





Good Practices in Certification of Trainings

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Outline

1.  Rationale for background paper/ research
2.  Research Methodology
3.  Main Findings
4.  Conclusions

Focus and rationale of background paper/ research



An assessment of certification practices of a small selection of statistical training institutes in terms of the types of qualifications or credentials they offer for short courses and the procedures they follow to quality assure the credentials that they issue.



- **Output** identified as one of the priority areas in the workplan of the Global Network for Institutions of Statistical Training (GIST) Task Team 2 - *Online gateway and e-learning community of practice*.
- **Contribution to** strategic action areas of GIST to foster a global discussion on certification

Methodology



- Desk research + Input from Task Team 2

- Case studies of three training institutes (SIAP, ITCILO, FAO)
 - ✓ Types of credentials offered for **short-term courses**
 - ✓ Process for certifying learning outcomes
 - ✓ Innovative practices in certification

Profile of the selected training institutes



- Offers a range of multilingual self-paced courses (online or on personal computers)
- Courses target professionals working in food and nutrition security, social and economic development, and sustainable management of natural resources
- Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and FAO strategic programmes



- Programmes that are designed to meet the needs of a diversity of professionals working in the field of employment and labour market policies; not limited to official statistics
- Target group includes government officials in line ministries, representatives of workers' and employers' organizations, experts and technical staff from development partners



- Training arm of ESCAP
- Offers a range of courses in official statistics that cover all areas and domains of statistics and are intended to build national statistical capacity to produce high quality official statistics for monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Courses target primarily data producers (NSOs) but also extend to data users

Certification ...

“proof of a qualification acquired by a pupil or student after passing an examination or completion of a course of training”

–UNESCO, 1984

Qualifications and Credentials

“the official confirmation, usually in the form of a document certifying the successful completion of an educational programme or of a stage of a programme” (UNESCO, 2012)

Certificates



Badges

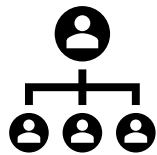


Importance of credentials



Learner

Authenticate that the learning outcomes, skills and competences were achieved (irrespective of the level of the course - beginner, intermediate or advanced); inspire confidence; and represent an investment in training, continuous learning and upskilling



Organization

Provide evidence of professional competence and institutional capacity



Training Institute

Validate the quality of the training programmes and courses offered by the institute

Finding 1. Certificates are most the basic form of credentials



Different types of certificates

- **Certificates of participation** acknowledge learner has attended and/ or completed more than 80% of the course
- **Certificates of achievement/ completion** recognize that the learner has achieved the specific or defined outcomes (skills, knowledge or competences) based on the pre-established criteria;
- **Certificates of achievement/ completion** are conditioned on the attainment of **passing grade** (institute-specific standard) on final/ summative assessment
 - ITCILO: 60% (2 – 10 credits)
 - SIAP: 70%

Finding 1. Certificates are most the basic form of credentials



Important elements of certificates

- **Text elements:** Name of learner/ recipient; full name of programme/ course, start and end dates, signature of head of institute
- **Graphic elements:** institute's logo, borders and background colours related to the institute's brand

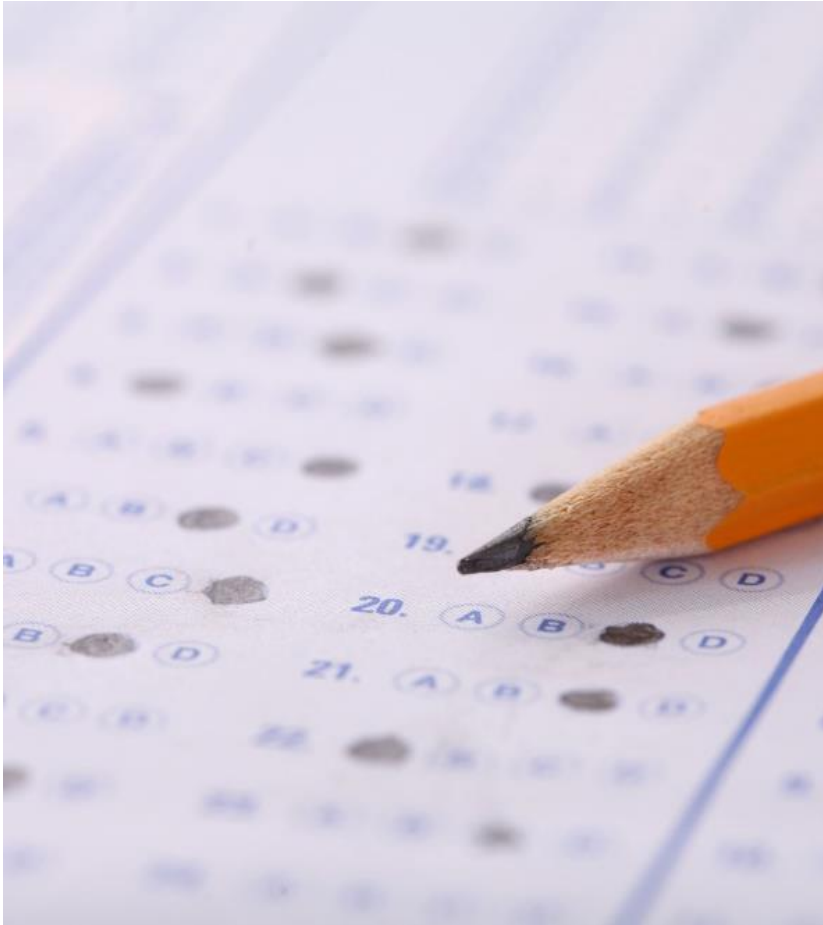
Finding 2. Significant investment in certification

