Youthpass

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

April 2010

SALTO-YOUTH
TRAINING AND COOPERATION
RESOURCE CENTRE

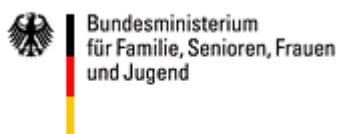Education and Culture

The 'Youthpass' project is funded by:

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

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The following result analysis is based on statistics collected on 8 March 2010, 18:00 from the Youthpass database.

1. 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.

2. Introduction

During the last 10 years enormous political developments and reforms started in the education and training field all over Europe and beyond. The European Union provides a lot of different measures and activities together with their Member States to develop reforms and changes.

The broadest aim is to prepare the European societies for the challenges in a globalised world and a more coherent Europe. Social cohesion, active participation of and lifelong learning for all European citizens are the key challenges for the Member States and their citizens.

These challenges concern especially the young European citizens who should be prepared for mobility, globalisation, and the creation of a sufficient and successful future. At the same time young people are suffering from the economic crisis, lack of changes in education systems and high unemployment rates, especially youth unemployment all over Europe.

One answer to the challenges is the recognition of all learning that happens in one's life – formal, non-formal, or informal. Recognising all learning of an individual provides the opportunity to identify areas of competences acquired also outside formal education and offers self-awareness and self-esteem processes needed for a successful future.

And one answer to these challenges of the youth field is *Youthpass – The European strategy on the validation and recognition of non-formal learning within the context of the Youth in Action Programme.*

Since April 2005 the SALTO Training & Cooperation Resource Centre (SALTO T&C RC) based in the German National Agency for the Youth in Action Programme has been working on the development of *Youthpass – the European strategy on the validation and recognition of non-formal learning within the context of the Youth in Action Programme*.

Now, at the beginning of the year 2010, five years into its existence and two and a half years into its implementation in the Youth in Action Programme, it is time to look back and

_   document what happened during these years,
_   present the strategic steps of implementing Youthpass,
_   analyse the existing statistics taken from the Youthpass database,
_   document first evidence of its impact, and
_   show the challenges existing at this stage of the project.

This paper provides a result analysis of the Youthpass development between 2005 and the end of 2009. In its presentation, the result analysis follows the implementation strategy of Youthpass on:

_   the development, maintenance, and implementation of the Youthpass process and Certificates in concrete Actions;
_   the technical implementation (www.youthpass.eu);
_   a training strategy to provide knowledge and skills to various stakeholders in the field;
_   communication and information about Youthpass and the recognition of non-formal learning, and

_ the recognition of non-formal learning as a topic of education and youth policy[1].

It also includes the history of the project, important development steps, challenges, and conclusions of the Youthpass strategy.

The aim of the paper is to provide a general overview and first results after five years of development and implementation measures. Finally, it proposes measures for further development, derived from the challenges.

2.1 **History of the project 'Youthpass'**

Political context

The mid-term evaluation of the YOUTH Programme recommended providing broader recognition and concrete instruments to make learning outcomes visible for participants of relevant activities.
Youth policy developments at European level in the last years provided a framework for better recognition of learning outcomes in youth activities.
Supporting the importance of providing recognition for youth work in general and individual participants in particular, in May 2006 the Council adopted a *Resolution on the recognition of the value of non-formal and informal learning within the European youth field*[2].
Since its implementation, the Youth in Action Programme has clearly been recognised as making an important contribution to the acquisition of competences, especially for lowly qualified or disadvantaged youth. Therefore, it is a key instrument in providing young people with opportunities for non-formal and informal learning with a European dimension[3].

'Education and Training 2010', the work programme in the field of education and training policy of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission, contained developments in the field of informal learning, non-formal and formal education. With the Lifelong Learning strategy presented in the year 2001 a definition was provided and a different perspective on the course of people's learning through life was defined. Measures according to this development started focussing no longer on systems but much more on the individuals and their personal ways through education and work in their lives. In line with this change of policy several elements were developed, such as the Key Competences for Lifelong Learning, Ploteus, Europass, and the European Qualification Framework. Many measures are related to the validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning. The ambition to make competences and experience gained in youth and voluntary work usable for the professional development came along with this development.

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[1] A mind map on the Youthpass implementation strategy can be found in Annex 1 on page 37.
[2] Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the recognition of the value of non-formal and informal learning within the European youth field (2006/C 168/01)
[3] Decision No. 1719/2006/EC

Strategical basis of Youthpass

The strategical aims for the Youthpass development and the development of instruments and further measures are based on the following four essential elements:
_ reflection upon the personal non-formal learning process,
_ social recognition of youth work,
_ employability of young people and youth workers, and
_ active participation of young people in society

Link to other European instruments

The aim of the Youthpass development is to recognise non-formal and informal learning in the field of youth work in an adequate way. In 2005, no recognition instruments which included validation and certification of non-formal learning outcomes in the youth field, existed at European level.
The only instrument which was under development at that time, was the European Portfolio for youth workers and youth leaders developed by the Council of Europe.
There has always been a strong co-operation between the Youthpass development and the European Portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers[4]. This co-operation is marked by mutual consultations and common strategic discussions about the educational principles and approaches, the further development of the two instruments, and the strategy on recognition of non-formal learning in the youth field.

Since the beginning of its implementation, the experiences of the Youthpass development have been linked to the further development of Europass, in particular regarding the non-formal learning dimension of Europass and supporting Europass users to identify their competences.
The link between Youthpass and Europass is mutually discussed by the responsible units of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission. Youthpass and Europass Mobility should be treated equally. At the same time Youthpass and its certification opportunity goes beyond the transparency character and the self-assessment parts of the Europass instruments.
Following the results of the first Europass evaluation published in 2008 it could be considered as a need for further improvement that Europass focuses especially on young people with fewer opportunities, the importance of voluntary work and the validation of learning outcomes gained in mobility experiences as such. Further co-operation between Youthpass and Europass could result from this[5].

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[4] More information about the European Portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers, CoE, can be found here: www.coe.int/youthportfolio
[5] More information about Europass can be found here: http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/

2.2 Implementation of the Youthpass development

The years 2005 and 2006 were mainly used for developing and testing the instruments – particularly for Youth Exchanges and the European Voluntary Service. In 2006, the test phase for Training Courses started as well. Participants in this format are mainly multipliers for the other activities. Thus, there was a need to provide also experience, training, and information for those who should implement Youthpass in their activities.

The development of Youthpass for Youth Initiatives was postponed to the year 2009 due to limited resources.

In July 2007 the Programme Committee of Youth in Action adopted the implementation of Youthpass based on the mentioned developments and on successful test phases. The Programme Committee agreed on implementing Youthpass Certificates for Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Service, Youth Initiatives, and Training Courses.

At the end of August 2007 the National Agencies were officially informed about the implementation of Youthpass.

The following table shows the chronology of the development and implementation of Youthpass.

Youthpass development April 2005 - March 2010	
2005	
April	The SALTO Training & Cooperation Resource Centre starts with the development of **Youthpass**
2006	
February – July	Test phases **Youthpass for Youth Exchanges and European Voluntary Service** (Actions 1.1 and 2)
September 2006 - April 2007	Test phase **Youthpass for Training Courses** (Action 4.3 - Training Courses and Seminars)
2007	
July	Official adoption of the **Youthpass implementation** by the Youth in Action Programme Committee retroactively valid from January 2007
August	Launch of the web site **www.youthpass.eu** including **Youthpass Certificates for Youth Exchanges and European Voluntary Service** (Actions 1.1 and 2) in English
2008	
Since the beginning of the year	**Translation** of the **Youthpass web site** & Translation of the **Youthpass Certificates**
March	**Youthpass Certificates for Training Courses** (Action 4.3 – Training Courses) available

Since the middle of the year	Youthpass for **centralised projects** available
2009	
April	Launch of the **Youthpass Guide**
April	**Youthpass Certificates for Action 3.1 (Youth Exchanges and Training Courses)**
February - October	Test phase **Youthpass for Youth Initiatives** (Action 1.2)
June – October	Developing Youthpass for AMICUS
October	Youthpass Certificates for AMICUS available
2010	
April	**Youthpass for Youth Initiatives (Action 1.2)**

In Annex 2 on page 38 the Concept for the implementation of Youthpass from April 2005 can be found.

Youthpass project structure

In 2005 the European Commission assigned the SALTO Training & Cooperation Resource Centre based in the German National Agency for the YOUTH/Youth in Action Programmes to develop Youthpass. The Directorate-General for Education and Culture is responsible for Youthpass.
Tasks of SALTO based on an annual work plan are to
_ develop, test, and implement Youthpass Certificates;
_ provide educational support through training offers for different stakeholders, material, and information;
_ develop and maintain the web site www.youthpass.eu, including a help desk;
_ follow and support the developments of the recognition of non-formal learning at European and national level;
_ support the National Agencies in their implementation measures;
_ support the Directorate-General for Education and Culture with regard to the Youthpass development and the recognition of non-formal learning within the field of youth work, and
_ manage the Youthpass Advisory Group.

Youthpass Advisory Group

The implementation process is reviewed by a Youthpass Advisory Group which consists of representatives of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture, Council of Europe, Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, representatives of the National Agencies for the Youth in Action Programme (Belgium-Flanders, Germany, France, Norway, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom), representatives of the SALTO Resource Centres for Inclusion and Participation, field of youth work (NGOs, trainers, experts for specific topics), European Youth Forum, and Executive Agency. Guests are invited for specific topics.

