



REKTORU PADOME



POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY
FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE



*Online course catalogues reflecting study programmes, study courses
and micro-credentials*

- Peer learning activity -

Case study: country report of Romania



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OCTRA 2 Project

Case study: country report of Romania

Survey with HEIs on micro-credentials

Survey with HEIs on course catalogues

In-depth case studies with 4 HEIs
(course catalogues and micro-credentials)

ENIC – NARIC interviews

Country report

Romanian legal framework on publicly available information about study programmes, courses and micro-credentials

Objective

Mapping the availability and development of information provision on study programmes, courses and learning units leading to micro-credentials, exploring:

- national level regulation mandating HEIs to have a course catalogue or provide publicly available information on learning opportunities, including smaller learning units

- national level recommendations or guidelines on both developing of course catalogues and providing information on learning leading to micro-credentials

Summary of legal framework and national supportive documents in Romania

National legal framework on course catalogues	Romanian Higher Education Law no. 199/2023 (in force since September 2023) and in the subsequent legislation (in process of elaboration)
National legal framework on micro-credentials	Yes
National level recommendations/guidelines on course catalogues	Part of HEI's quality management system Basis: Law No. 199/2023, subsequent legislation is in process of elaboration (2024)

Summary of legal framework and national supportive documents in Romania

National level recommendations/ guidelines on micro-credentials	<p>In development (2024)</p> <p>Methodological framework that will be approved by order of the Minister of Education, at the proposal of National Authority for Qualifications and Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, is in the process of elaboration.</p> <p>Basis: Law No 199/2023</p>
Legal framework on providing publicly available information about study courses/ programmes / micro-credentials	<p>Law no. 199/2023 and subsequent legislation, mandates HEIs to provide information on education offer (study courses/ programmes/ micro-credentials) on their websites and <i>Study in Romania</i></p>
National level recommendations / guidelines on providing publicly available information about study courses / programmes / micro-credentials	<p>No</p>

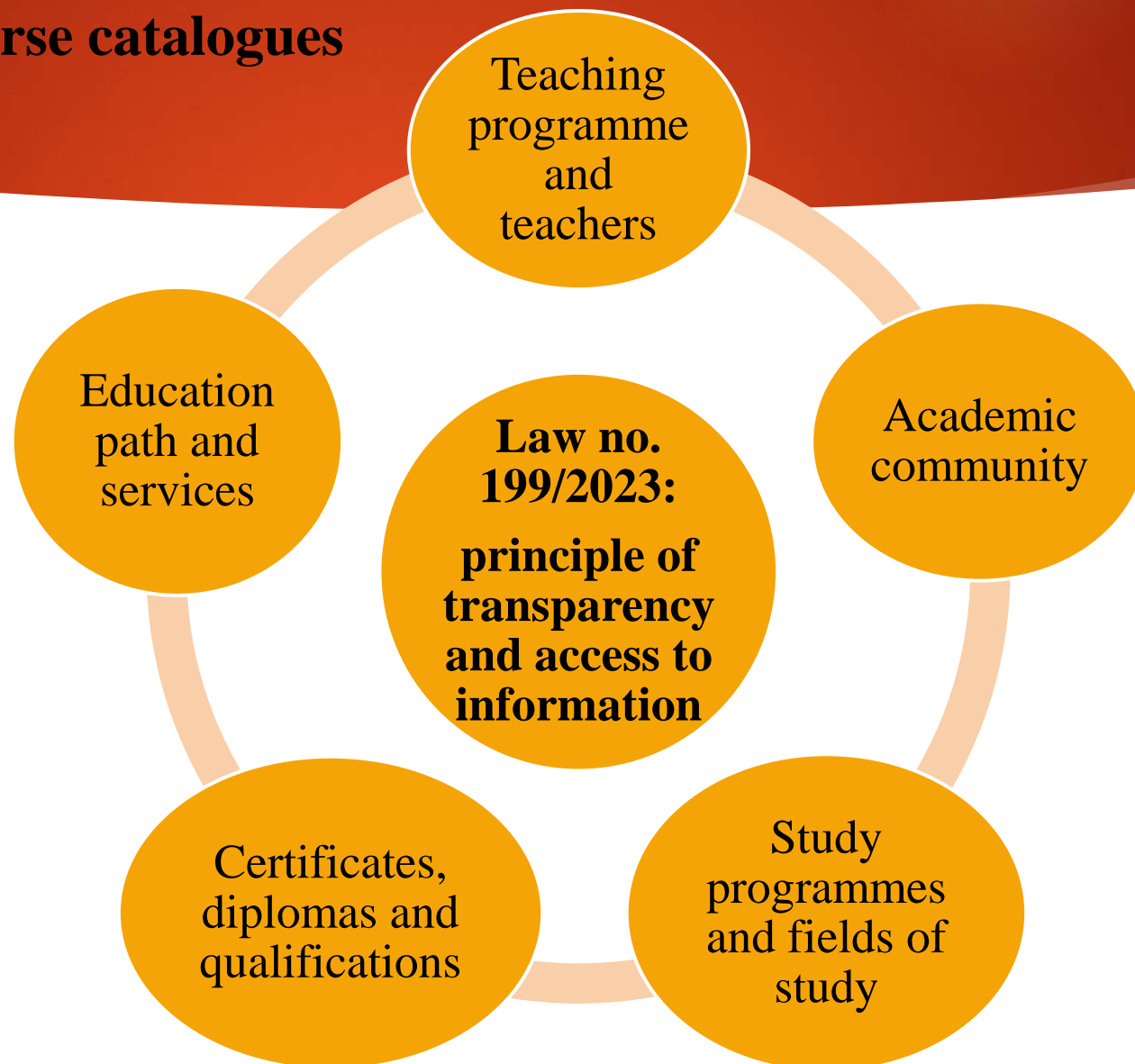
Providing information on study programmes and national level recommendations on development of course catalogues

