

News Release:
**EBTN Membership Meeting Marks Kick-off of MiCreS Project
for Banking & Financial Services Sector**

Frankfurt, Germany – February 22, 2024 – The European Banking & Financial Services Training Association (EBTN) convened its Membership Meeting online today at Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, announcing the commencement of the groundbreaking MiCreS project—a European certification system for micro-credentials and professional qualifications in the banking & financial services sector.

The kick-off event, hosted by Frankfurt School of Finance & Management (FS), signifies the initiation of the 36-month project aimed at addressing employability through micro-credentials. MiCreS, funded under the Erasmus+ Forward Looking Programme, sets out to establish Europe's first blockchain-based ecosystem for micro-credentials in financial services.



The launch of MiCreS in Ireland will take place in Dublin on 08 May 2024.

Fatma Dirkes, Vice President of FS and President of EBTN, remarked, "MiCreS represents a significant step forward in advancing education and skills development within the financial sector. Through collaboration with 13 consortium partners across Europe, we aim to revolutionize professional qualifications in banking and finance."

Mary O'Dea, CEO of the Institute of Banking (IOB), highlighted the project's broad impact, stating, "MiCreS will benefit diverse stakeholders, including European banks, policymakers, employees, students, and disadvantaged individuals. IOB is proud to be part of this consortium, contributing to the enhancement of financial services education in Europe."

EBTN is the united voice of vocational education and training providers in the European banking sector

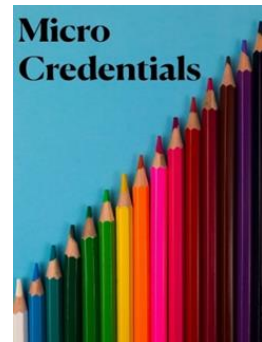
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About MiCreS

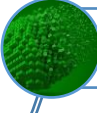
MiCreS is a European certification system for micro-credentials and professional qualifications in the banking & financial services sector. Funded by the Erasmus+ Forward Looking Programme, MiCreS aims to develop Europe's first blockchain-based ecosystem for micro-credentials, revolutionizing professional qualifications in financial services. It aligns with the European Commission's goals for forward-looking education initiatives, aiming to foster a more skilled and adaptable workforce for the future of finance.


The key objectives are as follows:



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To develop a European system for the certification of Professional Qualifications and related micro-credentials align with EQF;
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To implement a prototype certification on ESG for the banking and financial services sector in Europe and in third countries;
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To use innovative blockchain technology, interoperable with the European Digital Credentials for Learning;
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To support the “green transition” towards a more sustainable and responsible financial system.

About the partners

Frankfurt School (FS) is Germany's leading private business school with over 60 years of experience in banking, finance, and management education worldwide, accredited by AACSB, EQUIS, and AMBA. Directed by prominent figures from top German banks and corporations, FS is committed to advancing global business practices through research, education, and advisory services, particularly in sustainable finance. With extensive experience in sustainable finance, FS is at the forefront of providing the financial sector with skills for a successful green transition.

The Institute of Banking (**IOB**), Ireland:

With 33,200 members and 30 corporate members in banking, funds and international financial services, IOB is a leading professional network providing specialist education to the financial services sector, offering innovative services including the IOB Learn App and its EdQ blockchain education credentialling platform.

European Banking & Financial Services Training Association (**EBTN**), Belgium: EBTN represents over 30 education and training providers across Europe, focusing on delivering qualifications and training to address skills gaps in the financial services sector, while also coordinating various European projects in lifelong learning and qualifications.

European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (**EfVET**), Belgium: EfVET serves as a pan-European association connecting VET institutions across 33 countries, advocating in European policymaking and practice arenas, and actively participating in EU initiatives like the EU Pact for Skills.

Effebi, Italy: EFFEBI is a non-profit association offering expertise in HR and organizational development for the banking sector, actively involved in European projects in education, training, and ICT for learning.

Barcelona Finance School - **Institut d'Estudis Financers (BFS-IEF)**, Spain: BFS-IEF is a prestigious learning institution specializing in financial and banking training, focusing on quality and efficiency with accreditations like IQNET and ISO 9001, and actively participating in financial literacy programs and OECD International Network on Financial Education (INFE).

Institute of Financial Services (**IFS Malta**), Malta: IFS Malta offers over 30 vocational and academic qualifications up to EQF level 7, collaborating with the University of Malta and leading national seminars on topics like Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG).



Romanian Banking Institute (RBI), Romania: RBI is the primary training institution for Romania's banking sector, offering courses on various industry topics, leading the development and implementation of the European Foundation Certificate in Banking (TRIPLE E), and providing training on ESG factors.

Association of Serbian Banks (ASB), Serbia: ASB is engaged in capacity building and education initiatives for banks, collaborating with international organizations like the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on ESG and sustainable finance policies, while also developing digital services to facilitate online banking and e-government interactions.

Banking & Payments Federation Ireland (BPFI), Ireland: BPFI is the voice of banking and payments in Ireland, representing over 125 member institutions and advocating at domestic and EU levels, with active participation in EU initiatives and well-established international networks.

Malta Union of Bank Employees (MUBE), Malta: MUBE, affiliated with national and international trade union organizations, plays a pivotal role in industrial relations and social dialogue within the European banking sector, actively engaging in EU-funded projects and supporting ESG goals.

MBA, North Macedonia: MBA serves as the leading organization for banking in North Macedonia, focusing on various operational areas including compliance, risk, and human resources, while facilitating the implementation of industry-wide initiatives.

Istanbul Institute of Finance (IFE), Türkiye: IFE is dedicated to providing high-quality training and certification programs in Turkey, focusing on banking and other financial institutions, and participating in initiatives like TCFD to address climate-related financial disclosures.



EBTN is the united voice of providers of education and training in the banking sector. Through its 28 member bodies and 9 associates, EBTN represents the interest of the leading banking institutes. The vision of EBTN is to become the standard-setting body for the accreditation, certification and qualification of knowledge, skills and competences in the European financial services sector.

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