European Approach to Micro-credentials

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European Commission

We cannot achieve an inclusive, green and digital Europe without providing every young person with a high quality education. The European Education Area is the answer to that call

– President von der Leyen

Key priorities for Higher Education

- Skills Agenda   July 2020

- European Education Area   Sept 2020

- Digital Education Action Plan   Sept 2020

- European Research Area   Sept 2020

- Future Programmes 2021-2027

- Bologna Ministerial Conference Novembe 2020, Rome

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The European Universities initiative

Results of the Erasmus+ 2019 & 2020 calls for proposals

#EuropeanUniversities

Building the universities of the future

284 higher education institutions in **41** alliances

31 European Countries

Up to EUR **5 MILLION** from Erasmus+
Up to EUR **2 MILLION** from Horizon 2020

per alliance

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General Selection Statistics for the 2nd call

Selected Proposals: 24

HEIs involved: 165

Average partnership size: 7 Partners

Partnership size:

4-9 Partners

(incl. applicant)

Countries covered: 31

Erasmus+ Programme Countries

(26 EU Member States & 5 other)

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES
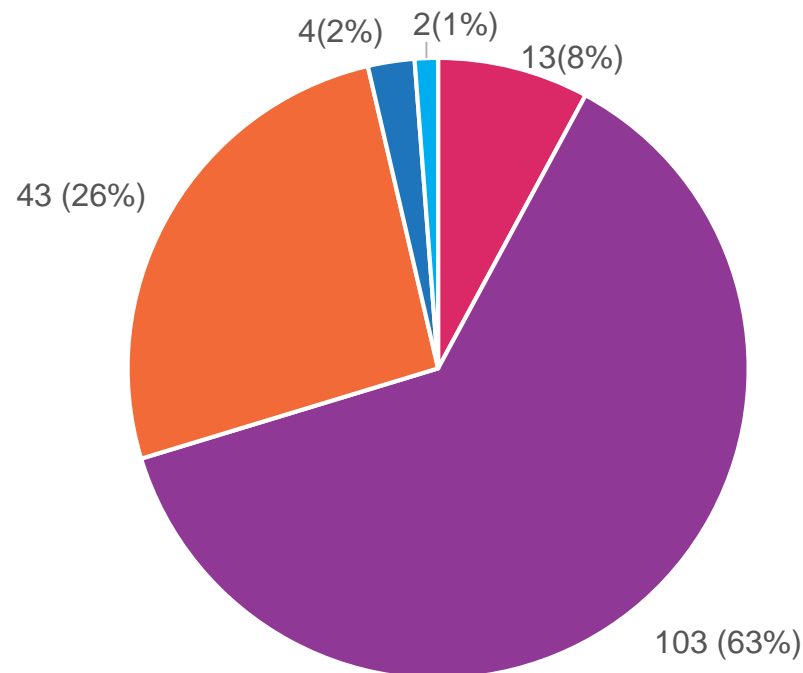Erasmus+

