INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIES FOR MICRO-CREDENTIALING

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DEMANDS ON EDUCATION...

• Need to move towards open, online and flexible learning

• Learning should be modular so that it can be undertaken at any time and in any place, quickly and tailored to the needs of the individual.

• Non-traditional and non-formal learning is becoming more important in today’s changing world and can offer flexible options in skills development
E-LEARNING CENTRE@ SRCE

• established at University Computing Centre University of Zagreb SRCE in 2007
  SRCE is providing a modern, sustainable and reliable e-infrastructure for research and education community
  SRCE is the competence center for information and communication technologies as well as the center for education and support in the area of ICT application

• central point for support to institutions, teachers and students in implementation of e-learning in higher education in Croatia
  • support to teachers and students, teams and groups for e-learning at HEI
  • providing reliable and generally accessible e-learning platform, e-learning technologies
  • ....
IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF DIGITAL BADGES

- increased motivation for learning
- individualized learners pathways- mapping
- micro-credentialing – smaller (modular) – flexible and less expensive to implement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formal education</th>
<th>Extra-curricular activities</th>
<th>Game element scenario</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Increase the visibility of some part of formal (accredited) education</td>
<td>• For activities that students are engaged in outside accredited education in a controlled way (if badges are issued by the education institution their trustworthiness is clear to everyone)</td>
<td>• Within the module/course</td>
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<td>• Enable students to shorten pathway for education (recognition of some modules, courses within accredited education)</td>
<td>• Motivation for open badges – to improve people’s awareness of the institution or to support the students as they gain experience in contexts including...</td>
<td>• As a way to raise student motivation: students like to be praised, to be acknowledged for their accomplishments, shown as a good example, to get feedback, to collect badges...</td>
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DIGITAL BADGES @ SRCE

• In 2015 digital badges implemented into courses prepared by the E-learning Centre
  • Aim was to enable participants who completed the course to share the evidence about their gained skills and knowledge
  • To acquaint teachers with digital badges and possibility to use them in teaching

• In 2016 digital badges implemented into educational programmes for IT specialists
  ➢ Digital badge issued after each course completion
  ➢ Digital badges combined with Moodle tool LevelUp!
  ➢ Portal for system engineers: digital badges issued for authors of articles in order to promote their work

• In 2018 online course on digital badges in Croatian
• Today digital badges standard component of online courses at SRCE
CONCLUSION

• continuous work on raising awareness on new technologies and their possibilities to enhance the quality of educational process
• Digital badges are relatively new tool and their value and efficacy in educational setting as still being explored
• Skill-based badges vs participation-based badges
• Non-formal learning entering formal education
• Modularity in educational materials and programmes – micro-credentials
• Importance of systematic approach when implementing digital badges on institutional level
WHY DIGITAL BADGES MATTER?

• New technologies and their possibilities to enhance the quality of educational process
• Micro credentials evolving
• Digital badges are relatively new tool and their value and efficacy in educational setting as still being explored
• Skill-based badges vs participation-based badges
• Access to large number of educational programmes and courses, more flexible education system
• Learners of all ages
• Need for skills and competences – now, in short time, specific
• Badges
  • digital (use technology)
  • micro-credentials (smaller units, certified separately)
  • indicators of achievements or skills
  • visibility and presentation of acquired knowledge and skills
  • open