Why digital badges matter? (SRCE experience)

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University Computing Centre - SRCE

- established in 1971 by the University of Zagreb
- main computing centre and architect of the Croatian higher education e-infrastructure
- competence center for ICT as well as center for education and support in application of ICT
- regular EUNIS member

Educational Services at SRCE

- Providing learning activities (lessons, courses, educational programmes) in the field of ICT for teachers, IT professionals, students, citizens
- **6300+** participants in 2018

E-learning Centre
national centre supporting institutions, teachers and students in implementation of e-learning in higher education in Croatia
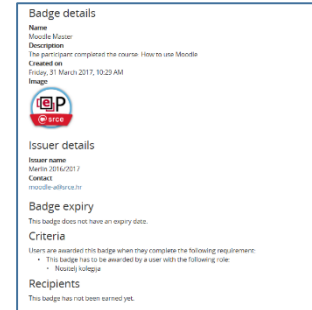
About digital badges

- Digital badges represent achievements that can be displayed, accessed, and verified online
- Increasingly used in education (formal, non-formal and informal)
- Application of digital badges in educational context
  - As an information
  - Proof of acquired competences (clearly indicating how the learning outcomes are valued)
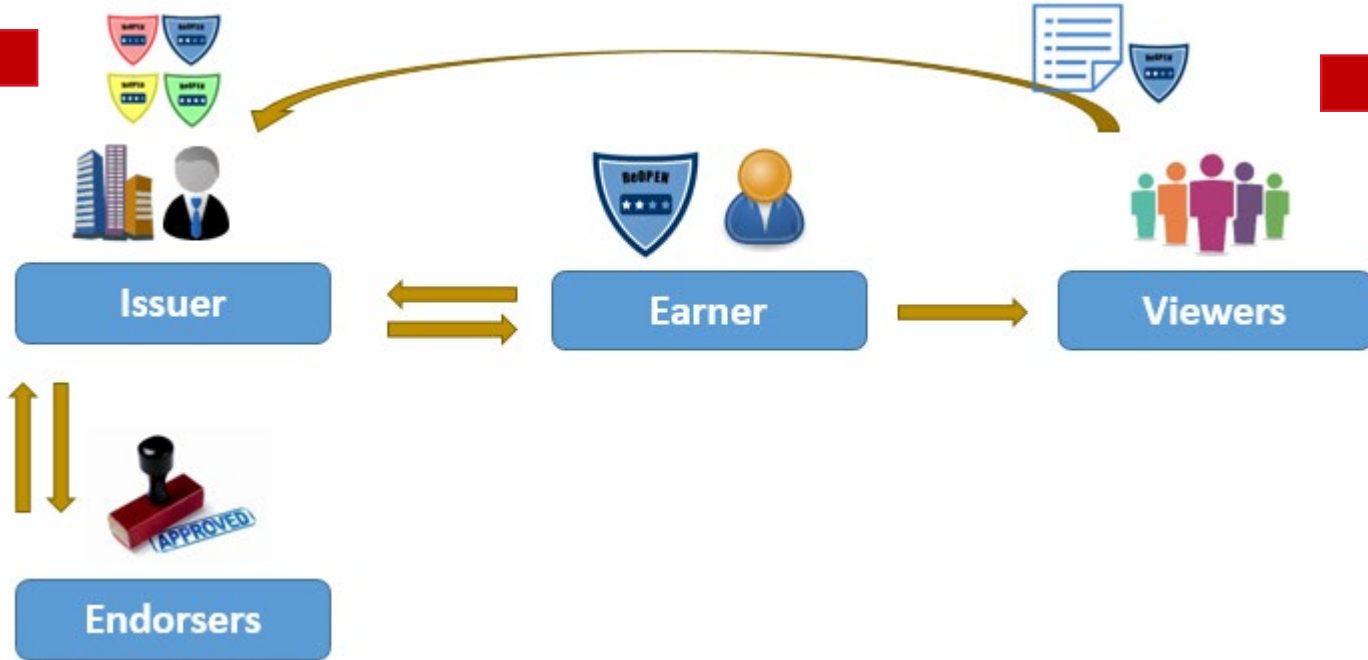 - Reward or motivation for futher work and learning