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Geographic Distribution

Participants (applicants and full partners) per Country – Call 2019 vs Call 2020
(17 vs 24 selected proposals)
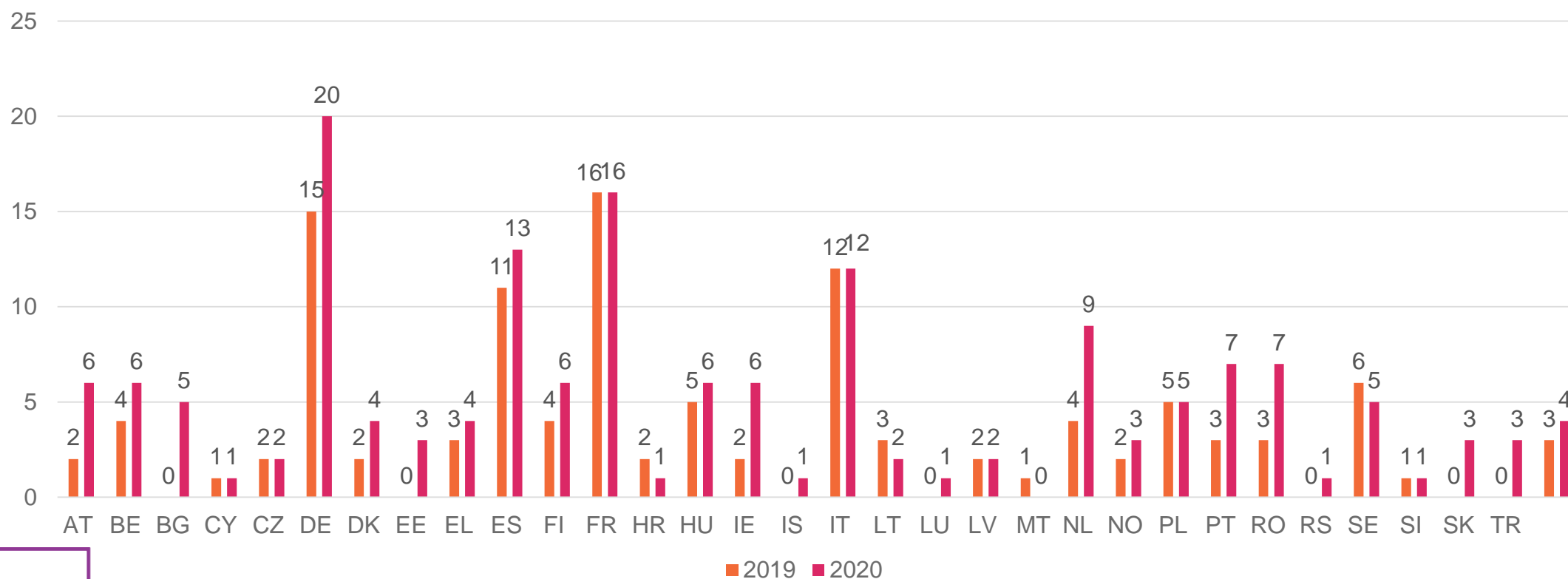
Type of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) - Call 2020

Type of HEIs- selected proposals (24)

4(2%)   2(1%)   13(8%)

43 (26%)

103 (63%)

- 1. University of applied science
- 2. Comprehensive university:
- 3. Technical University
- 4. University of Art:
- 5. Medical university:

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

Erasmus+

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A European Approach to Micro-credentials

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A joint initiative:
European Commissioners Gabriel and Schmit

The importance of acting now

Changing nature of work

A rapidly changing society undergoing environmental, technological, and social transformations

↓

People increasingly need flexible training to meet the changing skills demands

Impact of COVID-19

Demand for various online learning opportunities has accelerated

↓

Demand for alternative credentials, their recognition and validation becomes urgent

Need for a common Understanding

Massive increase in different forms of alternative credentials

↓

Need for a transparent common definition and boost of take-up, validation, recognition and portability

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Higher Education Consultation Group

National Authorities

Higher Education Institutions

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES
Erasmus+

European Universities Alliances

Quality Assurance Agencies

European stakeholder organisations

3 online meetings
26 May, 30 June,
16-17 September

Final report autumn 2020, with common definition

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Common definition

"A micro-credential is a proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short learning experience. These learning outcomes have been assessed against transparent standards."

The proof is contained in a certified document that lists the name of the holder, the achieved learning outcomes, the assessment method, the awarding body and, where applicable, the qualifications framework level and the credits gained. Micro-credentials are owned by the learner, can be shared, are portable and may be combined into larger credentials or qualifications. They are underpinned by quality assurance following agreed standards.

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Micro-credentials: The way forward

2020   2021   2022   2023   2024

A common definition

Wide **consultations** among the education and training community

Follow-up by the **Council of ministers**

Establish the appropriate follow up structure for micro-credentials within the **Bologna Process working structures**

Quality Assurance

Ensure that micro-credentials are included in **internal and external quality assurance processes** at higher education institutions and at national level, in line with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

Progressive development of a **list of trusted non-higher education institution providers** of micro-credentials.

Recognition

Release of **guidelines** on how to ensure a quicker process for the recognition of micro-credentials and how to address their stackability

Adaptation of existing instruments or adoption of new ones to facilitate the **validation and recognition** of micro-credentials

European level

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Roadmap of actions

2020 — 2021 — 2022 — 2023 — 2024

Storage

> Europass and digitally signed credentials
> Link with the European Student Card initiative

National actions

> **Consultation at national level** involving all relevant national stakeholders:
> - Piloting of actions
> - National regulatory framework
> - Availability of (EU) funding

Take-up

> EU support through the **Erasmus programme** and **Structural funds** for higher education

> Support the development of **sustainable business models**

national level

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Next steps – EU approach to Micro-credentials 2020-2021

- Publication of the expert report   14 December 2020

- Wide public consultations   Early 2021

- Council Recommendation   End 2021

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Micro-credentials in practice: ECIU

ECIU offers research-based micro-credentials, throughout Europe, that are at the core of personalised skills and competence development of its learners. ECIU University flexibly upskills and reskills the European workforce, developing creative and resilient European citizens with an entrepreneurial mindset.

