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## Making Digital Badging Work: Lessons from an Irish HE Context

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# Making Digital Badging Work

## Lessons from an Irish Higher Education Context

**Roisin Donnelly, Colin Lowry, Terry Maguire**

9th Annual SMSN Symposium  
Edinburgh Napier University  
2 June 2017

National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education  
Dublin



NATIONAL FORUM  
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING  
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION



# Making Digital Badging Work: Lessons from an Irish HE Context

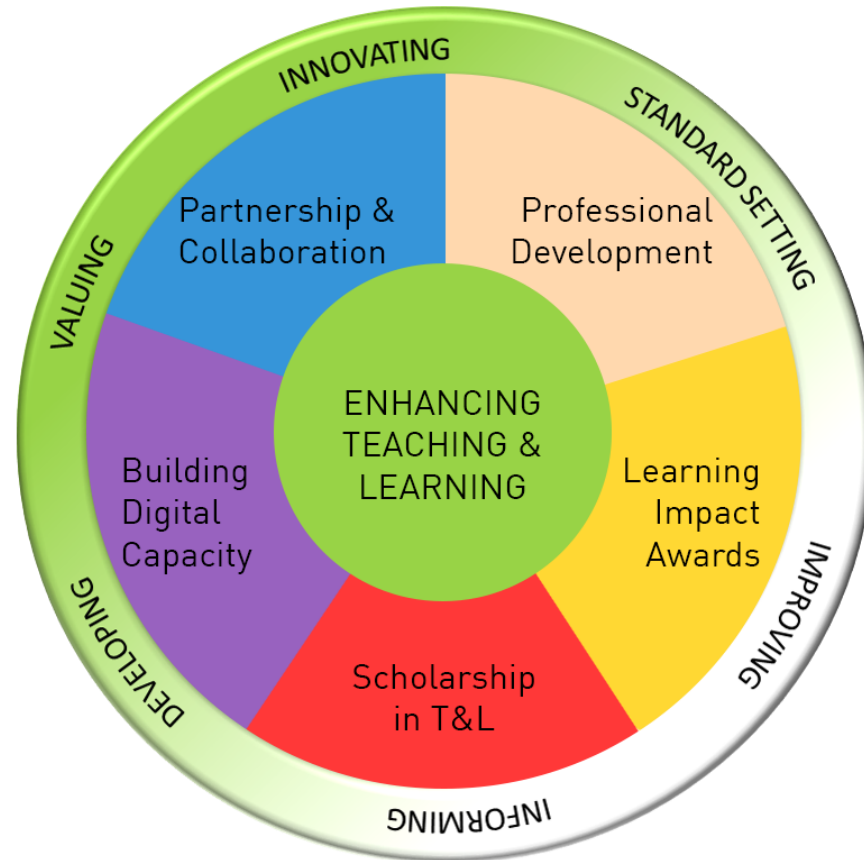
## Abstract

This presentation will discuss a current initiative taking place within the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in higher education Ireland in the area of integrating digital badging (or micro-credentials) into professional development for all who teach and support learning in Irish Higher Education. Particular attention will be given to explaining how the entire process for digital badging works: from decisions taken on what can be badged, to how it is formally taken to the stage of offering a digital badge to HEIs.

In 2017, the National Forum brought together 15 teams of educators from universities, institutes of technology and private colleges to collaborate on the development of digital badges in specialist areas where they have significant, recognized expertise. This presentation will share the lessons we have learnt during this process about digital badging, including the importance of content, providing choice for participants to evidence their learning and the early consideration of sectoral recognition, providing support for development teams including opportunities for peer review. In addition the presentation will share what and how the technology supports or directs the process including designing, awarding badges and hosting badge programme content for easy dissemination.

Existing research has shown that teachers who earn micro-credentials do want to earn more of them-97% of post-course survey respondents indicated that they wanted to pursue another micro-credential in the future. In our context, it would be interesting to research how earning these micro-credentials can impact teachers' PD and practice, as well as identifying necessary levers and existing barriers for scaling the use of digital badging for continued learning opportunities for the Irish HE sector.





