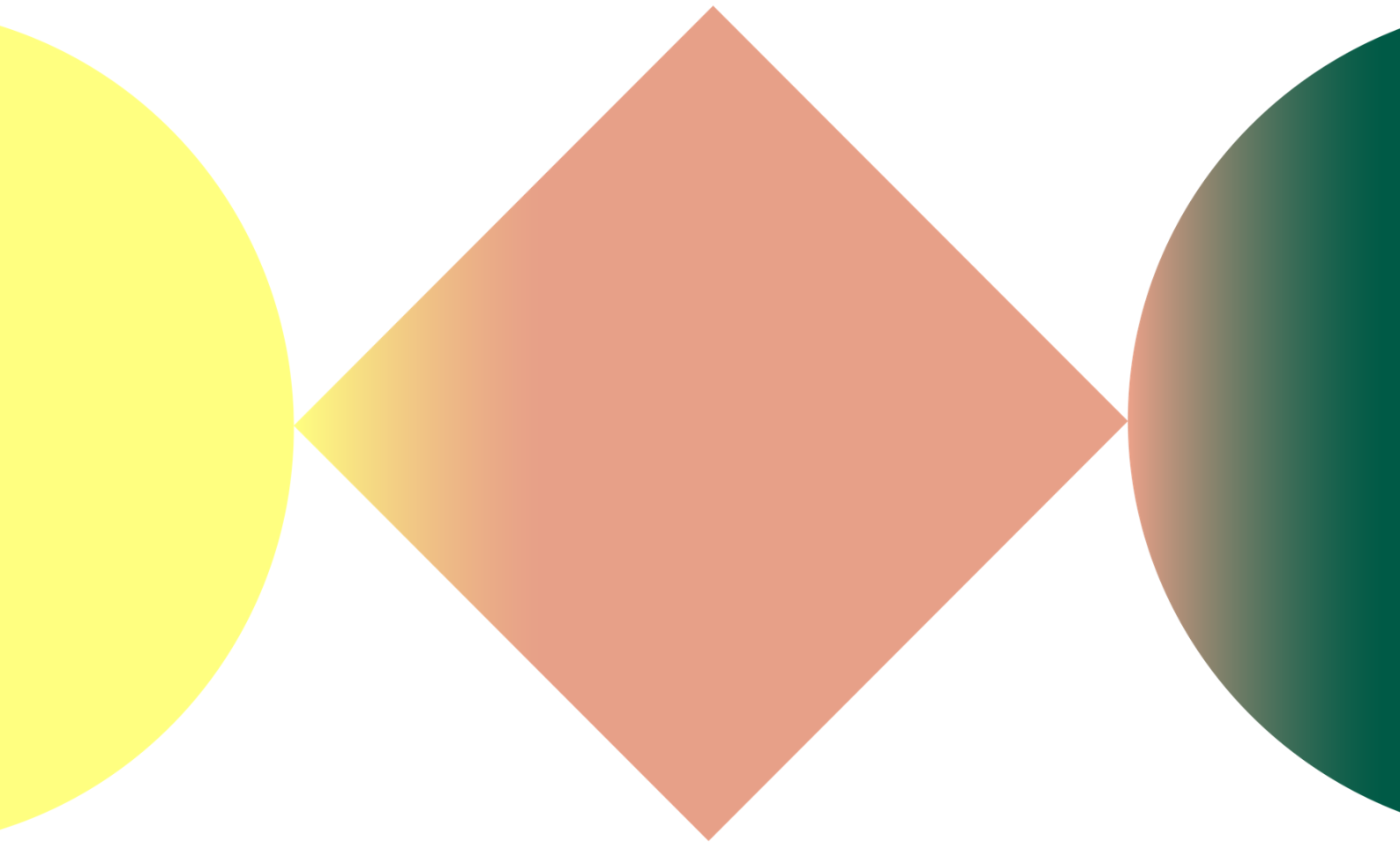


Joint MOOC Series



Programme leading to micro-credentials
Una Europa Joint Innovative Format for Education





This is an Una Europa document published on **24 January 2023**.
This publication is an output developed under the 1Europe project.

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1Europe Project, Work Package 3, Output
3.4 – Publication of the JIFs for Education

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Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



What?

This format consists of a series of different MOOCs, developed by different partner universities but offered as one short and coherent programme. Successful participation leads to a certificate representing a limited number of ECTS (max. 15 ECTS). The MOOC series is recognized as part of an educational programme leading to a degree in one or more partner universities. The target audience is very broad, including degree seeking students. Una Europa joint MOOC series are designed to target a broad, non-specialist audience and mainstream knowledge in society on pressing global and societal challenges, as they intersect with the Una Europa Focus Areas.

Example: The Una Europa Micro-credential Programme in Sustainability aims to provide learners with a holistic understanding of global sustainability challenges and how they are addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

Why?

The clear added value of developing a joint MOOC series is the opportunity to combine the expertise and efforts from different partner universities. It offers the partners the opportunity to internationalize their study offer and to reach an even broader community of international learners.

