



Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH



RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES ON MICRO-CREDENTIALS: NEXT STEPS

Symposium of QUATRA – TPG A Working Groups

FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NQFs:

SELF-CERTIFICATION, SHORT-CYCLE HIGHER EDUCATION, MICRO-CREDENTIALS

17 September 2024

Riga, Latvia

- Ana Tecilazić
- Algebra University, Croatia



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SCOPE

APPROACH

SWOT

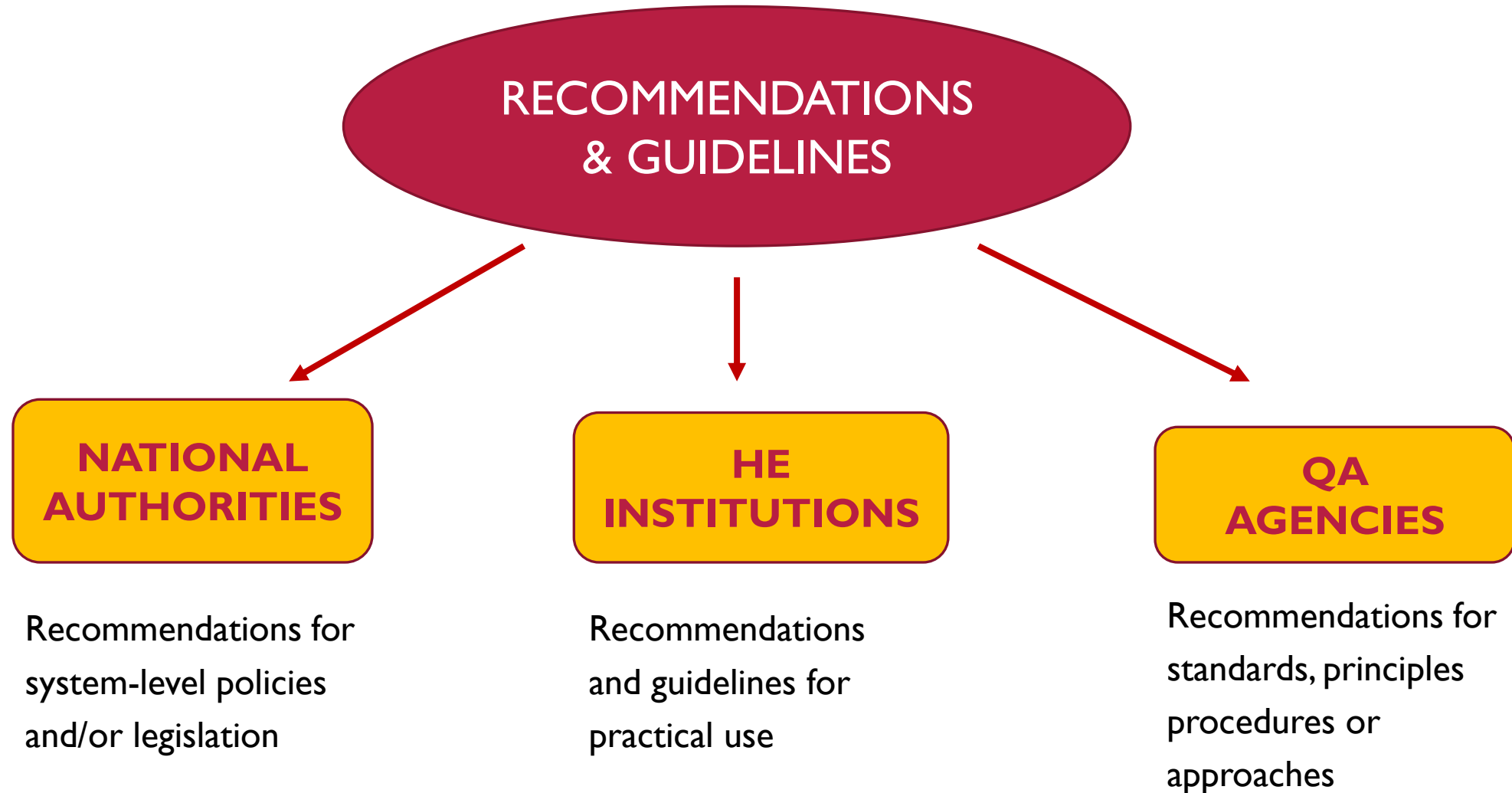
SURVEY

DESK RESEARCH

WG MEETINGS

- Transparency and credibility of micro-credentials
- The three Bologna Key Commitments: A Three-Cycle System compatible with the QF-EHEA, Compliance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention, Quality Assurance in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).
- **BALANCE** between introducing and applying standards and principles to developing micro-credentials while maintaining the flexibility necessary to preserve diversity

RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES ON MICRO-CREDENTIALS - TARGET GROUPS



IN SHORT

- Learning outcomes-based approach, appropriate level, workload described with credits, reliable assessment and assured quality;
- Including micro-credentials in NQFs by assigning the **LEVEL** in order to enhance employability and make academic recognition easier. However, although a level has been assigned to a micro-credential, the awarded certificate should not be confused with a full degree, i.e. BA, MA, PhD;
- Expressing the workload in **ECTS** credits that can be accumulated makes micro-credentials comparable, portable and transferable (The ECTS Users' Guide could be used when allocating ECTS credits to small units of learning);
- Transparency of achieved learning outcomes - (digital) **supplement** to micro-credentials;
- **Stackability** of micro-credentials - units of existing study programmes or as stand-alone units;
- Institutional frameworks should be established to **recognise prior learning** including credentials offered by alternative providers;
- Internal **QA systems** supported by the external QA that contain rules and procedures, criteria, and standards that apply to providers of small units of learning leading to micro-credentials.



NEXT STEPS ?

SYSTEM LEVEL

- More targeted and comprehensive regulation and guidelines on micro-credentials;
- Inclusion of MC in NQFs – referencing to the EQF and self-certification to the QF-EHEA;
