

European Quality Assurance  
Register for Higher Education

## **Quality assurance of micro-credentials and European databases (DEQAR)**

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XXII RUEPEP Meeting, University of Murcia, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024

# EQAR's Mission and Role

- EHEA's official register of quality assurance agencies that comply with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG): 56 agencies

- 10 Spanish QA agencies registered: ACCUA, ACCUEE, ACPUA, ACSUCYL, ANECA, ACSUG, AQU, AVAP, madri+d, Unibasq

- Non-profit and independent

- Acting in the public



# Overview of the current landscape of micro credentials

- **The number of micro credentials**, measured by number of courses at 6 main learning platforms, rose for more than 200% between 2018 and 2022 (OECD, 2023)
- Cedefop (2023) shows that **variety of actors** such as public organisations, companies and employment services, offer programmes at higher education level
- Employers surveyed (N=384) had a **stronger preference for micro credentials offered by accredited providers (62%)** and to the ones being offered as part of the national formal offer of education and training (48%) (Cedefop, 2023)

# Overview of the current landscape of policies related to micro credentials (OECD, 2023)

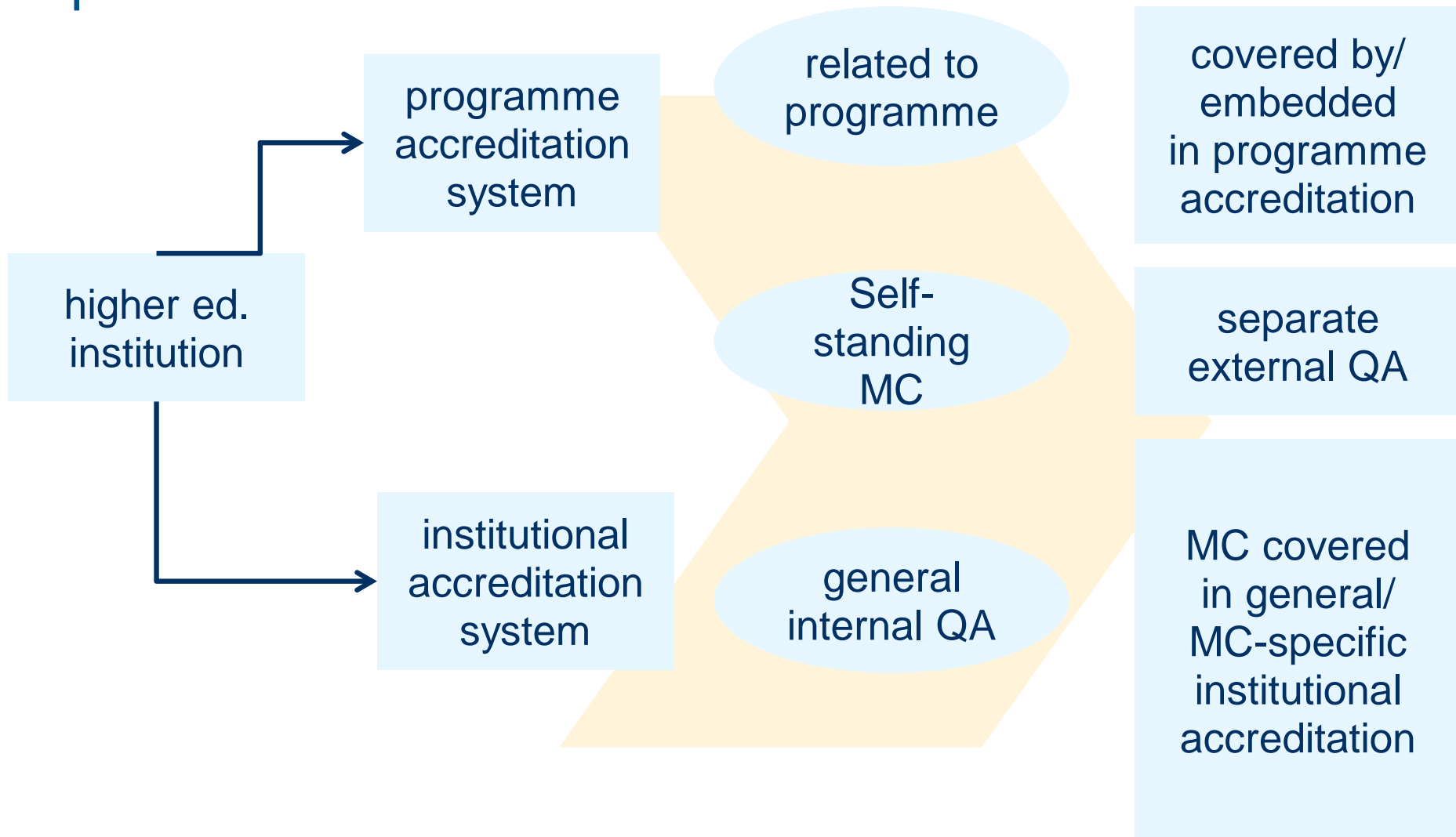
16 | No. 85 – Public policies for effective micro-credential learning