The Una Europa MOOC series contributes to our goals of promoting innovative science communication and stronger public engagement. The micro-credential certificate which is handed out to learners after successful completion of the MOOCs, supports our aim to offer flexible, recognized learning opportunities to learners from Europe and the world.

Example: The Una Europa Micro-credential Programme in Sustainability brings together experts of University of Helsinki, Jagiellonian University in Krakow and the University of Bologna each focusing on sustainability from a different perspective: climate, biodiversity, political economy and the arts.

How?

1. Creating a joint framework

The MOOC series fits in the bigger framework of Una Europa on micro-credentials (read '[Our view on micro-credentials](#)'). The experience that is being built up through the implementation of the series will feed into the further development of an Una Europa framework for micro-credentials, in line with the developments on institutional, national/regional and European level. Below you can find concrete advice on how to set the framework for a joint MOOC series. This framework should also be translated in a consortium agreement, to be approved and signed by all participating partners.

a) Joint governance structure

- One **lead university** takes primary responsibility for the administration of the MOOC series. This lead university is also responsible for handing out the certificate to learners after successful completion of the MOOCs.
- A **Management Committee** is installed to oversee the administration; approve the structure, learning outcomes and content of the programme; draw up and implement a marketing plan and to follow-up on quality assurance of the MOOCs (see further). Each participating university delegates two members to the Management Committee. The Management Committee is chaired by the lead university.
- Each participating university nominates one person to act as **local co-ordinator** for the MOOC series.

b) The structure of the MOOC series

The format combines a number of MOOCs. Every MOOC is developed by a lead university, sometimes in collaboration with one or more partner universities. This to ensure that on every topic the latest expertise and knowledge can be shared. Different options are possible regarding the number of MOOCs and the distribution of ECTS over these MOOCs.

Example: The Una Europa Micro-credential Programme in Sustainability consists of 5 different MOOCs (1 to 3 ECTS) representing in total 10 ECTS.

c) Student admission, enrolment and tuition fees

- In general MOOCs are open to all learners, but it is always possible to indicate which prior knowledge is recommended. It is the responsibility of the lead university to organize and follow-up on the registration procedure.
- The content of MOOCs is typically offered free of charge. A fee may be charged to learners who wish to obtain a certificate.

Example: In case of the Una Europa Micro-credential Programme in Sustainability, the MOOC series is offered free of charge for degree students of Una Europa universities. A fee may be charged to learners who are not degree students of Una Europa universities and who wish to obtain the certificate or credits for separate MOOCs. The content of the MOOCs however is free of charge also for those learners.

d) Assessment

Every institution is responsible for organizing the online assessment of the learners participating in the MOOC(s) the institution is leading. Furthermore, they are expected to communicate the results to the learners. The evaluation results are also shared with the lead university.

Example: In the context of the Una Europa Micro-credential Programme in Sustainability different methods are used, aimed at the assessment of a large group of learners such as quizzes and peer-reviewed mini-essays.

e) The certificate

After successful completion of all MOOCs, the learner receives a certificate as proof. The certificate is provided by the lead university and represents a limited number of ECTS (maximum 15 ECTS). In accordance with the recommendations of the European Commission on micro-credentials, the certificate should entail:

- Identification of the learner
- Title of the micro-credential
- Country of the issuer
- Awarding body
- Date of issuing
- Learning outcomes
- Notional workload – in ECTS
- Level (and cycle) of the learning experience leading to the micro-credential (based on EQF)
- Type of assessment
- Form of participation in the learning activity
- Type of quality assurance used to underpin the micro-credential

Example: In the Una Europa Micro-credential Programme in Sustainability, stackability of the micro-credential certificate is ensured through the recognition as part of the master degree programme in Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Helsinki.

f) Joint quality assurance

- In the context of Una Europa, the internal quality assurance of the MOOC series follows the overarching principles of joint internal quality assurance for all Una Europa programmes: the principle of verified trust, the principle of subsidiarity and the principle of core practices (read more [in this article](#)). The Management Committee is responsible for joint quality assurance of the MOOC series.
- The outcomes of internal quality assurance processes are shared with the members of the Management Committee.
- Separate actions for assessment of the programme can also be implemented at the level of the joint MOOC series. These actions should be light, e.g. the introduction of an optional survey to be filled in by the participants at the end of the MOOC series.

g) The online platform

If there is no possibility to offer the MOOCs on a joint platform, the existing tools and platform of each participating university can be used. To facilitate the orientation of the learners, **joint icons** can be used on the different platforms. It is also recommended to set up a **general common webpage** to present the programme, and which redirects the students to the courses of the partners.

Example: The Una Europa Micro-credential Programme in Sustainability has [a joint portal](#) and is using [Una Europa joint icons](#) across the platforms.

2. Educational development

Una Europa has created a [pedagogical design checklist](#) for the development of MOOCs. To support the implementation of this checklist, experts in educational technology from the different partner universities also offer joint training sessions.

3. Accreditation of a joint MOOC series

To this date, there is **no external accreditation** required for programmes leading to micro-credentials. This might however be the case in the future when frameworks for micro-credentials will be introduced at different levels.



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