

1<sup>st</sup> Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1)  
in Bucharest, Romania on 18-19 November 2025



Asia-Europe Meeting

ASEM Education

## Workshop B Lifelong Learning with a focus on Micro-credentials (European and Asian experiences)

Moderator: **Prof. Séamus Ó Tuama**, Director of ACE (Centre for Adult Continuing Education) at the University College Cork, Ireland, and Chair of the ASEM LLL Hub (Ireland 2020-2025)

Speakers:

- ▀ **Nguyen Thao Huong**, Principal Official, Higher Education Department at the Ministry of Education and Training, Viet Nam
- ▀ **Prof. Ts. Dr. M. Iqbal Bin Saripan**, Deputy CEO (Quality Assurance), Malaysian Qualifications Agency

Rapporteur: **Prof. Séamus Ó Tuama**, Outgoing ASEM LLL Hub Chair

A modern office interior with large windows on the left, showing a city skyline. The office has desks, chairs, and a wooden wall on the right. A large pink rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing the title text. In the bottom left corner, there are three small squares: a white one, a black one, and a pink one. In the bottom right corner, there are three black squares arranged in a small cluster.

# **Ireland: MicroCreds Project Overview**

**SOM1 – Bucharest  
November 2025**

## MicroCreds@UCC

The IUA received €12.3M of Government funding

The project links all seven IUA Universities to deliver nationally and internationally recognised micro-credentials.

The National Framework has been agreed by the IUA Registrar's Group

In addition to the nation framework the project has a national portal for micro-credentials [MicroCreds.ie](https://MicroCreds.ie)

# MicroCreds @UCC



# UCC

University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

# MICRO CREDS

## What is a MicroCred ?

A proof of learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience.

Levels 6- 9 on National Framework of Qualifications.

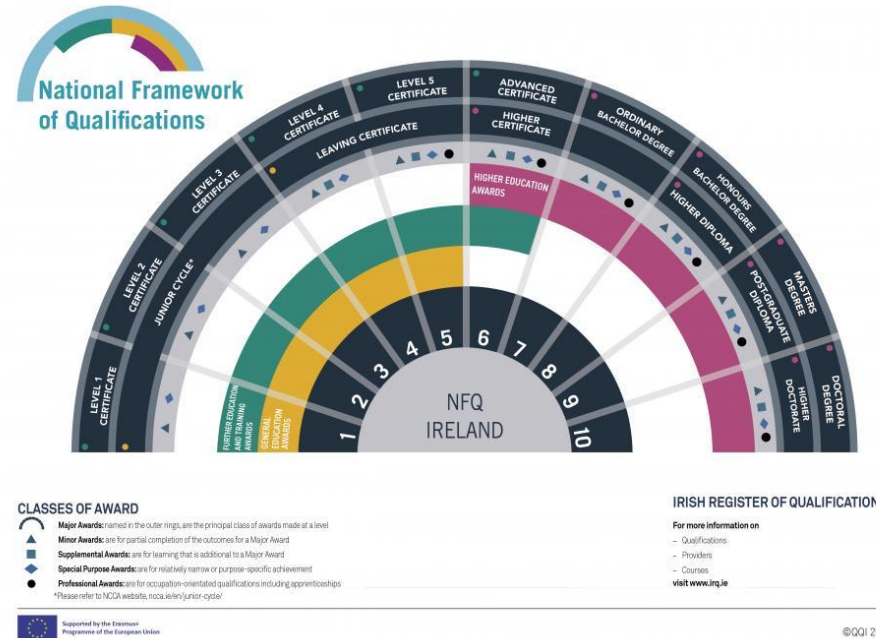
Credit range of 1-30 ECTS which are stackable and portable .

## Quality Assurance

Every MicroCred receives the same academic scrutiny as any other item on the Academic Programme Catalogue

External examiners, exam boards learner feedback, employer input all ensure quality.

