CRNA GORA
Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation

MICRO-CREDENTIALS

IN MONTENEGRO

Current State, Development and the Next Phase

September 2026

Where Montenegro stands today

From pilot projects to initial systemic implementation

01

Regulation

Legal recognition and implementation procedures have advanced significantly.

02

Implementation

Practical use is growing, but remains concentrated in pilots and selected institutions.

03

Scaling

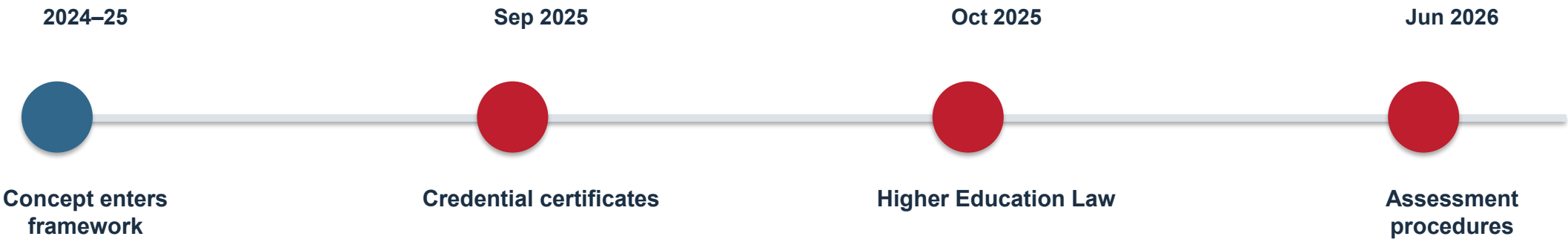
The next challenge is sustainable national uptake and stronger labour-market recognition.

Core message: the legal foundation is largely established; implementation, scaling and recognition are now the priority.

Sources: Government of Montenegro; OECD SME Policy Index 2026

1. Policy & regulatory framework

The strongest area of progress



Sources: Government of Montenegro (2025–2026); OECD SME Policy Index 2026

2. Ecosystem & adoption

Practical experience is still strongly project-driven

11 pilot micro-credentials

CRED4TEACH

A major Erasmus+ pilot for teacher professional development across Montenegro, Albania and Ukraine.

4–6 ECTS each • 220+ teachers targeted across 3 countries

Capacity building

Institutions gained experience in design, delivery, assessment and recognition of short learning units.

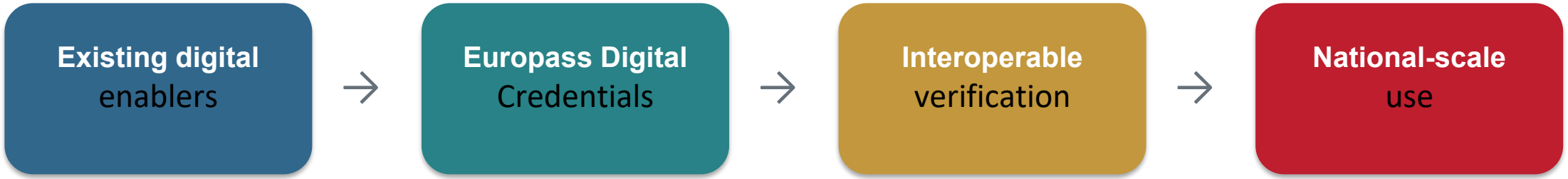
2026 focus

The discussion is shifting from piloting to sustainability and integration into regular higher education.