Visual representation

Metadata

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Key actors of the digital badge ecosystem

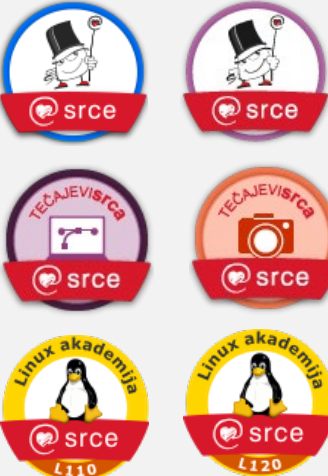Developers

Displayers

Issuer

Earner

Viewers

Endorsers

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SRCE experience with implementation of digital badges

- **2015**: Online courses for teachers related to use of Moodle and e-learning technologies (prepared and organized by E-learning Centre at SRCE)

- **2016 – 2018**: Other educational services in the SRCE implemented digital badges
- **Today:**
- Specific examples of implementations:
  - Digital badge issued after each course completion
  - Digital badges combined with Moodle tool LevelUp!
  - Digital badges issued for authors of articles in order to promote their work

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Specific examples of implementations

Digital badges issued after each course completion	Digital badges combined with Moodle tool LevelUp!	Digital badges issued for authors of articles

Visual representations of selected digital badges issued by SRCE

SRCE's participation in Erasmus+ project ReOPEN

- Recognition of Open and Valid Learning (http://reopen.eu)
- Coordinator: Vytatus Magnus University, Lithuania
- One of project activities was to explore the application of digital badges as a new form of digital credentialization and to track one's learning path in non-formal open learning
- Results (related to digital badges)
  - Online training material on application of digital badges (http://reopen.eu/training-material/)
  - Workshops for teachers (Recognition of non-formal learning)

TRAINING MATERIAL ON APPLICATION OF DIGITAL BADGES

Training material focus on teacher and trainer competence development to apply digital badges in open learning to plan recognition and credentialization of open learning processes in formal learning and by employer organizations. Training material include theoretical references and presentations, as well as practical task for trainees. It will be based on concrete skill and competence definition and practical tasks will be based on group work and trainee collaboration in order to foster teacher and trainer open collaboration approach and matching open learning with formal learning and employer organizations requirements and settings.

Training material is 20-30 learning hours adapted for self-learning and face to face training.

Access training material

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Development of online course on digital badges

- Croatian language
- Developed by SRCE team and was reviewed by external expert
- Aim of the course was to familiarise teachers and anyone involved in education process with the concept of digital badge, what it consists of, what it is used for, how it's being created and how it can be used in different educational environments
- VLE: Moodle
- Four modules
  - Introduction to digital badges
  - Digital badges in education
  - How to create a digital badge
  - Exporting digital badges to another system
- In production from September 2018

Results

- During first three months 334 participants enrolled
  - Teachers are usually reserved about new things in education and are not so eager to take trainings
- Feedback after course completion
  - 70 participants answered survey
  - Average course grade: 4.41 (scale 1-5)
  - 95.71% stated they have gained knowledge and skills they expected
  - participants stated that they plan to use digital badges for:
    - student's motivation to finish course activities
    - extracurricular activities: volunteer work, for participation in projects, for work in library
    - to award students for excellence in learning
    - courses they plan to develop
    - for presentation of their skills in CVs and on social networks.
  - Participants highlighted having lots of examples as very positive fact that enabled them enabled them to get a better idea on use of digital badges

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Conclusion

- Digital badges are relatively new tool and their value and efficacy in educational setting is still being explored

- skill-based badges vs participation-based badges

- importance of systematic approach when implementing digital badges on institutional level

- continuous work on raising awareness on new technologies and their possibilities to enhance the quality of educational process

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Thank you!

Questions?

For more information:

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