



E-learning Course

Module 6: QA and Continuous Improvement

Part 6.1 Introduction to QA and Continuous Improvement



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Introduction

Duration: app. 40 minutes



QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT FOR MICROCREDENTIALS

Focus:

- Core concepts, definitions
- Relevance of QA in the Microcredential Landscape



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Microcredentials are different from traditional qualifications

- Short, focused learning offerings
- Typically modular and skills-based
- Designed for flexibility and stackability
- Complement or stand alone from traditional degrees



6.1.1 Recall: What are Microcredentials?





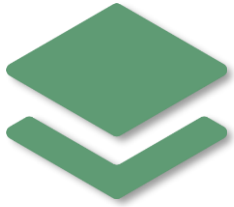
QA acts as the trust engine of the microcredential ecosystem—vital for credibility and mobility

- Builds trust among learners, employers, and institutions
- Ensures consistency and transparency in learning outcomes
- Supports recognition and portability across borders



6.1.1 Why QA Matters for Microcredentials?





QA is not a one-time event but a continuous, systematic approach to educational quality.

- Systematic process to ensure educational quality
- Key principles: transparency, accountability, stakeholder involvement, continuous feedback



6.1.1 What is QA?





6.1.1: Microcredentials and QA – Key Challenges

Microcredentials come in many shapes and forms.

Without a shared framework, their value can be inconsistent.

- Fragmentation in standards
- Diverse providers and formats
- Lack of common recognition mechanisms



6.1.2 What is Continuous Improvement?



Continuous improvement makes QA dynamic, responsive, and sustainable.

Key features of CI

- Ongoing process of feedback, evaluation, and refinement
- Uses data to improve content, delivery, and outcomes
- Supports adaptability in fast-changing environments



6.1.2 Mechanisms for Continuous Improvement



Common CI Mechanisms:

- Learner feedback loops
- Peer and external reviews
- Regular updates to course design and outcomes
- Integration of labour market and stakeholder input

Effective QA relies on real-time and retrospective inputs from multiple sources.





The future of QA in microcredentials is collaborative, data-driven, and borderless

- Increased integration of microcredentials in national frameworks
- Development of cross-border QA collaborations
- Use of digital tools and data analytics in QA



6.1.3 Future Trends and Outlook





Quality and improvement are inseparable foundations of a healthy microcredential system

- QA ensures the value and recognition of microcredentials
- Continuous improvement is essential for relevance and sustainable
- Both are critical for learner trust and systemic integration



6.1.3 Key Takeaways





Take a moment to reflect



Think about your own institution or context:

How are quality and improvement currently addressed in short learning programs?

Where might there be opportunities for enhancing QA in your own context?



6.1.3 Reflective Prompt



Additional Resources

Part	Title	Type	Duration	Link	Description
All parts	Module 6. Part 6.1: Introduction to QA and Continuous Improvement	Training Material, Reading	15 min.	Block.ed Course Platform	Block.Ed study text, accompanying material for the slide presentation
6.1.1	QUALITY ASSURANCE IN EDUCATION: definition, methods, challenges	Video	15 min.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3-zM1Y0jI&t=32s	Provides a general introduction and overview about the concept of quality education, its definition, methods, challenges and nuances
6.1.1	Quality of Micro-credentials in Europe	Video	1 min.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wgj5Hly79ZE	Short Introduction to key aspects of QA in connection with MCs
6.1.2	Continuous Improvement Explained	Whiteboard Animation	5 min.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_nA_TiUfmbM	Introduction to the concept of Continuous Improvement



This was the introductory presentation to part 6.1. To explore its content in greater depth move now on to the additional resources.



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