The group met nine times between 2005 and 2010. Main topics of the Youthpass Advisory Group meetings were:

_ state of art of the Youthpass development, including discussions about crucial, important topics before implementing Youthpass Certificates in specific Actions;
_ political developments related to Youthpass and the recognition of non-formal learning within the Youth in Action Programme and beyond;
_ recommendations to the Directorate-General for Education and Culture, Units D1 & D2, and SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre on further steps in the respective areas; and
_ current political developments with regard to the topic.

Different stakeholders involved in Youthpass

The following picture shows the stakeholders involved in the Youthpass development and implementation. It is accompanied by lists of their involvement:
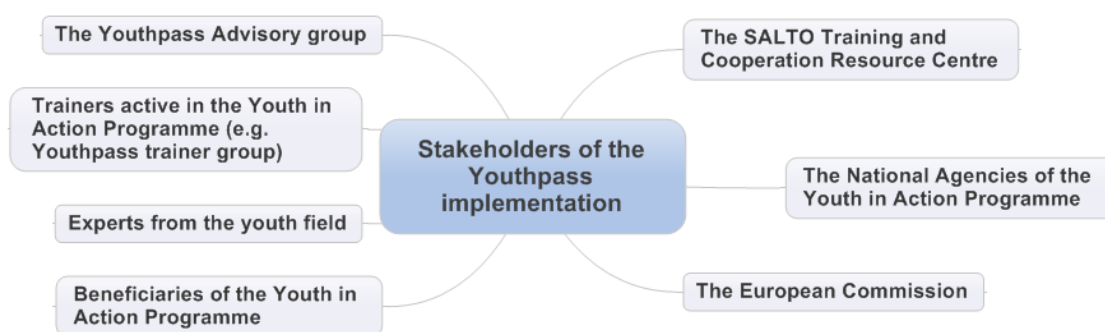
The European Commission - Directorate-General for Education and Culture, Units D.1 & D.2
_ holds the political responsibility for the implementation of Youthpass;
_ is responsible for political support of the Youthpass development.

The National Agencies of the Youth in Action Programme
_ are responsible for the implementation of Youthpass in their national contexts, including information, offering training activities, support function;
_ support the development of the Youthpass test phases and maintenance;
_ translate the Youthpass Certificates and web site;
_ follow-up Youthpass in the context of recognition of non-formal learning in their countries.

The 33 National Agencies nominated a Youthpass contact person who acts as support and contact point supporting the implementation of Youthpass in the NAs and national context. Regular meetings provide the opportunity to share experiences and develop

Youthpass and its implementation measures. Most of the meetings contain a training element as well to raise the expertise of National Agency staff involved.

Beneficiaries of the Youth in Action Programme
_ provide information about Youthpass to participants;
_ implement the Youthpass process;
_ generate Youthpass Certificates;
_ give feedback about the implementation to their National Agencies.

Experts from the youth field
_ offer support and expertise for the Youthpass development.

Trainers active in the Youth in Action Programme (e.g. Youthpass trainer group)
_ implement Youthpass in Youth in Action activities;
_ provide educational support for the stakeholders involved in form of training courses, presentations, developing material.

The Youthpass Advisory Group
_ supports the European Commission and SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre in developing Youthpass;
_ develops recommendations for the European Commission and the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre on specific Youthpass related questions (e.g. implementation of Youthpass in a specific Action, who signs a Youthpass Certificate).

The SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre
_ coordinates the Youthpass development;
_ develops new instruments and support material;
_ supports all involved stakeholders.

2.3 Design of the Youthpass Certificates

Due to the different formats in terms of length and character of Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Service projects, and Training Courses, the decision was made that each programme format should have a different Certificate in terms of content and level of information and learning outcome.

To raise the brand recognition of Youthpass, it was also decided to use a common design and develop a structure of the Youthpass Certificate that contains common elements and can be modified, if needed.

The Youthpass Certificates consists of three different parts:
_ confirmation of participation,
_ description of the activity (at the moment this includes participation in Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Service, Youth Initiatives, or Training Courses), and
_ individualised description of either activities undertaken or learning outcomes

For practical reasons the decision was made to provide the Youthpass Certificates as paper versions, in particular when issuing it to young people as an official document and for traditional application procedures where applicants still have to provide hard copies. But Youthpass Certificates are also available as pdf-files for electronic use.

For the reflection and description of the learning outcome Youthpass uses the eight Key Competences for Lifelong Learning of the European Union[6]. The framework adopted in November 2006 provides the whole spectrum of competences European citizens should develop during their life. The framework was mainly developed for formal education contexts but leaves space for transfer to non-formal learning in the youth field. At the same time it provides a bridge to the formal learning context, such as schools, universities, and vocational training.

The Youthpass process is the reflection of the learning that happens during an activity and finally results in a description of the learning outcome. The description will always be developed in a mutual process between a learning supporter and the participants during an activity. According to the different formats the learning support is given by different actors, e.g. the mentor in a European Voluntary Service project, a youth worker in a Youth Exchange, a coach in a Youth Initiative, or another participant in a Training Course.

Due to the amount of projects expected under the Youth in Action Programme and the use of the Youthpass in a variety of contexts, generating Certificates happens in a database through an online system. Beneficiaries have to register to avoid misuse of the Youthpass Certificate and provide a quality control function for receivers of a Certificate. At the same time it provides monitoring opportunities for the Directorate-General for Education and Culture, the National Agencies, and the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre.

The participants of an activity are individually entitled to receive a Youthpass Certificate. Taking into consideration the non-formal learning character of youth work activities, the decision of the participants to take part in the Youthpass process and to receive a Youthpass Certificate is voluntary.

The Youthpass Certificates are nowadays an integral part of the Youth in Action Programme. Thus, the Certificate itself is available in all official languages of the European Union. As also countries outside the EU participate in the Youth in Action Programme, certificates are provided in languages such as Norwegian and Icelandic.

2.4 Crucial aspects of the Youthpass development and its implementation

Since its beginning the development of Youthpass was a source of concerns focusing on different issues. One of the arguments came from beneficiaries and parts of youth work itself being sceptical whether Youthpass and especially a Certificate would not over-

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[6] http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/lifelong_learning/c11090_en.htm

formalise non-formal learning activities in the youth field. Criticism came from beneficiaries regarding the web-based approach and the occasional difficulty of not being able to establish an internet connection everywhere, especially for outdoor activities. Another objection was that the Youthpass process and Certificate could be seen as an extra burden on top of the implementation of the project.

And at the same time placing such an innovative instrument in the context of the Youth in Action Programme was a challenge for all stakeholders involved, such as the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre, National Agencies, experts, and trainers.

Furthermore, it was a challenge to find a suitable Youthpass approach for the non-formal learning/youth field. To avoid producing 'just a piece of paper', it was necessary to find an adequate product which includes a possibility for people to give proof of their experience and at the same time present the acquired learning outcomes. Another challenge was not to copy formal systems and impose an additional process on projects, but to provide a possibility to integrate this process in the flow of the projects, giving added value and reflecting the specificity of non-formal education.

Beside general pedagogical and philosophical questions around Youthpass, the development of the Certificates held challenges as well, e.g. finding answers to such questions as to how many logos should be on the Certificate, whether it is a tool for the participant or to what extent does it serve the need of organisations to be recognised.

With the support of the Youthpass Advisory Group for most of these challenges suitable solutions and answers were found. For example, the group recommended to treat Youthpass as a brand, which means that in all different languages the term 'Youthpass' will be used instead of a translation, such as 'Jugendpass' in German or 'Passeport de Jeunesse' in French.

While up to now for most challenges solutions could be found, some might be a source of further discussion related to the recognition of non-formal education and learning.

3. Results of the implementation

The implementation of Youthpass in the Youth in Action Programme follows an implementation strategy in five different areas:

_ development, maintenance, and implementation of the Youthpass process and the Youthpass Certificates in concrete Actions;

_ technical implementation (www.youthpass.eu);

_ training strategy to provide knowledge and skills to various stakeholders in the field;

_ communication and information about Youthpass and the recognition of non-formal learning, and

_ recognition of non-formal learning as a topic of education and youth policy.

3.1 Development, maintenance, and implementation of the Youthpass process and the Youthpass Certificates in concrete Actions

For each individual format the development process went through the following different steps:

1. Assessment of existing instruments and resources/of existing Youthpass process in other Actions ➔ Need to develop a new instrument or need to adapt an existing instrument

2. Development of instruments and quality processes for implementation (within an international team including staff of the National Agencies, beneficiaries of the Youth in Action Programme, experts from the youth field, representatives of the European Youth Forum, representatives of the European Commission DG EAC and SALTO Training & Cooperation Resource Centre)

3. Test phases with beneficiaries from at least six different countries supported by their National Agencies for each individual Action

4. Evaluation of the test phases on the basis of targeted questionnaires to beneficiaries, participants of the activities, and supporting National Agencies

5. Re-design of the instruments according to the outcomes of the evaluation

6. Final approval by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Education and Culture

7. Implementation of the Youthpass instrument in the Youth in Action Programme by the National Agencies

8. Translation of the Youthpass Certificates and the related part of the web site or material

After developing, testing and consulting phases, Youthpass finally contains two elements:

_ the Youthpass process which implies planning one's learning from the preparation phase of the project onwards and reflecting on one's personal and professional development throughout the implementation and evaluation phase;

_ the Youthpass Certificate which is the result of this learning and reflection process. It consists of a confirmation of participation by the organisers of a specific activity, a description of the activity (at the moment this includes participation in Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Service, Youth Initiatives, or Training Courses), and an individualised description of either activities undertaken or learning outcomes. The reflection and description of the learning outcome follows the eight Key Competences for Lifelong Learning of the European Union.

