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# Microcredentials and Skills Intelligence: Empowering Lifelong Learning for a Transforming Workforce

As the global economy becomes increasingly dynamic and digitally driven, the demand for agile, adaptive, and continuous learning is reshaping the landscape of post-secondary and higher education. Traditional degrees, while foundational, are no longer sufficient to reflect the breadth and pace of evolving workforce needs. Microcredentials have emerged as a transformative solution—offering flexible, targeted, and verifiable learning experiences that support lifelong learning and directly respond to labour market demands. This presentation will explore the strategic role of microcredentials within the broader context of employability, workforce adaptation, and the emerging interdisciplinary field of skills intelligence.

Microcredentials are more than short courses—they represent a shift in how learning is recognized, delivered, and applied in real-world contexts. They provide learners with stackable, skill-specific achievements that are often co-designed with industry and aligned to current and future skills needs. For employers, microcredentials offer granular insight into workforce capabilities; for educators, they create pathways for modular, personalized education; and for learners, they provide accessible opportunities for upskilling, reskilling, and career mobility. Drawing on earlier Cedefop evidence, the current research is looking at microcredentials emerging outside formal education and training systems. The need to focus on quality assurance and recognition arrangements as well as specific labour market sectors will be highlighted.

Furthermore, the presentation will explore the policy requirements needed to scale microcredential adoption globally, including trusted qualifications frameworks. Particular emphasis will be placed on whether microcredentials can support non-traditional learners, thus promoting equity in access to skills recognition. Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how microcredentials and skills intelligence together can empower individuals, institutions, and economies to thrive in the age of continuous transformation.