



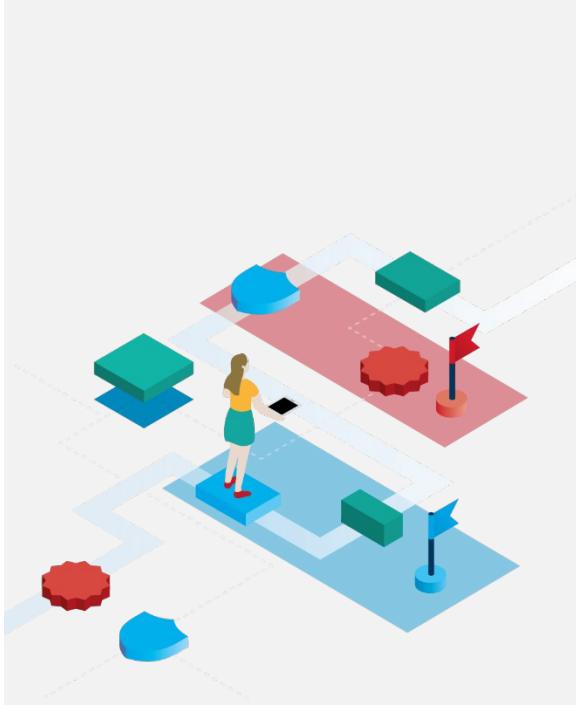
# NATIONAL APPROACH TO OPEN BADGES IN DUTCH HIGHER EDUCATION

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organisation for Dutch  
education and research

# On the road to an educational system with microcredentialing we need...



## ... Policy / frameworks

- Acceleration agenda: 18 Dutch institutions working on plans to make education system more flexible
- Developing policy paper on microcredentialing in Dutch higher education, with support of ministry

## ...Technology / infrastructure

- SURF is developing an infrastructure which all Dutch HEI may use to issue open badges

# Proof of Concept with Open Badges

- Prove the use case for Open Badges in Dutch Higher Education.
- Show how Badges could enable microcredentialing, awarded by HEI
- Show how this process could work and what's needed to make it work.



# Add Badge Class

### BASIC INFORMATION

IMAGE (generate random)

NAME

SHORT DESCRIPTION

**Badge Basics**  
Badge images can be either PNGs or SVGs. **All fields are required.** [LEARN MORE](#)

### + ADD OPTIONAL DETAILS

ALIGNMENT  TAGS

### + ADD EXTENSIONS

LANGUAGE  ECTS  EQF  LEARNING OUTCOME  EDU PROGRAM IDENTIFIER

CANCEL

CREATE BADGE



### CRITERIA

HOW IS THIS BADGE EARNED?

Write   Markdown Supported

URL

### What are Criteria?

The criteria field describes exactly what must be done to earn this badge. Some issuers choose a URL on their website as a promotional page that explains this badge opportunity and how to earn it. **At least one field is required.** [LEARN MORE](#)



# Learned lessons Edubadges Proof of Concept



## BADGE ISSUER (EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION)

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### Lessons learned

- Badge strategy; determine the status that the badge has within the education system and how it relates to other badges.
- Badge governance; who may issue badges, when may they be issued, and to whom?
- Badges for micro-credentials require a vision on flexible education.



## BADGE CONSUMER (EMPLOYER OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION)

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### Lessons learned

- No experience acquired through the PoC (to be discussed in the future).



## BADGE EARNER (STUDENT)

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### Lessons learned

- Possibilities offered by badges not yet known.
- Uploading badges to social media takes time and effort, and they are not displayed prominently.
- Managing badges is still an issue to be resolved.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

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### Lessons learned

- Important focus is storage of edubadges.
- Standardisation: alignment required on subject-specific metadata and value system.
- Integration of the edubadge features in the digital learning environment and student information systems (SIS) is imperative.
- Important focus is on guaranteeing the authenticity of the badge's content, the awarding party and the badge earner.
- A persistent ID to manage the badges is a prerequisite (e-mail address is not sufficient).

# Why a joint national approach?

- Federated infrastructure that fits into ICT-ecosystem
- Authentication, verification, privacy, GDPR compliancy well organized
- Alignment to international standards:  
Currently looking into connection with Europass
- Joint effort to achieve recognisability, stackability, meaningfulness
- Triggers national-level governance questions



Publication: [www.surf.nl/edubadges](http://www.surf.nl/edubadges)

# Challenges to overcome while working towards modular education system

- If we want to let students register for modules instead of complete programmes, then we need:
  - database of educational modules
  - national persistent student identity
  - national registry of received microcredentials
  - joint framework that ensures comparability and avoids proliferation
- (visible?) distinction between
  - badges for formal/accredited education (ECTS, EQF, quality assurance)
  - badges for non-formal/non-accredited education (outside quality assurance framework)



## Project team Open Badges

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