Table 2.1. Recent examples of the use of regulations and guidelines in shaping micro-credentials provision

	Country	Initiative and leading organisation	Launch year	Workload	Level	Inclusion in the National Qualifications Framework	Reference to industry and social relevance	Reference to stackability and portability	Providers that operate under the legislation / guideline
Public authorities have made legislative changes	Hungary	"Amendments made to the Adult Education Act No. LXXVII of 2013" by the Parliament	2022	Not specified	Not specified	No	No	No	All types of providers in the higher education, vocational education and training and adult education sectors (including alternative providers)
	Spain	"Royal Decree 822/2021" set by the Ministry of Universities	2021	Less than 15 ECTS	Not specified (but university education is given at ISCED level 6-8)	No	Partially yes (but it applies to all programmes offered by universities, including degrees)	No	Universities
Public authorities have supported stakeholders' collaborative efforts to standardise designs	Austria	Recommendation made by the national Bologna Follow-Up Group	2023	3-15 ECTS	Not specified (but higher education is given at ISCED level 6-8)	No	Yes	Yes, through academic recognition	Higher education institutions
	Ireland	"MicroCreds" initiative led by the Irish Universities Association	2020	1-30 ECTS	National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) level 6-9 (equivalent to ISCED level 5-7)	No	Yes	Yes, but optional	Seven public universities
	Netherlands	"Microcredentials Pilot" run as part of the Acceleration Plan	2021	3-30 ECTS	Not specified (but higher education is given at ISCED level 5-8)	No	No	No	32 higher education institutions



# Quality assurance of micro-credentials: Scenarios in practice



# The ESG and micro - credentials

- 1. Design of programmes and Relevance**  
(for the learners, the labour market and the HEI) (ESG 1.2)
- 2. Clear communication about the learning outcomes, workload and assessment** (ESG 1.2; ESG 1.3; ESG 1.8)
- 3. Consider flexible learning paths and modes** (ESG 1.3)

## The ESG and micro - credentials

4. Establish and use tools for monitoring progress and post completion; establish key performance indicators, profiles of student population, success, obstacles and career pathways (ESG 1.4; ESG 1.7)

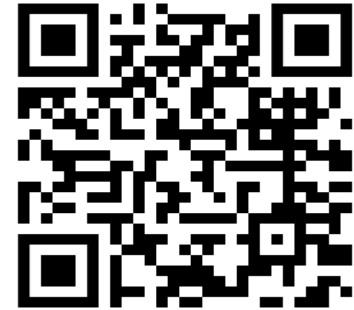
5. Periodic review of the successes of the programme (and change if needed) (ESG 1.9)

6. Adequate resources to assist learning (ESG 1.1)

# DEQAR:

“quality at your fingertips”

<https://www.deqar.eu/>



- Created in 2018
- Enhance trust and transparency in the EHEA and responds to needs of different stakeholders
- Easy access to external quality assurance (QA) reports (i.e. **accreditations and evaluations**) and decisions by EQAR-registered agencies (**ONLY higher education**)
- Accreditations and evaluations uploaded by EQAR registered QA agencies (ES: ACCUA, ACCUEE, ACPUA, ACSUCYL, ANECA, ACSUG, AQU, AVAP,



# DEQAR Key Figures

	April 2024
<b>Reports</b>	<b>99 289</b>
<b>HE Institutions</b> (at least 1 report)	<b>4018</b>
<b>Higher Education Systems</b> (≥ 50% of HEIs)	<b>24</b>
<b>Agencies</b>	<b>56</b>

# Spanish HEIs in DEQAR



	April 2024
<b>Reports</b>	<b>13 769</b> <b>(2<sup>nd</sup> highest after DE)</b>
<b>HE Institutions</b> (at least 1 report)	<b>810</b>
<b>Agencies (ES)</b>	<b>20</b>

# Information in DEQAR

Accreditations and evaluations of (programme level):

- a) Full degree programmes → Full (nationally) recognised d**
- b) Micro-credentials and other → Not leading to a full (natio**

