

Nano-Credentials

in Continuing Education of HE Lecturers: Building Bridges between HigherEd & VET

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MICRO-CREDENTIALS @ UNK



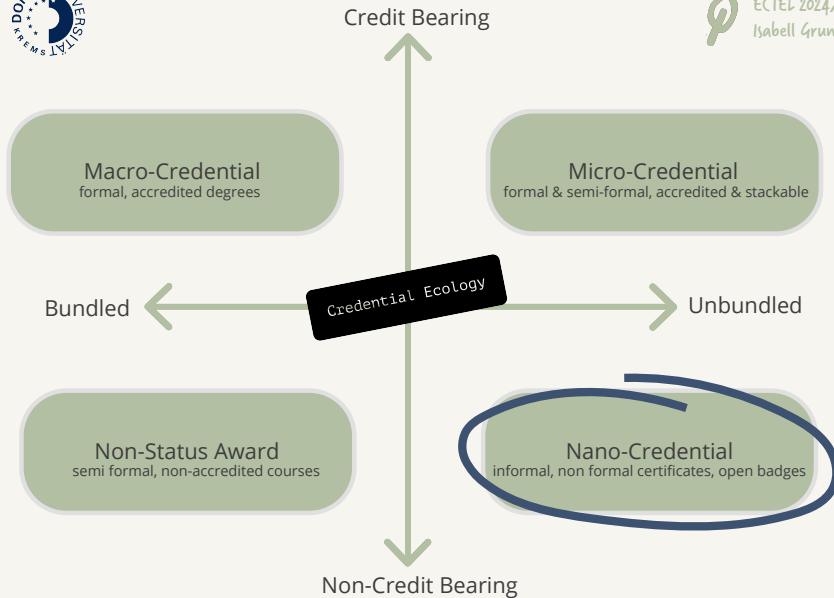
What is a Micro-Credential at UWK?

- 3, 6 or 9 ECTS-Points
- Needs to be part of an existing curriculum
- Stackable




NANO-CREDENTIALS?





CONTINUING EDUCATION OF LECTURERS

The logo of Donau University Krems, featuring a blue circle with a white crescent moon and stars, and the text "DONAU UNIVERSITÄT KREMS" around it.

Continuing Education for Lecturers @UWK

"Successfully Planning and Developing Higher Ed Courses" - an online course

- Part 1: Course Design and Learning Outcomes
- Part 2: Learning Activities and Assessment

Conducted in **2021** (150 active/190 enrolled) and **2022** (50 active/60 enrolled), internal and external lecturers

10h (minimum) workload for participants in the course of **two months**, certificate attained after final submission (showing evidence of contributions and reflection)

Activity to support quality development and innovation in instructional design

TWO CASES OF VALIDATION IN VET

The logo of Donau Universität Krems, featuring a blue circle with a white crescent moon and stars, and the text "DONAU UNIVERSITÄT KREMS" around it.

VALIDATION TRENDING IN AUSTRIA

New university law

New law for higher VET

➔ providing juristic context for validation.

Building bridges between Higher Ed and VET through validation.



Case No. 1: Adult Educator Certificate

Internal lecturer, left UWK, wanted to achieve an additional qualification as adult educator at the Austrian Academy of Continuing Education (wba).

"Adult educators' qualification (NQF Level 5)

wba acknowledges prior learning results and offers guidance and counselling as far as the acquisition of missing skills is concerned." ([wba](#), 2024)

Needed for validation process: Certificate, workload, learning outcomes, content

Results of the validation process: **30h of workload** within the qualification validated



„During my time as an **academic director** at UWK, I attended the continuing education courses for lecturers on "Learning Design and Learning Outcomes" and "Learning Activities and Assessment", held by Isabell Grundschober. These courses opened up new perspectives for me during my work at UWK, helped me in developing new curricula, and also modelled new ways for me to teach.

The courses' participation certificates were **each accredited** by the wba in the field of instructional design competence with **0.6 ECTS** towards obtaining the Adult Educator Certificate. Additionally, the certificates were **beneficial in the private sector**, where I could demonstrate professional qualifications for the Learning & Development field —**something my experience as a course director was not recognized for.**”

(Participant Case 1, 2024)



Case No. 2: Civil Law Mediator

External lecturer at UWK and mediator by profession, **NQF level: Probably 5 or 6.**

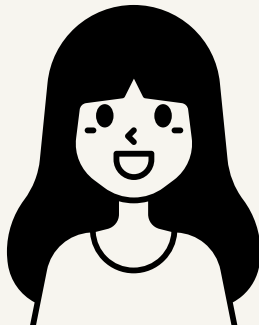
List of registered mediators:

The Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ) maintains the list of registered mediators.

