Open Badges in the Higher Education student lifecycle

Marica Franchi m.franchi@cineca.it
Agenda

- Context
- Bestr platform
- Open Badges in Bestr
- Bestr: actors, roles and processes
- How Open Badges can help University: Higher Education student lifecycle
- Bestr today
Cineca, the Italian Interuniversity Consortium

- 70 Italian universities
- 9 Institutions
- MIUR

Founded in 1969
- 700 employees
- 3 main offices

Map showing locations in Italy:
- Milano
- Bologna
- Roma
Cineca digitizes the entire student life-cycle. Among others systems, we provide:
• Bestr,
• The Student Information System,
• e-Learning Platforms
Bestr is a digital platform leveraging Open Badges to valorize Lifelong & Lifewide Learning
Lifelong Learning

Learning goes beyond the point reached with formal education.
Each goal becomes an ever-changing starting point.

Lifewide Learning

An individual’s professional richness is not described only by qualifications.
Learning takes place in all circumstances: even non formal and informal.
Education and work

Skills gap
On Bestr skills are represented by

Open Badges
A Badge is a visual representation of acquired skills or accomplished achievements.

An Open Badge is a PNG image with metadata making it personal and safe.

A Badge issued to a learner is a photograph of his/her skills or achievements.
Open Badge: an international standard

- A digital standard, innovative and secure, to verify and certify skills.
- Adopted all around the world by companies, university and education institutions.
- The tool to certify skills wherever traditional degrees can not
- Building block of the Open Recognition architecture
Bestr: actors and roles
Bestr actors, roles and integrations
Each organization defines its Badges

Bestr Friend

This Badge is awarded to those who see the innovative and groundbreaking potential of the Bestr project, and also to those who believe it is necessary to introduce Open Badges in Italy and in Europe as a way to valorize skills in a lifewide and lifelong learning context.
Each Badge includes Criteria to badge issuing

Criteria

The Badge is awarded to supporters of the Bestr project, and of Open Badges as a solution to valorize skills in a lifelong and lifewide learning context.

To get this Badge, share posts from the Bestr blog, share our videos, write about Bestr and let us know - through Twitter (@joinBestr) or sending an email to info@bestr.it.
Learning & assessment providers

Providers & Designers

Resources & Paths

Learn

Assess

Badge

Endorse

Learners

Title
Description
Criteria
Earned
Achieved
Learner
The Learner gains the badge

ADA LOVELACE

got this Badge on July, 6th 2015

How do I get this Badge?

Bestr Friend

This Badge is awarded to those who see the innovative and groundbreaking potential of the Bestr project, and also to those who believe it is necessary to introduce Open Badges in Italy and in Europe as a way to valorize skills in a lifelong and lifelong learning context.
The Badge is shared online and it is simply verifiable
A Badge is immediately verifyable
Endorser
Learner

Issuer

Badge VALUE

Issuer Reputation + Badge Content + Endorsement + Badge Pathways
Open badges are nodes of a trust «trust chain» among companies, learners, trainer.
Open Badges in the Higher Education student lifecycle
Open Badges can help Universities

1. Give real worth to extra-curricular activities
2. Give value to teaching projects in cooperation with other Universities
3. Give visibility to the competences acquired by students through company internships
4. Give evidence to cooperation with companies
5. Give importance to trasversal competences developed by students during the course of their studies
6. Give value to e-learning materials produced by the University
7. Enhance and track internal staff competences
8. Valorize skills on career advancement and internal job rotation
9. ...and many others ways to help

Focus on **Student Life Cycle**

1. Enhance with the **value** of the **Badge** every single step in the student life

2. Digitize or improve University internal processes

**Why Open Badges?**
Orientation

Target
Prospect student, last 2 years of high school

Need
Find inspiration or confirmation about future paths

Learning & Assessment path
Provide a sample of the contents and quality of a University course

Format
Online or blended MOOC type course + online test available in the University LMS or in Bestr

Bestr Badge
Automatically issued
Certifies developed skills
Allows exams credits or tax discounts.
Orientation

Pre-course of General Mathematics: Equations and Inequations
### Admission and enrollment

#### Target
High school last year student, diploma.

#### Need
Show the skills needed for the admission to a particular university course.

#### Learning & Assessment path
Specific course available before diploma.

#### Format
Online or blended course, proctored test, University LMS or Bestr LMS

#### Bestr Badge
Certifies skills
Allows University access

Automatically integrated in **Student Information System (SIS)**
Admission and enrollment

Physics Introductory Course
University publishes Badges representing specific skills for some exams

Easily identify high stake/interest skills both for academic context and other contexts

