1. Target Audience

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

2. Summary

Your organisation plans to issue digital credentials which recognise learners' achievements in a learning opportunity: this short guide explains how to reference the Learning Outcomes (LOs) related to these achievements against the EU classification of skills.

3. Expectations

1. Comply with the European reference framework for skills (ESCO - European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations)
   - to increase transparency and recognition of learning,
   - to support transnational and virtual mobility.
2. Use the ESCO skills pillar as a lever for innovation to fine-tune the learning outcomes of the course, be they of a whole study programme (such as a Bachelor's or Master's degree) or for short courses and learning paths such as MOOCs.

4. Prior Knowledge

Your organisation has a concrete plan to issue digital credentials, which certify learners' achievements.

Whether your institution's governance bodies have already decided to take formal actions or not, you do want to become familiar with defining learning outcomes according to the European standard in terms of classification of skills: your aim is to prepare the ground for the issuing of digital credentials, thereby increasing the transparency and interoperability of the information describing the learning opportunity.

5. Onboard

1. You identify a learning opportunity (let's say a MOOC) that might potentially issue a digital credential
2. According to the European Learning Model you have to describe its properties and, among them, the achievements and the related learning outcomes, referencing the skills in the European classification which identifies and categorises skills, competences, qualifications and occupations relevant for the EU labour market and education (ESCO).

6. Description of the Activity

You can start exploring the ESCO skills pillar by entering the keywords of your MOOC into the new ESCO Skills pillar available at https://esco.ec.europa.eu/en/classification/skill_main, which articulates skills into:
K - knowledge
L - language skills and knowledge
S - skills
T - transversal skills and competences

You search for a suitable match with each of the MOOC Learning Outcomes by scrolling through the structure of the taxonomy and /or with a keywords search: consider that the new version of ESCO (1.1) improved the mapping of digital, green, transversal skills and skills for researchers.

You link each MOOC Learning Outcome to the appropriate skill(s) by using the respective URI(s), that is Unique Resource Identifier, a persistent and machine-readable string of characters, which identifies each ESCO skill. It also points to suitable translations, as ESCO is multilingual. For each skill or competence, you can find the URI at the bottom of the respective ESCO web page. As a rule of thumb, each Learning Outcome can be referenced against 1 to 3 ESCO skills. Caveat: consider only skill whose status is "released" (and NOT "obsolete").

Let's explain that through an example: one of the Learning Outcomes of the MOOC titled "Managing Changes" is "Alter one's attitude or behaviour to accommodate modifications in the workplace". By searching among transversal skills and competences, you find "Adapt to change", that you can reference to your Learning Outcome on the MOOC presentation page through a URI such as, in this case, http://data.europa.eu/esco/skill/49de9958-2aa4-4eef-a89d-fe5d5bcd28c4, and so on for each of the course Learning Outcomes (but remember that you might not find an ESCO skill that matches your Learning Outcome!).

Remember also that the ESCO skills pillar can act as a lever for innovation so that you can revise your Learning Outcomes. Remember to use verbs that indicate what the learner will be able to do by achieving a Learning Outcome!

ESCO stands for European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations: you can explore Qualifications and Occupations to see the relevant skills required and get inspired for your MOOC intended Learning Outcomes!

7. Description of the ECCOE system functionality

ESCO skills can be specified in the ECCOE Learning Opportunity Catalogue (LOC).

8. Description of the Result

The output of this activity is a web page presenting the MOOC, where next to each Learning Outcome there is the link / pointer to the respective skill in the ESCO portal. See the example here:
https://www.pok.polimi.it/
-> Managing changes
https://www.pok.polimi.it/courses/course-v1:Polimi+MANCHAN101+2021_M6/about

9. Useful Links

ESCO Skills
https://esco.ec.europa.eu/en/classification/skill_main

ECCOE online catalogue of learning opportunities (OCLO)
https://eccoe.eu/eccoe-catalogue-of-learning-opportunities/

Europass Digital Credentials
https://europa.eu/europass/digital-credentials/issuer/#/home

How to Prepare Your Data | EDC
https://europa.eu/europass/en/preparing-credentials-european-digital-credentials-learning#3243

www.eccoe.eu

All ECCOE Guidelines are available at https://eccoe.eu/outputs/io5/

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