Requirements for registration:

- Application submission
- Minimum age of 28 years
- Proof of professional qualification
- Proof of trustworthiness (criminal record certificate)
- Liability insurance
- Details of the work location
- Registered mediators **must complete ongoing training.**

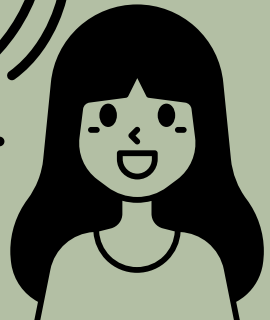
(Austrian Federal Ministry of Justice, 2023)



The discussion-forum, padlets and mural (online brainstorming applications) helped me to show the learning outcomes of the continuing education courses "Learning Design and Learning Outcomes" and "Learning Activities and Assessment".

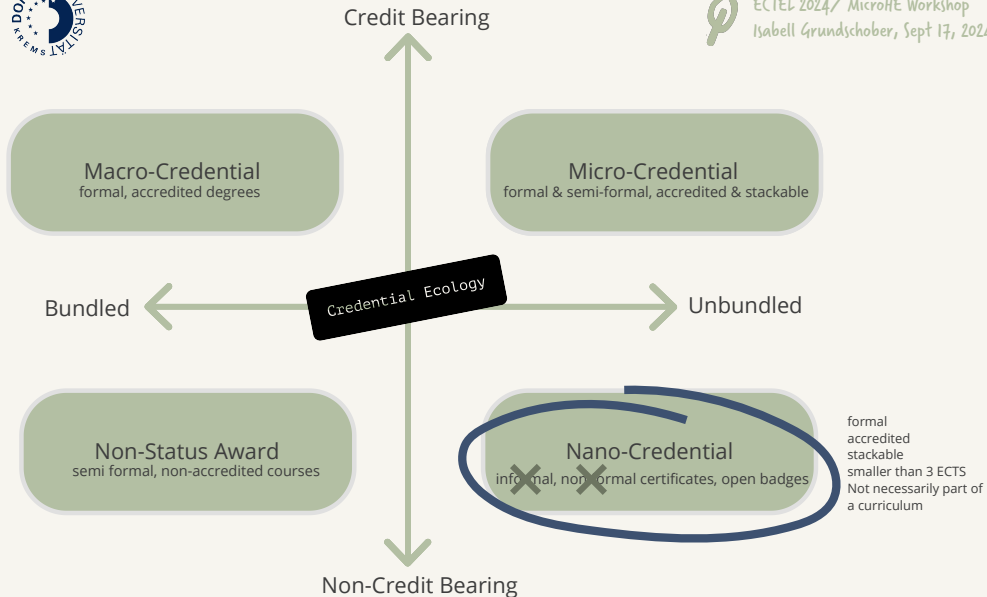
*I was able not only to learn something new in my role as a lecturer at the University for Continuing Education, but also in my **role as a civil law mediator**. It is great, that the course was also **officially recognized** as continuing education for civil law mediators in Austria.*

(Participant Case 2, 2024)



OUTlook: "UNIVERSITY SEMINARS" AS NANO-CREDENTIALS





Power of Nano-Credentials

Example: HyFlex
Symposium
"Transforming
Medicine with AI"

- **Smaller workload**, easiert for people that are working full time, easier for external lecturers who are often working full time AND doing lectures in Higher Ed
- Advantages **similar to those of micro-credentials**, e.g. **improved perceived employability, higher flexibility, higher human capital development** (Zou et al., 2023)
- **Validation option in VET** as an additional motivation for continuing education of lecturers
- Great for **piloting** new topics, themes, methods (not yet part of a curriculum)
- **No official enrollement** as university student necessary (if it is not only a continuing education program for HE staff but open to "everyone")
- **Important:** Certificate gives information about workload, learning outcomes, content, assessment

LEARN. DOCUMENT.
VALIDATE.



Thank you!

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Are there similar experiences in other Higher Education Institutions?

How can we support successful validation?

How to support stackability?

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