From: ECIU 2030 Vision

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- Aalborg University, Denmark
- Dublin City University, Ireland
- Hamburg University of Technology, Germany
- Groupe INSA, France
- Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania
- Linköping University, Sweden
- Tampere University, Finland
- Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico
- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
- Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal
- University of Stavanger, Norway
- Università di Trento, Italy
- University of Twente, The Netherlands
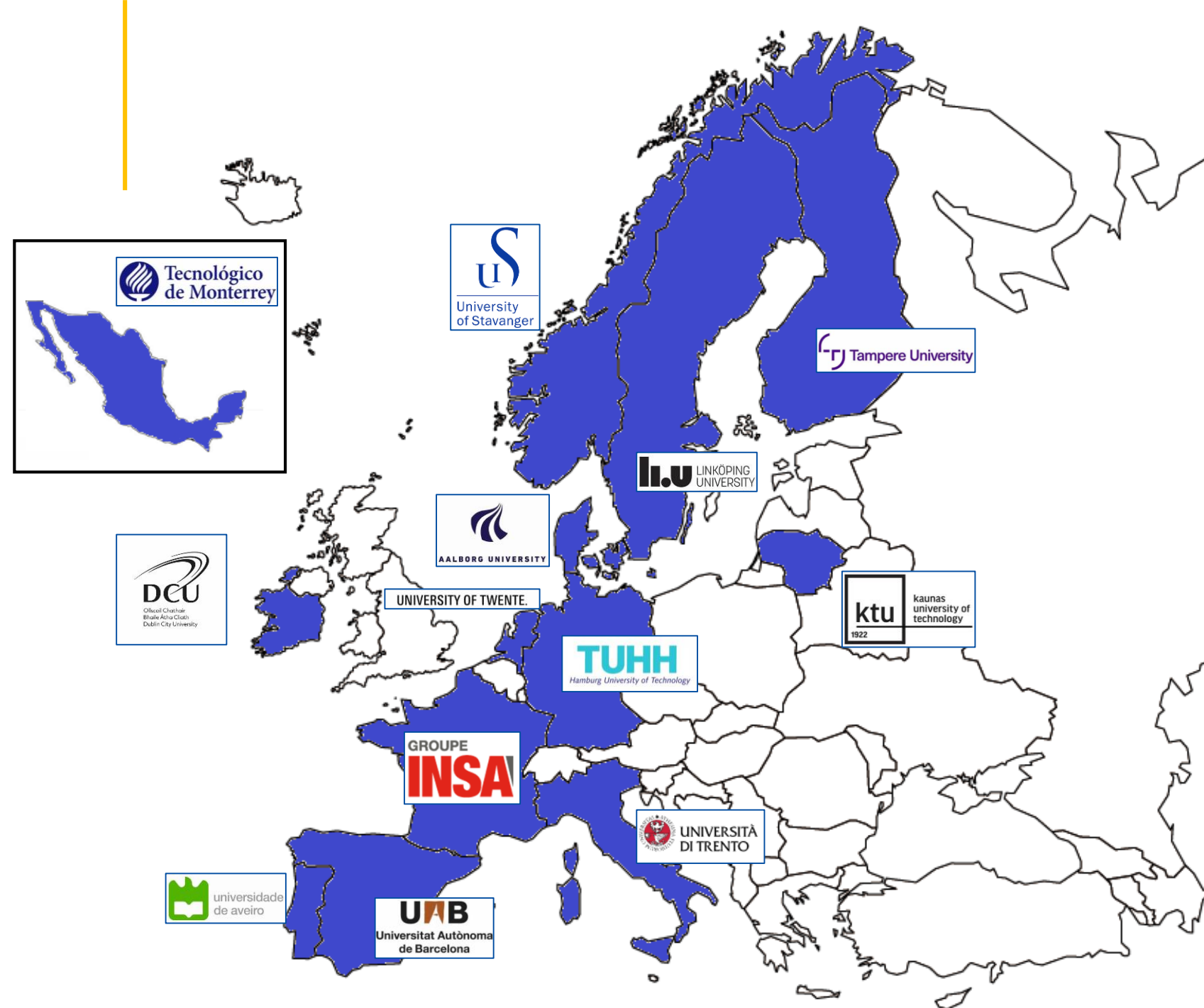
ECIU's associated stakeholders

