Fostering Flexibility in Higher Education: Approach to Future-Ready Learning

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Roadmap

The need for flexibility in higher education

Kaunas University of Technology approach to flexible learning pathways

Key challenges, lessons learned, and future directions

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The Need of Flexibility in Higher Education

 # Traditional *vs*. Future-Oriented Education

 # Rigid curricula *vs*. personalized, adaptive learning models

#The need for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches

 # Rapid changes in workforce skills requirements

 # The growing role of lifelong learning

 # Students demand autonomy

 # Implementing effective solutions to real-life problems

 # Working in interdisciplinary and multi-cultural teams

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What is KTU Flexible Learning Pathway?

Two components: competences acquired/reinforced through challenge-based learning and competences acquired/reinforced through micro-modules.

The possibility of combining study field modules with individually chosen challenge-based learning experiences to develop 21st- or even 22nd-century (care, connection, culture and community) competencies.

Integration of micro-modules into curriculum as a cyclical and intensive way of acquiring the competences and knowledge that is needed for the challenge solution.

Coherence and combination of challenge-based learning and personalized, adaptive micro-modules.

Challenge-based competences acquired/reinforced through learning(s)

Acquiring/enhancing competences with micro-modules

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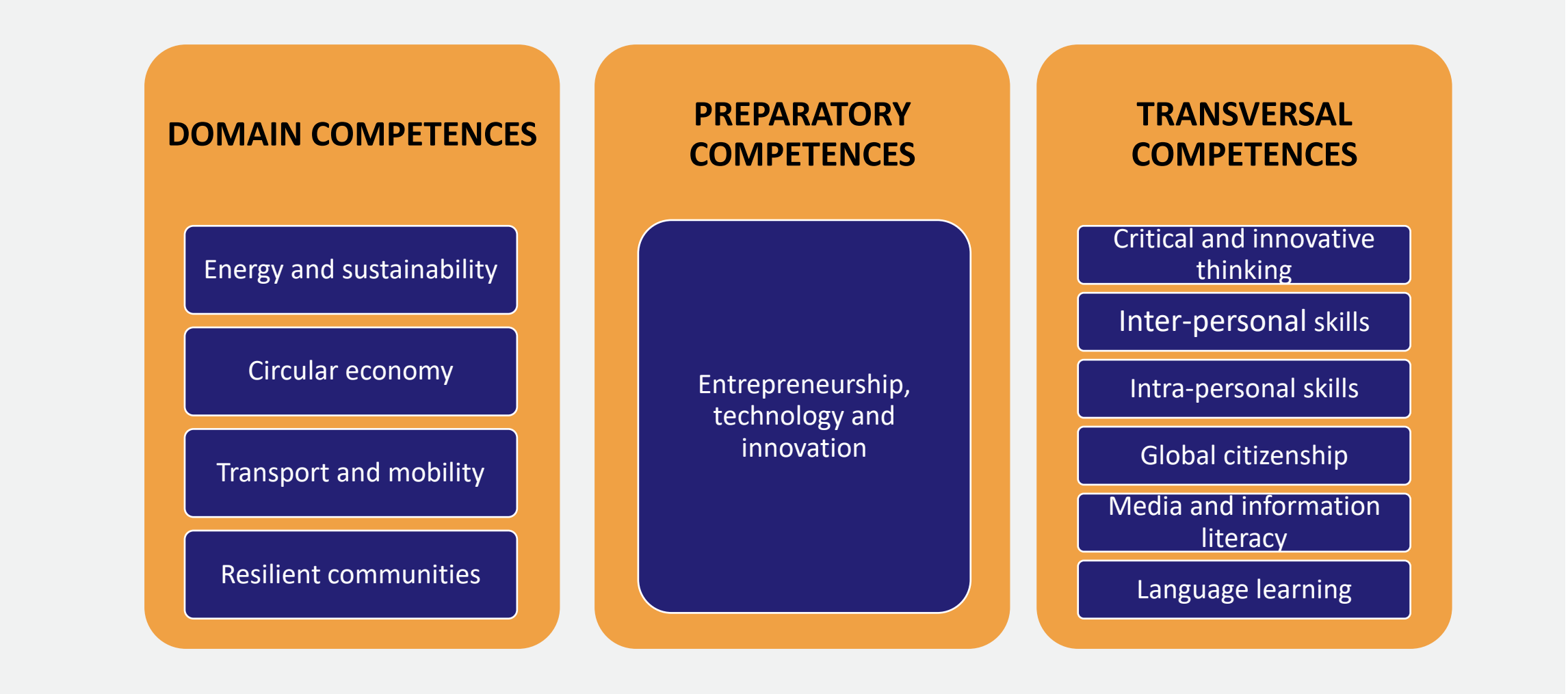
Competence Taxonomy *(developed by ECIU University)*



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‘We can now offer them more **mobility and flexibility** in studies, as well as provide them with a bigger choice of **learning opportunities**.

