First insights to MicroHE survey on institutional openness towards Short Learning Programmes

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Digital Credentials Masterclass
Survey on Short learning programme adoption in Europe

Targeting institutional leaders in higher education in order to understand
• current levels of provision…
• strategies and future plans…
  …with regards to short learning programmes.

• 91 valid responses gathered (survey is open for further data collection)
• Focusing the survey on the provision and recognition of Short Learning Programmes (SLPs):
  short degree programmes are a group of courses (units, modules or other learning building blocks) with a common
  subject focussing on specific needs in society and which are part of larger degrees.
Survey respondent profile (N=91)

- Mainly from public universities (63%) and universities of applied sciences (17%)
- Representing institutions of different sizes, e.g., large (33%), small institutions (28%)
- Education professionals (34%) and staff involved in curriculum design, quality assurance or research (33%)
- Substantial work experience – 71% with > 10 years experience
Finding 1: Institutions Lack Understanding of SLPs and Micro-credentials

• Institutions are lacking practical already existing examples of Short Learning Programmes and micro-credentials

  "What would be a SLP for us?"

• Institutional chain of command missing for SLPs (e.g., roles are unclear)

• Business model is missing and in some cases no plans to develop one
Finding 2: Common recognition mechanism enables adoption...

- Our study indicated that the lack of SLP recognition mechanisms lead to reduced intention to adopt SLPs. E.g., when...
  "...SLPs cannot be easily accredited by accreditation agencies"
  "...other institutions would not recognize the credentials",
Finding 3: Adequate Resource Allocation Enables SLP adoption

- Optimal resource allocation is a managerial issue and based on our findings, can increase SLP adoption. However, major differences observed even within faculties about the awareness levels on SLPs
Finding 4: SLP Enabled Profitability Coincides with SLP adoption

- Institutions that have a high intention to adopt SLPs believe that SLPs are a way to increase the profitability of the institution, e.g., by enrolling more students.
Finding 5: Flexibility, personalization and recognition are critical when using SLPs to respond to the demands of the labour market

- Institutions in favor of using SLPs as means to respond to the demands of the labour market emphasize the importance of flexibility, personalization and recognition
Initial take-aways

- Common recognition mechanisms and standards for recognition of SLPs (and micro-credentials)
- Resource allocation is critical in institutions for SLPs (change of mindset, change in practices)
- Business logic needs an update. Institutions need to realize this to boost adoption
- Institutions cherish the goal of using SLPs as an instrument to improve employability, they just might not know how
- …more to follow soon…
THANK YOU

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