NATIONAL APPROACH TO OPEN BADGES IN DUTCH HIGHER EDUCATION

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SURF, the collaborative ICT organisation for Dutch education and research
On the road to an educational system with microcredentialing we need...

... Policy / frameworks
- Acceleration agenda: 18 Dutch institutions working on plans to make education system more flexible
- Developing policy paper on microcredentialing in Dutch higher education, with support of ministry

... Technology / infrastructure
- SURF is developing an infrastructure which all Dutch HEI may use to issue open badges
Proof of Concept with Open Badges

- Prove the use case for Open Badges in Dutch Higher Education.
- Show how Badges could enable microcredentialing, awarded by HEI
- Show how this process could work and what’s needed to make it work.
Add Badge Class

**BASIC INFORMATION**

- **IMAGE**
  - Upload Image

- **NAME**
  - Short Description: A short summary of this achievement.

**Badge Basics**

Badge images can be either PNGs or SVGs. All fields are required.

**CRITERIA**

**HOW IS THIS BADGE EARNED?**

- Write
- Preview

- Markdown Supported

**URL**

At least one field is required.

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**What are Criteria?**

The criteria field describes exactly what must be done to earn this badge. Some issuers choose a URL on their website as a promotional page that explains this badge opportunity and how to earn it.
Learned lessons Edubadges Proof of Concept

**BADGE ISSUER (EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION)**

*Lessons learned*
- Badge strategy; determine the status that the badge has within the education system and how it relates to other badges.
- Badge governance; who may issue badges, when may they be issued, and to whom?
- Badges for micro-credentials require a vision on flexible education.

**BADGE CONSUMER (EMPLOYER OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION)**

*Lessons learned*
- No experience acquired through the PoC (to be discussed in the future).

**BADGE EARNER (STUDENT)**

*Lessons learned*
- Possibilities offered by badges not yet known.
- Uploading badges to social media takes time and effort, and they are not displayed prominently.
- Managing badges is still an issue to be resolved.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Lessons learned*
- Important focus is storage of edubadges.
- Standardisation: alignment required on subject-specific metadata and value system.
- Integration of the edubadge features in the digital learning environment and student information systems (SIS) is imperative.
- Important focus is on guaranteeing the authenticity of the badge’s content, the awarding party and the badge earner.
- A persistent ID to manage the badges is a prerequisite (e-mail address is not sufficient).
Why a joint national approach?

- Federated infrastructure that fits into ICT-ecosystem
- Authentication, verification, privacy, GDPR compliancy well organized
- Alignment to international standards: Currently looking into connection with Europass
- Joint effort to achieve recognisability, stackability, meaningfulness
- Triggers national-level governance questions

Publication: www.surf.nl/edubadges
Challenges to overcome while working towards modular education system

- If we want to let students register for modules instead of complete programmes, then we need:
  - database of educational modules
  - national persistent student identity
  - national registry of received microcredentials
  - joint framework that ensures comparability and avoids proliferation

- (visible?) distinction between
  - badges for formal/accredited education (ECTS, EQF, quality assurance)
  - badges for non-formal/non-accredited education (outside quality assurance framework)