Sources: CRED4TEACH / ACQAHE; Erasmus+ Montenegro

3. Digital infrastructure & standards

Strong foundations — but not yet one fully operational national micro-credential system

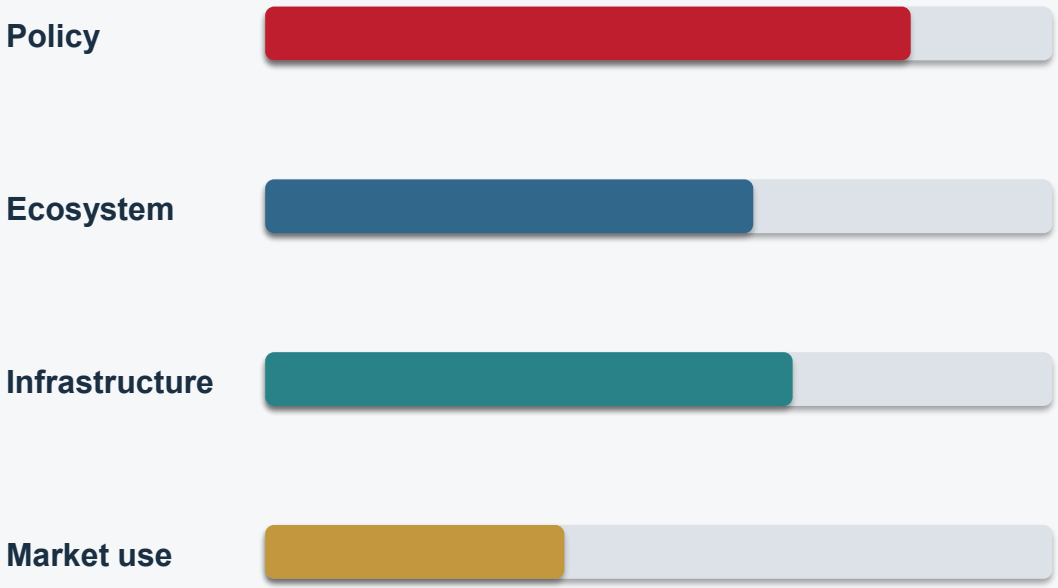


- National guidelines for Europass Digital Credentials are being developed to support issuance, exchange and verification.
- Interoperability, data security and cross-border recognition are central objectives.
- Important distinction: general digital education infrastructure is not the same as a mature national micro-credential platform.

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation — Europass Digital Credentials guidance

4. Usage & labour-market penetration

The least mature dimension



What is still missing?

- Consolidated annual issuance data

- Participation rates by learner group
- Evidence of systematic employer recognition
- Regular use in recruitment, promotion and licensing

Best description: moving from pilots toward initial systemic adoption.

Source: OECD SME Policy Index 2026. Bars are qualitative visualisation, not official scores.

Main challenges for the next phase

1	**Implementation**	Translate legislation into consistent institutional procedures.
2	**Quality assurance**	Make learning outcomes, assessment and credential value transparent.
3	**Sustainability**	Move successful models beyond temporary project funding.
4	**Employer recognition**	Strengthen co-design and use of credentials in workforce development.
5	**Data & monitoring**	Track providers, programmes, learners, credentials and outcomes.

Sources: OECD SME Policy Index 2026; CRED4TEACH sustainability discussions

Opportunities & next steps

Turning a legal framework into a functioning national ecosystem

Scale accredited programmes

Expand beyond pilots while preserving quality.

Link clearly to the NQF

Clarify accumulation, credit value and recognition pathways.

Standardise digital credentials

Enable secure, portable and verifiable credentials.

Co-design with employers

Prioritise skills with clear labour-market demand.

Focus on fast-changing skills

Digital, green, technical and professional-development areas.

Measure outcomes

Build evidence on participation, recognition and employment relevance.

Strategic synthesis based on Government of Montenegro, OECD and project evidence

The transition to manage now



Montenegro has moved beyond the concept stage.

The priority is now to connect regulation, quality assurance, institutions, digital infrastructure and employers.

THANK YOU

Micro-Qualifications in Montenegro
Current State, Development and the Next Phase

Key sources: Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro • Government of Montenegro • OECD SME Policy Index 2026 • CRED4TEACH / ACQAHE