Date and time: Thursday, 8 September 2022, 14:00 – 15:00 (CET)

Format: Zoom webinar. Prior registration is required.
https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EjFsy4VQdyywMaGCmYaew

Target audience: Policy makers and higher education stakeholders
Languages: English/French, with simultaneous interpretation

Background

The use of micro-credentials has grown substantially in recent years, delivering short-term, skills-oriented, and often digital learning experiences. They can provide a flexible model for validating a variety of learning experiences, from more traditional ones, to volunteering and the workplace.

Ensuring the recognition of learning across institutions and countries is a priority for UNESCO, as emphasized by the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education and the regional recognition conventions.

As indicated in a recent UNESCO publication, Towards a common definition of micro-credentials, micro-credentials have the potential to boost equity by providing more accessible and affordable learning, contributing to SDG4 on quality education and lifelong learning.

Furthermore, micro-credentials can be an effective means through which higher education can connect to the world of work, providing specific, skills-oriented content that can facilitate smoother transitions of students into the workforce.
Despite an increased interest in micro-credentials in higher education, the concept is still in its development, and the full extent of their benefits and impact require further discussions. The recognition of micro-credits as a valid verification of learning achievements remains a challenge, partially due to the lack of a clear definition or understanding of what micro-credentials entail.

It is important to unpack the complexities of micro-credentials in order to have a more common understanding of them across a variety of stakeholders, from higher education institutions to policy makers to employers.

Quality assurance is a key challenge for micro-credentials that some higher education institutions are working on to ensure their recognition post-education. Furthermore, many employers are interested in working with universities on micro-credentials to support the upskilling of their employees.

**Objectives and Agenda**

This is the second round of Higher Education Conversations, now in the leadup to the entry into force of the Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education. This first conversation in the series aims to bring together policy makers and higher education stakeholders to advance the understanding and quality of micro-credentials in higher education in order to boost their impact and efficiency for all learners.

**Key questions to be examined:**
- How do micro-credentials fit into formal higher education systems?
- What are the opportunities and potential benefits of micro-credentials in universities?
- What are the primary challenges for developing relevant, useful and quality micro-credentials in higher education?
- How to assure the quality of micro-credentials, and how can they be recognized across borders?
- How can higher education institutions and employers work together on micro-credentials to ensure smoother transitions of students into the world of work?
- How can micro-credentials be utilized to promote lifelong learning?

**Thursday, 8 September 2022**

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<td>14:00 – 14:05</td>
<td>Opening: Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa, Director of the Division for Education 2030, UNESCO</td>
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| 14:05 – 14:25 | Discussion: Katerina Ananiadou, Programme Specialist, Section of Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, UNESCO  
Chiara Finocchietti, Deputy Director of CIMEA and Vice President of ENIC/NARIC  
Roger Y. Chao Jr., Assistant Director and Head of Education, Youth and Sports, ASEAN Secretariat  
Himanshu Mahajan, General Manager at Huawei’s Talent Partner Development Department |
| 14:25 – 14:55 | Question and Answer session |
| 14:55 – 15:00 | Wrap up |

For upcoming discussions, please visit: [https://en.unesco.org/news/higher-education-conversations](https://en.unesco.org/news/higher-education-conversations)