education Area
- ❑ Council Recommendation on Micro-Credentials
- ❑ Support for Lifelong Learning
- ❑ Labour Market Alignment
- ❑ Green & Digital Transitions
- ❑ Mobility & Recognition



Co-funded by the
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MicroNet



MicroNet builds on EU momentum to create a community of practice and shared knowledge among partners.

- ❑ Inspired by the activities and achievements of the MICROBOL project.
- ❑ Developed a collaborative network focused on micro-credentials.
- ❑ Aimed to build a shared understanding of micro-credential policy and practice, promote mutual learning and support alignment across national systems.
- ❑ By connecting higher education institutions, policymakers and employers, MicroNet contributes to a more cohesive and inclusive European micro-credential ecosystem.



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Partners



Co-funded by the
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of the European Union

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Event / Activity: 1 - IUA

14th December 2022

Inaugural Event



[Click Here To View](#)



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from the European Commission.*



Chair: Dr. Lynn Ramsey, MicroCreds, IUA

Opening Address:

Keith Moynes, Asst. Secretary, Department of Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science, Ireland

Expert Speakers:

- Vanessa Debiais-Sainton, Head of Higher Education Unit, European Commission
- Robert Plummer, Senior Adviser, BusinessEurope
- Klara Engels-Perenyi, Policy Officer, European Commission

Panel Discussion:

Learner-Centric Approaches & Role of Enterprise.

Event / Activity: 2 - ECIU

Chair: Dr. Mairéad Nic Giolla Mhichíl, Director of Micro-Credential Strategy & Innovation, DCU

Expert Speakers:

- Dr. Dorothea Ellinger, ECIU University Learning Opportunities Leader, TUHH
- Prof. Blánaid White, Dean of Strategic Learning Innovation, DCU
- Dr. Fiona O’Riordan, ECIUn+ Educational Portfolio Coordinator & Academic Developer, DCU
- Padmasheela Kiiskilä, Researcher, Tampere University & ECIU
- Anthony Camilleri, Expert in Digitally Signed Credentials, NTT Data Europe



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8th March 2023

Building the blocks for a European Micro-Credential infrastructure: the next steps for ECIU & Europass



[Click Here To View](#)

Event / Activity: 3 - UNIC

16th October 2023

Superdiversity & Micro-credentials



[Click Here To View](#)



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of the European Union

*This project has been funded with support
from the European Commission.*



Chair: Dr Jean Van Sinderen-Law, Director of European Relations & Public Affairs, UCC & UNIC

Keynote: Prof Ahmet İçduygün, Koç University, Turkey

Access & Inclusion: The Foundation of Superdiversity

- Olive Byrne, Head of Access, UCC
- Joan Osayande, PhD Candidate & Sanctuary Scholar Graduate

MicroCreds: – What happens when a novel project meets a traditional system?

- Mags Arnold, Project Leads for MicroCreds, UCC

Panel Discussion: The future of micro-credentials & lifelong learning in Europe.

Event / Activity: 4 - QQI

Chair: Barbara Kelly, Director, Awards Directorate, QQI

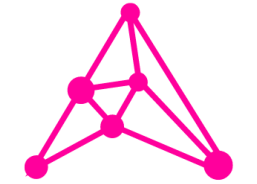
Keynote:

Simon Roy, Head of Higher Education Policy, OECD

Expert Speakers included:

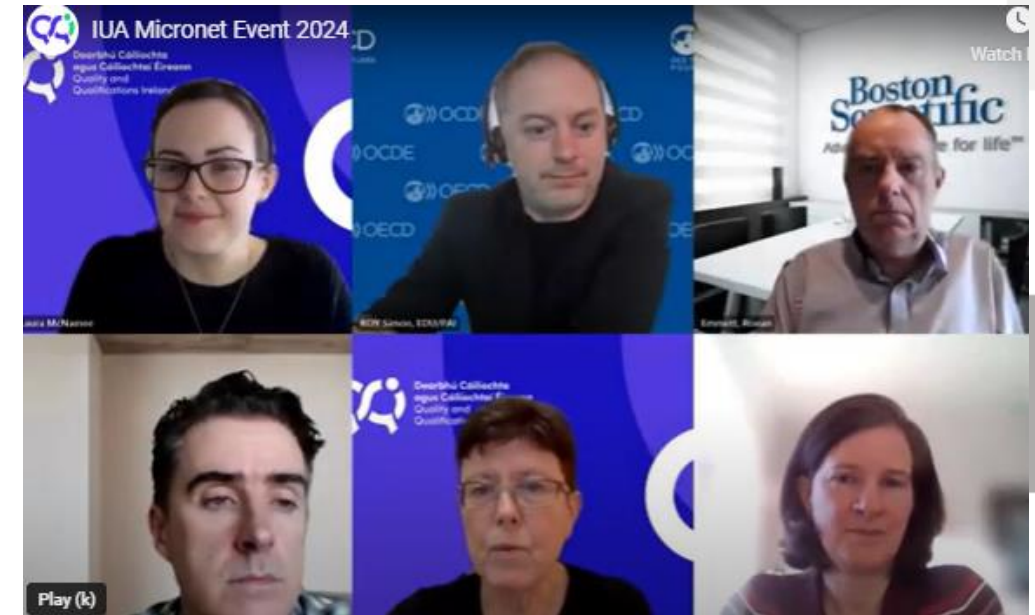
- Nora Condon, Senior Data Analyst, SOLAS
- Geraldine King, CEO, Employment and Recruitment Federation
- Helen McMahon, Senior Strategic Policy Advisor, Enterprise Ireland
- Tony Donohoe, Chair of the EGFSN
- Ronan Emmett, Head of Talent Acquisition & Learning, Boston Scientific
- Micro-credential Learners

