

The EU approach to micro-credentials

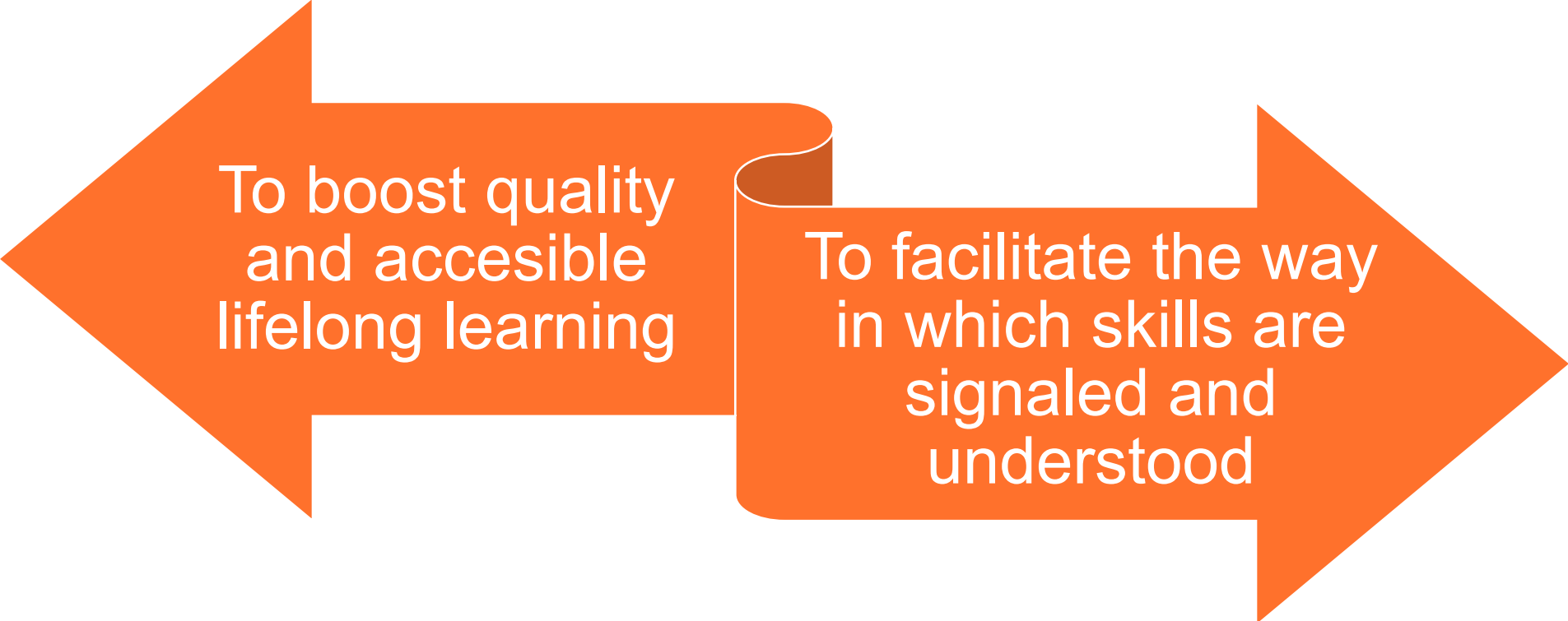
Boosting lifelong learning in the EU
and increasing the visibility of all skills under the Union of Skills

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Why are micro-credentials important in the EU?



To boost quality
and accessible
lifelong learning

To facilitate the way
in which skills are
signaled and
understood



The basis of the European approach to micro-credentials

A common **definition**

Eleven European **standard elements** to describe a micro-credential (Annex I)

Ten European **principles** to design and issue a micro-credential (Annex II)

The EU work on micro-credentials

European Skills Agenda 2020-2025

- 2022 **Council Recommendation** on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability

European Year of Skills 2023-2024

Union of Skills 2025





The Union of Skills is our strategy to help people stay ahead in a rapidly changing world and keep Europe competitive and fair.

We, in Europe, put people first because the success of every person in learning, at work and in life is essential for competitiveness and for a stable and resilient Union.

*Roxana Mînzatu,
Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills,
Quality Jobs and Preparedness*



On micro-credentials

Expand the use of micro-credentials as flexible learning solutions, in line with the European approach, to ensure that they are

trusted

understandable

issued digitally and

comparable across sectors and countries.

Peer Learning Activities

Micro-credentials for the labour market - A sectoral approach: manufacturing and retail

- 29 January 2024
- Jointly organized with Cedefop.
- Experiences from:
 - [European Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting](#)
 - Basque VET Applied Research Centre [Tknica](#)
 - The [Swedish Retail and Wholesale Council](#)
 - [CECOA](#) - Vocational Training Center for the Commerce and Services Sectors in Portugal.

