

Trust, Recognition and Portability of Microcredentials in Adult Learning

Final Conference of the Project Block.Ed

(Empowering Adult Learners through Microcredential Blockchain Integration)

Date: 15 September 2026

Venue: German Institute for Adult Education - Leibniz Centre for Lifelong Learning (DIE), Building A6, Room EG 05, Heinemannstraße 12-14, 53175 Bonn, Germany

Registration for On-Site Participation: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trust-recognition-and-portability-of-microcredentials-in-adult-learning-tickets-1991765536336?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true

Registration for & Access to Online-Participation: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/QNr-VpiqQoOeFckkLCluSg>

PROGRAMME

- 10:30 – 11:00 **Arrival, Registration & Networking Coffee**
Building connections before building ecosystems
- 11:00 – 11:20 **Welcome & Strategic Framing**
Flexible learning needs trustworthy recognition
Welcome remarks from the hosting institution DIE and the Block.Ed project coordinator ASTRA
- 11:20 – 11:50 **Keynote: The Future of Trustworthy Microcredentials: From Pilots to Global Ecosystems**
Microcredentials only matter if they are trusted
Speaker: Oonagh McGirr, Chair of World Alliance for Microcredentials (WAM)
- 11:50 – 12:45 **Block.Ed Results Showcase: “From Framework to Practice”. Practical implementation, lessons learned and real-life application of the Block.Ed Results.**
Innovation becomes meaningful when it works in practice
Moderated by Carlo Cavicchioli, AZULchain, Italy
Speakers: Block.Ed Project Partners
- 12:45 – 13:30 **European Spotlight: Connecting the Ecosystem**
No single project can build the ecosystem alone
Expert lightning talks and discussion
Moderated by Nefeli Dimopoulou, IDEC, Greece
- Oonagh McGirr, WAM
 - Gunnar Binda, VET Team, National Agency at the Federal Institute for Vocational education (BIBB), Germany
 - Matteo Demasi, SAPIO, Switzerland
- 13:30 – 14:15 **Networking Lunch**
Partnerships grow through dialogue

14:15 – 15:15 **Expert Dialogue & Co-Creation. Parallel Expert Roundtables**

Roundtable A: Validation, Quality Assurance & Recognition

Quality is the foundation of trust

Moderated by Susanne Lattke, DIE, Germany

- Johanna Jankowski, Community Adult Education Center (VHS), Cham, Germany
- Rebekka Welker, FIBAA - Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation, Germany
- Andreas Gyr, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
- Helen Buchs, Swiss Federation of Adult Learning (SVEB), Switzerland

Roundtable B: Interoperability & European Frameworks

Microcredentials must speak a common language

Moderated by Oonagh McGirr, WAM

- Anne Strauch / Martin Christian, DIE, Germany
- Barbara Kollarova, ASTRA, Slovakia
- Franziska Schmid, myCelia gGmbH, Germany

15:15 – 15:40 **Official Launch of the Block.Ed White Paper: *Microcredentials in Adult Education: From Design to Verification***

Key messages and implications for policy and practice

15:40 – 16:30 **High-Level Stakeholder Panel: *What is Still Missing for Trusted European Microcredentials?***

The future of microcredentials depends on collaboration

Moderated by Giuseppe Ursino, HT, Italy

- Oonagh McGirr, World Alliance of Microcredentials
- Helen Buchs, Swiss Federation of Adult Learning (SVEB), Switzerland
- Saniye Al-Baghdadi, Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Frankfurt, Germany
- Viola Pinzi, European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA)

16:30: **Closing & Community Invitation**

Block.Ed is not the end of the conversation!

How can Europe build trustworthy, portable and recognised microcredentials for adult learning? - Be part of the conversation!

Microcredentials are becoming a key instrument for flexible learning, employability and lifelong learning. Their full potential, however, depends on trust, recognition and portability across borders and learning systems.

The conference offers a platform for experts, practitioners and organisations to share perspectives, contribute to the debate and shape the next generation of European microcredential ecosystems.