



The European strategy on the validation and recognition of non-formal learning within the context of Youth in Action

Result analysis of Youthpass developments between April 2005 and December 2009

Executive summary

The recognition of non-formal learning has a high priority in all current education and youth policy developments. The creative and innovative potential of young people should be further supported to care for social cohesion, employability, and active citizenship throughout Europe and beyond.

Through Youthpass, the Youth in Action Programme contributes to the debate in the youth field on the recognition of non-formal learning. Developed since April 2005 and finally implemented in the Youth in Action Programme since the year 2007, Youthpass shows first evidence and impact.

The 'Youthpass result analysis' provides reports and first results on the following topics:

- _ the important development steps of Youthpass, including the project set-up and flow,
- _ the implementation strategy of Youthpass, including training activities, technical details, communication and information aspects, and
- _ the challenges for further implementation measures linked to the implementation of Youthpass in the Youth in Action Programme as well as challenges related to the debates on youth and education policy.

Since August 2007 more than 52,000 Youthpass Certificates have been generated by more than 3,045 organisations which registered 5,500 different Youth in Action projects on the Youthpass web site www.youthpass.eu.

More than 94 % of the Youthpass Certificates generated in the same period for European Voluntary Service contain a description of the learning outcome following the EU Key Competences for Lifelong Learning.

Conclusions drawn from these numbers are very optimistic according to the Youthpass implementation. The implementation of the EU Key Competences for Lifelong Learning as a framework to describe the learning outcome of participants of the Youth in Action Programme provides first knowledge and experience. The Key Competences act as a suitable framework for youth work activities on one side but have further room for development and adaptation to the field of youth work. Further measures need to be taken related to educational measures for several stakeholders, information about Youthpass, and of course in discussions related to education systems and their view on youth work and recognising it.

The future challenges are related to the vision of the further Youthpass development and the targets are:

- _ to consolidate the implementation of Youthpass in the already existing Actions,
- _ to develop Youthpass for all different Actions and formats till the end of the Youth in Action Programme (alternative: for the new programme generation),
- _ to contribute to the debates on youth and education policy at European and national level by presenting a concrete instrument and at the same time by fostering related education and policy,
- _ to participate in the further development of Europass and ESCO at European level, and
- _ to support the development of a framework for the recognition of non-formal learning.

These targets are partly depending on the general development of youth and education policy and based on the new EU strategy on youth policy.

The new *COUNCIL RESOLUTION on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)*, the *Europe 2020 strategy document – A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth* and the *Social agenda* support the important political initiative to recognise youth work and to develop suitable instruments for this. Youthpass is a best practice example which provides potential for further and broader adaptation.