SHORT LEARNING PROGRAMMES. A FLEXIBLE PATHWAY TO ACCESS TERTIARY EDUCATION
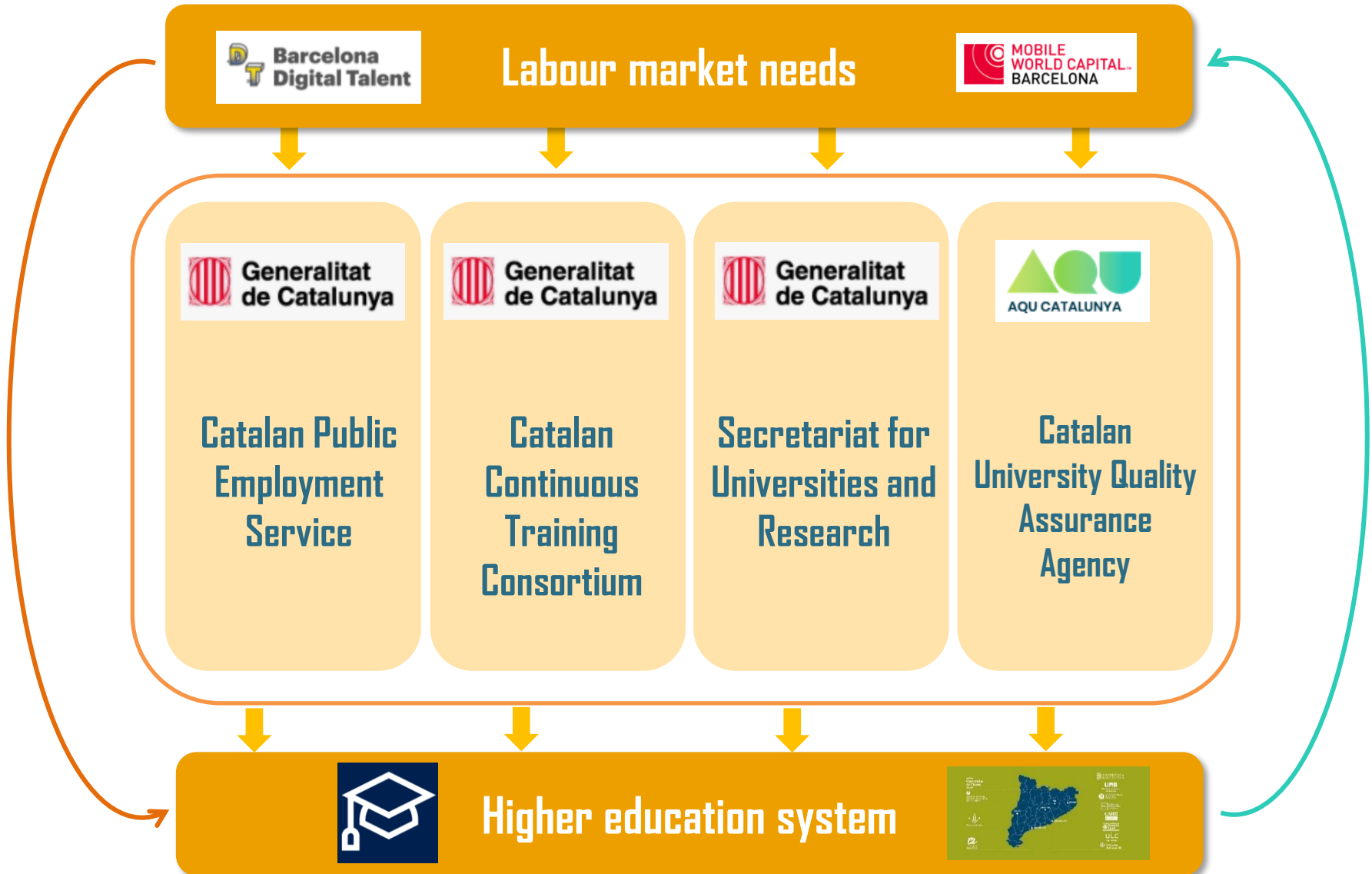
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What are micro-credentials?