Objective Screening the existence/ or absence of the legal regulations on information provision on study programmes and courses

Results HEIs are mandated by law to provide information in at least 1 (one) language of international circulation on the HEIs website and on *Study in Romania* platform.

Guidelines will be developed based on the new higher education law. Currently, no guidelines are provided regarding the manner of publishing the data, and no guidelines are available on the content of course catalogues.

Providing information on study programmes and national level recommendations on development of course catalogues



Providing information on study programmes and national level recommendations on development of course catalogues

Study in Romania platform (www.studyinromania.gov.ro) provides information on:

- ▶ Programme description
- ▶ Admission page
- ▶ Online application
- ▶ Study domain
- ▶ Language
- ▶ Tuition fees
- ▶ Duration
- ▶ ECTS credits
- ▶ Type of study
- ▶ Link to the official programme website

Results of Romanian HEIs survey on online course catalogues

- ▶ 88% have a course catalogue and 12% replied that course catalogue was under development.
- ▶ 94% have course catalogues available also in other languages.
- ▶ 82% have course catalogues online and 18% have online course catalogues under development.
- ▶ 82% of the course catalogues are also publicly available.
- ▶ 88%: the course catalogue includes all available courses, while 12% answered that the course catalogue includes only ERASMUS courses or those for Bachelor Degree, mentioning that are in development for Master and PhD Degree.
- ▶ 53% does not include information on external quality assurance/ accreditation of study programme or field of study in their course catalogues.

Providing information and national level recommendations on smaller learning units leading to micro-credentials

- Objective**
- Presence of national level definition of and regulation on micro-credentials
 - National level regulation that obligating HEIs to provide publicly accessible information on micro-credentials (smaller learning units)

Results

HEIs are legally mandated to provide publicly available information on smaller learning units that lead to micro-credentials.