Innovative approaches



- **Availability of digital certificates** that are downloadable and accessible from learning management system
- **Inclusion of additional elements** to the traditional certificate summative assessment e.g. QR code
- **Introduction of digital badges** that demonstrate mastery/ certify that the learner has mastered course competencies.
- **Compliance of digital badges** with established standards (Open Badges) and added advantages of being verifiable, shareable, transparent, portable

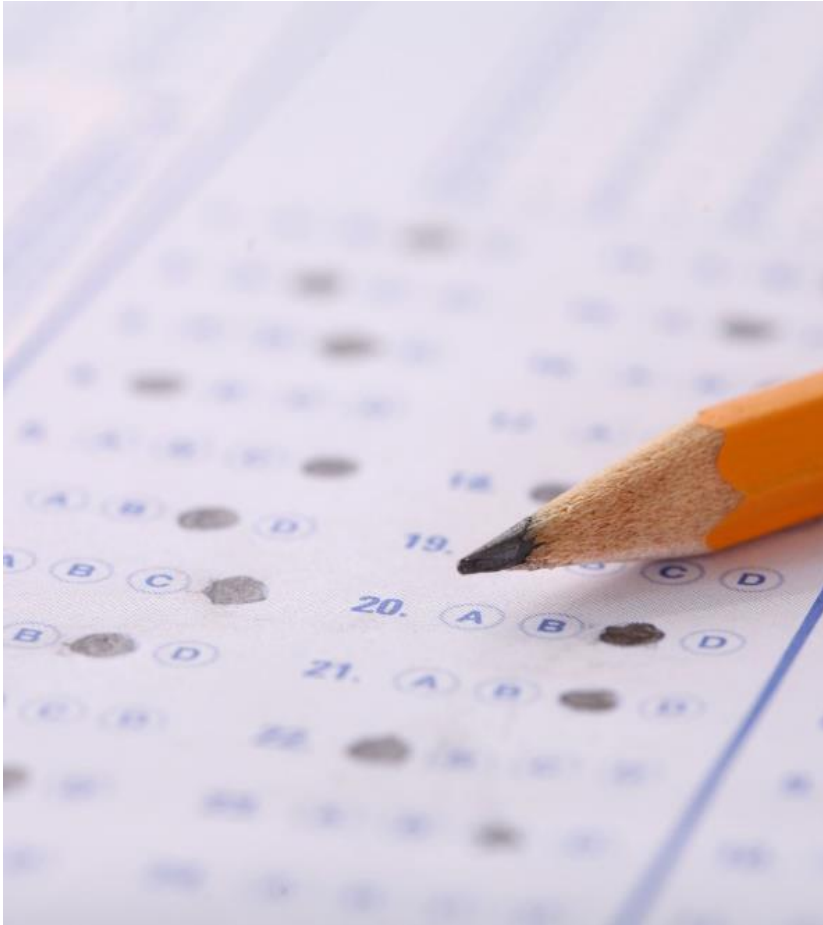
Finding 3. Assessments are linked to award of credentials



Key elements

- **Issuance of credentials (badges or certificates)** is tied to a summative assessment
- Assessments can take many forms:
 - **FAO e-learning academy**: scenario-based performance evaluation that verifies the attainment of the specific skills, knowledge and competences of the course
 - **ITCILO**: written or oral test, presentation of an action plan or the preparation of a research proposal
 - **SIAP**: test and project (administered through LMS)