Public Stakeholders

Autonomous Province of Trento

Barcelona City Council

Cerdanyola del Valles City

City of Enschede

City of Hamburg

City of Stavanger

City of Tampere

Confindustria Trento

Danish Minister of Higher Education

Fingal County Council

Hub Innovazione Trentino

Inter-Municipal Community of the Region of Aveiro

Kaunas City Region

Kaunas District Municipality

Municipality of Trento

Oost NL

PIMEC 2030

Region Östergötland

Tampere Region

Industry Stakeholder

Airbus

Cisco

Engineering Ingegneria Informatica SpA

Ericsson AB

Gruppo Novartis

Hella

Intel

Lietuvos Energija

Lyse Group

NXP

Ponsse

Sandoz Industrial Products S.p.A.

Sick AG

Suez Environment

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# ECIU member – Dublin City University micro-credentials

Micro-credential on Financial Technologies (FinTech):

➢ Open for everyone
➢ Duration: 10 weeks
➢ 5 ECTS
➢ Part-time
➢ Online
➢ Certificate of completion from DCU Business School

UNA EUROPA alliance
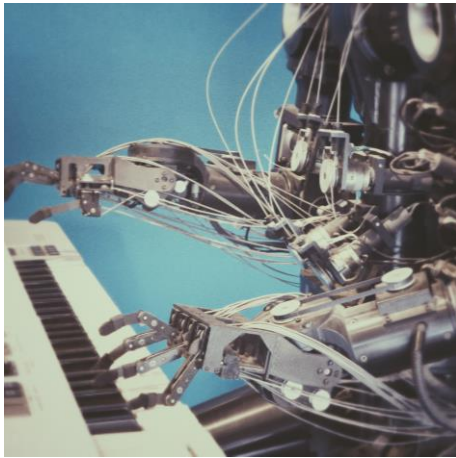
+ Freie Universität Berlin
+ Università di Bologna
+ University of Edinburgh
+ Helsingin Yliopisto
+ Uniwersytet Jagielloński
  w Krakowie
+ KU Leuven
+ Universidad Complutense
  de Madrid
+ Université Paris 1
  Panthéon-Sorbonne