Examples of Youthpass Certificates in Annex 3 on page 40.

Each participant of a Youth Exchange, European Voluntary Service, and Training Course within the Youth in Action Programme is individually entitled from 1st January 2007 onwards to receive a Youthpass Certificate. The beneficiaries of the Youth in Action Programme are obliged to inform the participant about the opportunity to receive a Youthpass Certificate. They are asked to implement the Youthpass process to support the quality of reflection and the final reflection of learning outcomes described in the Certificates. And finally they generate and issue the Youthpass Certificates.

Youthpass Certificates are currently available for the following Actions:

	Action 1.1 Youth Exchanges	Action 1.2 Youth Initiatives	Action 2 European Voluntary Service	Action 3.1 Youth in the World		Action 4.3 (Training Courses)
				Y.E.	T.C.	
Certificate page 1 – confirmation of participation	X	X	X	X	X	X
Certificate page 2 – description of the project	X	X	X	X	X	X
Certificate page 3 ff. – learning outcomes under EU Key Competences		X	X		X	X
Available since	08/2007	04/2010 – Action is under implementation	08/2007	Both 04/2009		03/2008
Next steps	Key Competences / Certificates page 3 ff	Monitoring Implementation	Group EVS			

From the beginning all important stakeholders like National Agencies, beneficiaries, and experts were involved in the discussions and analysis of the needs and approaches for the further Youthpass developments. During the whole process there has been a remarkably huge interest and high commitment of National Agencies, experts, and beneficiaries. In the basic concept the participation of three National Agencies was required for each test phase of the different Youthpass formats. Finally in

- o Action 1.1 - Youth Exchanges   eight National Agencies,
- o Action 2 - European Voluntary Service   nine National Agencies,
- o Action 4.3 - Training Courses   six National Agencies, and
- o Action 1.2 - Youth Initiatives   eight National Agencies

wanted to be involved. All involved NAs invested in

- o receiving information, training, and supporting the development of the test phase,
- o selecting, preparing, informing, training, and accompanying beneficiaries,
- o supporting the evaluation for beneficiaries, participants and themselves, and
- o translating the educational materials and web site.

The implementation of Youthpass is carried out by the National Agencies which are in direct contact with beneficiaries. The National Agencies are requested to invest in information and training as each participant is individually entitled to receive Youthpass. Further NAs started networking in the field of recognition of non-formal learning within the Youth in Action Programme, e.g. with the Europass - National Coordination Centres.

The SALTO Training & Cooperation Resource Centre runs a help desk which supports the National Agencies with information and specific answers to their questions. The helpdesk is also available for direct contact with beneficiaries or even participants. Between seven and ten requests are addressed to the help desk per week. Compared to the overall number of users of the technical tool to generate Youthpass Certificates this number is relatively low. The limited number of questions could be considered as proof of an understandable set-up of the technical tool. Concerning the reasons for contacting the help desk in general the following can be identified:

- _ after the implementation of Youthpass in a new Action questions arise;
- _ if something technical is not explained well enough, organisations contact the help desk ➔ ongoing maintenance of the web site is needed;
- _ volunteers asked directly for their Youthpass Certificates – there is still not enough information in Host Organisations;
- _ organisations forgetting passwords, and
- _ individual questions on specific topics.

In 2009 the approach of the Youthpass Certificates was adapted to the AMICUS Service – a transnational civic service to promote mobility experience. With this attempt a first step towards the recognition of further mobility experience was made. Beneficiaries of AMICUS use the full potential of the Youthpass web site to generate the AMICUS Certificates. The user numbers are sufficient for the time being. Most of the services are still ongoing till mid 2010[7].

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[7] Further information about the AMICUS Service: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/news1345_en.htm

3.2 Technical implementation

3.2.1 Web site www.youthpass.eu

The main element of the technical implementation strategy is the web site www.youthpass.eu which contains for the time being
_ the technical tool to generate Youthpass Certificates where beneficiaries can find support material and instructions on how to use the Youthpass web site,
_ information about Youthpass in general, and
_ the Youthpass Guide (downloads of the whole Youthpass Guide or of individual chapters).

For all Youth in Action activities it is a fact that the learning takes place during the activities. Thus, the implementation of the Youthpass process and the generation of the Certificates have to happen during the project implementation. The beneficiaries receive the link to the Youthpass web site. This requires an understandable and mainly self-explanatory design and arrangement of the web site and the technical tool to generate Youthpass Certificates.

_ The technical tool to generate Youthpass Certificates explains the generation of the Certificates in five steps. Help instructions presented in 'pop-up windows' provide users with information. Using the Youthpass process and tool could be considered as fitting to the project realities and providing easy and accessible solutions. Hesitation, which was very high at the beginning of the Youthpass development, e.g. why use an online approach, decreased significantly. Since the beginning of the implementation, there has only been a low number of complaints about the technical quality. Most of the problems related to the system and technique could be solved in short time.

_ Important features of the technical tool to generate Youthpass Certificates are:
   o clear structure,
   o easy way to use help texts,
   o explanations provided,
   o possibility to change languages at any step,
   o user interface following general approaches of current mainstream, and
   o security measure to generate pdf-files with a respective level of security which is genuine in this project

_ The SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre and National Agencies are monitoring the quantity and quality of the questions received either through the help desk or directly. All in all the web site could be considered as a success in terms of usability.

_ 159 792 users have visited the Youthpass web site since July 2008, when the statistical tool for counting was implemented. These people stayed for a session, that means they visited more than one sub-page. The details for the different years are: 2008 (from July) 35.050 visits and 2009 124.742 visitors.

_ The Youthpass Guide[8] provides theoretical background knowledge on recognition of non-formal learning and Youthpass. It also offers practical support for beneficiaries on how to implement Youthpass in the different formats. The Youthpass Guide was published in March 2009 in English and has been available on the web site since April 2009. Since then 7.289 downloads have been observed. In addition, more than 3.500 downloads of individual chapters of the Youthpass Guide were counted for 2009. The opportunity to download individual chapters has been in place since autumn 2009.

3.2.2 Youthpass Certificates

Number of generated Youthpass Certificates

Since August 2007 more than 52.000 Youthpass Certificates have been generated by more than 3.045 organisations which are registered on www.youthpass.eu. These organisations registered more than 5.500 Youth in Action projects on the web site.

The following table presents the overall numbers of Youthpass Certificates generated in different formats (not Actions!) between 2007 and 2009.
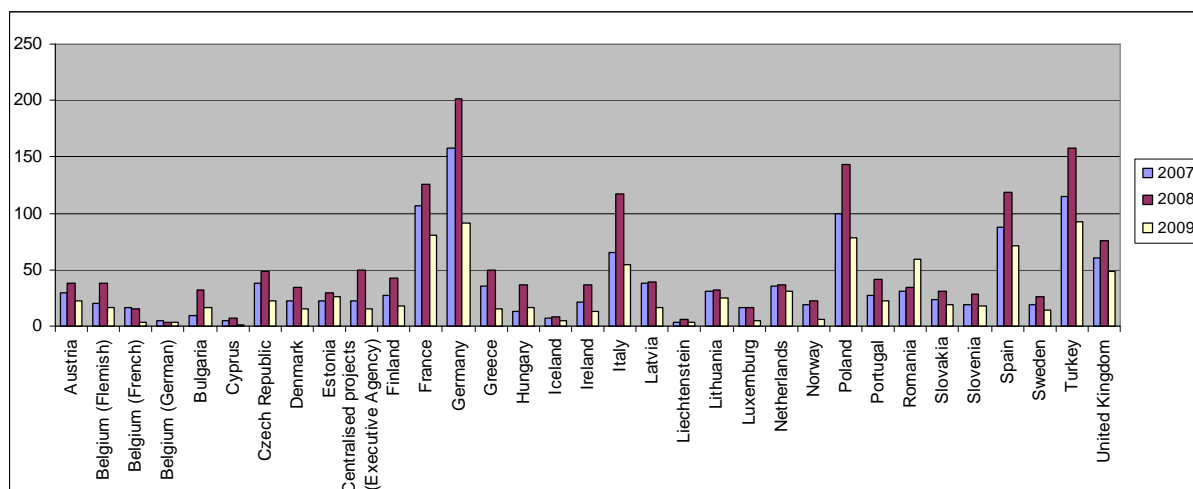
Youthpass Certificates for...	2007	2008	2009	Overall
Youth Exchanges (Action 1.1 since 08/2007 & Action 3.1 since 04/2009)	6,374	15,064	14,114	35,552
European Voluntary Service (Action 2 since 08/2007)	2,724	2,931	754	6,409
Training Courses (Action 4.3 since 04/2008 & Action 3.1 since 04/2009)	1,646	4,521	4,257	10,424
Overall number	10,744	22,516	19,125	52,385

Further explanation: Youthpass Certificates = Total amount of Certificates generated (1 Certificate = 1 participant)
Year in the top row = The Youthpass database counts the registered project number related to Action and year of approval round. This means that e.g. if a beneficiary implements a project with the number DE-11-12345-2007-R5, it is counted for year 2007, no matter if it takes place in 2008. It explains as well why the numbers for Action 2 in 2009 are comparatively low, since projects applied for in 2009 are generally completed and thus registered on the web site in 2010 only.

As becomes obvious from the above table, the number of Youthpass Certificates for Youth Exchanges is the highest.

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[8] http://www.youthpass.eu/en/youthpass/guide/

The following table presents the amount of organisations using the Youthpass database per year and per country[9].