- Reference to the EQF/NQF level in the certificates of micro-credentials - transparency, comparability and recognition;
- Clarity and consistency in quality assurance as regards micro-credentials;
- Recognition, portability and comparability of micro-credentials (developing public registers);
- Publish results of possible external quality assurance processes (thematic reviews);
- Involvement of stakeholders to support for micro-credentials;
- Continued support and investments by national authorities.

INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

- Use the potential of micro-credentials to meet specific skills and needs in the labour market;
- Apply learning outcomes-based approach with appropriate **level**, workload described with **credits**, reliable **assessment** and assured **quality**
- Develop micro-credentials so that they are stackable (units of existing study programmes or as stand-alone units)
- Establish institutional frameworks to recognise credentials offered by alternative providers using their arrangements for recognition of prior learning
- Develop internal QA systems containing rules and procedures, criteria
- Award (digital) supplements to micro-credential
- Increase international cooperation in the development and recognition of micro-credentials

RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES ON MICRO-CREDENTIALS

TPG A WORKING GROUP ON MICRO-CREDENTIALS.

Experts involved:

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- Gunta Kinta, QUATRA – TPG A Project Manager
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- Vusala Gurbanova (Azerbaijan)
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- Slaven Zjalić (Croatia)
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- Antonela Toma (Romania)
- Tiberiu Dobrescu (Romania)
- Sheila Dunn (UK, Scotland)



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The Micro-Credentials Masterclass is back!

Calling all visionaries to the podium. As learning practitioners and policymakers, **are we living up to the promise of micro-credentials?**

We are eager for your opinion on this, and kindly invite you to:

SAVE THE DATE!

18 – 20 MARCH 2025



Algebra University
Zagreb, Croatia

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

QUATRA – TPGA – Qualifications Frameworks for trust, transparency and diversity

THANK YOU

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