Labour market needs

- Catalan Public Employment Service
- Catalan Continuous Training Consortium
- Secretariat for Universities and Research
- Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency

Higher education system

Main characteristics

Focus

- Professional qualifications in the occupation.
- Response to labour market needs. (Transition towards digitalization and green economy)
- Improvement of skills (workforce).

Lever for change

- Government's willingness.
- HEI collaboration.
- Flexibility.

Principles

- Micro-credentials.
- EHEA principles.
- Quality and transparency (ESG).
- Gateway between HE and professional system.
- LLL.

Short learning programmes

ICT

- 7 SLP
- 33 SLP x 9 HEI.
- 8 – 15 ECTS
- Level 6 EQF, except: "Data scientist" (level 7 EQF)

Renewables energies

- 8 SLP
- 6 SLP x 1 HEI.
- 6 – 13 ECTS
- Level 6 EQF, except: "Storage technologies" + "Businness plannin in energy transition" (level 7 EQF)

Automotive and sustainable mobility

- 8 SLP
- 0 SLP x HEI.
- 7 – 9 ECTS
- Level 6 EQF, except: "Advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS)" (level 7 EQF)

Short learning programmes

- **Strong applicability** (occupational character).
- Level **6 and 7 of EQF / level 4 and 5 of CNCP**.
- **4 – 30 ECTS**.
- ECTS **recognition** in official degrees.
- Provider: **HEI**.
- Target audience: **"non-traditional" students** (re-skilling / upskilling; employed / unemployed).
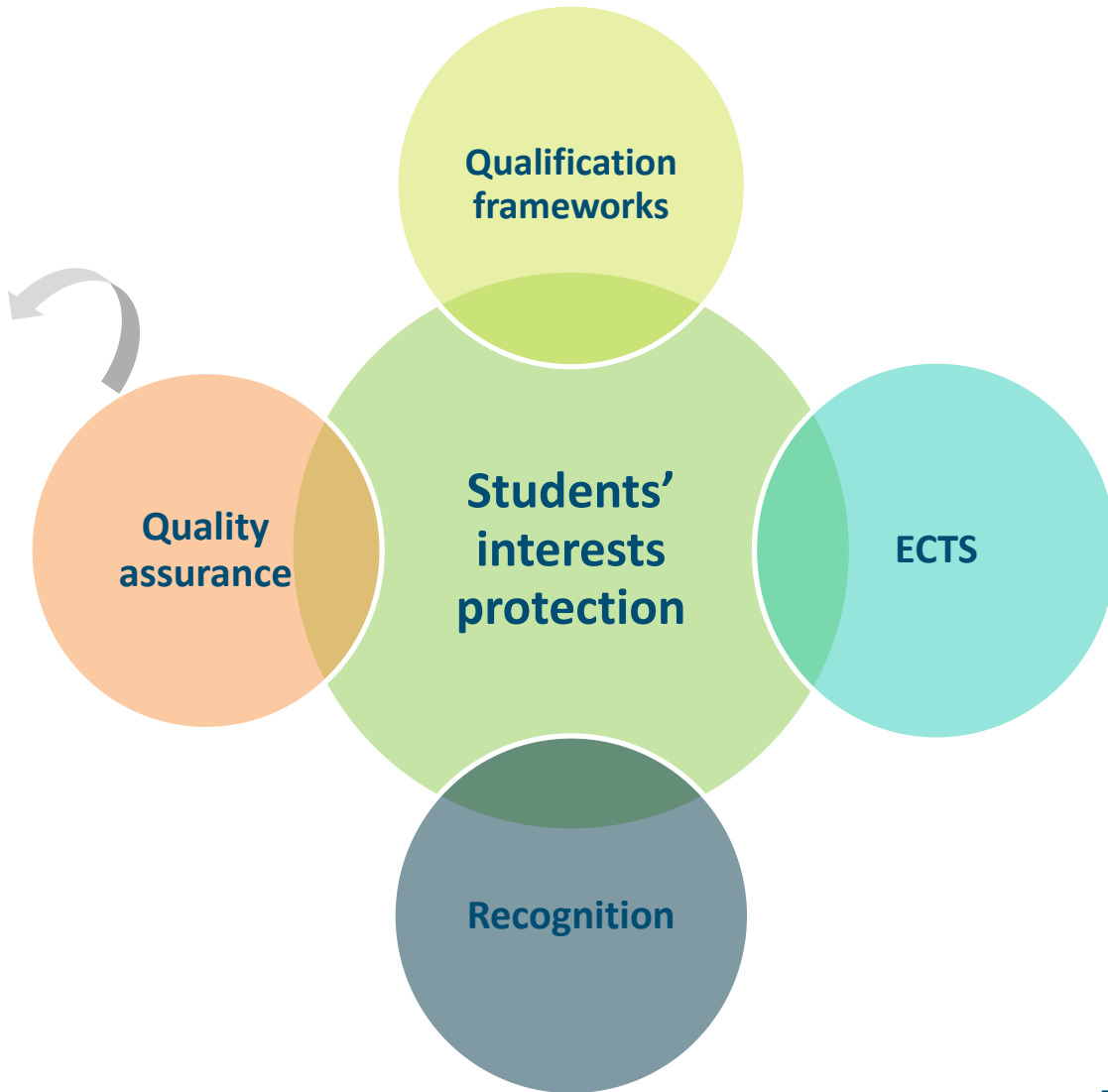- Quality assurance: **ex-ante evaluation**.