For further details see Annex 4 on page 49.

The following table presents the number of Youthpass Certificates generated since August 2007 per Action per year and the overall number.

Youthpass Certificates for…	2007	2008	2009[10]	overall
Action 1.1 - Youth Exchanges	6,329	14,652	12,474	33,455
Action 2 - European Voluntary Service	2,709	2,904	704	6,317
Action 3.1 – Youth Exchanges	45	409	1,287	1, 835
Action 3.1 - Training Courses	2	204	725	931
Action 4.3 - Training and Networking	1,644	4,283	3,332	9,259

Further explanation: Youthpass Certificates = Total amount of Certificates generated (1 Certificate = 1 participant)
Year in the top row = The Youthpass database counts the registered project number related to Action and year of approval round. This means that e.g. if a beneficiary implements a project with the number DE-11-12345-2007-R5, it is counted for year 2007, no matter if it takes place in 2008.

‒ The amount of users of www.youthpass.eu has been increasing in all Actions since the beginning of the implementation in August 2007.

‒ The numbers show that it was strategically important to implement Youthpass for Training Courses (Actions 4.3 & 3.1) from the beginning with the intention of training multipliers on using Youthpass. And at the same time a high interest of youth workers and youth leaders to receive a Youthpass Certificate themselves can be identified.

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[9] The numbers of 2009 are not the final ones. Most projects approved in 2009 will end mid-2010 and generate Youthpass Certificates at a later stage.
[10] See reference 9

Numbers of generated Youthpass Certificates per country[11]

The following table shows the overall number of Youthpass Certificates generated per year in each country. No separation is made between the Actions.

	2007	2008	2009[12]	overall
Austria	155	799	630	1,584
Belgium (Flemish)	80	392	324	796
Belgium (French)	23	95	4	122
Belgium (German)	15	29	49	93
Bulgaria	129	416	300	845
Cyprus	84	333	31	448
Czech Republic	150	552	434	1,136
Denmark	208	437	418	1,063
Estonia	152	325	503	980
Centralised projects (Executive Agency)	171	464	211	846
Finland	93	442	337	872
France	674	1,046	1,396	3,116
Germany	1,320	2,432	2,314	6,066
Greece	365	844	283	1,492
Hungary	89	671	346	1,106
Iceland	45	75	37	157
Ireland	50	269	129	448
Italy	511	1,527	1,022	3,060
Latvia	159	612	365	1,136
Liechtenstein	4	43	64	111
Lithuania	297	560	547	1,404
Luxemburg	97	191	130	418
Malta	43	111	204	358
Netherlands	223	759	566	1,548
Norway	65	83	63	211
Poland	668	1,669	1,623	3,960
Portugal	553	539	510	1,602
Romania	622	771	1,261	2,654
Slovakia	152	327	218	697
Slovenia	128	329	303	760
Spain	401	1,124	1,217	2,742
Sweden	127	216	283	626
Turkey	1,833	3,150	1,861	6,844
United Kingdom	1,053	782	1,104	2,939

[11] Youthpass Certificates generated in a country cover all participants in a project regardless of their country of birth/residence. Concrete example: If a Youth Exchange with participants from 5 countries takes place in Austria and the Austrian hosting organisation generates the Certificates for all participants, all the participant's Certificates are counted for Austria.
[12] See reference 9

_ The use of the Youthpass Certificates in the different countries is all in all very good. In 2008 Austria, Belgium (German speaking community), Denmark, Greece, Latvia, Luxemburg, and Turkey issued Youthpass Certificates for 70% of all eligible participants. All other countries have relatively high numbers as well. It might be necessary, though, to further analyse the different measures of implementation and their impact on the use of Youthpass.

The learning outcome described under the Key Competences for Lifelong Learning

_ The third part of the Youthpass Certificate is available for European Voluntary Service (Action 2) and for Training Courses (Actions 4.3 & 3.1). A high number of participants choose the opportunity to reflect on their learning outcome under the framework of the EU Key Competences for Lifelong Learning. The Youthpass Certificates for Youth Exchanges (Actions 1.1 & 3.1) so far only provide the opportunity to present the description of the activities undertaken for an individual participant. The use of the Key Competences will be offered from mid-2010. The use of the Key Competences will be an integral part of the Youthpass Certificates for Youth Initiatives.

The following table presents the number of Youthpass Certificates in the mentioned Actions which contain the third part/the reflection of the learning outcome based on the Key Competences for Lifelong Learning.

|	2007	2008	2009[13]	overall	Percentage
Action 2 - European Voluntary Service	2,524	2,748	702	5,974	94,57 %
Action 3.1 - Training Courses	0	78	295	373	40,06 %
Action 4.3 - Training Courses	611	1,540	897	3,048	32,91 %

_ In 2007 a relatively high number of Youthpass Certificates already contained a description of the learning outcome under at least one of the Key Competences for Lifelong learning. Since then the numbers have been increasing.

_ The use of the Key Competences in Youthpass Certificates for European Voluntary Service could be considered as high; in Training Courses improvement is needed[14].

_ It is obvious that 94,57% of the Youthpass Certificates for European Voluntary Service contain the learning outcome reflected on the basis of the Key Competences, 40,06% of the Youthpass Certificates for Training Courses (Action 3.1) and 32,91% of the Youthpass Certificates for Training Courses (Action 4.3).

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[13] See reference 9

[14] The numbers of 2009 are not the final ones yet. They represent the fact that most European Voluntary Service projects, which were approved in 2009, will not be completed before mid-2010. Thus, the Youthpass Certificates will be generated at a later stage.

_ The online surveys of the European Commission, Directorate General Education and Culture, Unit D 2 present in detail first positive results of the participants' development of Key Competences in activities of the programme.

The following tables show the use of the different Key Competences during the years 2007, 2008, and 2009[15].
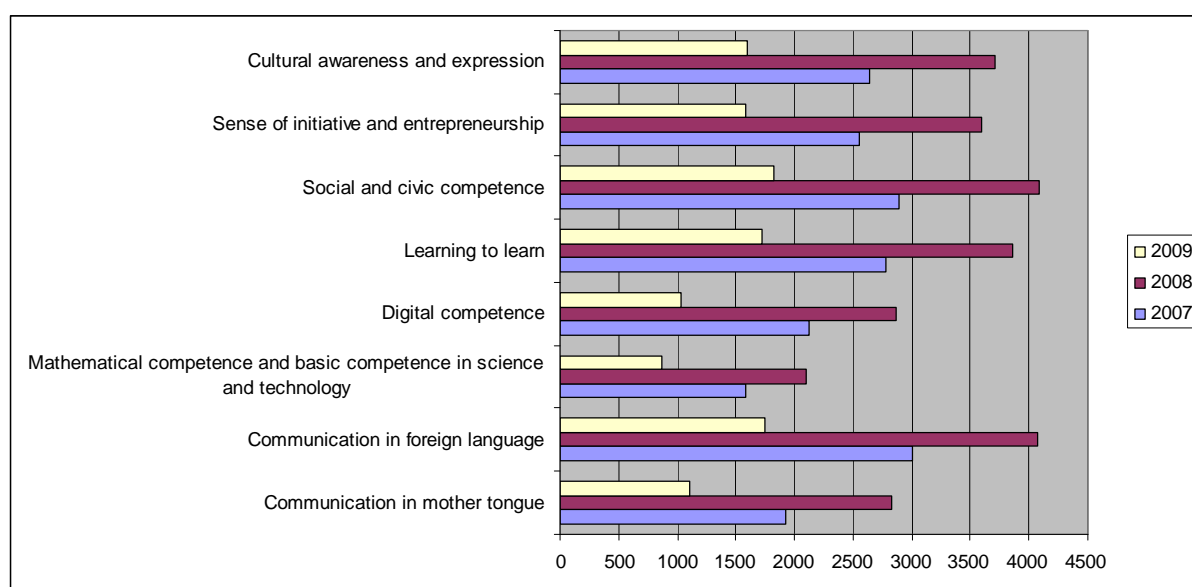
_ Against some expectations that certain Key Competences, such as *Communication in mother tongue* or *Mathematical competence, …*, would not be used to reflect on the learning outcomes in any Youth in Action activity, the following table clearly shows that all Key Competences are taken into consideration.

_ There is a clear focus on *Learning to learn*, *Social and civic competence*, and on *Communication in foreign languages*.

Further information about numbers

_ Between 2007 and 2009 it is obvious that more women received a Youthpass Certificate than men.

For detailed information see Annex 5 on page 49.

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[15] Here again it is obvious that the numbers of 2009 are not the final ones yet. They represent the fact that most European Voluntary Service projects, which were approved in 2009, will not be completed before mid-2010. Thus, the Youthpass Certificates will be generated at a later stage.

The repartition of the different age groups of participants who received a Youthpass Certificate is:

Age group	Percentage
15 years and younger	**2%**
16 - 20 years	**32,1%**
21 - 25 years	**37,1%**
25 - 30 years	**19,75%**
Over 30 years	**8,9%**

For detailed information see Annex 6 on page 50.

The following table presents the country of birth of holder of a Youthpass Certificate (if stated).

_ On the Youthpass Certificates for European Voluntary Service (Action 2) it is mandatory to inform about the country of birth. For all other Youthpass Certificates this information can be filled in voluntarily.

_ In the table beneath countries of birth are listed from Youth in Action Programme Countries plus Switzerland. All together Youthpass Certificates were issued to participants born in 144 different countries.