## Definition of a micro-credential in DEQAR

A study provision:

a) Consisted by a workload expressed in ECTS in the range of 1 and 59 ECTS credits

b) Related to EQF/ISCED level (5), 6, 7 or 8 OR QF EHEA level short, first, second, third cycle

c) Does not lead to a full (recognised) degree

# DEQAR in practice



eqar.eu > Database > Search > By report

Database ▼

Sort by Upload date ▼ 1 - 20 of 94847 reports Results per page 10 20 50 100

Refine your search ▼

Search term

Provider name, city, coun

Provider type

- Only higher education institution(s) (94788)
- Other provider(s) covered (59)

Report type ▼

Programme type ▼

Report language ▼

Decision ▼

ESG activity ▼

Status ▼

Cross-border review ▼

Report date - valid to / Uploaded / Changed

Agency / Type

Education provider / Programme

Country

30/04/2024 uploaded 29/02/2024 changed 29/02/2024 ▶

ACCREDITATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

an College

21/07/2023 - 31/07/2027 uploaded 29/02/2024 changed 29/02/2024 ▶

BAC ACCREDITATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

SBS Swiss Business School

Switzerland

29/11/2023 - 29/11/2028 uploaded 29/02/2024 changed 29/02/2024 ▶

ARACIS PROGRAMME AUTHORIZATION/ACCREDITATION (FIRST CYCLE, SECOND CYCLE)

West University of Timișoara - Marketing (first cycle degree)

Romania

29/11/2023 - 29/11/2028 uploaded 29/02/2024 changed 29/02/2024 ▶

ARACIS PROGRAMME AUTHORIZATION/ACCREDITATION (FIRST CYCLE, SECOND CYCLE)

West University of Timișoara - Physics (first cycle degree)

# Symbols

## Higher education institution

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Aachen University

RWTH Aachen

Aachen (Germany)

## Alternative provider

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Almaty Bible College

Almaty (Kazakhstan)


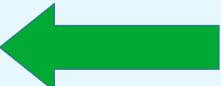
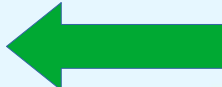

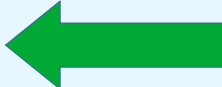
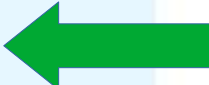
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# Certification of a micro credential

## 3D modeling software - CAD 1

Educational Centre "Zerde" Limited Liability Partnership

### A3ES: Programme accreditation

Programme	3D modeling software - CAD 1
Qualification	
Level 	first cycle 
Programme type	Micro-credential
Workload (in ECTS credits)	15 
Assessment and certification	Assessment based certificate 
Learning outcomes	<u>use CAD software</u> 
Field of study	<u>engineering, manufacturing and construction</u> 

# Connected with European Commission's ESCO API

## Learning outcomes

drawing

tend drawing kiln - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

cold drawing processes - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

technical drawings - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

tend bar drawing machine - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

create AutoCAD drawings - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

metal drawing processes - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

use artistic materials for drawing - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

drawing kiln operator - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

## Field of study (ISCED-F)



accounting and taxation - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>,

agriculture - <http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/081>

agriculture not elsewhere classified - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

agriculture not further defined - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary not elsewhere classified - <http://data.europa.eu/esco>

