

# Digital Credentialing and Recognition Procedures

ECCOE

European Credit Clearinghouse  
for Opening up Education



Jochen Ehrenreich, DHBW HN - Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg  
July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

DAAD Seminar: Micro-credentials in the EHEA  
Workshop: Digital Credentialing and Recognition Procedures

# AGENDA

## 01

### Recognition of Micro-Credentials in Higher Education

- Recognition Principles
- Trust and Transparency
- Anerkennung and Anrechnung
- European University Alliances

## 02

### ECCOE Project Results

- Digital Credentials Metadata
- Learning Opportunities Directory
- Model Credit Recognition Agreement

# Recognition Principles in Higher Education

## Recognition towards a specific

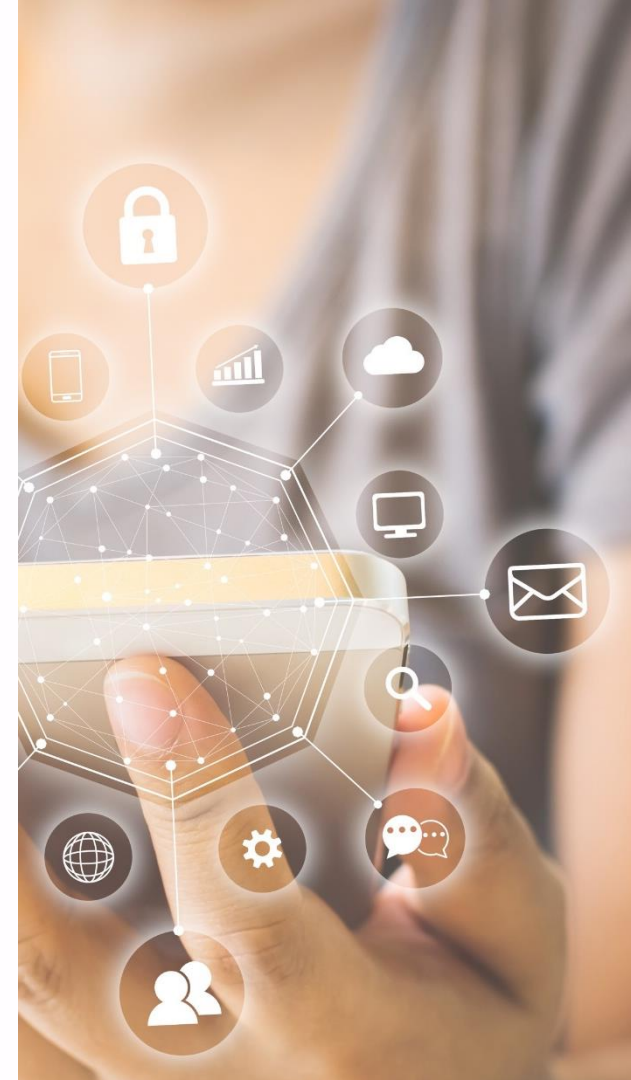
- Curriculum / Study Programme / Life Long Learning Programme
- Module (or parts of it)

## Recognition decision

- Initially done by a person or committee
- Consistent
- Transparent
- Automation / Credentials Clearinghouse

## Strategic implications

- Flexible curriculum design can facilitate recognition
- Mandatory Electives (Wahlpflichtbereich)
- Public Recognition Database
- Credit Recognition Agreements



# Recognition of Micro-Credentials, Open and Online Learning

<b>Physical Student Mobility: transfer credits</b>	<b>Virtual Student Mobility: transfer credits</b>
between higher education institutions (HEIs)	from online and other non-traditional short learning programmes which might be offered not only by HEIs, but also by other education and training sectors
from accredited study programmes	which are typically not higher education accredited
with credits described in ECTS	which are often not described in ECTS, instead use alternative systems of credentials
with controlled assessment environments	where identity verification processes and assessments are more complex and challenging than in face-to-face settings
with learning agreement from home HEI	without formal statement from home HEI about the perception of externally acquired learning
with module description that provides information about workload, learning outcome and assessment conditions	which lack transparency regarding academic content and learning methodologies
<b>→ Trust and Transparency</b>	<b>→ Lack of Trust and Transparency</b>

