Microcredentials in a Nordic Perspective

Skellefteå, 11.4.24

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Focus in the presentation – frames and perspectives

NVL Project on Microcredentials
NVL Vision, 2030 – prioritized SDG goals
Goal 4, Quality Education
EU skills Agenda, 2030
European Pillars of Social Rights

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23-04-2024

NVL Vision, 2030

— A competitive Nordic Region. The Nordic Region must be the world's most integrated and sustainable region:

My rationale /assumption, is:

— **To realize the SGD goal 4: Quality educations, several other, inter-related, requirements must be met:**

Quality requirements – **quality in terms of**……?

The estimated **benefit for end-users**?- who are the end-users?

Which requirements must be met **to realize benefit** for end-users /which end-users?

How is benefit anticipated?

Do we know if anticipated benefit is achieved?

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Quality education (SDG 4) (*MC*)

Determining factors

Flexibility

Transparency

Benefit for end-users

Responsiveness

Skills needs anticipation

Cross-stakeholder co-operation

Purpose

Learning outcome

QA

NQF's – level and credits

Accessibility

Learner-oriented / Target group specific

IaG

Price / time Investment

ECO-Systems - Coherency of policy areas

Cooperation across stakeholderorganisations

Findings in the mapping process

— A comprehensive matrix for reporting MC examples

— **Diversity across examples:**

— Formal programmes split into smaller units (modularization of modules) (NB! The EU definition)

— Stand-alone micro-credentials, add-on's or part of series, linked to a formal programme

— Open badges – achieved in a validation process / or open badges as smaller parts of degree programmes (Module)

— **Target groups:**

— Young people outside job and education

— Employees in work transition

— Employees for upskilling to new requirements in existing jobs

— Unemployed adults – upskilling for job openings

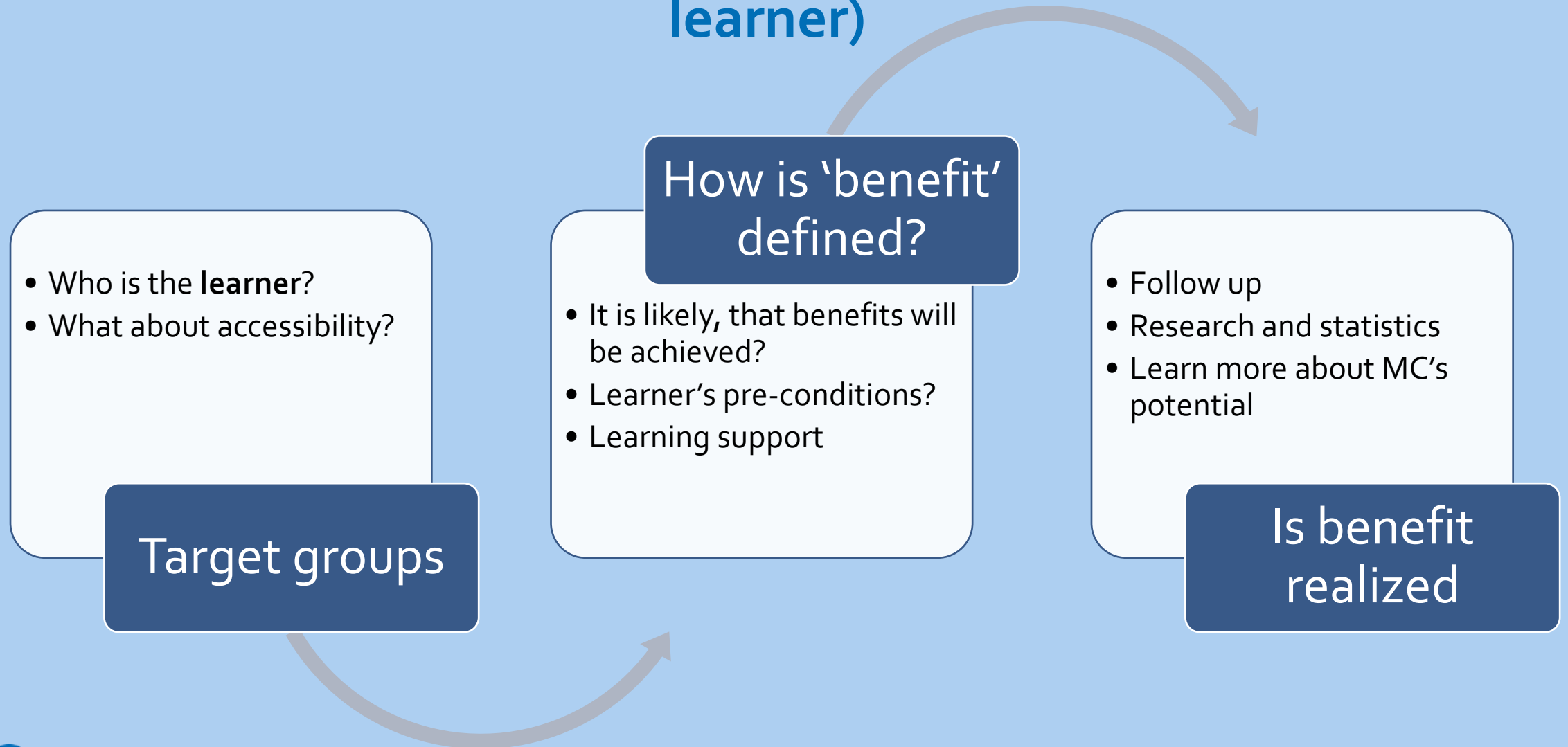— New-comers, could be combined with language training and job-openings /lack of work-force

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Findings of the mapping/ where does the initiative to the MC come from?

Supply-led? demand-driven? *or* cooperation-led?

— *Most examples are supply-led microcredentials / education institutions*

— *However, there are also many examples of **cooperation-led initiatives** involving cooperation partners, like municipalities, branch organisations, PES, Third Sector organisations*

— *Examples: Norway and Sweeden*

— *NB! In general, MC's are not yet established as formally recognised and as part of national qualification systems. However, Indirectly, they may be referenced to Qualification frameworks – when this is open for non-formal learning,*

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Findings of the mapping – benefit of end-users (here, the learner)

Target groups

- Who is the **learner**?
- What about accessibility?

How is 'benefit' defined?

- It is likely, that benefits will be achieved?
- Learner's pre-conditions?
- Learning support

Is benefit realized

- Follow up
- Research and statistics
- Learn more about MC's potential

Back to my rationale: quality educations – *how* can micro-credentials foster benefit for end-users?

— <u>Awareness of target group</u> – *preconditions, previous learning experience*

— <u>Information and guidance-counselling</u> – *how to make the **proper choice**? Proper choice depending on?…(**aim and expectations**)*

— <u>Accessibility</u> – *learning approach and learning context*

— <u>Learning approach and learning environment</u> – *to meet the individual learner in a **respectful** manner; to support development of a **learning competence**; to support a **learning culture** / a **learning organisation,** a **learning society***

— **(NB! Benefit for end-users)**

— *Micro-credentials - a corner-stone (?) for upskilling pathways, for Lifelong Learning for Validation of Prior Learning.*

— ***HOWEVER – Micro-credentials are not yet here – lots of things must be done, if they should be more than 'just' smaller learning units with a credential !!!***

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An interesting case for a learner-centred approach

Talking about benefit for end-users.....

How could the use of microcredentials become an asset for learning in the organisation?
For the individual employee?
For the workplace?

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Thank you,

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