Legal act - Higher Education Law no. 199/2023

Providing information and national level recommendations on smaller learning units leading to micro-credentials

▶ Higher Education Law no. 199/2023

regulates that HEIs may organise adult vocational training programmes that may have small learning volumes, targeting competences and/or corresponding learning outcomes, using ECTS, and resulting in a *micro-credential*, which can also be issued in digital format and stored in a national or European digital register designed to ensure the authenticity of certifications

Micro-credentials can be issued as:

- ▶ Individual certificates
- ▶ Stacked and combined

(according to Article 185 of HE Law no. 199/2023)

Providing information and national level recommendations on smaller learning units leading to micro-credentials

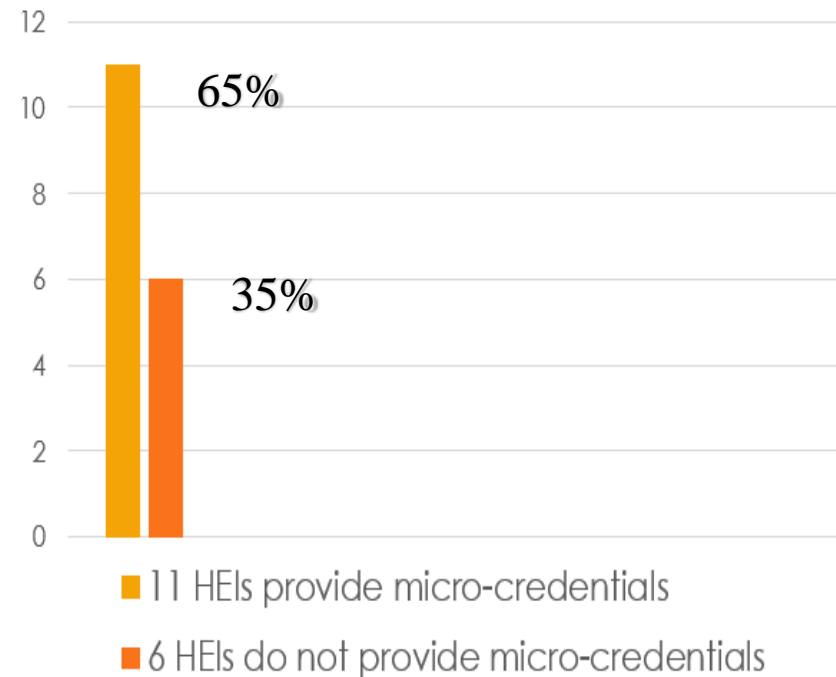
Characteristics of micro-credentials (Higher Education Law no. 199/2023):

- ▶ are the intended result of specific learning;
- ▶ may represent a form of evaluation, validation and attestation of non-formal and informal learning, in compliance with the legal provisions;
- ▶ aims at measuring knowledge and skills and the degree of autonomy and responsibility, responding to social, personal, cultural or labour market needs;
- ▶ are issued on the basis of an assessment based on transparent standards;
- ▶ the workload specific to the education activities related to these programmes is described by using the ECTS;
- ▶ are structured to meet the needs of learners, being constantly improved starting from the evaluation of beneficiaries' satisfaction;
- ▶ can be achieved through collaboration between HEIs or organisations providing education and employers, social partners or other education providers, in order to increase their relevance in relation to the labour market.

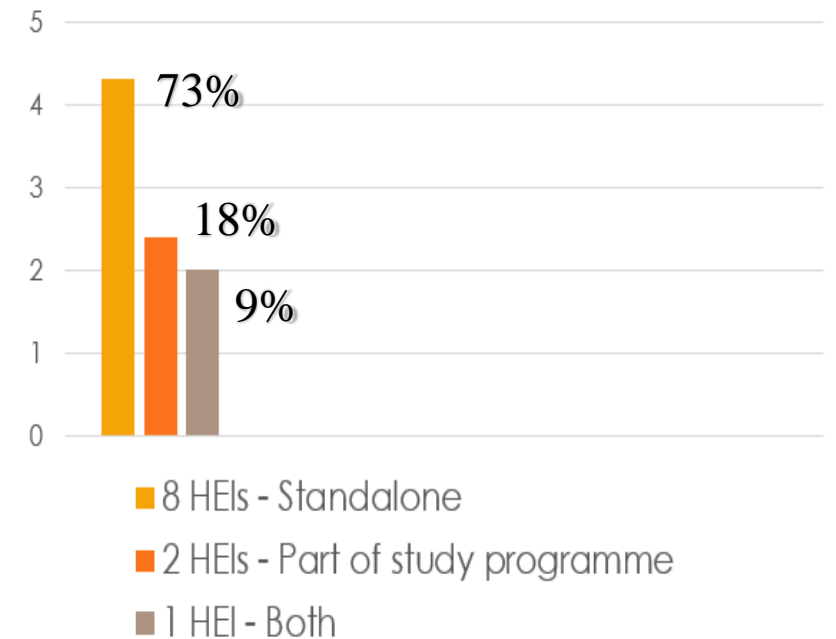
Results of Romanian HEIs survey on micro-credentials

