



## **EQUAMLA: Enhancing QUALity Management & Recognition in Latin American universities to underpin the Latin American Higher Education Space**

**Webinar organized by ASCUN in collaboration with OBREAL Global**

**Title:** Quality Assurance and Recognition of Micro-credentials: From concept to Practice in Colombian higher education

**Date:** December 7, 2021, 10 am COT / 4pm CET

**Duration:** 2h00


### **Background and objectives of event:**

Colombia has embarked on a regulatory change in quality assurance in higher education, putting greater emphasis on learning outcomes. This has provoked deep discussions at the system level and required that the sector updates its commitments with regards to education, learning and curriculum development.

In this context, a number of important topics and trends have risen on the agenda, mostly regarding the role of higher education institutions in providing skills, generating employability and responding to the need for the need to recognize to learning outcomes which are packaged in new ways. In particular, micro-credentials, certifications and digital badges, among others, are playing a very important role. However, most dialogue events that have been organised to date on these issues have concentrated more generally on the international trend regarding their importance; Few have offered academic management tools that allow institutions and their managers to make strategic decisions regarding micro-credentials and similar certifications, and how to navigate quality and recognition respectively.

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#### Objectives of event:

- Share international definitions and applications regarding the concept of micro-credentials at the level of universities and generate a better understanding of the way in which the term is applied in practice.
- Target university managers at different stages of progress regarding micro-credentials and share concrete challenges, approaches and experiences regarding micro-credentials. What are the strategies behind them? Who do they target and why?
- Examine practices from Europe regarding quality assurance of micro-credentials and their respective recognition between institutions and countries and on the labour market.

The event is offered in English and Spanish.

#### **Structure of the Webinar**


This webinar will be divided into two parts:

First, a European expert will set up the stage, introducing key elements of the current discussion on Micro-credentials at European level, so that all participants are at the same level of knowledge. As a counterpart, a Colombian speaker will share a Colombian case and cite questions and challenges. In order to close the gap, the topic will also be approached from the point of view of the labour market actor, notably regarding the relevance, importance and the use of Micro credentials for employers, employees and employment seekers.

The second part will be a high-level discussion that will look specifically at the challenges of quality assurance and recognition: A Quality Assurance agency from Europe will provide a specific view on quality assurance and accreditation in light of micro-credentials. This will be followed by a discussion with participants on concrete steps which can be taken in their own institutions regarding strategising, implementing and quality assurance for micro-credentials.

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## Programme:

16h00 Welcome from the EQUAM LA coordination, Welcome from Juan Guillermo Hoyos and Prof. Ramon Torrent Macau

16h15 – 17:15 Part 1

1. Setting the scene: Introduction to Microcredentials, Prof. Mark Brown, Dublin City University, (20 min presentation. Q&A)
2. Colombian Institutional case study – 10 min, Universidad Javeriana
3. Commentary: Microcredentials and the benefits for labour market actors and employees, pendiente por confirmar
4. Moderated panel discussion with presenters and participants, Elizabeth Bernal Gamboa, ASCUN

17:15 – 17:50 Part 2


1. Micro-credentials from a perspective of a QA Agency, Dr. Bryan Maguire, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).
2. Guided high level discussion on relevant questions related to the topic, Elizabeth Bernal Gamboa, ASCUN

17:50 – 18:00 Conclusions/lessons for the EQUAM-LA project, Elizabeth Colucci, OBREAL Global



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