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# European Software Skills Alliance.

Case Study

## Digital certificates for the recognition of non-formal education

**Presented by:** HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht

**Industry:** Higher Education

**Location:** Utrecht, Netherlands

**Size:** +250 employees

### Challenges:

- Digitisation and portability of the qualification and certification processes
- Lifelong learning and certification

### Solution:

The [University of Applied Science Utrecht](#) joined the national Dutch pilot programme on **Edubadges (digital certificates)** to experiment and award students and professionals who completed **extra-curricular achievements**, as part of their UAS Honours programme. The initiative answers a broader need to achieve lifelong learning with modular programmes and increased flexibility for learning pathways.

The pilot programme is implemented by a group of universities that also meets to share their experience and **addresses important technical, legal, privacy, and communication issues** related to the awarding of digital certificates.

The technical infrastructure used is supported by [Surf](#) — an IT cooperation organisation of educational and research institutions in the Netherlands. In practice, **teachers can now issue Edubadges in a few clicks for any student affiliated with the platform** so they can add it to their digital wallet.



## Results:

380 learners have achieved 713 learning outcomes and **110 Edubadges have been awarded by 12 teachers** through the platform.

The results from this **Edubadges proof of concept** are used to develop a **pilot programme to issue Microcredentials**. While Edubadges are used to award non-formal education, Microcredentials will be used for formal education with the issuing of ECTS credits.

## Key benefits:

- An easy-to-use platform to award Edubadges
- Simple digital recognition of knowledge that is portable
- Eases the identification of acquired skills and knowledge for students and potential employers — if recognised

## Key resources:

- Involvement of legal, security, and IT departments of the university
- Teachers need to be trained on how to use the platform (0,5 hours)
- API connecting the Student Information System of the university and the platform to facilitate the issuing of badges
- Quality assurance processes and recognition of the Edubadges by third parties

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