Through **challenge-based learning**, we help students develop **life skills**. This way, we can better **prepare** them **for the future**.’

Source: ECIU News. January 21, 2025

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Challenge-Based Learning

A **student-centered learning approach** that:

- **Empowers students** to creatively solve **complex real-world challenges**.
- **Fosters equal interaction** between teachers and students, promoting active engagement.
- **Encourages collaboration** in **interdisciplinary** and **intercultural teams**.
- **Supports independent learning**, extending beyond the classroom into diverse environments.

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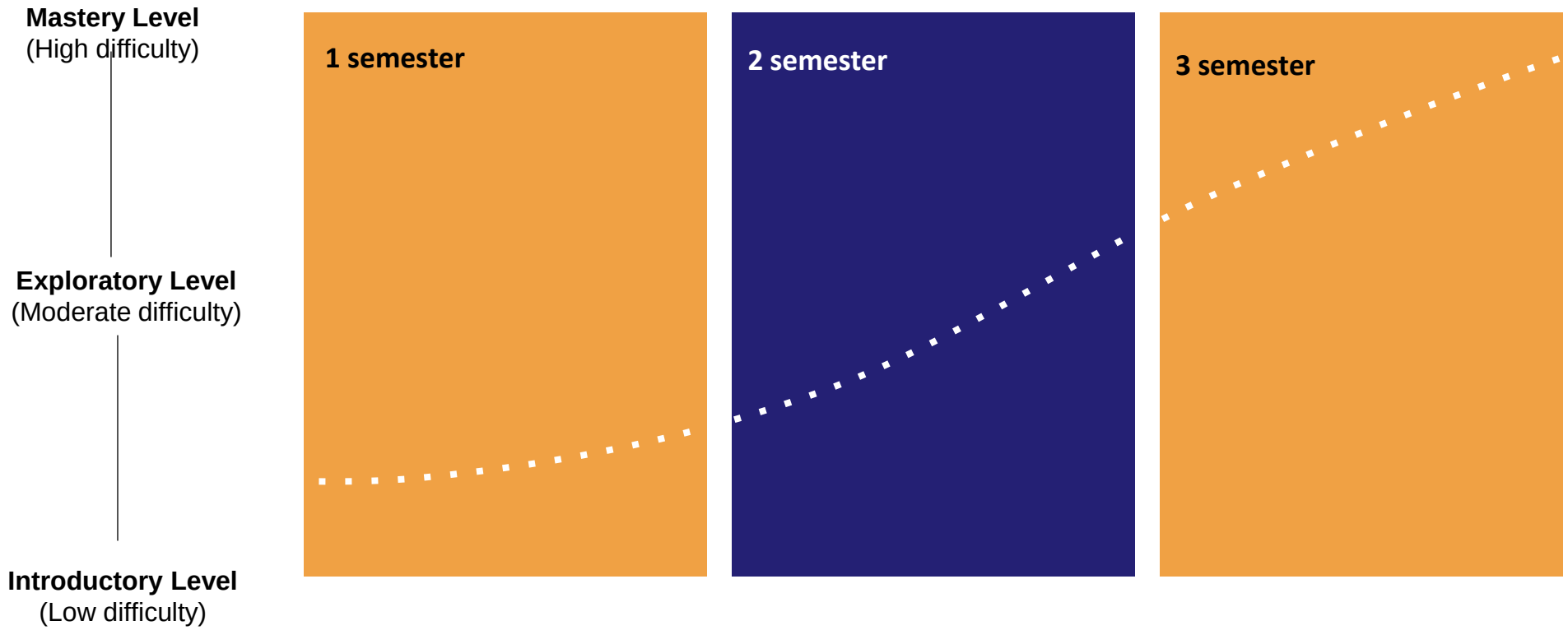
Integrating Challenge-Based Learning into Flexible Learning Pathway



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A **micro-module** is a **1-3 credit** short learning course that provides targeted **knowledge and competences** to solve a specific challenge.