30th January 2024



MICRONET

**Micro-Credentials can support the
National Skills Agenda**



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from the European Commission.*

Event / Activity: 5 - EUA

5th June 2024

Navigating Micro-credentials: Institutional, National & European Perspectives

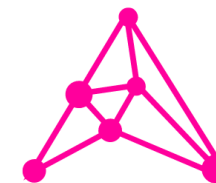


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MICRONET

Chair: Maria Kelo, Director of International Development,
EUA

Institutional:

- Minna Hiillos, Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences, Finland
- Mags Arnold, UCC & UNIC

Irish Micro-credential Portal: David Corscadden,
MicroCreds, IUA

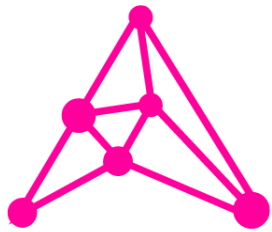
Panel: Business, Community & Society representatives

National Policies & Frameworks:

- Nora Trench Bowles, Head of Lifelong Learning & Skills, IUA
- Päivi Bosquet, Educational Advisor, Ministry of Education & Culture, Finland

Panel: Gate openers for institutional change

Achievements



MICRONET

- ✓ **IUA:** Inaugural Event
- ✓ **ECIU:** Building the blocks for a European Micro-Credential infrastructure: the next steps for ECIU & Europass
- ✓ **UNIC:** Superdiversity & Micro-credentials
- ✓ **QQI:** Micro-Credentials can support the National Skills Agenda
- ✓ **EUA:** Navigating Micro-credentials: Institutional, National & European Perspectives
- ☐ **IUA:** Building Bridges for Lifelong Learning: Scaling Micro-credentials Across Borders



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of the European Union

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Connect & Digital Resources!



www.iua.ie/micronet



emma.francis@iua.ie
david.corscadden@iua.ie



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Micro Credentials in the Swedish Higher Education system

Emma Norrbin (she/her), Systems Administrator Ladok



All first and second-cycle education must be provided in the form of courses. Courses may be combined to create study programmes.

6th Chapter, 13th Section, Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100)

Swedish Higher Education

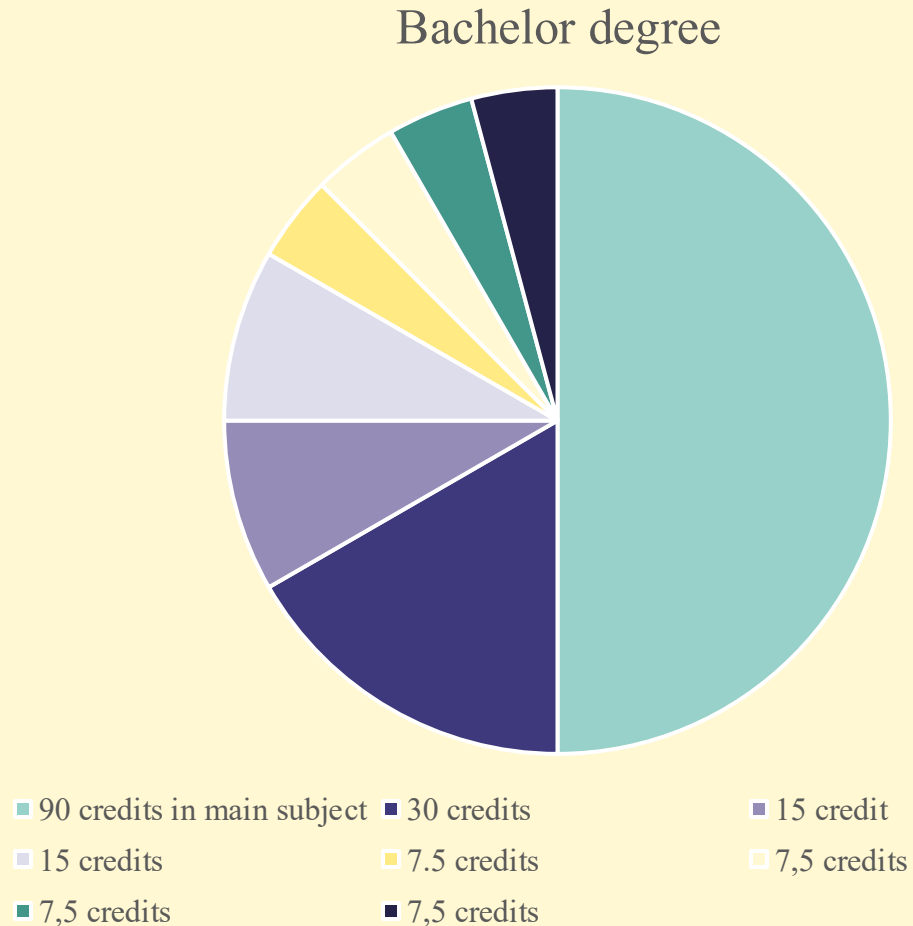
- Universities are state institutions and tuition is free
- 40+ Higher Education Institutions
- Academic year is 2 semesters, Autumn and Spring (30+30 ECTS)
- Courses are generally 30, 15, or 7,5 ECTS
- 2 application periods Autumn and Spring