- 65% of surveyed HEIs provide micro-credentials/small volume of learning, i.e. 11 HEIs provide micro-credentials, and 35% (6 HEIs) does not provide micro-credentials.
- 73% provide micro-credentials as standalone units of learning, 18% as part of study programme and only 9% as both ways

Q1: Does your institution provide micro-credentials/small volume of learning? (Yes/No)



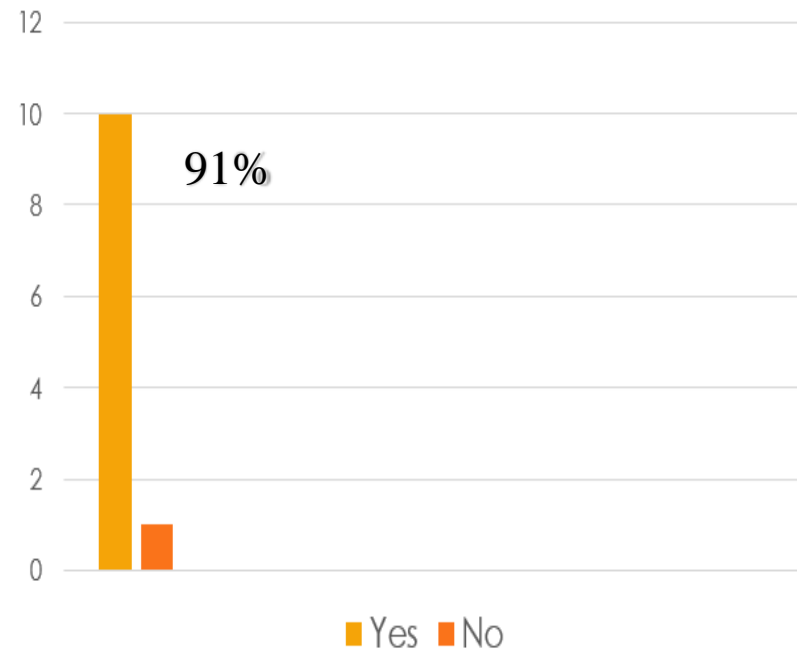
Q2: Are these micro-credentials (standalone units, part of study programme, both, other)



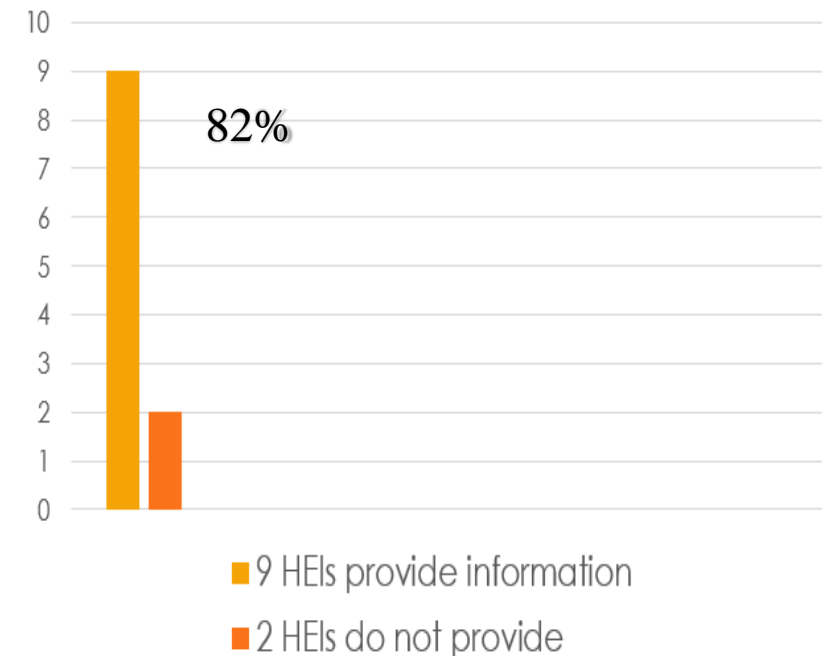
Results of Romanian HEIs survey on publicly available information about micro-credentials