# Overview



## National Framework of Qualifications



## **Nationally**

Learners Impacted  
20,279

Courses Created  
491

## **UCC**

Learners Impacted  
4,292

Courses Created  
120

Returner Year on Year  
40%

> 1 Course per year

33%

Employers fund 67% of all course  
fees



**Tradition and Innovation together**



**UCC**

University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

**MICRO  
CREDS**

# **Project Achievements**



**BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO**  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

# LIFELONG LEARNING AND MICRO- CREDENTIALS IN VIETNAM

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NGUYEN THAO HUONG

HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER 2025

# STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENTATION

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Data of lifelong learning in Vietnam



Forms of lifelong learning in Vietnam



Introduction of a new project on developing the micro-credential in Vietnam



Lifelong learning in Vietnam: challenges and which ways to go

# DATA OF LIFELONG LEARNING OF VIETNAM

Data	Number
Total number of establishments deliver a continuing education program	11.087
Total number of learners following a continuing program	524.692
Women	12.178
Ethnic minorities	1.137
Officer	12.493
UNESCO Global network of learning cities (GNLC) in Vietnam	5 (Ho Chi Minh city, Son La, Hai Duong, Sa Dec, Cao Lanh, Vinh) (in the worl there are only 64 cities got this label)



# LIFELONG LEARNING FORMS IN VIETNAM

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Open and distance learning ‘focusing on opening access to education and training provision, freeing learners from the constraints of time and place, and offering flexible learning opportunities to individuals and groups of learners’



In 1990s Viet Nam government established two universities - Hanoi Open University and the Open University of Ho Chi Minh City in order to transform Viet Nam into a learning society providing Vietnamese learners opportunities to learn continuously throughout their lives anytime, anywhere and at any level.



These universities supply multiple choices via distance, conventional (face-to-face) and blended learning for both undergraduate and graduate levels with a wide range of academic and vocational fields. Currently, twenty-one providers of open and distance learning in Viet Nam have been running online and blended courses in natural sciences, social sciences, business, engineering, education and other disciplines

# LIFELONG LEARNING FORMS IN VIETNAM

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On November 9, 2023, the Prime Minister issued Decision 1315/QĐ-TTg on the Plan to implement the Movement “The whole country emulates building a learning society, promoting lifelong learning in the period 2023 - 2030”

Universities have the right to offer 30% of total teaching program in to the distance learning form

There are about 176 programs offered in distance mode: e-learning, online learning, distance learning but only for bachelor degree

# ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING EDUCATION

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- Established in 1996
- Structured by categories from central level/government level to commune level, even to family. Each level has its own office and activities.
- To December 2005, 100% communes have the presence of The Association
- Mission: to promote and encourage people to learn and study (by scholarship, awarding, appreciation....), to give awareness to people about the importance of studying, especially disadvantaged and vulnerable group or minority group.
- Activities:

# MICRO4ASIA PROJECT

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A Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) project funded by the Erasmus+ programme.

Aims to support universities in Vietnam in strengthening their internationalisation strategies through the design, implementation, and mutual recognition of micro-credentials.

Brings together partners from Europe and Southeast Asia to promote flexible learning pathways, increase student and staff mobility, and foster cooperation between academia and the labor market.



## **PARTNERS OF THE MICRO4ASIA PROJECT**

- Masaryk University (MUNI)
- University of Dubrovnik (UNIDU)
- University of Siena (UNISI)
- Institut de Haute Formation aux Politiques Communautaires (IHF)
- University of Economics of Ho Chi Min City (UEH)
- **Banking University of Ho Chi Min City (BUH)**
- **National Economics University of Hanoi (NEU)**
- National University of Laos (NUOL)
- Laos Banking Institute of Laos (BIBOL)
- Champassak University (CU)

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## MICRO4ASIA

To support the adoption of micro-credentials as tools for internationalisation and lifelong learning.

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To develop 36 micro-credentials in fields relevant to the labour market needs.

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To foster institutional cooperation and mutual recognition frameworks for micro-credentials.

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To build capacity in curriculum development and digital delivery.

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To enhance the role of higher education institutions in promoting employability and skills development.

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**Situation:** Micro-credentials are still very new in Vietnam, not yet appeared in any regulation. Some big universities start to make researches due to demand of the industries/labor market.

