

A preliminary framework for micro-credentials and mobility in European University Alliances

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Idea

Combining micro-credentials and mobility (MC-M) could represent an innovative approach to the development and implementation of micro-credentials, while at the same enriching and diversifying international mobility opportunities.

Question

“How can micro-credentials and mobility be combined to create new learning- and mobility opportunities for various target groups?”

Methodology

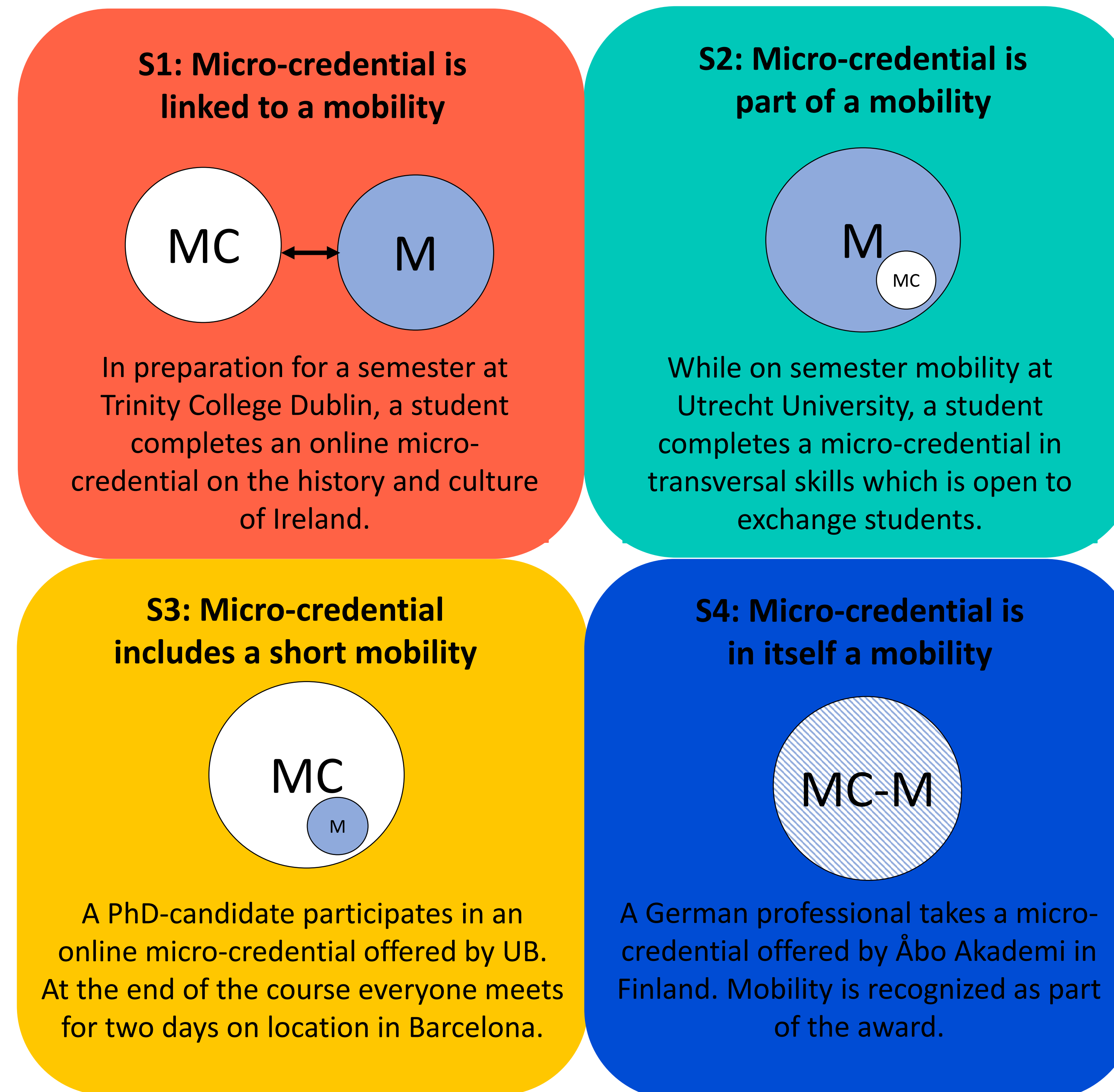
- Four knowledge sharing sessions between educational experts and mobility experts from CHARM-EU.
- M-MC target group mapping
- M-MC scenario generation
- M-MC scenario thematic alignment

Relevant Literature

- “Visibility to intercultural and informal soft skill student mobilities” (Ehrenreich et al, 2020)
- “Facilitating cross-border recognition of short term mobility” (Wang, 2022)
- “Improving collaboration with digital exchange networks” (Duklas, 2020)
- “Better equity of access for students” (Arkins, 2023)
- “Potential for social or employment mobility”(McGreal et al, 2022; Tinsley et al, 2022)

MC-M Framework

Four hypothetical scenarios for combining a micro-credential with a mobility component – with practical examples.



Results

- A preliminary understanding has been gained of how MC-M can work, in particular within a European University Alliance where partners develop innovative learning opportunities in collaboration.
- Within CHARM-EU, a pilot has been started to implement MC-M options.
- The MC-M Framework provides a springboard for others who want to develop MC-M options at their institution.

Challenges

- Close collaboration between mobility experts and educational experts is necessary to overcome operational obstacles.
- For some scenarios, collaboration between HEIs is key to achieving desired effects.
- Creating inclusive MC-M options requires a good understanding of mobility funding opportunities for different target groups.

How can you use this?

1. Use the framework to brainstorm: how could one of these options work in your context?
2. Ask yourself: which target groups do *not* have many mobility options at your institution? Can MC-M work for them?
3. Consider funding options from the get-go!