“Freestanding courses that grant higher education credits meet all the EU standard elements and principles for micro-credentials”

Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF)



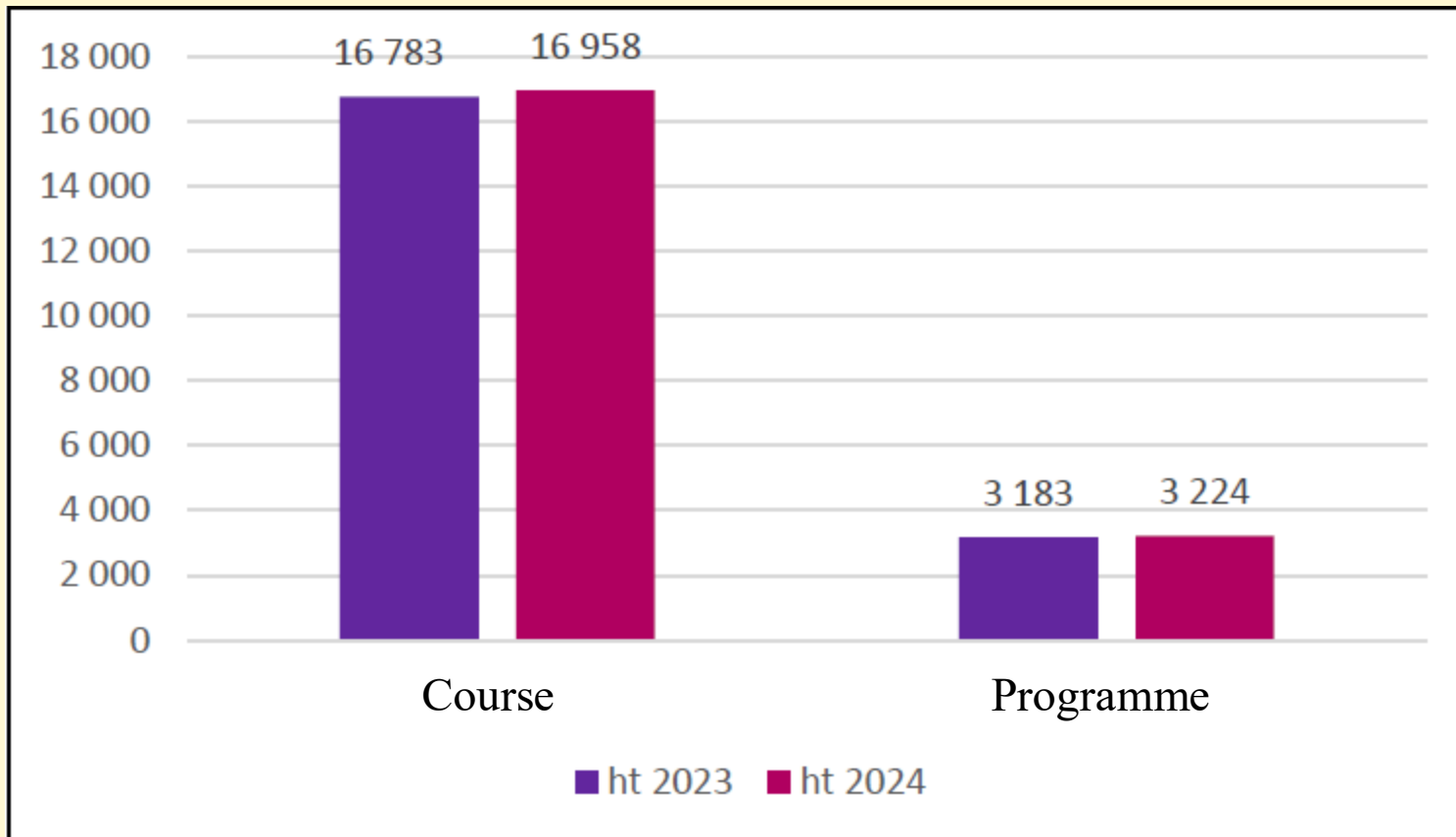
Stackable Free Standing Courses



- Not possible for licenced professions
- Need to apply each semester
- Some courses are not available as freestanding courser
- Access to exchange studies
- Degree documentation usually identical to a programme degree

Application Autumn 2024

-Course and programme offerings



Application system

- On-line application for all universities
- One application per application round
- Apply to 20 options

Antagning.se

Universityadmission.se

Cooperation in administrative systems

1

Application system
Antagning.se

Admission up to 45
ECTS/semester.

All options with lower
priority are deleted

2

Admissions system NyA:
Upper secondary database:
BEDA

Prior studies: Ladok

National organisation for
evaluation and registration
of foreign credential: VO

3

Student registry Ladok:
All courses and
programme registrations
and results in one system.