# Recognition of Micro-Credentials, Open and Online Learning

<b>Anerkennung</b> Mobility: transfer credits	<b>Anrechnung</b> Mobility: transfer credits
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**MOOC/Micro-Credential**  
of a Higher Education  
Institution (HEI) on a  
non-HEI MOOC platform

## Anerkennung

competencies  
gained at HEIs

no credit limit for  
recognition

burden of proof on  
the side of the HEI

focus on substantial  
differences

HEI credential

HEI assessment

Ambiguity in classifying  
MOOCs offered by HEIs

## Anrechnung

competencies earned  
outside of university

max. 50% of the  
curriculum/credits

burden of proof on  
the student's side

focus on equivalence

platform credential

platform assessment



Source:  
<https://hochschulforumdigitalisierung.de/de/blog/digital-erkannt-so-geht-qualit%C3%A4tsorientierte-erkennung-und-anrechnung-von-moocs-hochschulen>

# European University Alliances

## Common Characteristics

- create a pool of online/hybrid modules
- modules will be shared and recognised between institutions
- starting with topics such as „European Identity“ or „Sustainable Cities“
- experimenting with virtual and hybrid mobility & mixed groups
- expanding to disciplinary modules
- joint degrees
- joint strategic development

## Key Elements / Tools

- directory of learning opportunities (= modules) for students
- mobility pathways / learning agreements
- efficient recognition processes



## Kursprogramm

**Kursprogramm SS21**

[Kursprogramm WS21/22](#)

**Kursangeb**

[Einstiegsurse](#)

[Geistes- und Kulturwissenschaften](#)

[Gesundheitswissenschaften](#)

[Informatik](#)

[Ingenieurwissenschaften](#)

[Lehramt](#)

[Medizin](#)

[Naturwissenschaften](#)

[Rechtswissenschaft](#)

[Schlüsselqualifikationen](#)

[Soziale Arbeit](#)

[Sozialwissenschaften](#)

[Sprachen](#)

[Wirtschaftsinformatik](#)

[Wirtschaftswissenschaften](#)

[Zusatzangebote](#)

Das Kursprog

**Unabhängig  
allen Fächern**

Für manche K

In den Kursbe

Voraussetzung

Ob die Prüfung

zuständigen P

Sollten Sie we

Kursverantwort

Aufgrund der a

angeboten. Di

**Prüfungsang**

[Veränderungen im Kursprogramm als PDF](#)

[Kurse in Entwicklung als PDF](#)

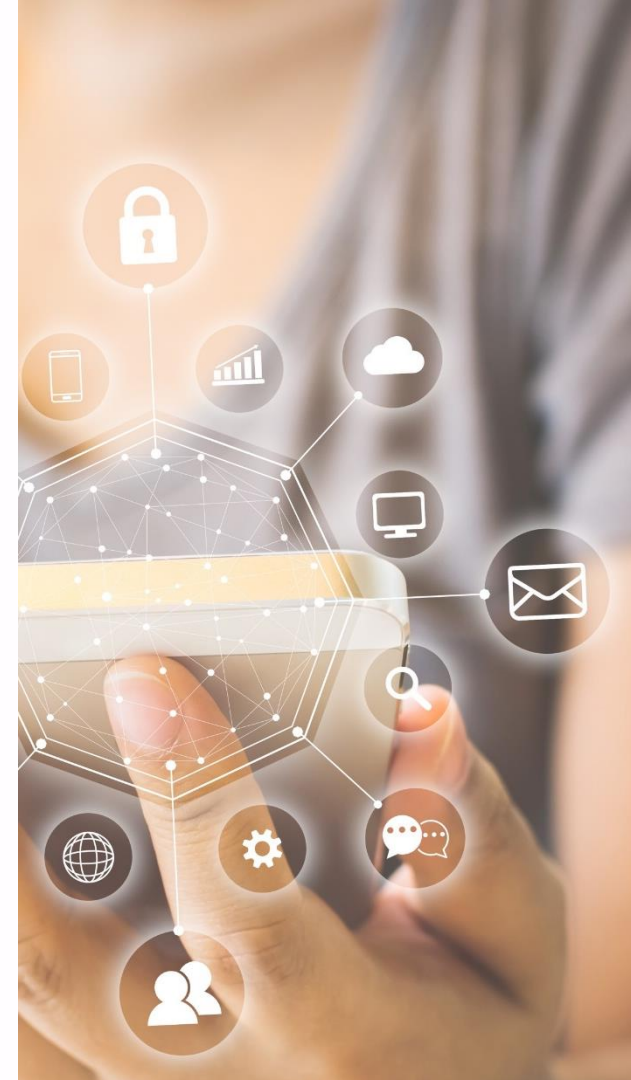
[Kurse in Englisch als PDF](#)