Typically, such a module is not linked to the learning outcomes of a specific study program but is offered as a **stand-alone learning opportunity** for lifelong learners.

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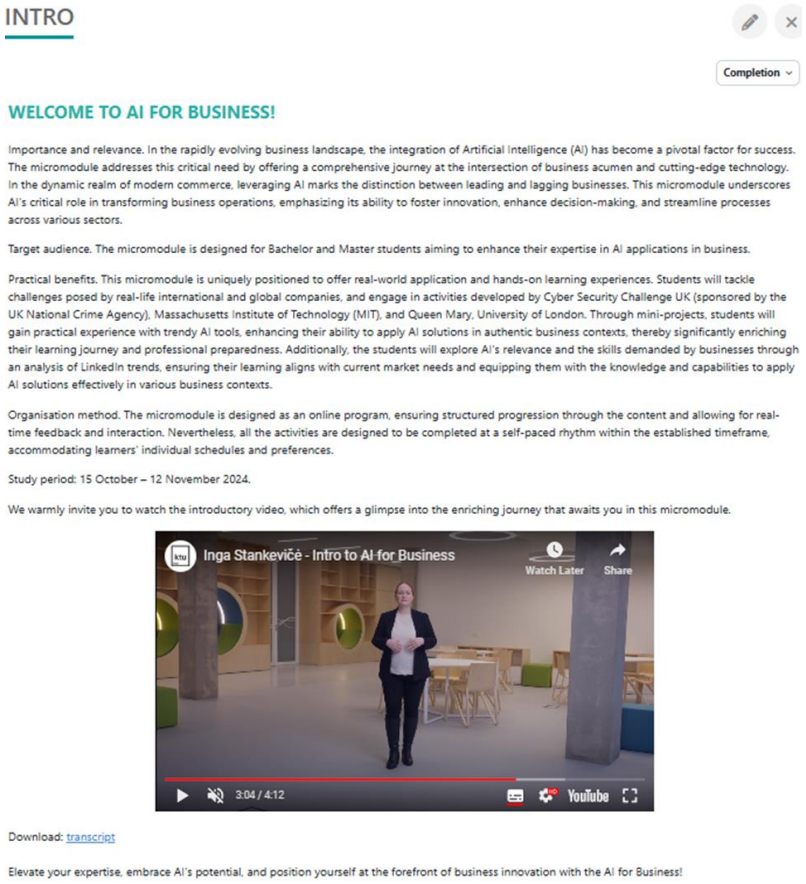
Micro-modules



INTRO

Completion

WELCOME TO AI FOR BUSINESS!

Importance and relevance. In the rapidly evolving business landscape, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a pivotal factor for success. The micromodule addresses this critical need by offering a comprehensive journey at the intersection of business acumen and cutting-edge technology. In the dynamic realm of modern commerce, leveraging AI marks the distinction between leading and lagging businesses. This micromodule underscores AI's critical role in transforming business operations, emphasizing its ability to foster innovation, enhance decision-making, and streamline processes across various sectors.

Target audience. The micromodule is designed for Bachelor and Master students aiming to enhance their expertise in AI applications in business.

Practical benefits. This micromodule is uniquely positioned to offer real-world application and hands-on learning experiences. Students will tackle challenges posed by real-life international and global companies, and engage in activities developed by Cyber Security Challenge UK (sponsored by the UK National Crime Agency), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Queen Mary, University of London. Through mini-projects, students will gain practical experience with trendy AI tools, enhancing their ability to apply AI solutions in authentic business contexts, thereby significantly enriching their learning journey and professional preparedness. Additionally, the students will explore AI's relevance and the skills demanded by businesses through an analysis of LinkedIn trends, ensuring their learning aligns with current market needs and equipping them with the knowledge and capabilities to apply AI solutions effectively in various business contexts.

