Micro-credentials at the University of Ljubljana
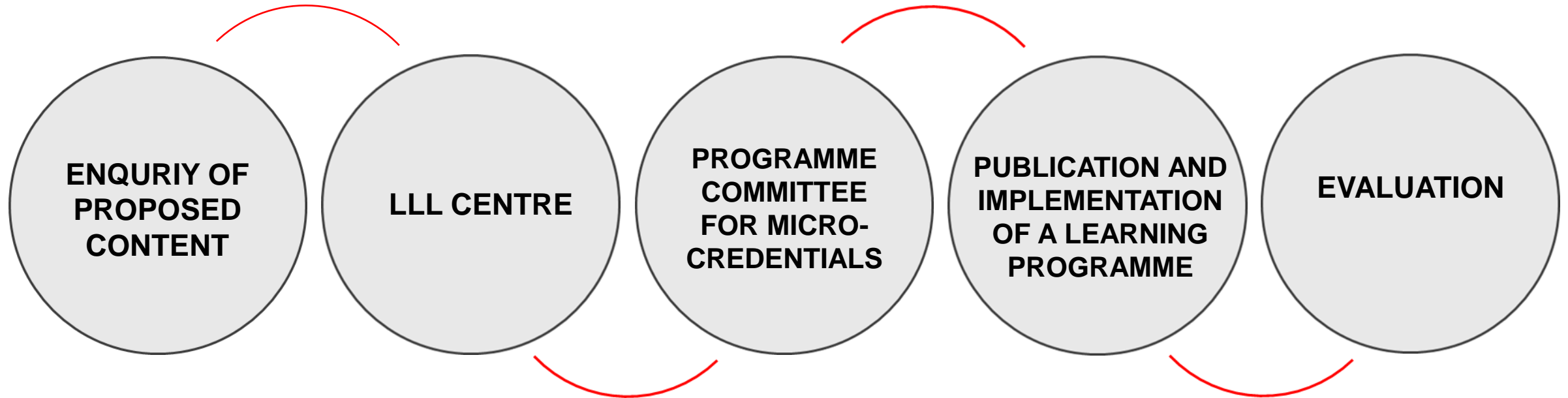
Assist. Prof. dr. Jana Arbeiter

Micro-credentials: the UL concept
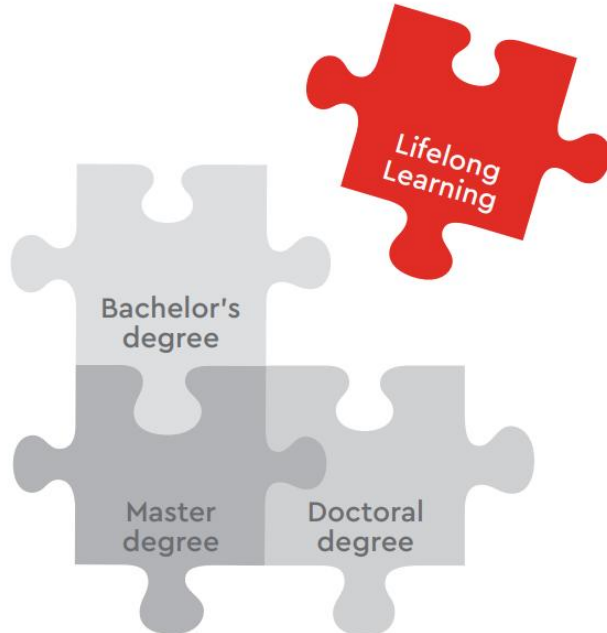
Micro-credentials are part of life-long learning, but every form of life-long learning is not necessarily a micro-credential.

Scope of micro-credentials:
1 to 9 ECTS

Internal quality assurance

Pilot projects at the University of Ljubljana (UL) for the development of micro-credentials – design and implementation programs for micro-credentials

2024 statistics

65
Approved programs for micro-credentials

34
successfully implemented programs for micro-credentials

1 January 2024 - 14 May 2025

89
Approved programs for micro-credentials across 18 member faculties

53
successfully implemented programs for micro-credentials

Main areas and topics of our MICRO-CREDENTIALS

UL

RESPONSE TO LABOUR MARKET NEEDS	TOPICS OF SOCIAL RELEVANCE
Sustainability and green transition	Environmental and climate issues
Digitalization and Industry 4.0	Public health and well-being
Health and well-being	Media literacy and crisis communication
Education and society	Education for social inclusion
Technology and engineering	Strengthening civic and cultural awareness
Security and communication	

THE SYSTEM OF MICRO-CREDENTIALS AT UL

SYSTEMATIC QUALITY ASSURANCE

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

LINKING MICRO-CREDENTIALS WITH THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY AND LABOUR MARKET

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE MICRO-CREDENTIALS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

LLL and Micro-credentials Implementation – Faculty of Electrical Engineering

Prof. Dr. Andrej Kos

Why do we cooperate with our environment?

- New knowledge is created every day – we transfer it to the environment/into practice

- Personnel shortages – we support training and knowledge transfer to companies and institutions

- Financial aspect – enables additional resources for development, innovation and equipment

What do we consider "the environment"?

- Companies, institutions, public sector, NGOs, individuals, students

 What do we not consider "the environment"?

- Study programs

UL FE: ICT Academy / ICTA

Since 1995, Information and communication technologies

Trainings

- 500–600 participants per year

- 30+ one-day trainings

- 15+ evening courses

Facts about LLL at our Faculty

- Delivering ICTA is more demanding for lecturers than lectures and exercises within study programs

- Content is often more advanced, rapidly upgraded and evolving

- Participants are adults (employed individuals, students)
    - Often with completed 1st, 2nd or 3rd level of education, and experience

- ICTA does not transfer content from study programs to "commercial use" – it's the opposite:
    - The newest content is first offered in the form of lifelong learning (ICTA / micro-credentials)
    - Only later are they included in academic courses and lab exercises

- Reasons for this:
    - High expectations from participants / environment
    - Higher level of knowledge participants (adults & experts vs. students & beginners)
    - Time to change / evolve the content
        - (1) study programs / (2) study courses / (3) micro-credentials / (4) LLL workshops
        - (1) Years / (2) years / (3) months / (4) weeks

ICTA+: Ambitious program… but modest response

In 2020, we designed the ICT Academy Plus (ICTA+) program for reskilling and upskilling for 5 critical ICT job roles, following the model of business trainings (MBA):

- Network Specialist
- Cybersecurity Specialist
- Data Analyst
- Programmer
- Linux System Administrator

Experience: What did we learn?

- The program was too long
  - 1x–2x per week, 1–2 years
  - "Can't you do this in 14 days?" Instant.
- The program was subjectively "too expensive", although objectively "not expensive at all"
  - managers more easily approve "expensive, short business trainings" …
  - … than for subordinates: "not expensive, long professional trainings"
- Much more communication with clients is needed

Micro-credentials

Our tasks ahead

- Popularizing micro-credentials – helping to make the value of micro-credentials clear from the perspective of companies/institutions
- Micro-credentials as part of a CV – a credible basis for assessing knowledge and quality
- Including them in job classification systems
- Development plans and promotions connected to micro-credentials
- Ensure and maintain that the quality of UL/member faculties is higher than that of other providers – so that micro-credentials will be more valuable

Key for the Future

- Bring micro-credentials closer to the environment, connect with companies, HR professionals and strategic development goals