Country	Number of participants
Austria	900
Belgium	680
Bulgaria	1,320
Cyprus	258
Czech Republic	1,100
Denmark	408
Estonia	1,262
Finland	727
France	2,339
Germany	3,618
Greece	1,124
Hungary	1,634
Iceland	57
Ireland	423
Italy	3,451
Latvia	1,243
Liechtenstein	11
Lithuania	1,383
Luxembourg	75
Malta	434
Netherlands	662

Norway	239
Poland	3,613
Portugal	1,302
Romania	2,937
Slovak Republic	762
Slovenia	688
Spain	2,673
Sweden	503
Turkey	3,792
United Kingdom	1,256
Switzerland	81
Born in Programme Countries	**40,955**

3.2.3 Language policy

As Youthpass is a project of the European Union and participants should be able to use their Youthpass Certificates at least for mobility reasons, good and meaningful translations are required. The National Agencies took over the task to translate and authorise the translations.

Most of the Youthpass Certificate versions are available in all programme languages.

_ From the Youthpass web site and database it can be identified that so far most of the Youthpass Certificates have been generated in English. Just a limited number of projects, especially in Actions 1.1 & 3.1/Youth Exchanges, generate Youthpass Certificates in more languages for their group of participants.

_ Denmark decided not to provide Youthpass Certificates in Danish as the amount of people who would use it was considered as too limited. Another reason is that most young people might use these Certificates in an international/European mobility context. Malta decided as well not to translate the Certificates into Maltese as their second official language is English.

Due to European-wide use of the Youthpass web site, meaningful translation of the web site is needed to raise the possibility of understanding and passing on information. The translation of the technical tool is currently available in 24 languages. Due to ongoing development and enlargement of the web site the process of translation is also ongoing.
The Youthpass contact persons are responsible for the translation of the web site. The SALTO T&C RC is responsible for uploading and maintenance.

_ The Youthpass contact persons provided the translation of most of the guidance parts and instructions in the technical tool where beneficiaries generate Youthpass Certificates in all official programme languages**.**

_ Also other parts of the Youthpass web site were translated, again with the high commitment of the Youthpass contact persons of the National Agencies.

_ The National Agencies involved in the test phase of Youthpass for Youth Initiatives also supported the further implementation by translating all relevant parts of the web site for their beneficiaries. The idea behind this was to lower the barrier for Youth Initiative beneficiaries in understanding the content of the web pages which would have meant lower accessibility of the web site.

For further information see Annex 8 on page 52.

3.3 Youthpass training strategy

In 2006 a Youthpass training strategy was set up to provide knowledge and skills to various stakeholders in the Youth in Action Programme and support the implementation of Youthpass and its related topics, such as:
_ knowledge and skills about Youthpass and the Youthpass process in Youth in Action activities,
_ Key Competences for Lifelong Learning and their use in Youth in Action,
_ raising awareness and the different dimensions of non-formal learning in the context of the Youth in Action Programme,
_ potential learning outcomes in the various formats and Actions, and
_ recognition of non-formal learning in the context of the Youth in Action Programme and in youth work in general.

Youthpass training courses are offered at international/European and national level. The high number of applications could be considered as high interest of youth workers and youth leaders in Youthpass and the recognition of non-formal learning, e.g. for the Youthpass training course in Italy in February 2010 there were 10 times more applications than available places.

European level

_ At European level the initiation of a Youthpass trainer group has proved to be useful at several different levels. This group consists of international/European trainers (from France, Germany, Lithuania, Italy, the Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom) supporting and co-operating with the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre on the implementation of Youthpass in the Youth in Action Programme at different levels and beyond in the youth work field. Since April 2007 the Youthpass trainer group has implemented twelve international training courses and has been

involved in more then 160 activities, such as presentation activities, national training courses, or other events where Youthpass was presented. The trainer group receives regular updates on the development of Youthpass and uses regular meetings to support the further Youthpass development. All trainers are dedicated to Youthpass and the recognition of non-formal learning which can be identified by their commitment and initiative to be involved in the topic.

_ More than 300 men and women took part in training courses at European level. Most of the Programme Countries sent trainees to these courses. All training courses dealt with the implementation of Youthpass and the Youthpass process in the activities of the Youth in Action Programme. In all training courses the recognition of non-formal learning was a topic. Some courses had specific target groups (such as EVS trainers). Nearly all of the participants considered themselves as multipliers either at national, regional, or local level.

For further details see Annex 9 on page 54.

_ Two of these training courses were followed up by publications: one on Youthpass and excluded target groups (Youthpass for all! http://www.salto-youth.net/YouthpassForALL/) and the other one on Youthpass in the EVS training cycle and how EVS trainers can support the learning and Youthpass process of volunteers (will be published in spring 2010).

_ At national and European level Youthpass is also under implementation in all kinds of training courses to provide information, to allow first hand experience, and to deepen the learning process of participants. E.g. the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre is managing the implementation of 25 training courses for the network of National Agencies (different formats for different Actions and topics – e.g. on European Voluntary Service, European Citizenship). All trainers are trained to embed Youthpass and its process in these formats. At national level many National Agencies send trainers of their pools to the European training courses to receive training and to multiply their knowledge and experience at national level.

_ The strategy to link the training courses on Youthpass with a learning to learn and competence-based focus could be considered as a good educational approach showing the added value of the implementation of Youthpass. Participants and trainers identify this as well for the recognition of non-formal learning in Youth in Action and youth work in general. It leads to recognition in various ways – individual, social, formal, and political. Most participants of training courses directly dealing with the recognition topic went home with further ideas on spreading information and networking in their sphere of influence.

_ Specific topics are handled as well in the training strategy. In current activities the use of Youthpass and competence-based approaches with excluded target groups is of high priority. Furthermore the high interest of youth workers, leaders, and trainers leads to the specific support material on learning to learn as a core competence for Lifelong Learning.

_ Due to the educational approach of the Youthpass implementation it is also necessary to train National Agency staff on Youthpass and the recognition of non-formal learning. In 2007 and 2008, Youthpass training elements were embedded in all Action-related training courses. In 2009 all relevant training courses for Actions 1.1, 2, 3.1 and 4 contained sessions on Youthpass as well. Further decentralised training is needed for National Agency staff on the recognition of non-formal learning and the implementation of Youthpass. In an annual meeting the Youthpass contact persons exchange their different strategies and receive support and training on specific topics.

National level

The National Agencies develop their own training strategies to train beneficiaries on implementing Youthpass in their activities. Of course the National Agencies use different approaches. They are supported by the SALTO T&C RC to develop strategies according to their country-specific situation, e.g.

_ in France a trainer group was set up to train beneficiaries in specific training courses;
_ in Germany trainers co-operate with the National Agency on specific information days which offer information about Youthpass and training elements;
_ in Sweden all beneficiaries are invited to specific training days as well, the core element is Youthpass and the recognition of non-formal learning, and
_ in Ireland a trainer group develops strategies to bring Youthpass to beneficiaries.

3.4 Youthpass communication and information strategy

This strategic pillar contains different communication and information measures targeted to the different stakeholders of the Youth in Action Programme.

_ The SALTO T&C RC provides regular information for National Agency staff on Youthnet – the internal communication tool for the Youth in Action Programme. A regular information letter is sent to Youthpass contact persons and trainers and used when information needs to be provided. It contains a regular update on the state of art of Youthpass. For the latest edition see Annex 10 on page 56.

_ The main means of communication for external use is the Youthpass web site. So far the main priority on the web site has been the allocation of a user-friendly technical tool for beneficiaries to generate Youthpass Certificates and the Youthpass Guide in as many languages as possible.

_ The Youthpass Guide (http://www.youthpass.eu/en/youthpass/guide/) was developed to provide background information and educational support for implementing the Youthpass process and raising awareness of recognising individual learning outcomes. Furthermore, it shall support beneficiaries to use it also in their local context. The following chapters act as resources:

- o A1 What is Youthpass
- o A2 Getting interested in non-formal education and learning
- o A3 Hitchhikers' guide to recognition in the youth field
- o A4 You hold the keys to lifelong learning
- o A5 Youthpass – more than a certificate of participation
- o B1 How to support learning
- o B2 Youthpass in practice Action One (1.1) – Youth Exchanges
- o B3 Action Two (2) – European Voluntary Service
- o B4 Action Four Point Three (4.3) – Training Courses

For further details see Annexes 11 & 12 on page 59.

_ In 2009 a Youthpass postcard was developed for promoting Youthpass in manifold ways. Main target group for this promotion tool are beneficiaries.

_ In the context of implementing Youthpass the National Agencies have a high responsibility to inform about and to promote Youthpass – sending contracts to beneficiaries including the link to www.youthpass.eu, in training and information sessions, and on conferences and seminars. Several National Agencies developed extra material to promote Youthpass. Interesting material is usually shared during the Youthpass contact persons meeting (e.g. an Estonian leaflet with an adaptation of the Key Competences - in Estonian and Russian, Belgium (French speaking community) and the Netherlands produced Youthpass postcards targeted to young people/participants).

3.5 Recognition of non-formal learning within the Youth in Action Programme – strategic approach

The aim of the strategic approach is to raise awareness and support a professional public debate concerning the individual, social, formal, and political dimensions of recognition. The Youthpass development is embedded in this strategic approach which provides a context and space for discussions on youth as well as education and training policy.

_ Since the beginning of the Youthpass development there has been high public interest in receiving more general information and knowledge about the recognition of non-formal learning. This has in many cases led to presentations given by the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre at international events or in the context of national development processes.