[teachingandlearning.ie](http://teachingandlearning.ie)



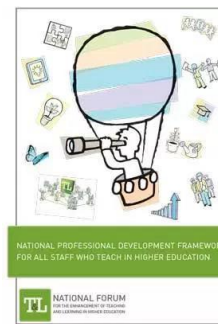
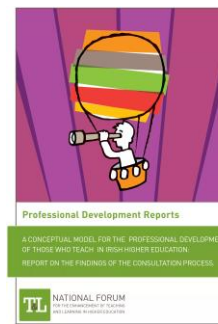
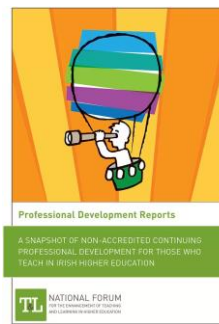
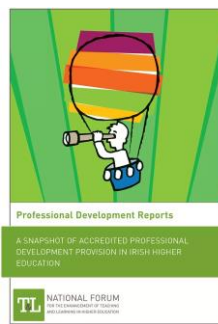
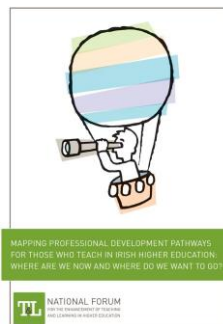
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# Professional Development



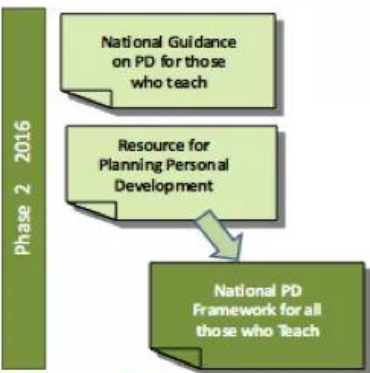
A National Approach to Professional Development for those who teach in Higher Education



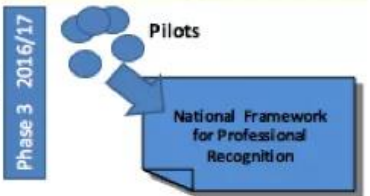
**Consultation and Exploring Existing Provision**