**Challenges:** The non formal and informal education are not yet recognized in the qualification framework of Vietnam

## Which ways to go

How to implement the micro-credentials in the society? Which procedure to follow? Is micro-credential is really important to improve the quality of higher education or it is a way for a public who can not join an full teaching program?

From the view of ministry of education, what should we do to improve lifelong learning through micro-credentials?

Is it important to have regulation on micro-credentials or let it be improved and recognized by universities and industries? Is there any warning problem about the quality of higher education in general?



# THANK YOU

Any Questions?





MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION



Agensi Kelayakan Malaysia  
Malaysian Qualifications Agency

INTRODUCTION TO

# MICRO-CREDENTIALS



PENDIDIKAN TINGGI BERKUALITI GLOBAL  
*Global Quality Higher Education*



# MICRO-CREDENTIALS

## DEFINITION

"... **[WHAT]** digital certification of assessed knowledge, skills and competencies in a **[SCOPE]** specific area or field which **[DESIGN]** can be a component of accredited programme or stand-alone courses supporting **[PURPOSE]** the professional, technical, academic and personal development of the learners".

## TYPES OF MICRO-CREDENTIALS



unbundled from accredited programmes

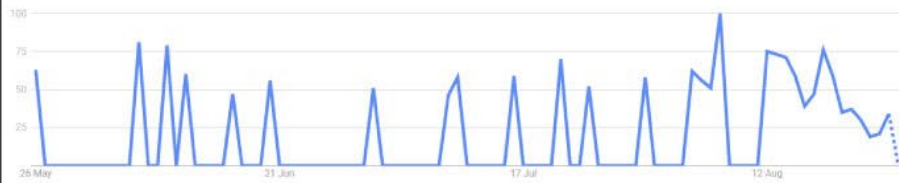


Stand-Alone



# RANKING : MICRO-CREDENTIALS

Interest over time ?



Interest by region ?



Region ▼



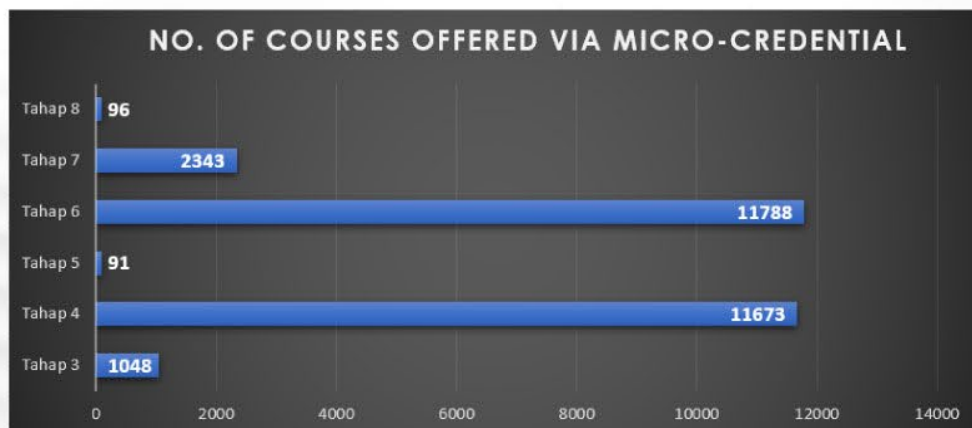
1	Ireland	100	<div><div></div></div>
2	New Zealand	77	<div><div></div></div>
3	Australia	40	<div><div></div></div>
4	Canada	31	<div><div></div></div>
5	Malaysia	27	<div><div></div></div>