Quality and transparency

ESG 2015

"ESG […] provide **guidance**, covering the areas which are vital for **successful quality provision and learning environments** in higher education".

[…] The term "programme" in these standards refers to higher education provision in its broadest sense, including provision that is **not part of a programme leading to a formal degree**."

Qualification frameworks

Quality assurance

Students' interests protection

ECTS

Recognition

Acreditació ex ante
FAVORABLE
Programa de curta durada
AQU2345672013

eqar ////
European Quality Assurance
Register for Higher Education
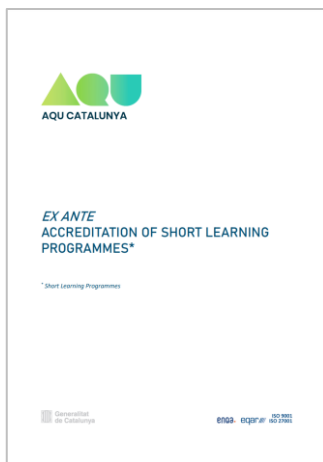
Quality assurance - SLP

SLP

- **Programme evaluation.**
- **Ex-ante evaluation.**
- ESG
  - **ESG 1.2** – design & approval of programmes
  - **ESG 1.3** – SCL, teaching & assessment
  - **ESG 1.5** – Teaching staff

Assessment dimensions - Pilot

1. **Description of SLP:** university, name of SLP, EQF level, relationship with the professional family, ECTS, mode of delivery, offer

2. **Rationale:** relevance of the program to labour market, and potential of the institution to deliver the programme

3. **Aims and learning outcomes**

4. **Student access, admission & student support**

5. **Planning of SLP:** structure of the curriculum, modules, LO.

6. **Teaching and support staff**

7. **Material resources and services**

8. **IQAS**

https://www.aqu.cat/es/doc/Universitats/Metodologia/Guia-acreditacion-ex-ante-de-programas-de-corta-duracion-PCD

Implementation

- **High complexity** in the management of requests (duplication of information; high bureaucracy).

- Lack of attention to the **uniqueness** of universities

- Problems in **recruiting** and **completing** students.

- Special attention to guarantee the EQF level.

- **Workload associated to external review** and the short period of time life of SLP, another strategy more focused on the **IQAS**.

Conclusions

✓ High commitment from universities.

✓ Gateway between HE and professional system.

✓ Be part of the vocational training programs subsidized by the public employment service.

But...

- Adjust and align the way of working between universities and employment services, making processes more flexible and recognizing the way of working of universities.

- Establish a common language.

- Simplify external review procedures.

The future....

The Universities of the future will be more open, transparent and flexible institutions. They will be better adapted to a constantly changing landscape.

+

EPFL Rolex Learning Centre

http://www.e-architect.co.uk/images/jpegs/switzerland/rolex_learning_center_b170210_hs2.jpg

QUALITY ASSURANCE

(A. Teixeira, Barcelona – 2018)

Thank you!

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