**Further Consultation and Development of National PD Framework**



**Interpret the PD Framework and Develop Professional Recognition Framework**



**NPDEG**

10 Members  
Univ, IoTi and HECA reps  
First Meeting 23/11/16  
  
20 National Pilot Groups  
Resource development

**Digital Badges**

Nationally Recognised Badges  
  
Open Access  
Resource Packs for Sector

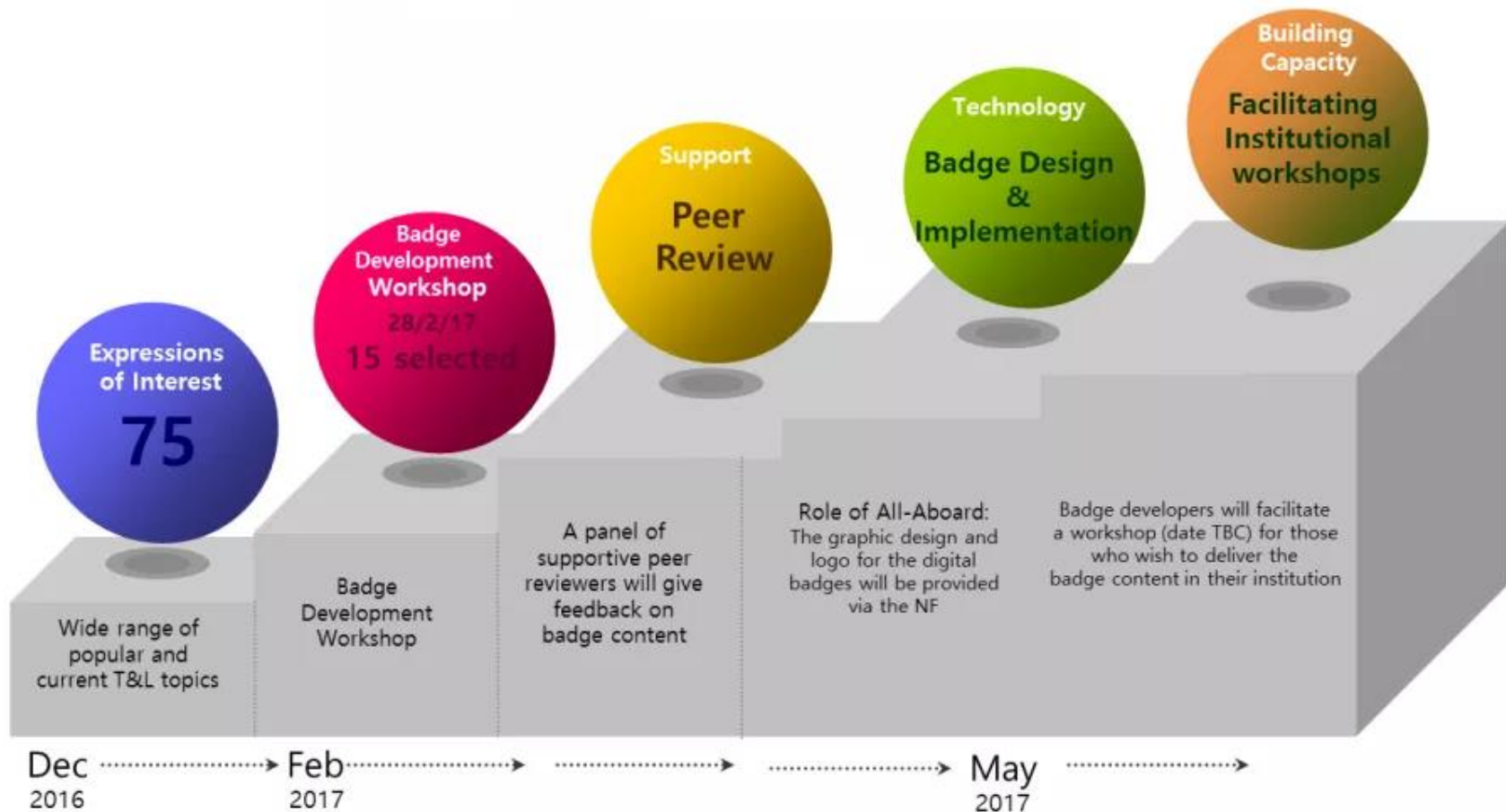
**T&L Fund 2016**

001- PD for leaders and digital champions  
002- PD Discipline Level  
003-Alignment and Enhancement

**Professional Recognition Framework Autumn 2017**



# Towards a model of digital badge development



Assessment: OF, FOR, AS Learning  
Avoiding Plagiarism  
Blended Learning  
Campus Sustainability  
Career Development  
Digital Leadership/Learning Technologies  
Disciplinary Badges  
Gamification Strategies  
Managing ePortfolios  
Online Identity  
Student Retention  
Student Transition (First Yr)  
T&L for for Post Doc's/RFs

## Phase 2: further expressions of interest

Academic Writing  
Community Engagement  
Developing PD Provision for Irish HE  
Intercultural Awareness  
Entrepreneurship  
Mentoring for Leadership in T&L  
Getting Started with Online Teaching  
PhD Supervision  
Programme Design/Re-design  
Programme-focused Assessment  
Policy in HE  
Reflecting on Teaching  
Student Engagement  
Teaching Strategies for New Lecturers  
Universal Design

## Phase 1: Feb-April 2017





# National Digital Badge System



*Mentoring in T&L*

Lynn Ramsey, Letterkenny IoT and Paul Gormley, NUI Galway

Badge Package:

- Criteria that must be met to be awarded the badge
- A short video outlining the area of development
- A workshop package that would enable any institution to deliver the PD programme
- Links to useful websites and resources

Each badge represents approximately 25 hours of learner effort



# Why Open Badges?

- Visual representation of an achievement or skill
- **Open Badges are evidence-based.**  
Encoded/encrypted containing
  - Who awarded badge
  - Exactly what the holder had to do
  - Examples of their work
- Standards compatible with range of – ePortfolios – LMS/VLE
  - Social (& Professional) networks (eg LinkedIn)
- Increasingly recognised by employers & professional bodies