Verifying credentials and
degrees in the system

Thank you for your time

If you have questions:

Emma.Norrbin@mau.se

Links:

[Guidelines on Micro Credentials \(Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions \(SUHF\)\)](#)

[Application website](#)

[Student registry](#)

[Swedish Council for Higher Education](#)

[Swedish Higher Education Authority](#)



**MALMÖ
UNIVERSITY**



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iuua
IRISH
UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION

Microcredentials: Inspiring Innovation in the European Ecosystem

Daniel Franco

University Autònoma de Barcelona

ECIU University

28 April 2025



European Alliance: ECIU university

- From 2021, ECIU pioneering MCs in a cohesive European approach to Education following EU recommendations
 - **Innovation drivers** at ECIU University:
 - We adopt **challenges** to catch societal needs and **Challenge-based learning** to create answers to these challenges
 - solved more than 200 societal challenges with circa 200 external stakeholders (industry and societal bodies)
 - We introduce **Flexible Learning Pathways** and **MCs** to be flexible and adapt to societal changes now and in the future.
 - MCs as a proof of Skills and Competences under a Competence Taxonomy
 - More than 5,000 **competence passports** and circa 1.000 **MCs** issued to learners

European Alliance: ECIU university

- European standards: We have developed processes which have incorporated European standards
 - EDCL/ European Learning Model (Issuing Process, Qualified eSealing)
 - Europass system and Europass wallet
 - ESCO Framework
 - Learning Outcomes, ECTS
 - European Quality Standards (ENQA, EQF) & EHEA Tools
- Recognition
 - ECIU level
 - ECIU mobility

Impact of ECIU University Alliance

- National and institutional impact of the ECIU University Alliance:
 - Policy
 - Stakeholders
 - Universities
- Levels:
 - **UAB MCs**
 - Spanish & Catalan Gov MCs
 - Business organizations Orgs and NGO's MCs

CBL & Digital Microcredentials at UAB

- Embed ECIU experience (CBL and MCs) at regular UAB study programmes for every student
- Challenges and MCs incorporated as a mainstream beyond ECIU to regular bachelors and extracurricular activities for students, teachers and lifelong learners
 - UAB Campus challenges
 - Trainings in European projects
 - Part of a regular Bachelor specific subject
 - Appear in the Diploma Supplement

Working groups of Spanish Universities



Red Universitaria de Estudios de Postgrado y
Educación Permanente

- Postgraduate and LifeLong Learning Network of Universities

- Microcredentials design and accreditation guidelines

ORIENTACIONES PARA EL DISEÑO Y ACREDITACIÓN DE LAS MICROCREDENCIALES UNIVERSITARIAS

GRUPO DE TRABAJO CRUE-RUEPEP

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
11 de marzo de 2024

COORDINADORES

María Valdés Gázquez

Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona

Nicolás Rodríguez García

Universidad de Salamanca

Working groups of Spanish Universities

- Microcredentials Working Group of the **Spanish Network of European Alliances** coordinated by Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.
- Ponencia: *«Aprender sin límites: el valor de la formación permanente y su impacto global»*
(28 de marzo de 2025)
Mireia Gali Reyes. Coordinadora Institucional de ECIU University y Coordinadora del grupo de trabajo de microcredenciales de la Red Española de Alianzas, UEUE.
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Ba
Ira
Mo
- Learning without limits: the value of lifelong learning and its global impact (28th March 2025)

Impact of ECIU University Alliance

- **National and institutional impact of the ECIU University Alliance:**
 - **Policy**
 - **Stakeholders**
 - **Universities**
- UAB MCs
- **Spanish & Catalan Gov MCs**
- Business organizations Orgs and NGO's MCs



Microcredentials

Short learning programmes (SLPs) are a type of course (unit, module, etc.) in a particular subject area that focus on specific societal needs which can be a part of larger degree programmes.

A micro-credential is proof of the learning outcomes acquired by students on an SLP.

Methodology

The assessment methodology is based on the following guide:

 [Ex ante accreditation of Short Learning Programmes,](#)

which follows:

 [Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area](#)

Assessment of implementation proposals

Assessment reports of the proposals for the implementation of short learning or micro-credential programmes by university.

Short learning programmes	Universities								
	UAB	UdG	UdL	UOC	UPC	UPF	URL	URV	UVic
Java Back End Web Developer	x					x	x		
Open Source Back End Web Developer	x						x		x
Front End Developer	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Android Mobile Developer	x		x	x			x	x	x
Consultor CRM	x	x			x				
Cloud Deployer	x			x	x	x	x		
Data Scientist	x	x		x		x	x		
TOTAL	7	2	2	4	3	4	6	2	3

University Rule

Publicado en: «BOE» núm. 70, de 23/03/2023.

Entrada en vigor: 12/04/2023

Departamento: Jefatura del Estado

Referencia: [BOE-A-2023-7500](#)

Permalink ELI: <https://www.boe.es/eli/es/lo/2023/03/22/2/con>

Seleccionar redacción: Última actualización publicada el 02/08/2024 ▼



[PDF](#)



[ePUB](#)

Artículo 7. Los títulos universitarios.

University degrees

1. Las universidades y otros centros de enseñanza conducentes a la obtención de títulos universitarios oficiales, con validez y eficacia académica, impartirán enseñanzas conducentes a la obtención de títulos propios, incluidos los de formación a lo largo de la vida, en los términos establecidos reglamentariamente.

