4.2 Micro-Credentials

The Micro-Credentials

Micro credentials are short, focused qualifications that certify specific learning outcomes and skills axquired through brief training or courses.

Characteristics:

- **Short-term learning** - Completed in hours, days, or weeks rather than years.
- **Competency-based** - Focused on a single, well-defined skill set or subject (e.g., data analysis or project management).
- **Verifiable proof** - Delivered via secure digital badges or certificates containing metadata about what was learned.

Key benefits:

- **Flexibility** - Allows fast upskilling or retraining without long-term financial commitments.
- **Employability** - Provides employers with transparent, easily verifiable proof of practical competencies.
- **Stackability** - Can often be combined or "stacked" over time to count towards larger qualifications or degrees

The Micro-Credentials & Certification Architecture

The certification strategy in DUAL.AI.TEACHer establishes a formal, European-wide mechanism for validating teachers' AI competencies.

Dual Certification Pathways:

1. **Pathway A - AI-Enhanced Pedagogy:** Validates competence in using AI tools for lesson design, adaptive instruction, automated assessment, and workflow optimisation.
2. **Pathway B - AI Literacy & Civic Education:** Validates competence in teaching students computational thinking, algorithmic bias, data privacy, and ethical AI citizenship.

Structural Framework & Alignment:

- **Managing Body:** Led by ICEP (Institute of European Certification of Personnel), an accredited SNAS / ISO 17024 certificaton and qualification body.
- **Standards Alignment:** Mapped to DigCompEdu (for digital teaching competence), EntreComp (for innovation), Universal Design for Learning (UDL), ESCO, EQF, and EUROPASS Digital Credentials guidelines.
- **Target Audience:** Reaches 400+ pre-service and in-service educators during the project lifetime.

Technical Architecture & Credentialing Process:

- **Digital Badges:** Module completion on the WP3 MOOC automatically issues open digital badges for individual micro-competences (e.g., *Ethical AI Use*, *Prompt Engineering*, *Adaptive Assessment*). These can be easily shared on professional networks like LinkedIn, providing verifiable proof of skills.
- **Secure Assessment & Validation:** Candidates complete a standardised, remotely monitored digital examination (30 multiple-choice questions) hosted on ICEP's digital secured platform (`competenceinstitute.com`). Candidates receive up to two exam attempts. The online certification will be offer at the end of the whole course as a assessment tool to verify all knowledge and skills they have learned and improved throughout the whole course consists of all learning modules/chapters/paths, and then verify them through a international certification examination.
- **Portable EU Certification:** Successful completion grants formal digital certificates and micro-credentials valid for **5 years** across the EU. Credentials can be exported directly to EUROPASS profile portfolios and LinkedIn.

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