una
europa
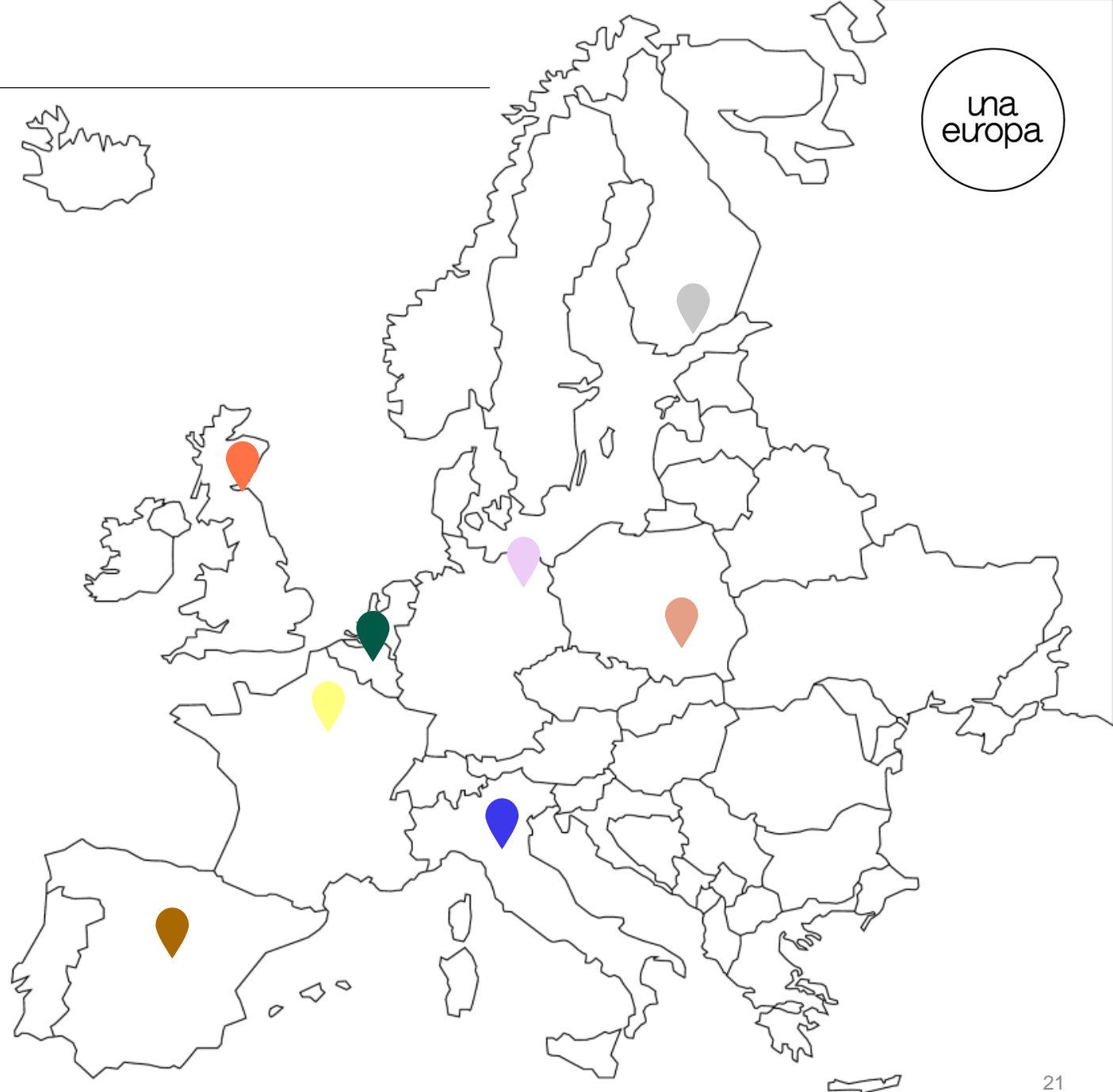
Focus Areas

Cultural Heritage

Data Science & AI

European Studies

One Health

Sustainability

Pilot courses and programmes

	Cultural Heritage	European Studies	Sustainability	Data Science & AI
Joint Bachelor		■	■	
Joint Master		■		
Joint Doctoral Spaces	■			
Joint Micro-Credentials			■	
Joint Continuous Education Certificate	■		■	■
Joint MOOCs			■	■
OER	■	■	■	■
Una Chairs	■	■	■	■
Challenge-based & service learning	■	■	■	■

Guiding principles for all Joint Innovative Formats

- Promoting multilingualism

- Facilitating interdisciplinarity

- Fostering integration between education, research and innovation

- Creating an international learning space, where physical and virtual presence are integrated

- Integrating peer-to-peer collaboration

- Involving local communities in educational practice

- Stimulating active and deep-level learning through high impact pedagogies.

una europa

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Joint micro-credentials Format

- Consists of special, jointly delivered international MOOCs, accredited by all Una Europa partners and joint certificate awarded on completion

- Open to all with undergraduate degree in any discipline and/or equivalent work experience

- Particularly relevant for students with master degree to reinforce employability or professionals seeking a qualification in a specific topic

- Fosters the enrolment of students and professionals for master or doctoral level studies.