2. Todos los títulos universitarios deberán reunir los estándares de calidad establecidos en el Espacio Europeo de Educación Superior.

Quality Standards

3. Los títulos universitarios de carácter oficial deberán inscribirse en el Registro de Títulos. Esta inscripción tendrá efectos constitutivos respecto de la creación de títulos universitarios oficiales y llevará aparejada la consideración inicial de título acreditado a los efectos legal y reglamentariamente establecidos. Podrán, igualmente, inscribirse otros títulos no oficiales a efectos informativos.

El Gobierno regulará el procedimiento y las condiciones para la inscripción de los títulos universitarios.

4. Las universidades y otros centros de estudios superiores deberán evitar que la denominación o el formato de sus títulos propios puedan inducir a confusión con respecto a los títulos universitarios oficiales. Las universidades deberán informar al estudiantado del carácter oficial o propio de sus títulos.

5. La formación a lo largo de la vida podrá desarrollarse mediante distintas modalidades de enseñanza, incluidas microcredenciales, micromódulos u otros programas de corta duración.

5. Lifelong learning may be developed through different teaching modalities, including micro-credentials, micro-modules or other short-term programmes.

PLAN MICRO CREDS

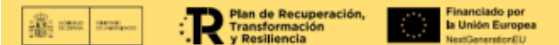
Dale forma
a tu futuro



MICROCREDS PLAN: Shaping your future

Action plan for the development of university MCs in Spain

PLAN DE ACCIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO DE MICROCREDENCIALES UNIVERSITARIAS EN ESPAÑA



- The Ministry of Universities, within the framework of the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, creates a fund of **50 million euros for the development of the Microcreds Plan**.
- This plan allows financing both the production of **micro-credentials**, as well as scholarships and aid for people who are **unemployed, low-income or in a situation of social vulnerability**, as well as for intermediation activities between the university and the **productive sectors**.
- Micro-credentials preserve **lifelong learning** as a core function of the university.

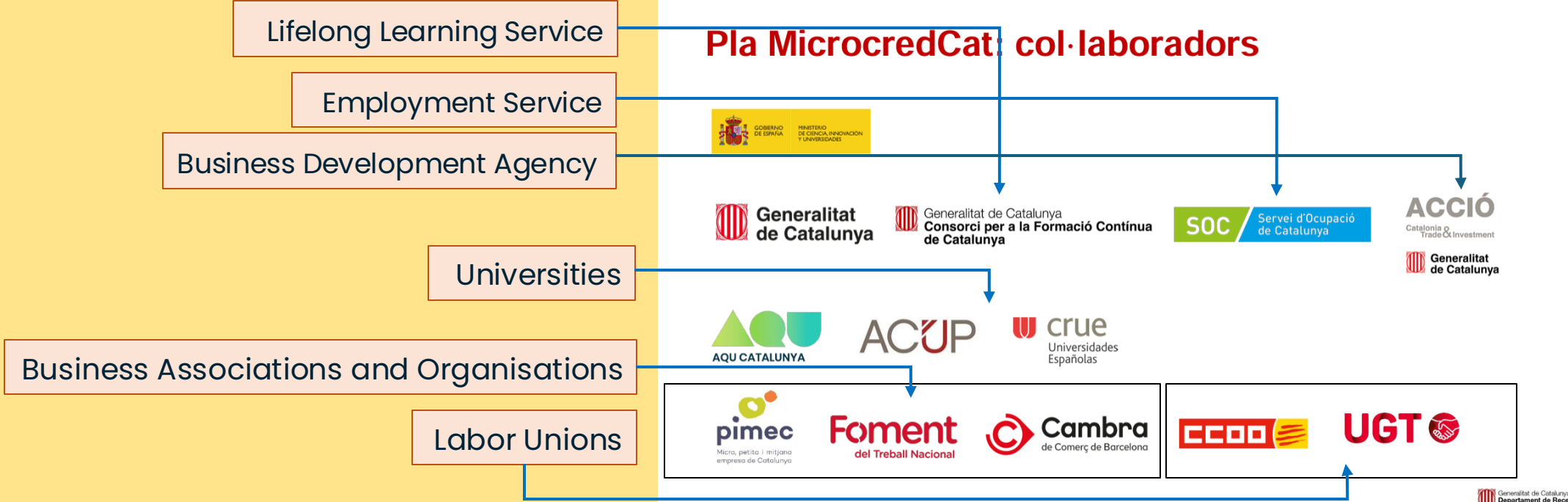
Pla de microcredencials universitàries a Catalunya

Grup de treball de les universitats públiques catalanes

Direcció General de Transferència i Societat del Coneixement
18 de març de 2024



MicroCredCAT Plan Working Group



News

Faculty of Economics and Business Studies → News detail

The UAB offers its first micro-credentials under the Microcreds Plan



The month of January marked the start of the first micro-credentials offered by the UAB under the Spanish Ministry for Science, Innovation and Universities' [Microcreds Plan](#). The first micro-credentials being offered can be viewed at the [Graduate School website](#) and new proposals will be posted in the following months.

