4.2 Micro-Credentials

The Micro-Credentials

Micro credentials are short, focused qualifications that certify specific learning outcomes and skills acquired 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 certification 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 offered at the end of the whole course as an 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 an 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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