☐ Include low search volume regions

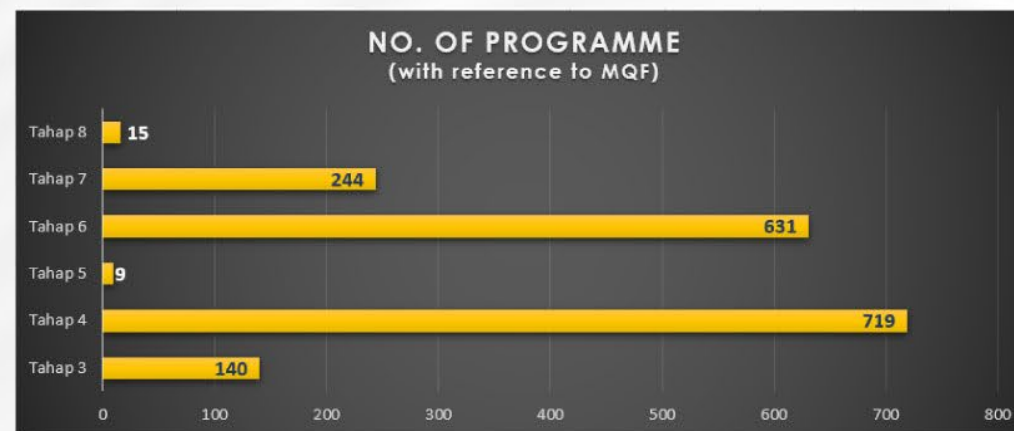
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# STATISTIC : MICRO-CREDENTIALS



**27,039**  
COURSES

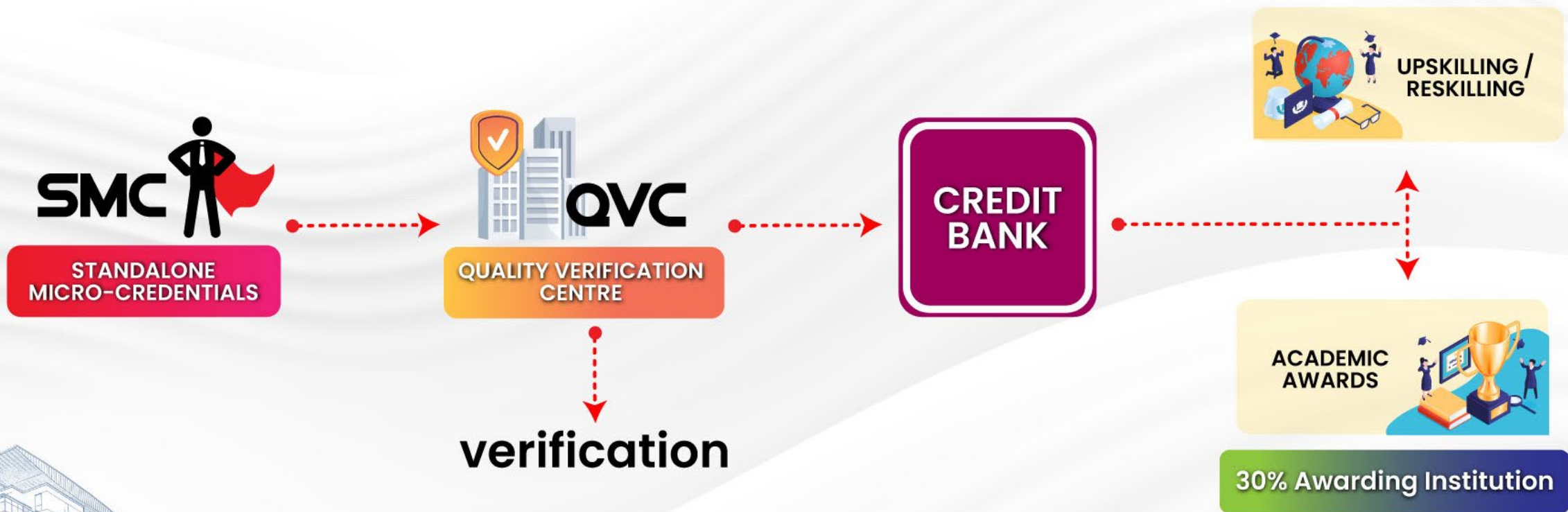


**1,758**  
PROGRAMMES





# QVC : QUALITY VERIFICATION CENTRE



# STACKABILITY OF CREDIT FOR GRADUATION

# 30%

**CONFERRED BY  
AWARDING HEPs**



## GGP MC 2020



## GGP: QVSMC







MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION



Agensi Kelayakan Malaysia  
Malaysian Qualifications Agency

# Thank you



**Agensi Kelayakan Malaysia**  
*Malaysian Qualifications Agency*

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