_ During the last three years the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre and its respective partners – National Agencies, experts, and trainers – have developed knowledge, skills, and competences to provide training courses, conferences, sessions, and presentations on recognition of non-formal learning in the Youth in Action field and

youth work. The interest in and the recognition of these services can be considered as high.

_ A specific training format was developed to train NAs together with stakeholders from the field of youth and education policy on the recognition of non-formal learning. This supports National Agencies and their partners in embedding the current European developments in their national strategies.

_ The idea behind this is to support National Agencies in developing national strategies on the recognition of non-formal learning together with other stakeholders. Participation in country-specific discussions, contribution to developments in youth and education policy are presented as examples. In the past the teams of training courses and seminars took the situation of youth and education policy in the hosting Member State as a (good) practice example.

_ The recognition of non-formal and informal learning gets higher attention when focussing on the target group of excluded young people. In this area first steps have been taken but much more support and activities are needed to explore the potential of a competence-based approach, certification processes, and their meaning for excluded young people.

_ Youthpass and its approach to recognition of non-formal learning within the Youth in Action Programme could be considered as a contribution to further developments in the field of youth and education policy at national level, e.g. the current development of youth policy and the development of recognition instruments in Slovakia, the further development of Europass towards a more skills- orientated tool with efficient support for different target groups.

_ It contributes as well to a better perception of international youth work in some Member States and supports the development of activities with a broad range of stakeholders, e.g.
  o in Poland the YiA National Agency organised a conference on the recognition of non-formal and informal learning in the Youth in Action field and beyond together with partners from the business sector;
  o in Germany it led to the involvement in a process to care for more recognition in the debate on the German National Qualification Framework. Together with partners from the adult education sector and the social youth work field the German NA is an active partner in this debate.

_ Of course the importance of Youthpass and the results achieved so far as well as the recognition measures and activities in the Youth in Action Programme underpin the success of its implementation and provide a good basis for National Agencies to become (more) active in the field of youth and education policy.

4. Challenges

Continuing the successful implementation of *Youthpass - The European strategy on the validation and recognition of non-formal learning within the context of Youth in Action* the following further challenges should be focussed on.

Since many aspects of the impact of Youthpass could not yet be proved by research, they are not obvious for the stakeholders and bodies involved in the Youthpass development. However, the following points can be considered as challenges.

Challenges at the level of the Youthpass project implementation

_ There is potential for further developments of Youthpass instruments for further Actions and formats and for specific target groups, such as Youthpass for Action 1.3/5.1 or Youthpass for youth workers active in the Youth in Action Programme.

_ An external study on the impact of the implementation of Youthpass is needed to verify the impact of the programme at individual, organisational, and Youth in Action Programme level. This can provide ground for a more scientific support of the Youthpass development, e.g. to provide consistent definitions or underpin the educational processes with further scientific support.

_ A tension will continue to exist between the individual entitlement of participants to receive a Youthpass Certificate and the obligation of an organisation to provide one. It could be considered as a challenge to support stakeholders in fulfilling their interest.

_ First initiatives undertaken to focus on Youthpass and Inclusion topics and their impact for young people with fewer opportunities and/or lowly qualified youth can be considered as positive. The potential of Youthpass for these target groups has not been fully discovered though, and further educational support of youth workers and youth leaders would be necessary.

_ The interest of youth workers, youth leaders, and trainers in using competence-based approaches and combining these with certification has already been demonstrated. A challenge for the future will be to develop adequate educational support, such as publications, training courses, and further material, as required.

_ The implementation of Youthpass should be further accompanied by highly qualitative educational support via publications, a training strategy, and the development of knowledge and competences in recognising learning outcomes in youth work. A specific focus should be given to the use of the Key Competences.

_ To guarantee easy access for all different types of users with different levels of experience, the web site needs to be further developed and maintained to also guarantee security and as much support as possible.

_ Due to limited financial and human resources the potential of the Youthpass web site is not fully used. For the time being it is a challenge to decide on the important and necessary next steps.

_ An ongoing task and challenge is to provide translations of all Youthpass Certificates and the Youthpass web site into all programme languages.

_ More efforts need to be made in the next phase of the Youthpass implementation by providing information about Youthpass and the recognition of non-formal learning to all respective target groups via the web site and other available communication tools.

_ In the context of the Youth in Action Programme it remains a challenge to link and integrate recognition of non-formal learning with other strategies e.g. the DEOR strategy and to finalise the full integration in all administrative procedures.

Challenges at youth policy level

_ The SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre supports and trains National Agency staff and other stakeholders in the development of recognition strategies on non-formal learning at local, regional, national, and international level. Due to the high amount of involved stakeholders resources have to be handled carefully.

_ Within the European strategy on the validation and recognition of informal and non-formal learning the implementation of Youthpass should be further used to support the National Agencies and beneficiaries to play a stronger role in the recognition of youth work at their level of influence, to raise awareness of it, and by this to support the Member States in their efforts.

_ The *COUNCIL RESOLUTION on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)* demands measures on the recognition of youth work. Hence, the Youthpass development and first impact could be considered as a resource for further development in this area. Experiences with trainers and youth workers can act as a resource for further development as well.

_ The Youthpass development could be considered as a pilot project for the recognition of non-formal and informal learning instruments not only for international youth work but as well for the national youth work contexts. Youthpass provides an approach which could inspire to develop recognition instruments further and contribute to the development of a common framework for recognition of non-formal learning in youth work.

_ The development of recognising learning outcomes in voluntary activities should be linked with the Youthpass development.

_ For recognising non-formal and informal learning/education a common approach and common reference still needs to be developed. Here Youthpass could be considered as a

first, successful attempt to reach this on a long-term basis. Experience and approaches could be used for further developments.

Challenges at education policy level

_ Youthpass could be considered as an instrument to raise awareness of skills, knowledge, and competences the participants gain in the activities within the Youth in Action Programme. A contribution to discussions on education and training policy and developments could be considered as possible. The full capacity to raise employability of young people, support entrepreneurship, and contribute to education and training processes is already visible but has to be developed further.

_ Skills and competences of young people and youth workers and leaders gained in Youth in Action activities are competences which could foster employability. At the same time they gain a lot of soft and/or life skills and competences by such a mobility experience. The full potential is not examined, and it could be considered that the full potential of this contribution has not been raised yet.

_ A stronger link to Europass should be created – technically and in terms of promoting the recognition of non-formal learning. The knowledge and experience gained through the Youthpass development and implementation should be used in the further development of Europass and the European Skills, Competences, and Occupations Framework (ESCO)[16].

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[16] Europe 2020, A European strategy for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth, Brussels 2010

5. Conclusions

Based on the first years of experience with Youthpass it could be considered as a successful instrument which is suitable for the context of the Youth in Action Programme. To maintain achievements so far and provide ground for successful further developments, a number of conclusions have to be drawn:

_ Youthpass should be further developed for all different formats of the Youth in Action Programme with the aim of having Youthpass available for all Actions by the time the new programme starts. Specific focus should be given to Actions 1.3/5.1, to youth workers and trainers active in the programme for a longer time (Action 4).

_ To check and attest the impact of Youthpass and its process within the Youth in Action Programme, an external study and/or further research is needed which should include the involvement of different stakeholders, analysis of the use of the European Key Competences, use of Youthpass for personal and professional development.

_ The implementation strategy, including the five mentioned pillars (1. Development of concrete instruments and processes, 2. Training strategy, 3. Technical development, 4. Communication and information, and 5. Recognition of non-formal learning measures), should be consolidated till the end of the Youth in Action Programme.

_ First steps have been taken to support Youthpass and its competence-based approach for young people with fewer opportunities and/or lowly qualified youth target groups. There should be further initiatives to raise the potential of Youthpass for these target groups and develop a suitable methodology.

_ The decision to decentralise the development and implementation of Youthpass was a successful step towards a sufficient implementation. The existing knowledge, networks, and flexibility are a precondition for the further good implementation by the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre. The limited financial and human resources should be considered when drawing further conclusions and deciding on further measures.

_ The further development of the European strategy on the validation and recognition of non-formal and informal learning in the Youth in Action Programme should be accompanied by a Youthpass Advisory Group. Aims and objectives and the composition of the Youthpass Advisory Group should be confirmed and further developed, if needed.

_ The implementation of the Youthpass strategy has a broader impact beyond the Youth in Action Programme on the whole field of European youth work, e.g. on developments in the Member States and the European Training Strategy. This experience should be used to create broader synergies in the field of youth work at international and national level.

