1. Target Audience

Higher Education Institution staff, such as
- Head of international mobility (and staff)
- Vice-Rector for Teaching (and personal assistant)
- Dean, Head of department, Programme Director
- Examination Office Staff
- Teaching Innovation Unit
- Learning Technologist or Academic Support Staff
- Administrator

2. Summary

Your organisation issues a micro-credential for a course (e.g. a MOOC), and would like this credential to be easily recognisable by other Higher Education Institutions (HEI). This short guide explains how to streamline this process through a specially developed tool, the Model Credit Recognition Agreement (MCRA). For example, the MCRA can complement inter-institutional agreements by identifying eligible courses before individual learning agreements are set. The MCRA is available for you online in the ECCOE website, but you can also download it as a Microsoft Word template.

3. Expectations

Explore an agile way to establish cross-institutional agreements between HEIs on micro-credentials offered in their institutions:
1. Explore the potential of micro-credentials for students' mobility (physical and/or virtual) in HEIs.
2. Create visibility for a particular micro-credential (or more) offered in an HEI.
3. Open up learning pathways providing flexible training opportunities for people with more disadvantaged socio-economic status.

4. Prior Knowledge

You need to know the process / current practices (and people responsible / accountable / informed) to issue and recognise courses and micro-credentials within your unit or department.
1. Someone in your unit (typically: administrative staff) needs to be aware of the steps required to set up a specific learning agreement to be complemented with the MCRA
2. The head / reference person of the unit needs to be informed
3. The new documentation (e.g. MCRA template) and process workflow need to be made available within the knowledge base of the unit
4. Before initiating the process, you should explore / find out what the steps are in your institution:
   - types of recognition and agreement
   - objective(s)
   - what needs to be done by both institutions to turn a template into a final agreement (institutional steps and conditions)
   - who will be responsible for filling the MCRA template
   - who will be responsible for signing the MCRA in both institutions, etc.

You can use the Microsoft Word downloadable template[1] or the online MCRA tool on the ECCOE website[2] (registration here[3]) and decide which one will be used. To create the MCRA with the online tool you need to have a login and the password.

5. Onboard

Two types of recognitions are contemplated:
- (Unidirectional) Your Higher Education institution (HEI-A) wants to generate an agreement (the MCRA) with another institution (HEI-B) to recognise credits for a micro-credential (or more) Note: The purpose can be that the HEI-B recognise credits for HEI-A's micro-credential or that HEI-A recognise credits for a micro-credential issued in HEI-B.
- (Bidirectional) Your HEI and another HEI want to sign an agreement (the MCRA) with each other to recognise a micro-credential (or more) issued in the other institution to recognise credits.

Notes:
For MCRA recognition examples see the "MCRA User Guide[4]". The MCRA has been designed to be as generic as possible, permitting a wide range of cross-institutional agreements to prepared, but the **four most common types of MCRA** that are expected to be prepared are
- unidirectional cross-institutional recognition of a course
- bidirectional cross-institutional recognition of a course
- unidirectional cross-institutional recognition of several courses
- bidirectional cross-institutional recognition of several courses

The ECCOE MCRA template contemplates **four types of recognition** that are the most common:
- Faculty level Formal Learning, such as courses and modules within curricula (in person / blended / totally online)
- Faculty level Non-Formal Learning, such as MOOCs
- Institutional level Formal Learning, such as courses and modules within curricula (in person/blended/totally online)
- Institutional level Non-Formal Learning, such as MOOCs

6. Description of the Activity

1. A person from an institution initiating the recognition selects a particular micro-credential (or more) to be recognised in another HEI.
2. This person needs to explore the MCRA template in order to set the previous steps above mentioned and decide which option of MCRA o use.
3. This person prepares the MCRA, completing all sections step-by-step (see detailed explanation and instructions in the "MCRA User Guide" available in Section 6).
4. Once the MCRA is completed and revised by both parties, the MCRA will be signed and shared on the ECCOE project website.

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1 https://eccoe.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2022/05/MCRA-UNED-TEMPLATE.docx
2 https://eccoe.eu/outputs/io2/mcra-etemplate/
3 https://eccoe.eu/login-2/
4 https://eccoe.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2020/12/MCRA-User-Guide.v.1.4.pdf

www.eccoe.eu

ECCOE
European Credit
Clearinghouse for
Opening up Education

How to establish a Model Credit Recognition Agreement (MCRA)

July 2022
A Practical Guideline developed by the ECCOE project team.
Alessandra Antonaci, Deborah Arnold, Jochen Ehrenreich, Ada Giannatelli, Mykolė Lukošienė, Ildiko Mazar, Carmen Padrón Nápoles, Timothy Read, Beatriz Sedano, Airina Volungevičienė. For more details, see https://eccoe.eu/partners/.

7. Description of the ECCOE system functionality

1. Review and recognise the validity of the generated MCRA document.
2. Consider for extension to one's own HEI, based upon the implicit quality present due to the agreement.

8. Description of the Result

1. You obtain a draft for a Model Credit Recognition Agreement (MCRA) to be validated and signed by the respective HEI authorities from this process.
2. The MCRA will be shared on the ECCOE website.
3. If the micro-credential recognised in the MCRA is linked to a course / learning opportunity listed in the ECCOE Online Catalogue of Learning Opportunities (OCLO), the recognition options are listed in the OCLO. In this way, students can see this information and it can help them to select the appropriate learning opportunity.

9. Useful Links

Model Credit Recognition Agreement (MCRA) tool on the ECCOE website
https://eccoe.eu/outputs/io2/mcra-etemplate/
registration here
https://eccoe.eu/login-2/

You can also access the MCRA via a Microsoft Word template:
https://eccoe.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2022/05/MCRA-UNED-TEMPLATE.docx

An example of a fictional MCRA can be seen here:
https://eccoe.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2020/11/MCRA_Fictional_Agreement_Example.pdf

Link to the "MCRA online tool User Guide" here:
https://eccoe.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2020/12/MCRA-User-Guide.v.1.4.pdf
(MCRA recognition examples in section 3.1. of the user guide above)

Reference website for Online Learning Agreements
https://www.learning-agreement.eu/

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