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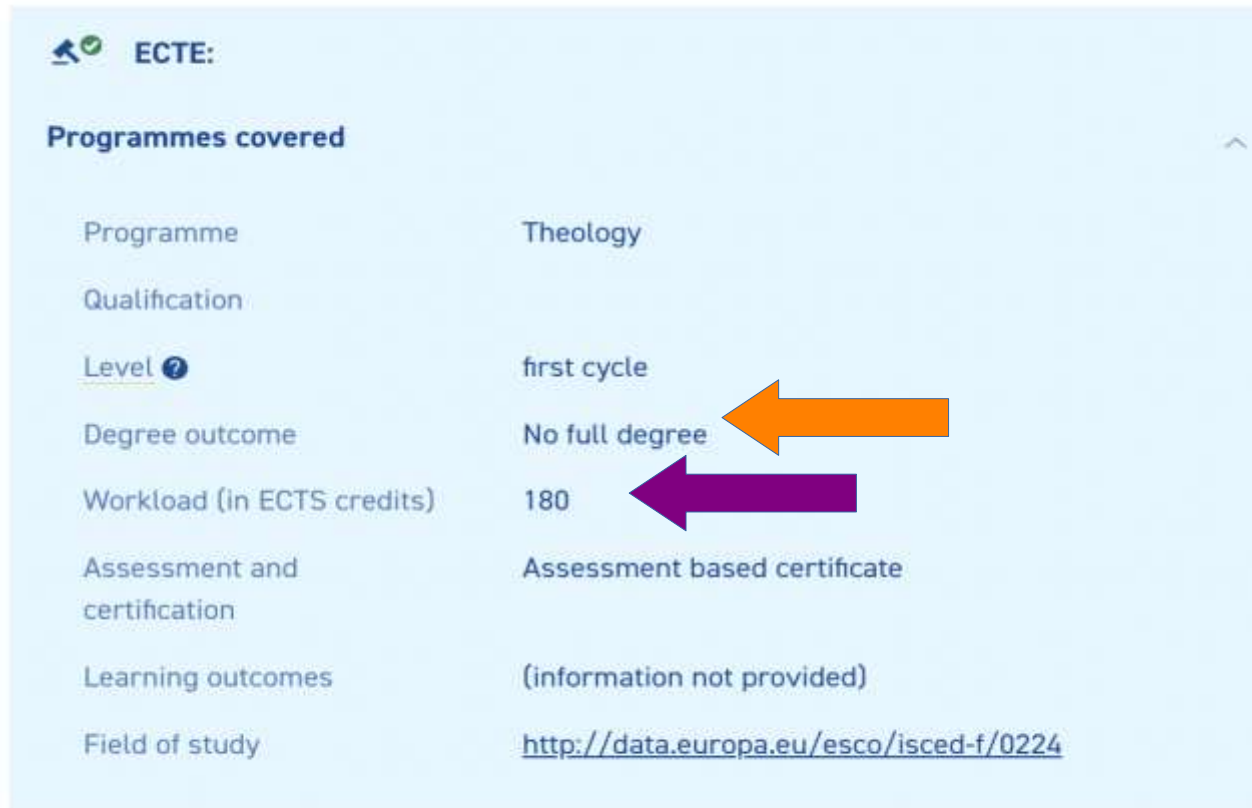
# Main observations process

1. The micro-credentials usually bore up to 30 ECTS.

But there are other various combinations between the

no. of  
degrees

ECTE:	
Programmes covered	
Programme	Theology
Qualification	
Level ?	first cycle
Degree outcome	No full degree
Workload (in ECTS credits)	180
Assessment and certification	Assessment based certificate
Learning outcomes	(information not provided)
Field of study	<a href="http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/0224">http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/0224</a>



The screenshot shows a table with two columns: a label column on the left and a value column on the right. The table is titled 'ECTE:' and 'Programmes covered'. The rows are: Programme (Theology), Qualification (empty), Level ? (first cycle), Degree outcome (No full degree), Workload (in ECTS credits) (180), Assessment and certification (Assessment based certificate), Learning outcomes ((information not provided)), and Field of study (<http://data.europa.eu/esco/isced-f/0224>). Two arrows point to the 'No full degree' and '180' rows: an orange arrow points to 'No full degree' and a purple arrow points to '180'.

## Main observations

2. **Micro-credentials can be tied to a QF level (reference - entry qualification)**
3. **The use of terminology "diploma", "bachelor", "master" is not always protected via national legislation (hence providers can utilise it for own purposes)**
4. **While different QA approaches exist, the majority of evaluations were through**

**Thank you**

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# Information on alternative providers

**Database**

Search

- **By provider**
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Get data

Terms and Conditions

Frequent questions

eqar.eu > Database > Search > By provider > Cornerstone Centre for Intercultural Studies

## Cornerstone Centre for Intercultural Studies

### Basic information

Identifiers

DEQARINST8154 NL-KVK: 56495439 ⓘ



Provider type

other provider

Type of organisation

non governmental organisation



Legal seat(s)

Beugen, Netherlands



Website

<https://www.cornerstonecollege.eu/>

Founding year

1947



QF-EHEA levels

short cycle



Data source



(Name of agency to be presented)

Permalink

<https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-institution/institution/?id=8154>

# Certification of alternative providers

Search

- By organisation/provider
- By report**

Get data

Terms and Conditions

Frequent questions

## Limited Liability Partnership "Training and Clinical Center "Dentistry"

### IAAR: Institutional Accreditation of the Organisation of Continuing Education

DEQAR Report ID 	93960
Agency	<a href="#">Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)</a>
Type	Institutional Accreditation of the Organisation of Continuing Education
Status 	voluntary
Formal decision 	positive
Date	30/06/2023
Valid until	29/06/2028

Report and decision

 [Decision \(Russian\)](#)

 [Review Report \(Russian\)](#)

Permalink

<https://www.testzone.eqar.eu/qa-results/search/by-report/report/?id=93960>

Institution page

[Limited Liability Partnership "Training and Clinical Center "Dentistry"](#)

External link

[View record on agency's website](#)