## ECCOE Aims and Outcomes

- to establish **cross-institution recognition** of credits and learning outcomes through a **trust-worthy system of digital credentialisation** of learning opportunities

In order to reach inter-institutional collaboration and trust, all stakeholders need to discuss:

- how **learning offers should be described** and presented in the digital space in an open manner
- how **learning outcomes and results should be credentialed** so that all stakeholders of learning recognition are confident about the achievements of learners, and that the system itself facilitates and endorses open and flexible learning opportunities in a qualitative way






# ECOE Project Partners



Co-funded by the  
 Erasmus+ Programme  
 of the European Union



# Digital Credential Metadata Template (based on Europass EDCl)

## Model Credit Recognition Agreement

### Learning Opportunities Directory

<b>Data about learner</b>	
Given name	
Surname	
Person identifier	
Registration number:	
Unique credential ID:	
Date of issue (Valid from date)	June 4, 2021
Expiry date	
Place of issue:	
<b>Credential quality descriptors</b>	
<b>Institutions involved</b>	
Name of the issuing institution	
Type of issuing institution	
Scope of recognition	
The level of education	
Type of institution responsible for quality assurance	
Responsibilities of the signatory name, surname	
Type of institution Responsible for quality assurance	
Course title	
Lecturers	
<b>Credential data</b>	
Type of credential	
Form of credential	
Stackability of credential	
<b>Learning outcomes / Competences</b>	
Classifier:	
Information on learning outcomes	
1. learning outcomes/competence	
2. learning outcomes/competence	
3. learning outcomes/competence	
4. learning outcomes/competence	
5. learning outcomes/competence	
6. learning outcomes/competence	
<b>Curriculum characteristics</b>	
Field of education 1	
Field of education 2	
Field of education 3	
Mode of study	
Form of study	
Volume of learning	
Number of ECTS or Number of hours	
Duration in academic hours	
Study language	
Specify language	



DIGITAL PDF/A OR ENCRYPTED PDF

Vytautas Magnus University  
Higher education institution

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**Formal module certificate**  
For assessment and recognition of informal learning purposes

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This document is to certify that

**Danutė Pranckutė (Personal ID: 41001011011)**

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Has completed an a blended non-formal part-time education course of 3 ECTS  
(During a 1 month, 80 academic hours (contact hours indicated - 12)  
And achieved 10 grade.

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**“Language and society”**  
(Education field: 0231 Language acquisition)  
study language: English, NQF level 4

Scope of recognition: National Quality assurance ensured by: Regulated HE accreditation (ENQA)  
(lecturers: Name Surname, Name2 Surname2)

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Stackable credential.

And gained these learning outcomes:  
- define the most basic linguistic terms  
- explain the intricate links between language and society  
- analyse language use in relation to social factors such as culture, age, status, etc.  
- apply the knowledge of sociolinguistic theory, research methods, main concepts and terminology in data analysis

Summative online assessment without ID verification of a learner with secure login into LMS was applied and assessed by teacher using manual grading for skills measurement.