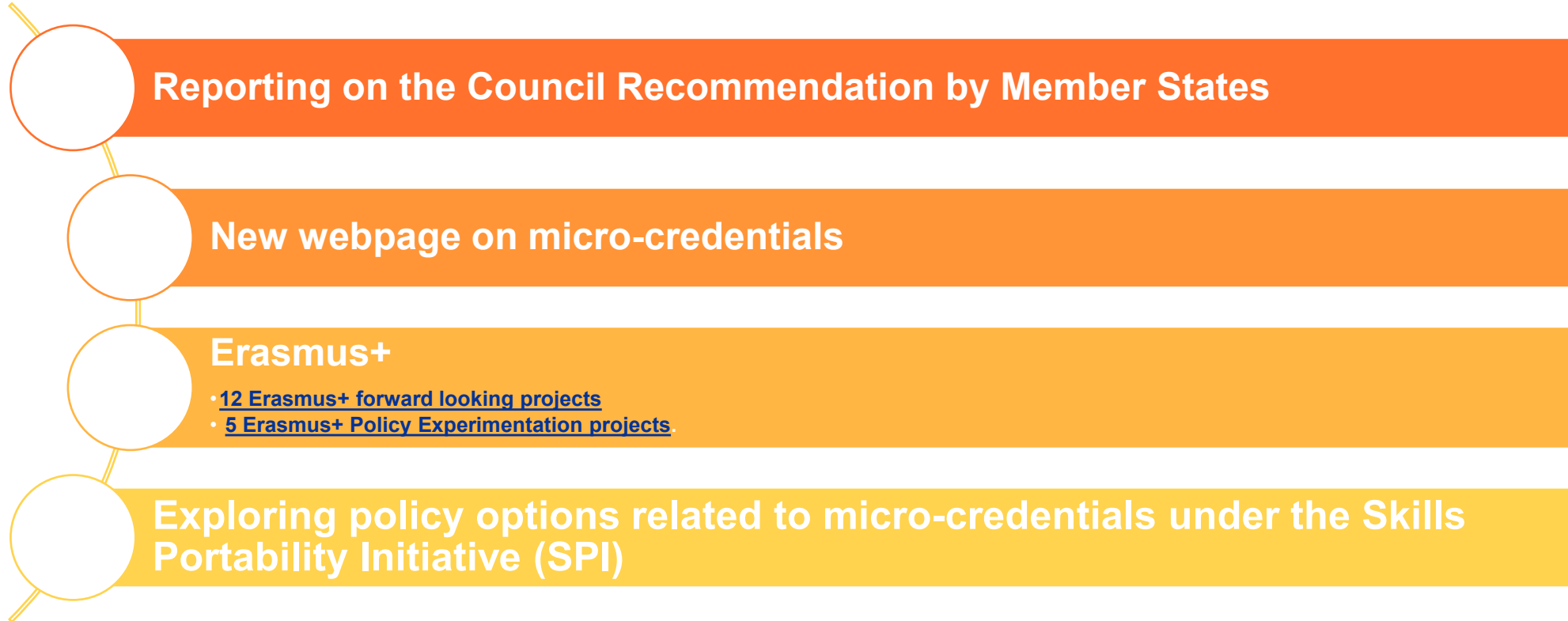
Building trust in micro-credentials for improving employability

- 28-29 May 2024
- Experiences from:
 - Croatia
 - Estonia
 - Denmark
 - The Erasmus+ project 'Skills for long-term unemployed - SKY'

The role of **engaging stakeholders** and of quality assurance for delivering on the potential of micro-credentials

- 21-22 May 2025
- Synthesis report is now available
- Experiences from;
 - The Netherlands
 - Italy
 - Slovakia
 - Greece
 - Slovenia
 - Erasmus+ funded 'Micro-credentials in Construction: Green Circle' project

Ongoing work on micro-credentials



Micro-credentials under the Skills Portability Initiative

Identified challenges

Removing barriers to free movement of workers that are related to qualifications and skills.

Valuable **skills** acquired through work or non-formal training often remain **hidden or not even understood** throughout the EU

Possible solutions related to micro-credentials

Ensuring that **micro-credentials** designed and issued in line with the EU approach to micro-credentials can be **included in National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs)**.

Ensuring that **quality assurance mechanisms are adapted** to the reality of different types of training providers of **micro-credentials**.

Ensuring that all Member States have an accessible system in place for **validation of skills**, including possibilities to obtain **micro-credentials** through recognition of prior learning and validation of non-formal and informal learning, in line with the EU approach to micro-credentials.

Ensuring that the **outcome** of official skills validation processes is a **credential that is common throughout the EU**, that can also be 'micro' and/or digital.



Thank you



The EU approach to micro-credentials

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