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

Annexes

Result analysis
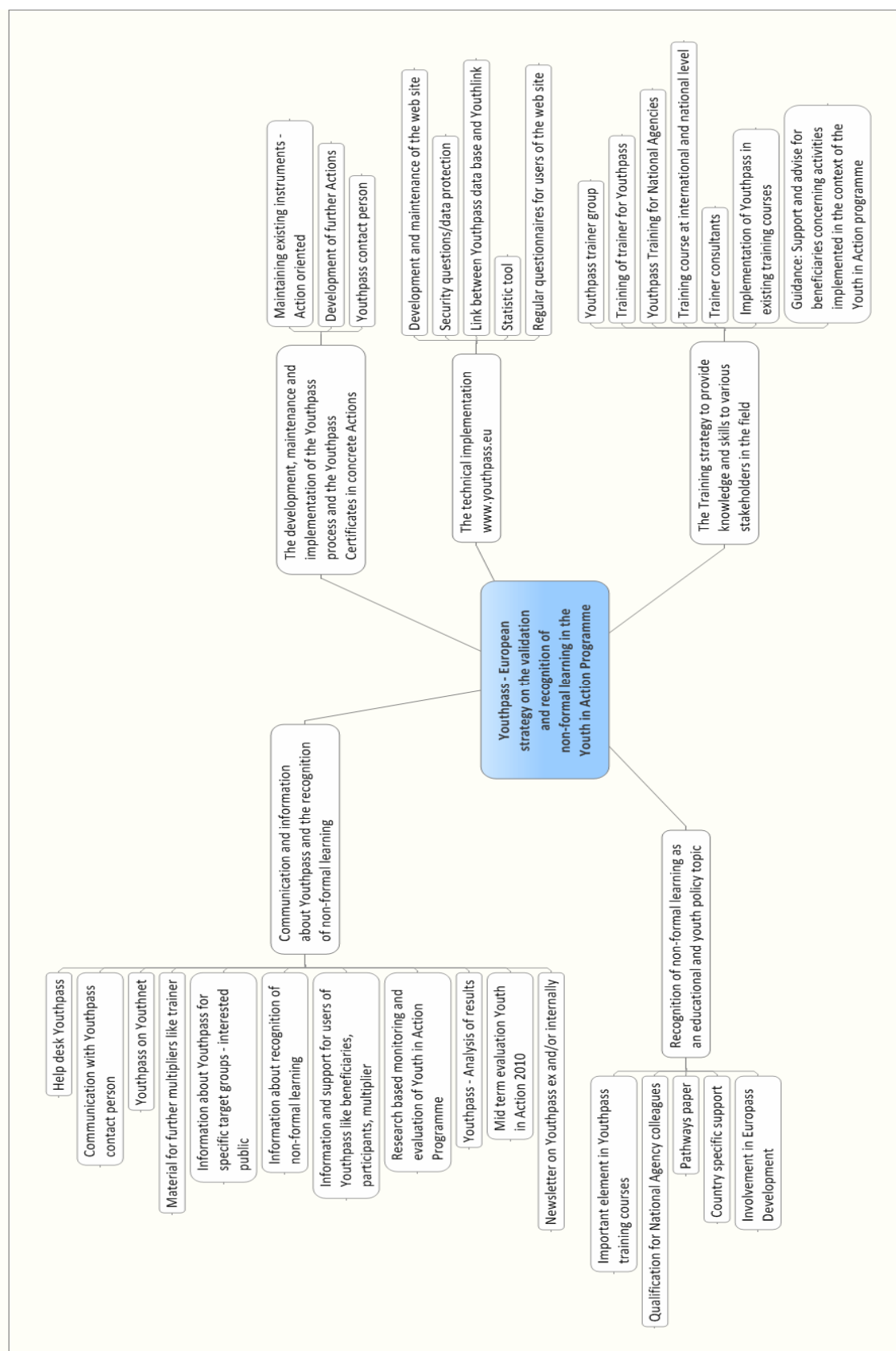**of Youthpass developments between April 2005 and December 2009**

April 2010

Annex 2 - Concept for the Implementation of Youthpass (April 2005)

1. **Aim**
   Development and implementation of a special European level validation instrument for YOUTH/Youth in Action as a package of different instruments for the Actions 1.1 (1), 2, 1.2 (3), and 4.3 (5) (Youthpass) and with this fostering of the recognition of non-formal learning within the YOUTH/Youth in Action Programme in order to support

   ➢ the employability of young people and youth workers;
   ➢ the reflection upon the personal non-formal learning process;
   ➢ the social recognition of youth work.

2. **Objective 1**
   Development of (a) qualified certificate(s) for all Actions, which confirm(s) the participation in an approved project and describe(s) the learning outcome in general. The certificate should include data of different actors and projects, aims and objectives of the YOUTH/Youth in Action Programme, and – if necessary – other detailed Action-related aims and objectives to be achieved by this project. This is planned to be used in short-term and long-term projects.

3. **Objective 2**
   Development of additional self-assessment instruments for approved long-term projects within relevant Actions as an annex to the certificate(s) mentioned above. The instruments should be developed from the user's perspective, should document the learning process, and should raise awareness that competencies and skills were strengthened during the project. Probably, the self-assessment instruments can be used later for short-term projects as well, depending on the experience made during the work plan period.

4. **Perspectives**
   In the long run, Youthpass should be integrated in / linked with other European level initiatives, such as Europass and / or initiatives and programmes within other EU programmes within the context of Active Citizenship.

5. **Starting point**
   Actions to achieve the aim and objectives of Youthpass should be based on the 'Common European principles regarding identification and validation of non-formal and informal learning', developed within 'Working Group H' and adopted by a **Council conclusion**.
   1. Individual entitlements
   2. Obligations of stakeholders
   3. Confidence and trust
   4. Credibility and legitimacy

6. **5 elements** should translate the aim and objectives into action
   1. Certificate(s) and self-assessment instrument(s)
   2. Training for NA staff to motivate and train national multipliers
   3. Procedures for implementation within the YOUTH/Youth in Action Programme
   4. Information material for a wider audience (User's Guide etc.)
   5. Technical support (Youthlink, Symmetry, etc.)

7. **10 steps** should guarantee a suitable work flow to implement the mentioned instruments within the different Actions. Due to existing resources and procedures, not all steps can be and need to be considered for all Actions and both instruments, nor will all of them start at the same time
   1. Assessment of existing instruments and resources

2. Development of instruments

3. Test phases with 3 NAs per Action

4. Evaluation of the test phases

5. Re-design of the instruments

6. Final approval by the Commission

7. Implementation of the instruments in all NAs

8. Assessment and evaluation

9. Recommendations for Youth in Action

10. Implementation in the new programme

8. An **Advisory group** will be established and should

   ➢ support the development of the instruments and monitor their implementation and further adjustment,
   ➢ consist of 10-15 experts from different fields, being balanced in terms of region, gender, and size of country, where the members come from,
   ➢ have suitable resources to meet regularly and to set up smaller working groups to develop and adjust the needed instruments.

9. **Role of the SALTO Training and Co-operation RC**

   ➢ Communication between the different actors in YOUTH/Youth in Action
   ➢ Installing, managing, and chairing the Advisory group
   ➢ Organising the development of validation instruments and administrative procedures together with experts and practitioners
   ➢ Organising test and pilot phases
   ➢ Developing and implementing training models for the users
   ➢ Publishing tools and (a) user's guide(s)

Annex 3 – Youthpass Certificates

1. Youthpass for Youth Exchanges - A fictive example

The certificate reads:

European Commission

Education and Culture DG
'Youth in Action' Programme

Youthpass

for Youth Exchange

«FirstName» «LASTNAME»
Born on "Date of birth" in "town, country of birth"

participated in

«ProjectName»

a Youth Exchange with "number" young people
from "country 1, country 2, country 3..."

The activity took place from «ActivityFromDate»
to «ActivityToDate» in "town, country".

Youth Exchanges

Within the European Youth in Action Programme, a Youth Exchange is a project where young people work and live together in an international group for a specific time. It consists of preparation, implementation, and follow-up activities. For the duration of the Youth Exchange, young people undertake a joint programme of activities with specific aims and objectives.

Young people from different countries and backgrounds co-operate with each other supported by experienced youth workers and leaders. They develop personal, professional, and intercultural competences.

Youth Exchanges foster the mobility of young people in Europe. They encourage initiative and creativity in young people, facilitate their active participation in the project, and thereby provide an intercultural learning experience.

Offering the added value of a European dimension, Youth Exchanges are quality-checked regarding content criteria and implementation.

Logo of the organisation

Original signature

The ID of this Certificate is 12345hgzn56.
If you want to verify the ID, please go to the website of Youthpass:
http://www.youthpass.eu/qualitycontrol.

Youthpass is a Europe-wide validation system for non-formal learning within the European Youth in Action Programme. For further information, please have a look at http://www.youthpass.ec

1

Learning in Youth Exchanges

Participation in a Youth Exchange provides access to non-formal learning activities following the European Key Competences framework. Youth Exchanges help young people to gain new skills, knowledge, and attitudes as well as to learn using them in a variety of contexts.

They help to improve

> communication in a foreign language,
> communication skills (non-verbal, listening, speaking),
> self-confidence,
> the ability to interact with different cultures and environments,
> active participation in society,
> the ability to solve problems and to resolve conflicts in a group,
> turning ideas into action by planning, organising and managing, and
> co-operating in a team.

Activities undertaken

The project "Ecological development in Europe" includes preparation and follow-up - two day and two weekend meetings. The German group met, discussed the local ecological situation, and prepared a map of their city with regard to specific questions (waste, energy use data). During the Youth Exchange in Malta, the young people lived together with the common challenge of reducing the use of water and energy. After returning home, they developed personal plans to care for their local environment.

Individual Project activities undertaken

Volker Schmitz was involved in activities investigating the ecological system in the local environment (e.g. how is waste dealt with, do nature protection activities exist?). After comparing the different approaches of the countries represented, a discussion about the influence on ecological development followed. Volker took part in developing a practical guide on influences on the environment at local level. He showed particular initiative in preparing and writing the practical guide.

The Youth Exchange was organised by Jugend für Europa (DE) in co-operation with Princess Trust (UK)
The Youth Exchange was co-financed by Naturfreunde Böblingen.

Logo of the organisation   Original signature

Date, place

2

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2. Youthpass for European Voluntary Service (This example contains instructions on how to fill it in!)

Education and Culture DG
'Youth in Action' Programme

Youthpass

This document certifies that **Volunteer's first name Volunteer's last name** spent her European Voluntary Service in the project **Title of your EVS project** in **town where the service took place, United Kingdom** with the organisation **name of the hosting organisation**.