Assignments	Units	Weight	Total Weight
- Written exam without accessing course material (testing knowledge and its application to theoretical scenarios)	1	50%	50%
- Assessment of abstracts, essays, case analysis, reports, projects	1	20%	20%
- Project work	1	30%	30%
Contact hours			12

Grading scheme and grade distribution evidence:

Grading scale	Description	ECTS grade	Pass/fail
10	Excellent: excellent performance, outstanding knowledge and skills	A	Pass
9	Very good: strong performance, good knowledge and skills	B	
8	Good: above the average performance, knowledge and skills	C	
7	Slightly satisfactory: average performance, knowledge and skills with occasional shortcomings	D	
6	Satisfactory: below average performance, knowledge and skills with substantial shortcomings	D	
5*	Sufficient: knowledge and skills meet minimum criteria	E	
1-4	Insufficient: knowledge and skills do not meet minimum criteria below minimum criteria		Fail
0	Zero: absence in the testing or failure to observe deadlines in presenting work for intermediate assessment or no answer recorded	F/N	

\*The last positive passing grade is the degree recorded.

Alongside the ten-point system the institution uses the pass/fail system of evaluation. Examinations and work defence evaluations, as a rule, are graded. For the courses that do not end with examinations the pass/fail system is used to test if a student has earned the credits allocated to it.

Rector: \_\_\_\_\_ Seal: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ **prf. Juozas Augustis**

Valid date and place of issue: April 27, 2021 – April 30, 2024 Kaunas, Lithuania  
 Registration number: SO-20-1815, Unique credential ID: 5f574c4d-3bc4

Vytautas Magnus University Higher education institution Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

# Digital Credential Metadata Template

## Model Credit Recognition Agreement

### Learning Opportunities Directory



## Graduate University Study of Civil Engineering

Valid from: 20/09/2019 00:00 GMT +0200 | Type: signOnBehalf



Credential Preview | Export | Upload another credential | Share | English

Organisations

Postgraduate doctoral study

Credential owner

Civil engineer

Achievements

**Recognition for credit**

Activities

**Entitlements**

### Recognition for credit

UNIST-Ent identifier: ECCOE-019.0027

Date of Issue: 20/09/2019

The holder of this credential is entitled to have their achievement recognised for academic credit, if their average grade point equals or is over grade 3 (good).

### Specification

#### Recognition for credit

UNIST-EntSpec identifier: ECCOE-019

This credential can be recognised by the below listed organisation(s), based on the referenced ECCOE Model Credit Recognition Agreement

Entitlement Type: learning | Status: prospective opportunity

Valid with: University X | Valid within: Croatia, Belgium

#### Other Documents

[https://eccoe.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2020/11/MCRA\\_Fictional\\_Agreement\\_Example.pdf](https://eccoe.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2020/11/MCRA_Fictional_Agreement_Example.pdf)

europass European Union

English

europass Learn in Europe Work in Europe About Europass Contact us Login to Europass

This credential link will expire: 31/12/2021 23:59 GMT +0100

### View Credential

Credential Details | Export | Upload another credential | Share | English

europass

Graduate University Study of Civil Engineering

The University of Split certifies that

**Ana Andromeda**

has achieved an overall diploma grade of excellent (5)

Date and place of issue: Split, 17/06/2021 14:06 GMT +0200

# Digital Credential Metadata Template

## Model Credit Recognition Agreement

### Learning Opportunities Directory



#### 1. Title of the agreement

UNED-UCM Professional English MOOC Validation (Bilateral ECCOE Credit Recognition Agreement)

#### 2. Preamble

This document is a MCRA template which is semi-automatically configured to include the information that HE institutions require to establish mutual agreements recognizing/validating each other's courses. Once you had reviewed and updated the form if needed, a final MCRA document will be generated for the two signatories of respective institutions to sign.