mozilla

OpenBadges



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# Open Badges Thinkerer

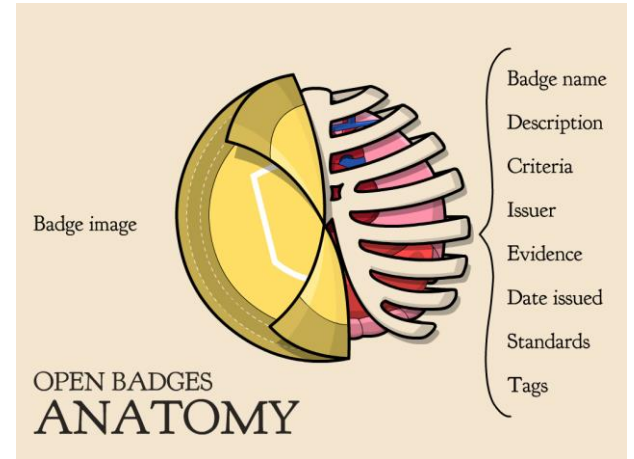


## Issuer Details

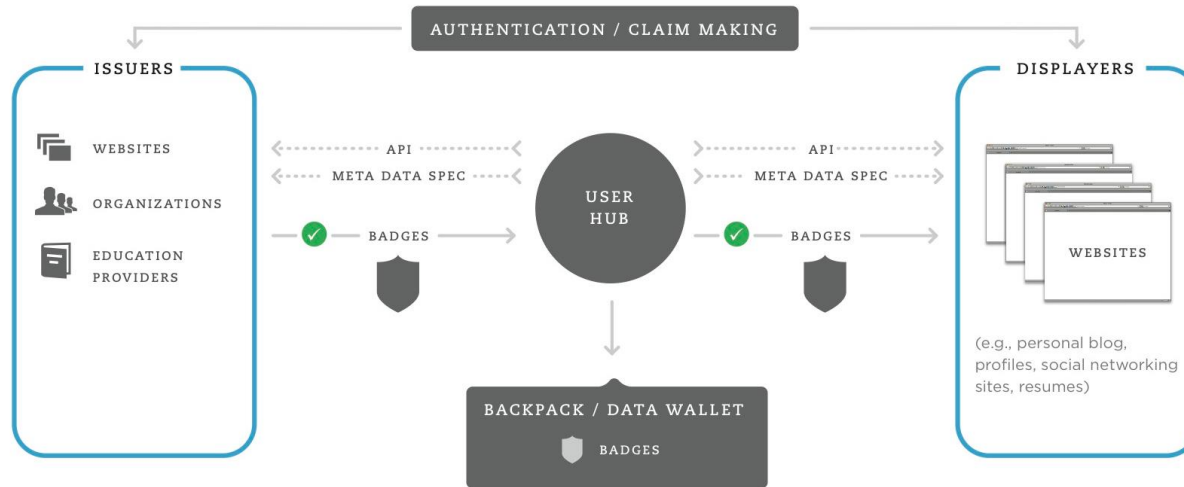
<b>Name</b> —	Open Badges
<b>URL</b> —	<a href="http://openbadges.org">http://openbadges.org</a>
<b>Organization</b> —	Open Badges Badges

## Badge Details

<b>Name</b> —	Open Badges Thinkerer
<b>Description</b> —	Write at least 5 articles, blog posts, etc. to claim your Open Badge Thinkerer badge. * The Open Badges Thinkerer badge acknowledges the community members who write about the future of badges, sharing their thoughts about alternative credentialing and personal learning pathways.
<b>Criteria</b> —	<a href="http://badger.openbadges.org/badge/criteria/open-badges-thinkerer">http://badger.openbadges.org/badge/criteria/open-badges-thinkerer</a>
<b>Issued</b> —	Fri Dec 13 2013 07:49:39 GMT+0000 (GMT)



# Open Badge Infrastructure (OBI)

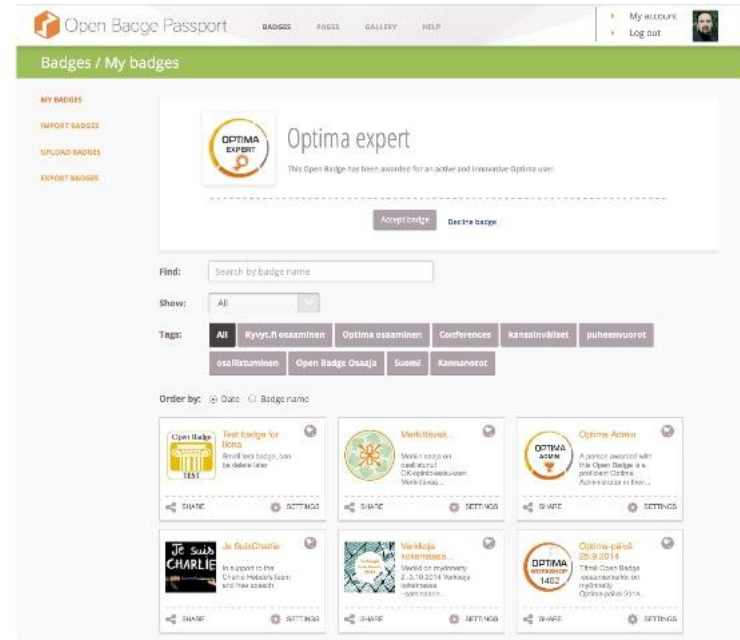


- Independent and agnostic. Outside of Mozilla infrastructure.
- User consents to accept badges into hub, as well as to send to site for display.



# Open Badge Passport

- Capturing badges, storing CVs, linking to publications and allowing re-export to other platforms (e.g. LinkedIn), embedding in websites, etc.
- *OBI Compliant*



# PD Digital Badges – What Next?

- Piloting stage for the badge delivery, and beta versions of the badges
- PD Portal / Delivery Suite (June 2017)
- Delivery of the 15 PD workshops (September 2017)
- Phase 2, anticipated later in 2017