Impact of ECIU University Alliance

- **National and institutional impact of the ECIU University Alliance:**
 - **Policy**
 - **Stakeholders**
 - **Universities**
- UAB MCs
- Spanish & Catalan Gov MCs
- **Business organizations Orgs and NGO's MCs**

Business organizations Orgs and NGO's MCs

The image is a screenshot of the PIMEC website. At the top, there is a dark navigation bar with the 'pimec' logo on the left and a menu of links (Institució, Serveis, Actualitat, Agenda, Formació, L'Observatori) on the right, along with user and search icons and language options (CA | ES). Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail reads: 'Pimec > Agenda > PIMEC Fòrum. Cicle de trobades. La col·laboració universitat-mipime. La formació al llarg de la vida i les microcredencials a les empreses'. The main banner features a dark green background with abstract glowing lines. It includes the text 'Trobades PIMEC per a una nova era', the 'PIMEC FÒRUM' logo, the event title 'CICLE DE TROBADES: LA COL·LABORACIÓ UNIVERSITAT - MIPIME', the main topic 'LA FORMACIÓ AL LLARG DE LA VIDA I LES MICROCREDENCIALS A LES EMPRESES', and the date 'Dimarts, 10 de desembre a les 9.30 h'. The PIMEC Universitat logo is in the top right corner of the banner.

Trobades PIMEC per a una nova era
PIMEC FÒRUM

CICLE DE TROBADES: LA COL·LABORACIÓ UNIVERSITAT - MIPIME

**LA FORMACIÓ AL LLARG DE LA VIDA
I LES MICROCREDENCIALS A LES EMPRESES**

Dimarts, 10 de desembre a les 9.30 h

pimec
Universitat

PIMEC Forum. Cycle of meetings. The university-mipime collaboration. Lifelong learning and micro-credentials in businesses

Business organizations Orgs and NGO's MCs



The ABD Group NGO and the UAB join forces to create a pioneering micro-credential to strengthen the skills of professionals in the field of social services management

Building Bridges for Lifelong Learning:

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IRISH
UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION

Microcredentials: **Thank you!** Inspiring innovation in the European Ecosystem

Daniel Franco

University Autònoma de Barcelona

ECIU University

28 April 2025



UAB

BUILDING BRIDGES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING: SCALING MICRO-CREDENTIALS ACROSS BORDERS



UL IMPLEMENTATION CASE STUDY

MICHAEL HENNESSY AND DR. SARAH BRADY

FUTURE SKILLS NEEDS – THE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

1

**61% OF WORKERS WILL REQUIRE
RETRAINING BETWEEN NOW AND 2027**

2

**THE VAST MAJORITY OF BUSINESS LEADERS (94%)
NOW EXPECT EMPLOYEES TO PICK UP NEW SKILLS ON
THE JOB – A SHARP RISE FROM 65% IN 2018.**

- TECHNOLOGY
- SUSTAINABILITY
- SOFT SKILLS
- LIFELONG LEARNING

3

**DUE TO CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS, HEIS WILL SEE
A STEADY REDUCTION IN CAO APPLICANTS FROM
2030-2040**



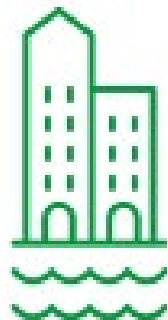
UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

AT A GLANCE ...



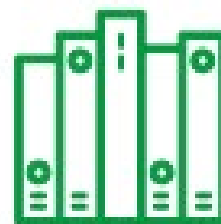
c18,000

Registered students



250,000m²

Buildings



354,100

Total print
books



80

Countries
represented in the
student body



366

UL campus comprises
366 acres, including
116 acres on the
County Clare side

ENTERPRISE-FOCUSED EDUCATION ECOSYSTEM

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMME



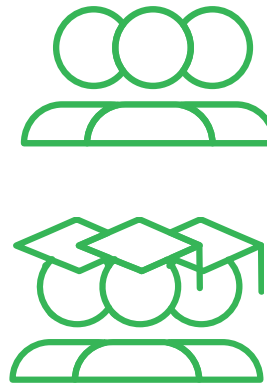
3000 PLACEMENTS
4000+ EMPLOYERS

EXECUTIVE APPRENTICESHIPS



INDUSTRY 4.0
LEVELS 7-10

SPRINGBOARD+



200-300
ANNUALLY

FEE SUBSIDIES



JULY (JOBS) STIMULUS

850 ENROLMENTS TO
MICRO-CREDENTIALS



€1.69M FUNDING ACROSS
112 PROFESSIONAL COURSES &
PROGRAMMES

TRACK RECORD OF EDUCATION | ENTERPRISE COLLABORATION



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland





[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/VDB1PNN0QVU?FEATURE=SHARED](https://youtu.be/VDB1PNN0QVU?feature=shared)

