Technology powering the future of micro-credentials

A view on Blockchain and Open Badges for Higher Ed

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The main consortium of Italian universities

Born in 1969, CINECA provides technological support for Italian universities and research entities, and the Ministry for Education and Research

67 UNIVERSITIES
9 RESEARCH ENTITIES
3 UNIVERSITY CLINICS
BUILDING A DIGITAL CREDENTIALING PLATFORM FOR ITALIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Bestr: An experience starting in 2015

.Bestr

Today Bestr is a Digital Credentialing platform to valorize Lifelong & Lifewide Learning in and around Universities integrated with SIS and other University IT systems

EDCI - European Digital Credentialing Initiative
WHAT’S NEXT?

What should we expect (or promote) about microcredentialing and blockchains for education?
WHAT THE TECH COMMUNITY AND THE PIONEERING UNIVERSITIES ARE DOING IS ALREADY THE FUTURE

It is either going to consolidate or fail (or change).

• Highlighting and making readable abroad experiences, extracurricular competencies, in-company training, language proficiency…
• Recognizing credits for microcredentials through system integration
• Securing credentials through blockchain
• Expressing credentials in different digital formats
DIGITIZING THE UNIVERSITY DEGREE: HOW BLOCKCHAIN IS GOING TO REDEFINE BACHELORS

A vision by Paolo Cherubini, Vice-rector for Teaching and Education at the University of Milan-Bicocca, and Daniela Mapelli, Vice-rector for Teaching and Education at the University of Padua.
CHALLENGES FOR OPEN BADGES / MICROCREDENTIALING

• Standards

• Content readability by humans and by machines

• Trust

• Adoption rate
CHALLENGES FOR BLOCKCHAIN IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Beyond notarization

• **Blockchain as a Learning Record Store**
• Automation through *smart contracts* leveraging machine-readable *standards* integrated with *Student Information Systems*
  • European Blockchain?
  • Educational Blockchain?

⚠️ Identity
⚠️ Privacy
⚠️ Sustainability
CINECA
Consorzio interuniversitario per il calcolo automatico

Thank you
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