



E-learning Course

Microcredential Validation

4.3 Microcredential Verification



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Introduction

Module 4 is focused on the process of validating microcredentials. Materials delve into the significance of verifying the quality of microcredentials, the specifics of the process as well as the various different roles involved in it. The module will also go beyond theory and analyse the practical aspect of microcredential validation, putting learners in the position to replicate the process if necessary.

This is the third Unit of the Module:
4.3 Microcredential Validation



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Microcredential Verification

What is Microcredential Verification?

Microcredential Verification is an essential process that takes place when someone is presented with a microcredential and its validity needs to be verified. It is an essential part of recognising the value of a microcredential. The verification process has two main goals:

Microcredential Credibility

Assessing the credibility of the microcredential: checking the identity of the learner, the issuer, the developed skills and other essential values.

Validity of Duration

Since many certifications are only valid for a specific time frame after being issued and then require a repeat, microcredentials can also fall under this category. Employers, institutions and clients must be able to ensure that the microcredential remains within this active period.



Verifier Role

A Verifier is a person aiming to check the validity of an issued microcredential. The verifier is usually the viewer of the microcredential, so they can be a potential employer, staff from educational institutions, a client, etc.

Verifier Responsibilities

The Verifier has to check:

- Whether the microcredential contains all essential information such as:
 - Learner ID
 - Title
 - Location
 - Awarding body
 - Date
 - Learning outcomes
 - Workload
 - Level
 - Assessment details
 - Participation manner
 - QA details

Verifier Role and Responsibilities



- Whether the microcredential is currently active.
- Whether the learner ID matches the person presenting the microcredential.
- Whether the microcredential adheres to a specific metadata format such as Europass or Open Badge.

Microcredential Validation General Process

Presentation

The learner presents their microcredential to an employer, institution, or other stakeholder.

Role Determination

The stakeholder can act as the verifier directly, or outsource this role.

Data Validation

The verifier thoroughly checks whether the microcredential complies with regulations and contains all necessary information.

Identity Check

The verifier confirms the identity of the microcredential holder matches the identity of the learner presenting the microcredential.

Duration Validation

The verifier confirms the microcredential is within its determined time frame of validity.

Validating an EDC Microcredential

Use Case Example

Presentation

The learner creates a custom link from the EDC Viewer to share the microcredential with a potential employer.

e.g. <https://europa.eu/europass/digital-credentials/viewer/#/diploma-details>

Role Determination

The employer decides to act as the verifier directly. The link leads to a view of the microcredential.

Data Validation

The verifier checks the summary that includes learner name, credential title, and all other essential information, including but not limited to:

- Credential Title
- Details of Learning Achievements
- Assessments
- Learning Outcomes
- Issuer

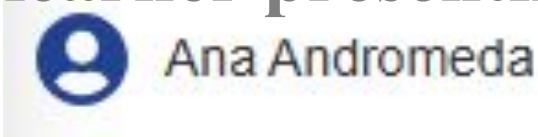
	Issuer	
	Digital micro-credential creation	
	EDC building training course	
	Digital artefact assessment	

Validating an EDC Microcredential

Use Case Example

Identity Check

The employer confirms the identity of the microcredential holder matches the identity of the learner presenting the microcredential.



Duration Validation

The employer confirms the microcredential is within its determined time frame of validity.

Micro-Credential

Issuing date: 28/05/2024 Valid from: 01/01/2024

This credential link will expire: 31/12/2026 23:59

Verification Checks

The employer checks that the automated verification checks have been passed.

Authentication and Verification Checks

- ✓ **FORMAT**
This credential is technically valid.
- ✓ **SEAL**
The credential is Sealed by TEST SEAL. This credential has not been tampered with since issue.
- **REVOCATION**
Function under development. Contact the awarding body for information about this credential's revocation status.
- **ACCREDITATION**
Accreditation does not apply to this Credential
- ✓ **VALIDITY**
The credential is still valid.
- 🏆 **VERIFIED**

Additional Resources

Part	Title	Type	Duration	Link	Description
4.3	How to Validate Your Micro-credential	Video	2 mins	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVArgVPgBM0	A short video showing how to use an Open Badge Validator for microcredential validation.
4.3	Micro-Credential	Micro-credential Example	5 mins	https://europa.eu/europass/digital-credentials/viewer/#/diploma-details	An example EDC microcredential as it can be seen by the viewer.
4.3	A EUROPEAN APPROACH TO MICRO-CREDENTIALS	Brochure	15 mins	https://education.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-01/micro-credentials%20brochure%20updated.pdf	A brochure explaining the requirements a microcredential should fulfill to pass verification, according to the EU approach.

References

Guidelines to Good Practices: Quality Verification of Stand-Alone Micro-Credentials, Malaysian Qualifications Agency https://www2.mqa.gov.my/qad/v2/2023/GGP%20QV%20for%20Standalone%20MC%202023.pdf
GUIDE TO DESIGN, ISSUE AND RECOGNISE MICRO-CREDENTIALS, ETF https://www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-05/Micro-Credential%20Guidelines%20Final%20Delivery.pdf
Guide to completing QQI Programme1 Validation Descriptor – Higher Education Microcredentials , Quality and Qualifications Ireland https://www.qqi.ie/sites/default/files/2024-04/het-microcredentials-guidance-document-april-2024_0.pdf
How to issue European Digital Credentials for Learning https://europass.europa.eu/en/how-issue-european-digital-credentials-learning
European Digital Credentials for Learning https://europass.europa.eu/el/ergaleia-europass/european-digital-credentials-learning
Questions and Answers from the Webinar on Micro-credentials and European Digital Credentials for Learning https://europass.europa.eu/system/files/2024-05/Q%26A%20micro-credentials%20webinar.pdf



You have completed the theoretical part of Unit 3 Module 4



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