

# Microcredentials in a Swedish context

Microcredentials for labour market education and training, Cedefop, 25-26 November 2021  
Parallel Session 2. Interaction of microcredentials with existing qualification and certification systems

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# National Agency for Higher Vocational Education – our areas of responsibility



Higher Vocational Education (HVE)



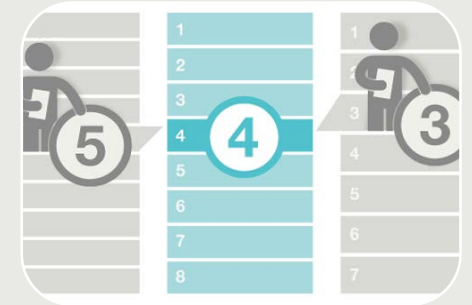
Post-secondary Arts and Culture courses



Interpretation courses and programmes



Validation of Prior Learning



Swedish National Qualifications Framework (SeQF)

## Some context

- Collective agreement model
  - Salaries and working conditions are governed through collective agreements by social partners
- Few regulated professions
- Reviewed employment protection legislation includes CPD and retraining programmes

# Lifelong learning in Sweden

- Adult education has a long tradition in Sweden
- Participation in lifelong learning is the highest in the European Union (\*)
- Liberal adult education, private training providers, municipal adult education, active labour market policy programmes
- 6,1 million participants in some non-formal education activity (2016)
- 690.000 unique participants in liberal adult education activities (folk high schools and adult study associations) (2020)
- 400.000 students in municipal adult education (2020)

# Microcredentials and SeQF

- Open for qualifications awarded outside formal education on all 8 levels
- 2 ways to include/level qualifications, “non-formal” through an application process
  - Possible for microcredentials
- Since 2016, 21 qualifications have been “levelled” and 17 applications are under assessment
- [Shotfirer Class A](#) – is this actually a microcredential?
  - Level 5 certificate, 4 day training course, theoretical test & assessment of practical skills, valid for 10 years



# Ongoing developments – a changing landscape?

## HVE short courses

- Course/modules shorter than 100 HVE-credits (1 study week = 5 HVE-credits)
- Implemented in 2020, 20 000 studyplaces, aprox. 7000 individuals, 80% in distance learning
- [Lyckad satsning på korta utbildningar presenteras i ny rapport - Myndigheten för yrkeshögskolan \(myh.se\)](#)

## Validation in retail

- Initiativ from the sector organisation
- Validation model based on "part-qualifications", that can be combined based on labour market needs and function
- [Yrkeskartan – Karriär i handeln \(karriarihandeln.se\)](#)

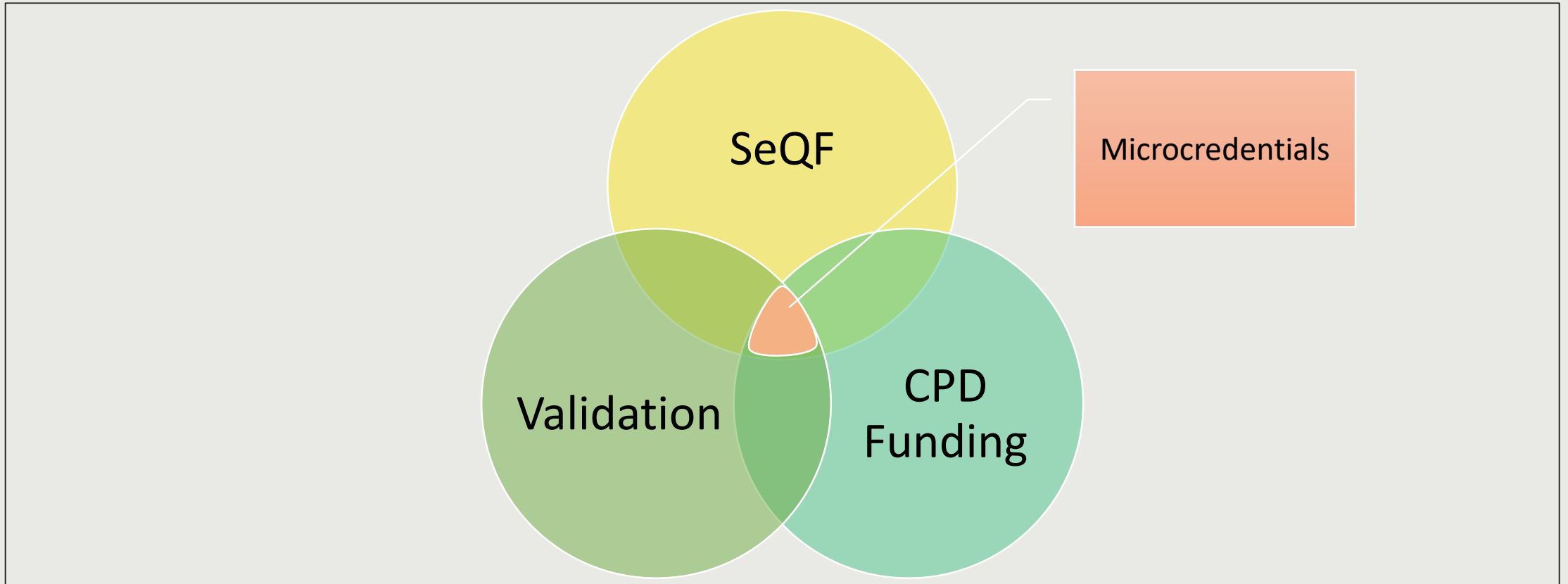
## NOVA-Nordic

- Examining if/how non-formal learning and non-formal qualifications, including microcredentials, are included in NQFs
- Erasmus-funded, 2020-2023
- [novanordic.eu](#)

## Readjustment insurance

- Part of collective agreements
- Support for CPD & transitions to new jobs through CPD and retraining programmes, validation and the SeQF
- [Sweden: funding for retraining and lifelong learning | CEDEFOP \(europa.eu\)](#)

# Will it all come together?



# Piloting Microcredentials

Which and what of all existing learning outcomes after a shorter (formal or) non-formal learning process could be fitting into the micro-credential concept?

- Quality assured
- Standardised, described
- Recognised, stacked, and portable
- SeQF
- Validation
- New legislation: CPD-funding, reskilling



# More questions than answers

1. What is genuinely new?
2. Generate a model based on existing shorter learning processes?
3. Recognised as legitimate by stakeholders?
4. Diplomas, certificates, badges?
5. Size of qualifications & microcredentials? Minimum time/credits?
6. Partial qualifications: Qualifications pulled apart or Learning Outcomes stacked?

# S<sup>e</sup>Q<sup>Q</sup>F

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