



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2022)5248 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning the proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability {COM(2021) 770 final}.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Camera Deputaților. Micro-credentials offer a flexible, targeted way to help people to develop the knowledge, skills and competences they need for their personal and professional development. The European approach to micro-credentials will support the quality, transparency and uptake of these learning experiences. It will strengthen the role of education and training institutions, employers, social partners and other providers of micro-credentials in making lifelong learning a reality across the EU, while fostering the diversity among learners.

The Commission's proposal aims to support Member States, public authorities and providers to develop and to put in place the necessary conditions to deliver on the potential of micro-credentials, in line with national circumstances and priorities. Member States will be invited to inform the Commission on the measures taken to support the objectives of the Recommendation.

Permanent dialogue between Member States and with stakeholders is key to ensure the uptake of high quality and transparent micro-credentials. The European Commission will support cooperation between Member States and stakeholders to facilitate the sharing of information and good practices and the exploration of the use of micro-credentials in a wide range of areas and cooperation projects.

There are several Union funds and instruments that can support the development and use of micro-credentials, including for specific categories of learners, such as learners from rural areas or disadvantaged groups of learners. This includes instruments such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU), the European Social Fund Plus, Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, the European Regional Development Fund, InvestEU,

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Horizon Europe, Interreg Europe, Digital Europe, the Just Transition Mechanism, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the Modernisation Fund. There is also the possibility to request tailor-made expertise through the Union's Technical Support Instrument.

The Erasmus+ programme already today promotes the experimentation of micro-credentials by higher education institutions. Many European Universities alliances are developing transnational offers of micro-credentials that can serve as testbeds and source of inspiration for others and contribute to building synergies between the European Education Area and the European Research Area. Their experiences are instrumental to inspire other Erasmus+ Cooperation projects that will be supported by the 2023 Erasmus+ work programme and open to all higher education institutions. The Commission will also explore how to adapt and develop EU tools for skills and qualifications to integrate micro-credentials into Vocational Education and Training systems.

The Commission will support the technical implementation of the Recommendation by exploring further developments in the Europass platform to support the portability, accumulation, interoperability, exchange and sharing of information on micro-credentials between countries and sectors. It will also support further research on the uptake of the European approach to micro-credentials, including on their use by education and training providers, employers and social partners, the specific outcomes and benefits for learners, their added value compared to and in complement to full degrees or qualifications, as well as further evidence on the factors that influence people's incentives and motivation to take up training.

The Commission's proposal aims to support learners, providers and national authorities to create an inclusive environment for micro-credentials in full respect of the diversity and flexibility of national contexts and circumstances. The European Commission is looking forward to working in close cooperation with Member States and stakeholders to support the implementation of this Council Recommendation.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaţilor and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel
Member of the Commission*