



As we grow older it is fancy to say that we do not count years and projects. But I haven't ever really been good with numbers, so I focused more on experiences, stories, connections and aha-moments. As a child, I used to collect in a cardboard folder all the diplomas I got from different competitions, volunteering opportunities and trainings. I often opened it and looked at all those pieces of paper: some were coloured and the text was in very cool fonts, others were written like in a rush. However, none of them captured the true meaning of that particular moment. Back in 2011, I attended a training course on active citizenship and social change, granted under the previous Youth in Action programme, where I have not only received my first Youthpass, but I actually reflected upon my learning process for the first time, as I filled in my first certificate. That was the moment when it hit me: that what was missing from my cardboard folder - the opportunity to actually think of my personal growth within the project, according to the key competences. Since that moment, I became aware of my development path as an active learner and I decided to go on many more mobilities, do an EVS, and eventually pay it forward by writing the applications for funding, organizing or facilitating this kind of projects with various NGOs. And nowadays, while I am presenting Youthpass to the participants, I always emphasize the fact that this certificate is not only a recognition of their non-formal learning outcomes, but also a tool to reflect upon and understand their becoming.



Name: Diana-Adela Ionita

Email: [ionita.dianaadela@gmail.com](mailto:ionita.dianaadela@gmail.com)