**MICRO
CREDS**



ENGAGING WITH EMPLOYERS

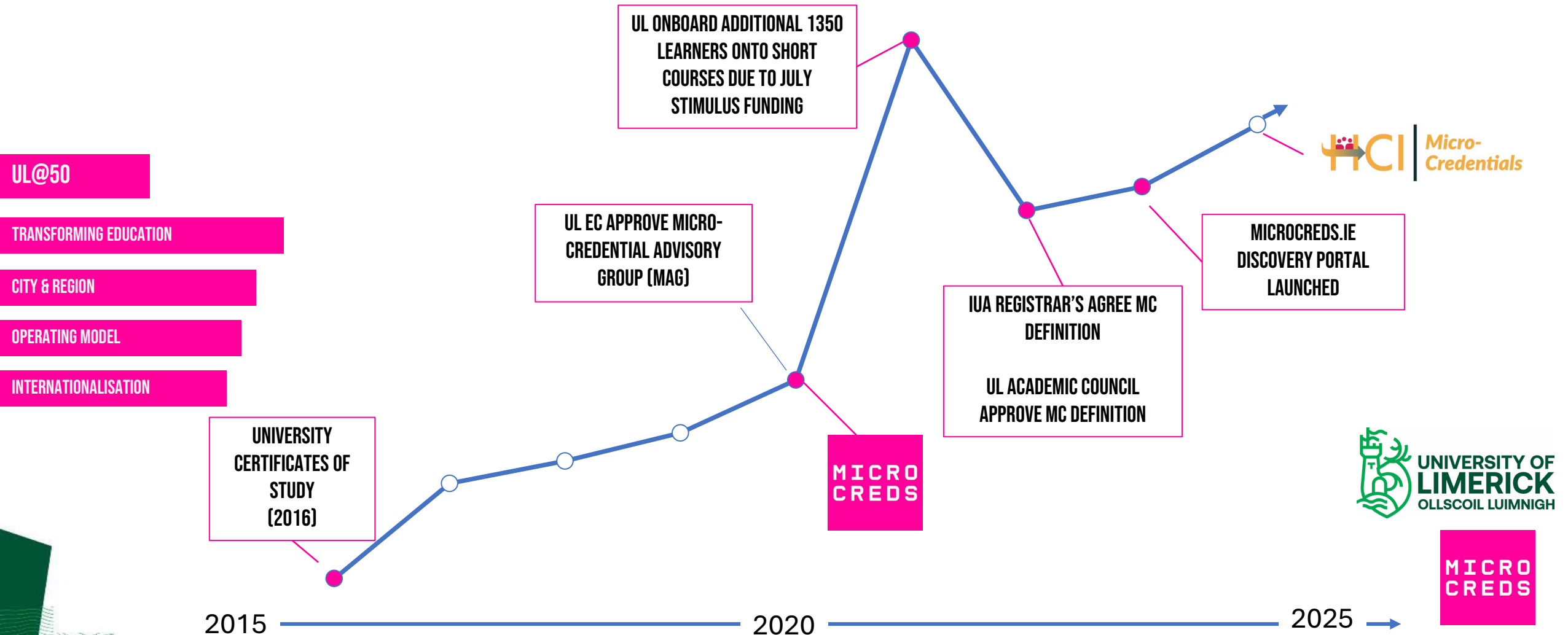


What skills are priority for your company that might be addressed by short, focused, micro-credential?



MICRO-CREDENTIALS AT UL

GPS ACCEPTS (ALL COURSES)



CURRENT OFFERINGS AT UL

Build Your Learning Pathway

Micro-credentials allow you the flexibility to build your own learning pathway and combine the skills you need in a tailored way. UL's MicroCreds are assessed and accredited. Each MicroCred completed could stack towards a higher award. Giving you the opportunity to enhance your skills and competencies across one or multiple disciplines.



[MICRO-CREDENTIAL TOPICS |](#)
[UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK](#)




[HOME - MICROCREDS | SHORT,](#)
[FLEXIBLE, ACCREDITED COURSES](#)

151 MCS

3-15
ECTS

6-9 NFQ

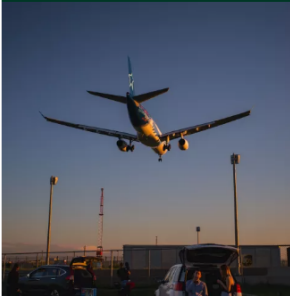
AI, Technology & Data Analytics



Introduction to Machine Learning and more.

[VIEW ALL](#)


Aviation



Upskill in Aviation. From finance to health and safety. Get accredited quickly.

[VIEW ALL](#)


Business and Management



Explore short courses in strategy, leadership and more.

[VIEW ALL](#)


Communications & Transferrable Skills




Master communication and adaptability for professional success.

[VIEW ALL](#)