YUFE Star System
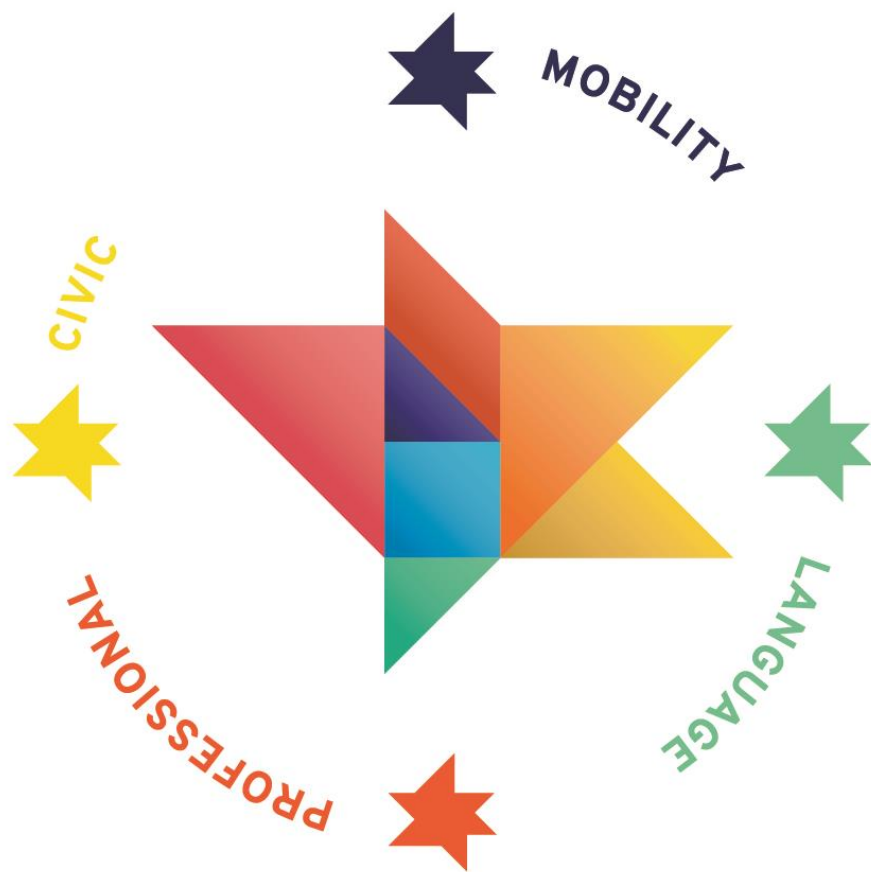
The YUFE Star System presents a unique assessment and recognition system fostering personal skills development and lifelong learning.

- Pilot launched on 24 November 2020.
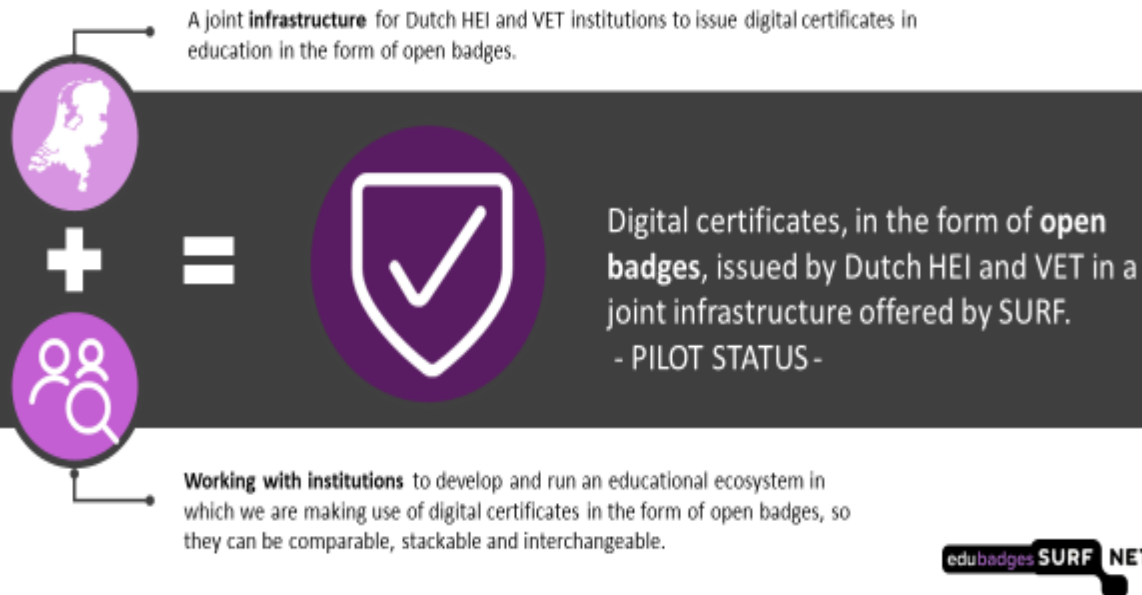- Awarded through the YUFE Diploma Supplement.

European Universities selected in 2020

➢ 12 of the of the 24 selected alliances will establish courses and/or programmes based on micro-credentials
➢ Challange-based
➢ Developed and co-designed with associate partners
➢ "Market-ready" skills for the digital and green transformation and economy
➢ Professional development in certain professions

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National approaches

What are edubadges?

A joint **infrastructure** for Dutch HEI and VET institutions to issue digital certificates in education in the form of open badges.