Examples: soft skills, specific tools or metodologies, foreign language skills

Exam transcript registration

Automatically awarded Badges (SIS – Bestr integration)

Can be exploited immediately by the student in different contexts (job search, international associations, etc.)
Credits recognition

**Bbetween**
- **Soft skills** recognition
- Developed in **extracurricular activities**
- 46 Badges, 2800+ owners
- Manual issuing by **Bestr Editorial Team**
- **Automatic credits recognition** in SIS

**Linguistic competence - CLA**
- **Foreign language skills** recognition
- Language courses delivered by **CLA**
- 3 Badges
- 800+ owners
- **Automatic Issuing** of Badges
- from **e-Learning platform**
- **Automatic credits recognition** in SIS
A Badge is created in Bestr

The university endorses the Badge on Bestr

The university records the Badge as recognized

A learner earns the Badge

...and presents it to the university

The university approves the Badge and adds credits to the student's record

Credits recognition
International Student

- **internationalization action**: representing and making more easy to understand by a foreign observer the macro skills gained.
- **Automatic issuing**: when a student complete a period of mobility during its university career (event tracked by experience API).
- **Enhanced Award** with information from SIS carried by xAPI statement.
  - **Outcomes** – data and measurements acquired: abroad study period, place, recognized ects, etc.
Degree Conferral

“International Economics” and “Marine Sciences” Master’s degrees

• **internationalization action**: representing and making more easy to understand by a foreign observer the macro skills

• **Automatic issuing** upon completion the University career in the SIS (event tracked by experience API)

• **Enhanced Award** with information from SIS carried by xAPI statement
  
  • **Outcomes**— data and measurements acquired during learning or assessment phase: scores, average of exams, good_standing, …
  
  • **Evidence**— artefacts created by the Student to support to be worthy: abstract and title of the final dissertation
xAPI statements

LMS/moodle

Course completion

Credit recognition

Student Information System

xAPI

LRS

xAPI statement

"User earned badge"

Endorsement

Learner

Badge award

Learner

Proctored exam passed

Degree conferred

Certifications

Diploma supplement
First steps towards an Extended Transcript!

Internships

Exams

Machine-readable transcript

Badges

References:
IMS Digital Credentialing initiative
The Evolution of the Transcript, Educause
Target
Graduated student

Need
Continuous Improvement of Competences through qualified and recognized paths

Learning & Assessment path
Short vertical focuses courses, Masters

Format
Online or blended MOOC type course + online test available in the University Learning Management System or in Bestr

Bestr Badge
Certifies developed skills, Lifelong Learning

Endorsement by companies
Strengthen the sense of belonging
Bestr today
Bestr is

- Digital Badging Platform (bestr.it) + magazine (blog.bestr.it)
- Curated Badge Publishing, editing team for Badges and Projects, identifying and mapping skills (taxonomies), english translations, graphics
- Manual Badge Issuing: editing team
- API to integrate external platforms, automatic issuing, importing outcomes and evidences
- Login through IDEM federation (coming next: SPID and social)
Bestr in numbers

- 2+ years
- 80 organizations: Issuers, Endorsers, Learning/Assessment Providers (Universities, companies, training providers, associations…)
- 500 published badges (badge classes)
- 120 endorsements
- 20K+ issued and claimed Badges (awards)

https://bestr.it/badge/explore
Different Organizations meet & work on Bestr...

Who’s designing Open Badges?

Number of published Badges Classes per Organization type

How many learners are they engaging?

Number of issued Badges per Organization type

...but how engaged are they really?

Claim rate for Badges issued by different Organizations

- Learning providers
- Associations
- Companies
- Universities
The topics of the Badges

What are Badges about?

How do learners respond?

- languages
- IT & digital
- soft skills
- innovation
- education
- social science
- business
- science
- food
- legal
- arts
- communication
- industry
- economy
- history

The most outreaching badge is issued to over 11k learners, with a 43% claim rate.

- Arts, soft skills, communication: 60% claim rate. Followed by business, innovation and digital skills.

- History and legal are among the most engaging: 70% claim rate.

- The highest claim rate: 80%
Bologna Open Recognition Declaration

**Open Recognition of lifelong and lifewide learning achievements**

- Presented **28 October 2016** in Bologna by academics and practitioners of education technology during the **ePic** conference, co-organized by Cineca
- Signed by researchers, companies, trainers: **Cineca** and **Bicocca University** among those
- **Open Badges** are building blocks for the technical architecture of Open Recognition
Bestr community and dissemination
Thank you!

bestr.it
blog.bestr.it
@joinBestr