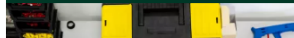
Economics & Tax



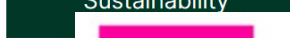
Education



Engineering and Quality








Environment & Sustainability



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROJECTS

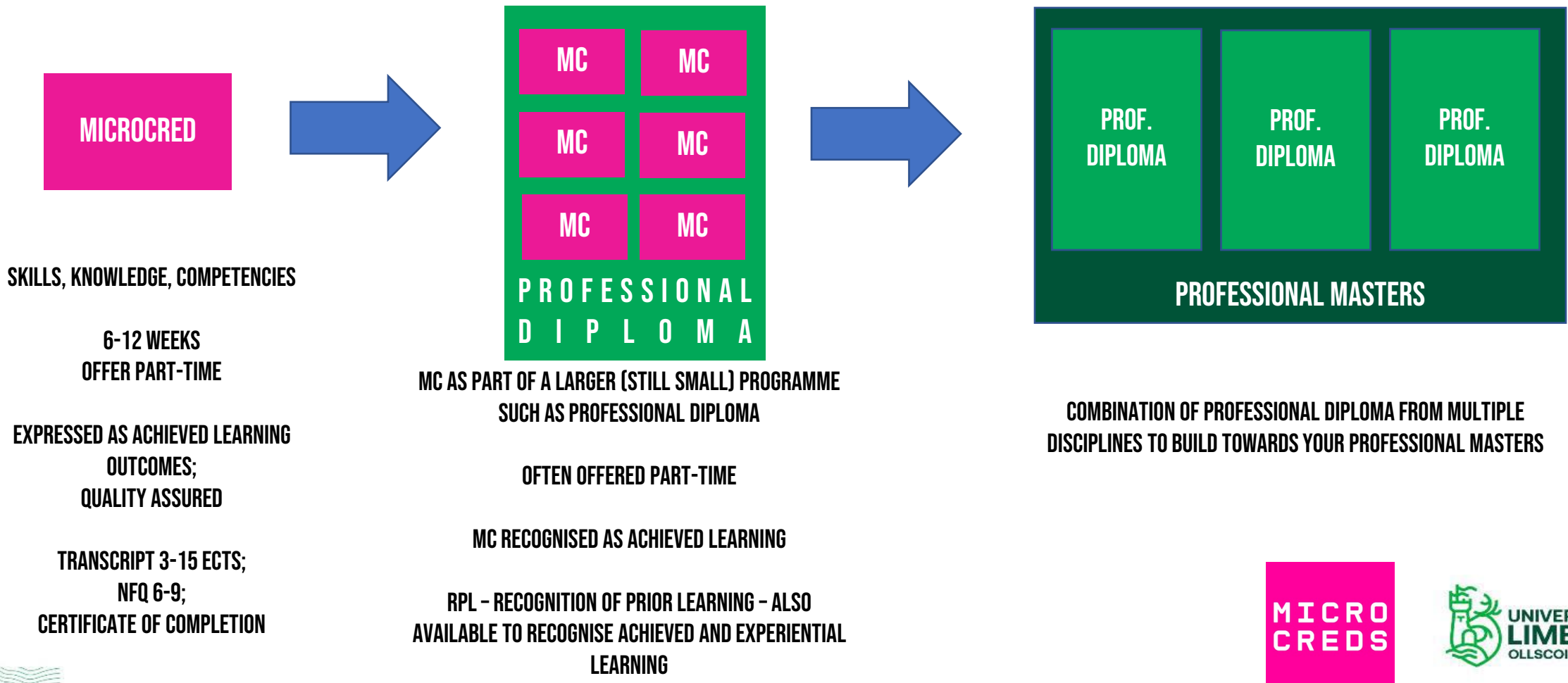
MicroCreds	UL@WORK	Project EAGLE	REBOOT SKILLS	L2L MicroCred Project
				
DISCOVER MORE	DISCOVER MORE	DISCOVER MORE	DISCOVER MORE	DISCOVER MORE

[EU PROJECTS](#) | [UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK \(UL.IE\)](#)



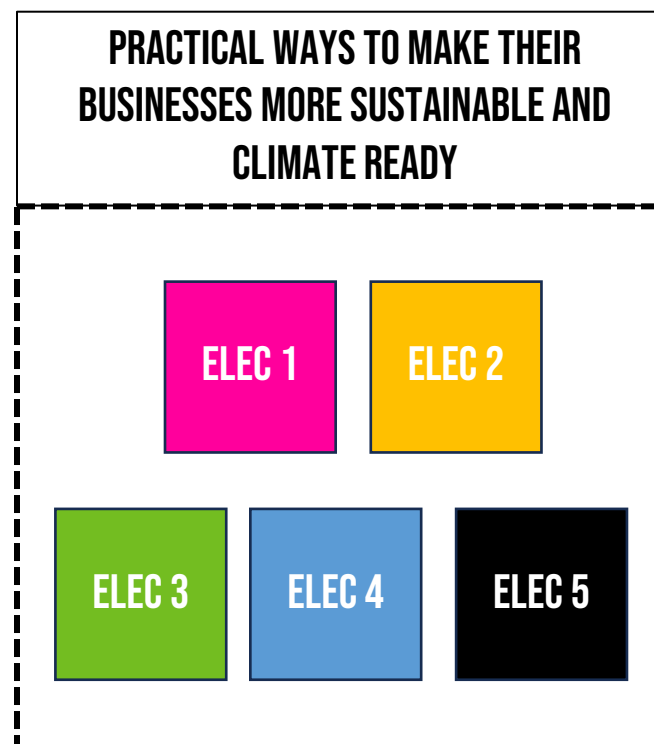
BUILD YOUR LEARNING PATHWAY

- SHORT COURSES, PATHWAYS, PROGRAMMES – FROM MICRO-CREDENTIAL TO MASTERS
- SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCIES



CERTIFICATE OF FUNDAMENTALS OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- **OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION WITH EMPLOYER/INDUSTRY GROUP**
- **NFQ 7, 27 ECTS SPECIAL PURPOSE AWARD**
- **ANY 3:**
 - **IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICE**
 - **ENERGY MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE,**
 - **BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT**
 - **WASTE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE,**
 - **WATER STEWARDSHIP IN PRACTICE**





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