#### 3. Institutions and recognition type

##### First institution

Universidad Nacional De Educacion A Distancia (UNED), Spain

##### The recognition/validation paths currently offered by your institution

UNED-Faculty level Non-Formal Learning

##### Second institution

Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

##### The recognition/validation paths currently offered by the second institution

Faculty-level non-formal credit validation

#### 4. Agreement details

##### 4.1. Type

UNED Faculty-level non-formal (including MOOC) credit validation

UCM Faculty-level non-formal (including MOOC) credit validation

##### 4.2. Objective

UNED Enable external MOOC credits to be accepted as Free Credits for use on a specific degree/post-graduate course in the faculty

UCM Enable external MOOC credits for use as Free Credits for use on a specific degree/post-graduate course in the faculty



#### 4.3. Institution process steps

UNED 1. Reception of course details by Academic Secretary in the Faculty.  
2. Approval by Academic Commission in the Faculty.  
3. Agreement signed.

UCM 1. Reception of course details by Academic Secretary in the Faculty and approval by the Dean of the Faculty.  
2. Submit the request to the Vice-rectorate of Studies.  
3. Approval by Academic Studies Commission in the University.  
4. Agreement signed

#### 4.4. Conditions

UNED Academic Commission might not accept recognition for different reasons (e.g., perceived quality, content, assessment method)  
A new agreement would be needed for each external course that is being recognised

UCM It would be necessary to compare the proposal applications of both courses approved by both universities, to check if the agreement of each course is annual or permanent, to establish the same validity in time for this agreement.

#### 5. Description

"Professional English" in UNED Abierta, is a MOOC focused on learning English for the workplace organised in communicative situations. "Applied Business English" in Universidad Complutense de Madrid, is a MOOC for applying the language to specific purposes such as business. The agreement would be really helpful for HEIs students, since both courses are MOOCs, are focused on language skills for professional context, and aimed at Spanish-speaking students.

#### 6. Signatories and legal capacities

UNED Carmen García, Responsible for MOOC courses

UCM Jorge Arús-Hita, Vice dean of the Faculty of Philology

#### 7. Agreement lifetime

September 9, 2020 September 9, 2022

#### 8. Dates and signatures

September 9, 2020

September 9, 2020



#### 9. Annexes

##### Annex 1. ECCOE quality typology instance for both courses

UNED A link to your document should be included here.

UCM A link to your document should be included here.

##### Annex 2. Course programmes

UNED [https://iedra.uned.es/courses/course-v1:UNED+InfProf\\_EDEsp+2020/about](https://iedra.uned.es/courses/course-v1:UNED+InfProf_EDEsp+2020/about)

UCM Not available since this MOOC is being developed.

##### Annex 3. Existing agreements

UNED A link to your annex document would appear here.

UCM A link to your document should be included here.

##### Annex 4.

A description of your annex document would appear here.

A link to your document should be included here.

##### Annex 5.

A description of your annex document should be included here.

A link to your document should be included here.

# Digital Credential Metadata Template

## Model Credit Recognition Agreement

### Learning Opportunities Directory



Protected: MCRA Online Template

You are here: Home / Outputs / Model Credit Recognition Agreement / Protected: MCRA Online Template

## Model Credit Recognition Agreement Template Tool

Before using this tool to develop a Model Credit Recognition Agreement Template you should read [the MCRA User Guide](#). (Put the cursor on the "i" to retrieve context-sensitive help). See an example [here](#).

[This is a Beta version of the MCRA tool and it is available for experimentation only]

### 1. Title of the Agreement ⓘ

Please insert the title of the agreement \*

### 2. Preamble

This document is an MCRA template which is semi-automatically configured to include the information that HE institutions require to establish mutual agreements recognizing/validating each other's courses.

Once you had completed this form, a final MCRA document will be generated for the two signing signatories of respective institutions to sign.