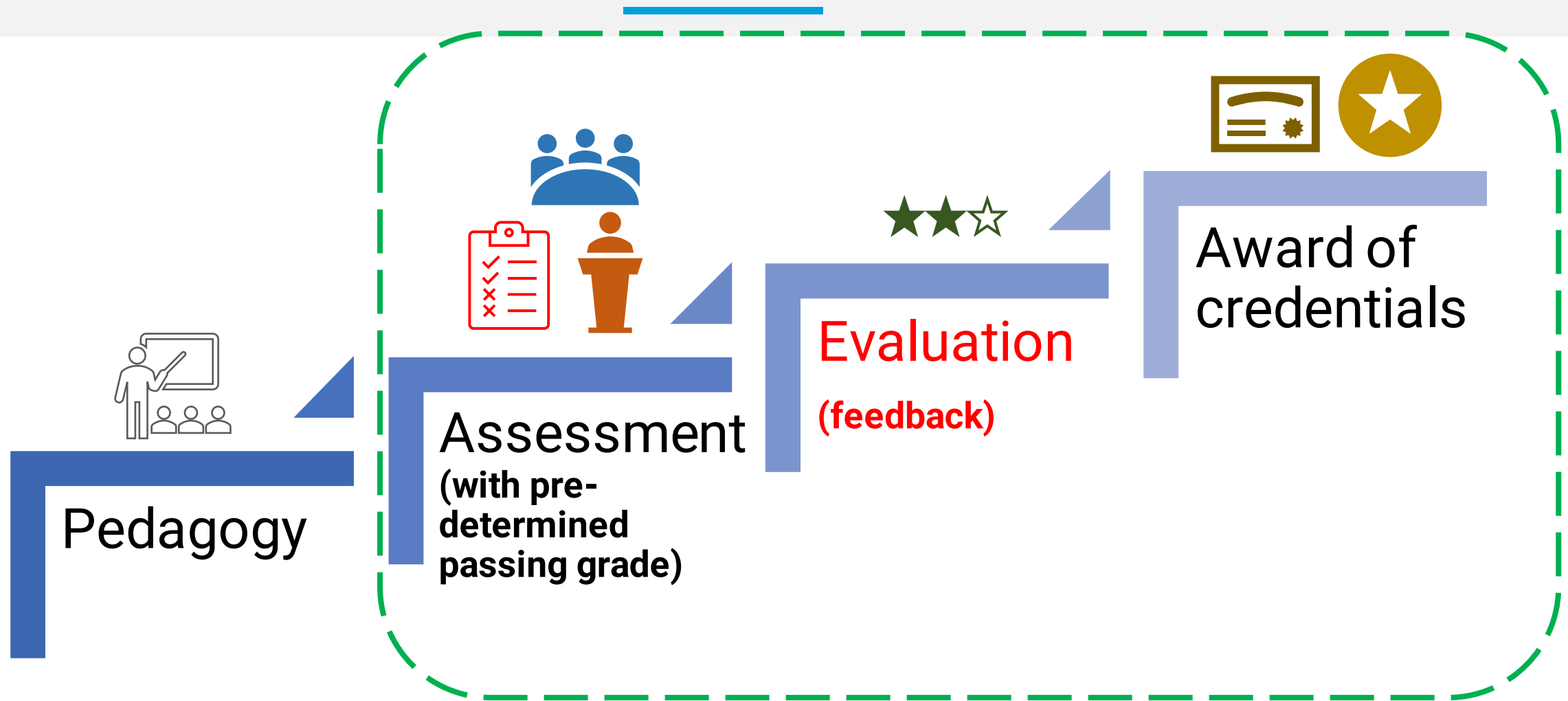
Finding 3. Assessments are linked to award of credentials



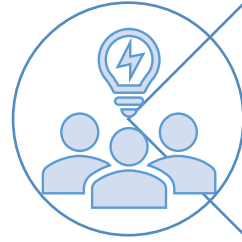
Key elements

- **Pre-determined** minimum passing grade which varied across institutions (60% to 80%) and which evaluate achievement of defined outcomes (skills, knowledge or competences)
- Assessments (test or project) are **internally administered**

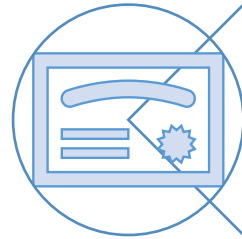
Finding 4. Consistency in process of certifying learning outcomes



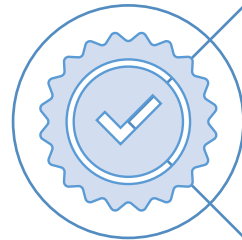
Conclusions



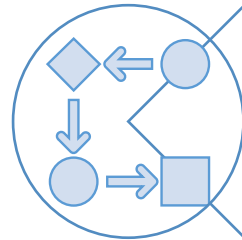
Training institutes see value in investing not only on technical and pedagogical aspects of their trainings/ courses, but also in the certification of learning outcomes.



There has been increased uptake of digital credentials by institutes offering statistical training to recognize and reward learner progress or achievement of the learning outcomes.



Training institutes use traditional forms of credentials (certificates in hardcopy and digital formats). There has been uptake of more secure credentials – digital badges.



The process of certifying learning outcomes is important for the integrity of the credentials. It commences with an assessment (with passing grade) and ends with the award of credential.



Subregional Training on Gender Statistics for Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)