- 91% HEIs noted that the information of these learning opportunities is available on HEIs website
- 82% provide information on micro-credentials with short description and links
- 45% provide information on recognition/stacking/combining of micro-credentials.

Q3: Is the information of these learning opportunities available on your institution's website?



Q3,4: If information is available on outside information sources, does institutions webpage provide information on these learning opportunities?



Results of the in-depth case studies

In-depth analysis of 4 HEIs course catalogues indicate that:

- All course catalogues and HEIs websites have wide information on study opportunities and study content.
- The information is provided also in English.
- Link to the course catalogue can be easily found either on HEI's or both, faculty's and HEI's website.
- The course catalogues also include general information on institution and study procedures.

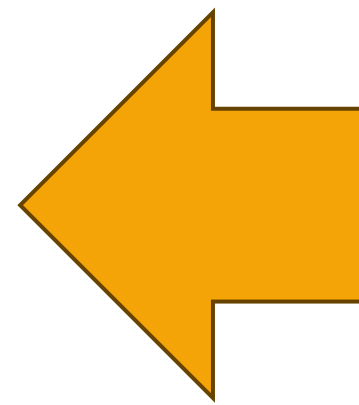
Romanian qualifications databases and alternative information sources on qualifications

National Register of Qualifications (RNC)

The National Register of Qualifications for Higher Education (RNCIS)

The National Register of Professional Qualifications (RNCP)

National Register for Postgraduate Programmes (NRPP)



National Qualifications Authority
- manages RNC
- corresponds requirements of the labour market with qualifications from pre-university/ university and non-university tertiary education, including professional training of adults.

National conclusions

Survey of HEIs and case studies of course catalogues indicate that:

- ▶ Most of surveyed HEIs have a course catalogue, available online and also in other languages than the national language.
- ▶ Most of the course catalogues are also publicly available and includes all available courses.
- ▶ There is a practice among HEIs (half of them) not to publish information on external quality assurance /accreditation of study programme and the legal status of the HEI.

National conclusions

- ▶ The following elements of information are published online by most HEIs:
 - Title of the course,
 - Short description of the course,
 - ECTS / number of credits,
 - Field (s) of study,
 - Learning outcomes.

- ▶ These key elements are valued by **credential evaluators** in recognition process, but the practice of HEIs not to publish information on external quality assurance and the legal status of the HEI hinder transparency of issued credentials and reduce trust in HEI among the prospective students.

National conclusions

The interoperability of **national qualifications databases and registers** - National Register of Qualifications for Higher Education (RNCIS), National Register of Professional Qualifications (RNCP) and National Register for Postgraduate Programmes – are aligned with European recommendations, address learners, universities, employees, employers and contribute to making more visible the correlations between qualifications obtained in education and training and occupations on the labour market.

National recommendations

➤ In term of improvement of course catalogues:

- Publishing information on quality assurance in course catalogue would be beneficial in order to comprehend the status of acquired qualifications.
- Providing and publishing more information on recognition in course catalogue, thus facilitating credential evaluation process.

➤ Recommendations in the context of micro-credentials:

- More information on learning outcomes, assessment and type of quality assurance used to underpin the micro-credential should be provided. All parties involved should be able to understand the content of micro-credentials and verify their authenticity. This would make their “portability” possible between and within education and training sectors, in the labour market and across countries.
- Providing recommendations on publicly available information about recognition/stacking/combining of micro-credentials.



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Thank you for your attention !