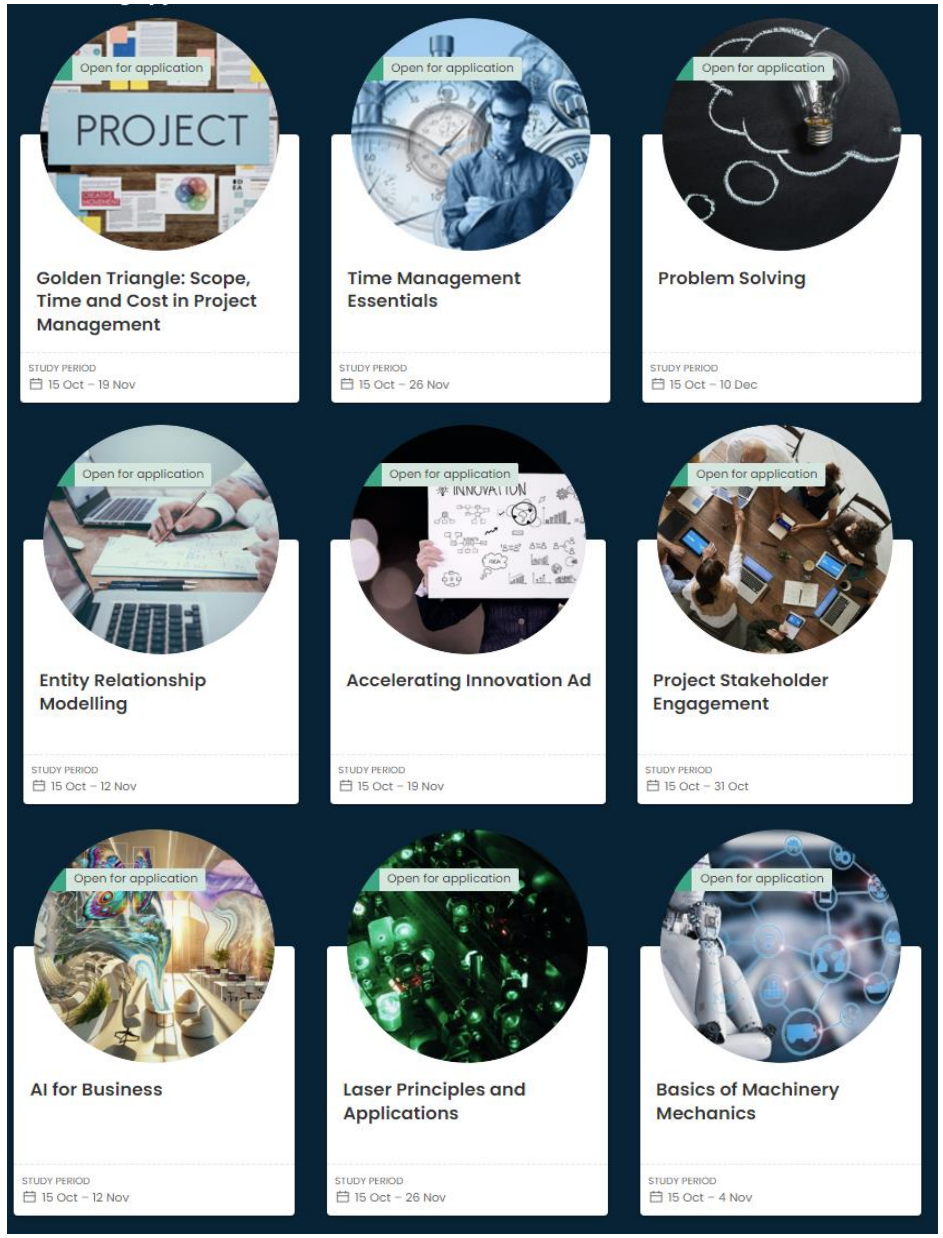
Organisation method. The micromodule is designed as an online program, ensuring structured progression through the content and allowing for real-time feedback and interaction. Nevertheless, all the activities are designed to be completed at a self-paced rhythm within the established timeframe, accommodating learners' individual schedules and preferences.

Study period: 15 October – 12 November 2024.

We warmly invite you to watch the introductory video, which offers a glimpse into the enriching journey that awaits you in this micromodule.

Download: transcript

Elevate your expertise, embrace AI's potential, and position yourself at the forefront of business innovation with the AI for Business!



Accessible through: https://engage.eciu.eu/

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The core idea of **flexible learning pathways** is to provide students with the ability to choose a personalized and adaptable learning path.

This approach involves the **students** assuming greater responsibility for their **choices** while more purposefully pursuing personal, professional, and career goals.