### 3. Institutions and recognition type ⓘ

Select your institution \*

Select the recognition type your institution will use for this MCRA \*

Quality criteria for credential description

Model Credit Recognition Agreement

· ECCOE Model Credit Recognition Agreement  
Open Peer Review

· MCRA tool frontpage

· MCRA data input

· **MCRA Online Template**

· MCRA managing entries

Online set of approved modules

Technology enabled credentials

ECCOE-System

# Digital Credential Metadata Template

## Model Credit Recognition Agreement

### Learning Opportunities Directory

Weighting	Field	Remarks
3	Title	As found on LOpp homepage
3	Description	Free text extracted from LOpp homepage
2	Provided by	Generated by 'Organisation UID'?
1	Hosted by	Only for MOOCs on third party platforms
2	Type of provider	No standardised vocabulary?
0	Provided at	
2	Learning Opportunity Type	Suggested standard vocabulary to use: <a href="https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/learning-opportunity/25831c2">https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/learning-opportunity/25831c2</a>
3	Discipline / subject area	Generated by 'thematic area' e.g. 0512 Biochemistry Suggested standard vocabulary to use: <a href="https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/iscd-f/25831c2">https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/iscd-f/25831c2</a>
2	Language(s) of Instruction	<a href="http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/language">http://publications.europa.eu/resource/authority/language</a>
1	EQF Level	Level expressed in terms of EQF: level 1, level 2 etc <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/phot/eus/en/content/9descriptors-page">https://ec.europa.eu/phot/eus/en/content/9descriptors-page</a>
1	NQF Level	Where the opportunity is a qualification, its level as mapped to the providing institution's National Qualifications Framework. Suggested standard vocabulary to use: <a href="https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/qdr/25831c2">https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/qdr/25831c2</a>
2	Level (other)	Level expressed as 'beginner / intermediate / advanced' or similar
0	Keywords/tags	Free text (possibility of building up a dynamic list in order to harmonise?)

Weighting	Field	Remarks
	Banner Image	
3	Description of learning outcomes	Free text extracted from LOpp homepage.
0	More Information	Free text extracted from LOpp homepage.
0	Name of instructor(s)	Usually only provided for MOOCs
3	Learning Opportunity Homepage	The URL of the LOpp on the providing institutions website or a third party MOOC platform
2	Mode of Learning	Suggested standard vocabulary to use: <a href="https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/learning-assessment/25831c2">https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/learning-assessment/25831c2</a>
2	ECTS Credit Points	
2	Start Date	
2	Any start date	
0	End Date	
2	Duration	
1	Learning Schedule	Free text extracted from LOpp homepage. OR Suggested standard vocabulary to use: <a href="https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/learning-schedule/25831c2">https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/learning-schedule/25831c2</a>
2	Workload in Hours	
2	Admissions Procedure	Free text extracted from LOpp homepage.
3	Entry Requirements	Free text extracted from LOpp homepage.
2	Fees	Distinguish between fees for enrolment and for obtaining a credential/certificate
1	Activities	Free text extracted from LOpp homepage.
3	Assessments	Free text extracted from LOpp homepage.
3	Type of credential	Suggested standard vocabulary to use: <a href="https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/credential/25831c2">https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-vocabularies/concept-scheme/-/resource?uri=http://data.europa.eu/snb/credential/25831c2</a>
0	Providing institution's Homepage	URL of the institution providing the LOpp
0	Contact info	Email address, telephone number or link to contact form (needs different subfields, one for email format, one for tel format, one for URL)
NEW	Credential recognised by	Needs to link to O2 validated MCRAs or in free text where this information can be deduced from a MOOC or microcredentials description.
	Related Learning Opportunities	Generated by keywords?

# DHBW Heilbronn

## ECCOE Involvement

### Role

- Lead: Output 5 ECCOE System
- Contributions to Outputs 1-4

### Expertise

- Micro-Credentialing Concepts
- Accreditation/Quality Assurance
- Strategy and Implementation

### Benefits

- Inspiring Research Collaboration
- Concepts for Future Education
- Implementation at own Institution
- Follow-up Projects & Alliances



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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Jochen Ehrenreich  
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You can download this presentation at:  
<https://eccoe.eu/>



# SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ECCOE

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The increasing unbundling of higher education and the availability of short learning programmes and online MOOCs have undeniable advantages to today's lifelong learners. These more agile means of education are more suitable to address quickly emerging new skills and competencies demanded by the labour market. However, some issues – such as concerns about data protection and privacy or the lack of validation and recognition mechanisms of digital credentials – cause a serious bottleneck to progress. The ECCOE project aims to present a solution to many of these problems with the perspectives of learners, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and employers in mind in equal measure.

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