+ =

Digital certificates, in the form of **open badges**, issued by Dutch HEI and VET in a joint infrastructure offered by SURF.
- PILOT STATUS -

Working with institutions to develop and run an educational ecosystem in which we are making use of digital certificates in the form of open badges, so they can be comparable, stackable and interchangeable.

2

edubadges SURF NET

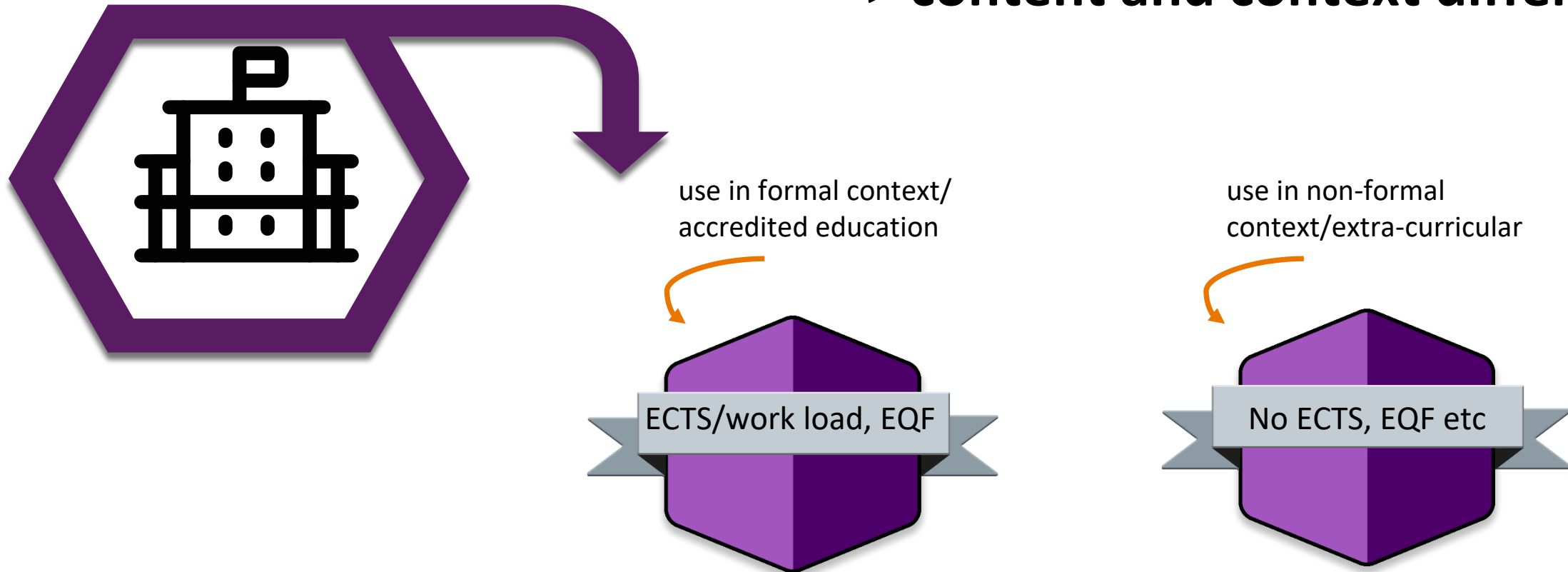## Multi-Campus Micro-Credentials System in Irish Universities

- 4 years project from national funding
- Establishing an innovative system of quality assured and accredited micro-credentials across 7 Irish universities
- Building engagement with enterprise
- Developing a "shop-window" portal
- Guidance on learners

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Examples of edubadges issued within the pilot

Using badges to achieve a certain entry level e.g. permission to operate machines in laboratory	**Using badges for a specific extracurricular activity** e.g. membership of the student council
Using badges for a 'plus-programme' e.g. excellence programmes in education	**Using badges for a specific target group** e.g. incoming Erasmus students
Using badges to indicate a learning pathway within a regular programme e.g. by defining basic and advanced badges that follow each other sequentially	**Using badges in a cross-institutional framework** e.g. 21st Century Skills
Using badges in a specific subject area e.g. the subject area of information literacy skills	**Using badges for staff members** e.g. in professional development

SURF NET

HEI decides on strategy for digital credentials
- > content and context differs!

use in formal context/
accredited education

use in non-formal
context/extra-curricular

ECTS/work load, EQF

No ECTS, EQF etc

Thank you for your attention!