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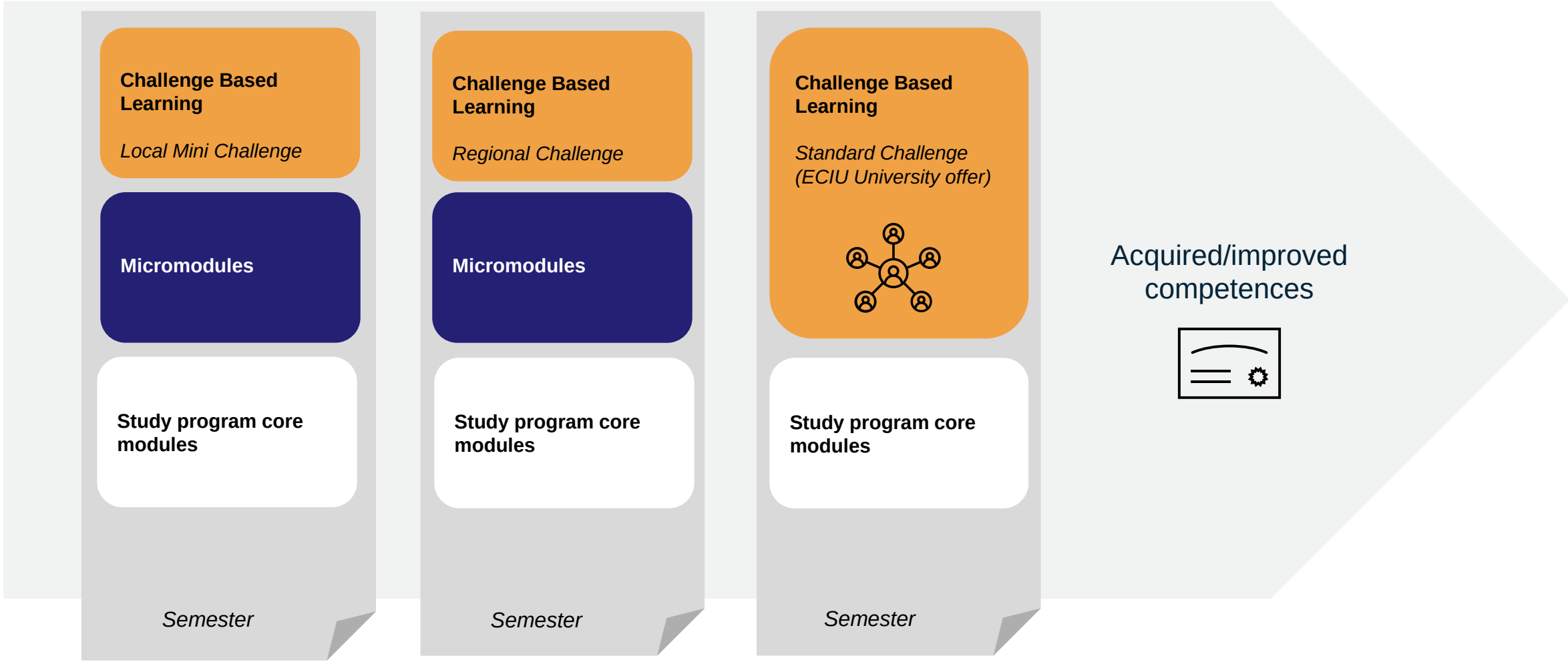
Transforming Traditional Education: The KTU Experience



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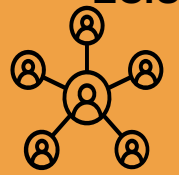
KTU MA+ "Challenge-based innovation"

1 semester	2 semester	3 semester
KTU challenge	KTU challenge	ECIU challenge 
Micro-modules	Micro-modules (on request)	Micro-modules (on request)

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Challenges & Lessons Learned

- **Institutional Resistance.** Traditional academic structures resist rapid change.
- **Scalability.** How to maintain personalized learning in large student cohorts?
- **Integration with Accreditation.** Ensuring academic integrity while innovating.

- **Strong institutional leadership and faculty support.**
- **Strategic partnerships with industry and social partners.**
- **Continuous feedback in and out mechanisms for the program development.**

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“It’s a very **different approach**, but that’s exactly what both **teachers and students appreciate** about it.”

Source: ECIU News. January 21, 2025

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