

HERE (TAM) SEMINAR

Flexibilization of learning and micro-credentials in higher education: Role of universities, policy makers, business sector

Faculty of Economics of University of Montenegro (Millennium Hall)

27-28 May 2025

Background information

The renewed EU agenda for HE adopted in May 2017 identifies four main goals out of which: tackling future skills mismatches and promoting excellence in skills development, building inclusive and connected HE systems, ensuring HEIs contribute to innovation, supporting effective and efficient HE systems.

Learning experiences leading to micro-credentials are designed to provide the learner with specific knowledge, skills and competences that respond to societal, personal, cultural or labour market needs. Besides, these “small” learning experiences should be considered as a way to improve LLL, and a tool that recognizes non-formal and informal education and a path by which individuals build their lifelong education pathways. The concept of using microcredentials has the potential to provide individuals with a better motivation for learning, greater diversity and interdisciplinarity in education, etc. in addition to narrow practical and market interests.

Micro-credential means the record of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a small volume of learning. These learning outcomes will have been assessed against transparent and clearly defined criteria. Montenegro has the lack of procedural system how to assess them if not in the same procedure as the formal education. There is an importance for our academic environment to understand and at the end to regulate how micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared and are portable, stand-alone or combined into larger credentials. We need a wide discussion about the fact that micro-credentials have to be followed up by quality assurance following agreed standards in the relevant sector or area of activity. The whole process needs to develop transparent, clear and easy to follow criteria. Universities in Montenegro clearly see the benefits from micro credentials as well as our labor market as a whole.

AGENDA

DAY 1: 27 May 2025	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 – 09:15	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vanja Drljević, Head of National Erasmus+ Office - prof. Mira Vukčević, HERE team president, University of Montenegro - Brigitte Kuchar, programme officer, Cooperation section of the EU Delegation to Montenegro (tbc)
09:15–10:15	Introduction to flexible learning pathways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bernold Hasenknopf, Senior Advisor for European Commitment – President's Office, Sorbonne Université <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What is flexible learning and who is it for?</i> ➤ <i>The difference between flexible learning and blended learning</i> ➤ <i>Problem context worldwide</i>
10:15–10:30	Coffe break
10:30 -12:30	Implementation of flexible learning and micro-credentials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bernold Hasenknopf, Senior Advisor for European Commitment – President's Office, Sorbonne Université <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Flexibility dimensions and their management</i> ➤ <i>Micro-credentials and flexible learning in Higher Education</i> ➤ <i>Short courses, micro-credentials and flexible learning</i> ➤ <i>Strategic positioning of micro-credentials, institutional approaches, structure required</i> ➤ <i>Process of delivering micro-credentials and their accreditation (practical steps)</i>
12:30–13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:30	Pannel discussion: Stakeholders roles in MC ecosystem: challenges and opportunities in Montenegro

	<p>Moderator: Mira Vukcević, HERE team president, University of Montenegro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Employers' perspective: skills needs, recognition of MCs Representative of Chamber of Economy of Montenegro Godana Bošković, Montenegrin Employers Federation ➤ Positioning of MCs in Montenegrin HE Prof. Sanja Peković, HERE member, Vice Rector of UoM Prof. Biljana Maslovarić, University of Montenegro Prof. Ivana Vukčević, University Mediterranean <p>Q&A with the audience</p>
15:30–15:45	<p>Key takeaways and conclusion of the first day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Dijana Vučković, HERE member, University of Montenegro
DAY 2: 28 May 2025	
09:00 – 10:30	<p>Facilitation of personalized educational paths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bernold Hasenknopf, Senior Advisor for European Commitment – President's Office, Sorbonne Université ➤ <i>Recognition of prior learning</i> ➤ <i>Academic support structures</i> ➤ <i>Learner ownership and flexibility</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffe break
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Pannel discussion: National contributions of policy makers and accreditation agency</p> <p>Moderator: prof. Sanja Peković, Vice Rector of University of Montenegro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview of the new higher education law Dragana Ćetković, General Director of Directorate for Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro ➤ Quality assurance of microcredentials Representative of the Agency for Contol and Quality Assurance of Higher Education (tbc)
12:30 – 12:45	<p>Q&A</p> <p>Moderated by: prof. Sanja Peković, HERE member, Vice Rector of University of Montenegro</p>
12:45 – 13:00	<p>Final conclusions: summary of key takeaways and closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prof. Sanja Peković, HERE member, Vice Rector of University of Montenegro