The role and tasks of **Volunteer's first name Volunteer's last name** were:
In this optional field you can describe the role and task of the volunteer in the project. Please keep in mind that the description of the volunteers' activities might later be used as an official reference (e.g. for job or higher education applications).

Volunteer's first name Volunteer's last name took part in the following training activities:
Please indicate here the training activities in which the volunteer took part, eg. pre-departure training, on-arrival training, mid-term meeting, language courses etc.

The host organisation **name of the hosting organisation** offers the following:
Please describe here the activites of the host organisation, so that a person who reads the Certificate outside your context or coutnry can understand it. For example you can mention the status and activity level of your organisation, regular activities or your capacity and motivation in the field of the project. Please note that the organisation indicated in the "organisation details" section will appear automatically as "host organisation" in the Certificate.

The sending organisation of **Volunteer's first name Volunteer's last name** was **contract holder sending the volunteer** from **town of the sending organisation, Austria**.

We certify the participation of **Volunteer's first name Volunteer's last name** in this European Voluntary Service project **Title of your EVS project**.

JUGEND für Europa
Deutsche Agentur
für das EU-Programm
JUGEND IN AKTION

living europe

Name
Person in charge of the project

Place of signature, 21/01/2010

2

Education and Culture DG
'Youth in Action' Programme

Youthpass

Volunteer's first name Volunteer's last name participated in the European Voluntary Service project **Title of your EVS project** in **town where the service took place, United Kingdom** between **15/05/2007** and **14/02/2008**.

The following summary of **Volunteer's first name Volunteer's last name's** learning outcome is the result of an ongoing dialogue process between **Volunteer's first name Volunteer's last name** and her mentor **name of the person who followed the volunteer's learning process throughout the project** during the whole activity.

The following description of learning outcomes is a reflection related to the Key Competences for lifelong learning recommended by the European Parliament and the Council in December 2006.

Communication in mother tongue

In this part you have the possibility to use the eight Key Competences for Lifelong Learning to describe the volunteer's learning outcomes developped in the project.

Communication in foreign languages

The Key Competences should be filled in in a dialogue between the mentor and the volunteer.

Learning to learn

The learning outcomes can either be described from the volunteer's point of view (1st person singular) or in a more classical report style (third person singular).

Other specific skills

Please keep in mind that you don't need to fill in the fields for all the eight Key Competences. The not completed ones will not appear in the Certificate.

European Commission
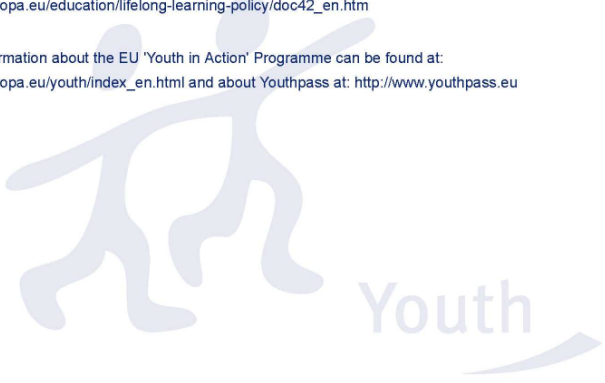
Education and Culture DG
'Youth in Action' Programme

We confirm the mutual process of reflection during European Voluntary Service.

Volunteer's first name Volunteer's last name
Volunteer

name of the person who followed the volunteer's learning process throughout the project
Mentor of the volunteer

Place of signature, 21/01/2010

Further information and original documents on the Key competences can be found at:
http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc42_en.htm

Further information about the EU 'Youth in Action' Programme can be found at:
http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.html and about Youthpass at: http://www.youthpass.eu

Youth

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3. Youthpass for Training Courses – A fictive example

Education and Culture DG
'Youth in Action' Programme

Youthpass

The Training Course **Intercultural learning in rural areas** was organised by **SALTO Training and Co-operation Resource Centre** in co-operation with **Partner 1, Partner 2 and Partner 3**.

Aim and specific objectives of the training course **Intercultural learning in rural areas**:
- to prepare & motivate NA staff & trainers to implement Youthpass
- to increase knowledge about the context of Youthpass and awareness about educational implications
- to use & experience Key competences as a basic concept of Youthpass
- to look at reasons & strategies for recognition of non-formal learning and Youthpass
- to experience Youthpass practically
- to develop action plans for implementation

20 participants from **Germany, Iceland, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom** took part in the Training Course. The working language of the Training Course was **English**.

Trainer/s:
Anton Steiner (AT), Magda Stenka (SK)

The main contents of the Training Course were:
The course was structured in practical learning workshops, exploring the principles of non-formal learning, expert input on recognition and promotion of non-formal learning in Europe and 2 countries, experimenting with setting learning objectives and the use of Key competences in self-assessment, planning Youthpass implementation strategies together with National Agencies, SALTOs and trainers.

The training course was co-funded by **Co-funder 1, Co-funder 2, and Co-funder 3**.

Magda Stenka
Person in charge of the project

Liverpool, 26/01/2009

Youthpass

Hannah Watson participated in the Training Course **Intercultural learning in rural areas**. This part of the certificate is a self-assessment of learning and competence acquisition completed by the participant during the Course. It is based on the Key competences for Lifelong Learning defined by the European Union and the specific competences highlighted in the Training Course.

This self-assessment was enhanced through feedback and dialogue with members of the training team and other participants.

Communication in foreign languages

I've communicated regularly in English with my colleagues and trainers in various situations, including very complex scientific discussions. That helped me increase my English knowledge and put it on another level (experience-wise).

Learning to learn

I've become acquainted with some new ideas and methods on how to memorize things. The ways we've been getting knowledge about Youthpass during this course was very I inlighting for me as we were learning 'the other way around' and not through direct lectures.

Hannah Watson

Liverpool, 26/01/2009

For further references, please contact:

Anton Steiner (Trainer)

Further information and original documents on the Key competences can be found at:
http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/2010/objectives_en.html

Further information about the EU 'Youth in Action' Programme can be found at:
http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.html and about Youthpass at: http://www.youthpass.eu

3

Annex 4 – Organisations registered per country

	2007	2008	2009	overall
Austria	30	38	23	91
Belgium (Flemish)	20	38	17	75
Belgium (French)	17	15	3	35
Belgium (German)	5	3	4	12
Bulgaria	10	32	17	59
Cyprus	5	7	1	13
Czech Republic	38	48	23	109
Denmark	22	34	15	71
Estonia	23	30	26	79
Centralised projects (Executive Agency)	22	50	15	87
Finland	27	43	18	88
France	107	126	81	314
Germany	158	201	91	450
Greece	35	50	15	100
Hungary	13	37	17	67
Iceland	7	8	5	20
Ireland	21	37	13	71
Italy	65	117	55	237
Latvia	38	39	16	93
Liechtenstein	3	6	3	12
Lithuania	31	32	25	88
Luxemburg	16	17	5	38
Netherlands	35	37	31	103
Norway	19	22	6	47
Poland	99	143	78	320
Portugal	27	42	22	91
Romania	31	34	59	124
Slovakia	24	31	19	74
Slovenia	19	29	18	66
Spain	88	118	71	277
Sweden	19	26	14	59
Turkey	115	157	93	365
United Kingdom	60	76	48	184

Annex 5 – Youthpass Certificates per gender per year

	2007	2008	2009	Overall
Female	6,504	13,493	10,758	30,755
Male	4,229	9,008	7,824	21,061

Annex 6 – Youthpass Certificates per age per year

	2007	2008	2009	overall
Born in 2000	2	0	2	4
Born in 1999	0	7	3	10
Born in 1998	5	6	8	19
Born in 1997	1	6	11	18
Born in 1996	3	15	123	141
Born in 1995	4	215	332	551
Born in 1994	51	392	691	1,134
Born in 1993	115	831	1,045	1,991
Born in 1992	232	1,150	1,262	2,644
Born in 1991	407	1,393	1,307	3,107
Born in 1990	511	1,454	989	2,954
Born in 1989	590	1,445	917	2,952
Born in 1988	822	1,300	931	3,053
Born in 1987	723	1,089	879	2,691
Born in 1986	606	1,117	847	2,570
Born in 1985	607	1,057	710	2,374
Born in 1984	587	988	609	2,184
Born in 1983	583	882	474	1,939
Born in 1982	420	598	380	1,398
Born in 1981	310	414	268	992
Born in 1980	234	313	201	748
Born in 1979	160	282	189	631
Born in 1978	102	186	121	409
Born in 1977	72	123	96	291
Born in 1976	48	101	79	228
Born in 1975	32	65	68	165
Born in 1974	40	64	49	153
Born in 1973	17	61	47	125
Born in 1972	25	49	37	111
Born in 1971	21	33	38	92
Born in 1970	22	46	41	109
Born in 1969	19	34	30	83
Born in 1968	18	30	29	77
Born in 1967	22	38	20	80
Born in 1966	10	28	18	56
Born in 1965	12	27	26	65
Born in 1964	15	29	29	73
Born in 1963	11	31	24	66
Born in 1962	9	26	25	60
Born in 1961	18	36	19	73
Born in 1960	12	19	23	54
Born in 1959	10	25	19	54

Born in 1958	8	21	15	44
Born in 1957	5	19	25	49
Born in 1956	5	13	10	28
Born in 1955	7	18	10	35
Born in 1954	5	13	13	31
Born in 1953	3	7	7	17
Born in 1952	2	12	4	18
Born in 1951	4	5	6	15
Born in 1950	3	10	12	25
Born in 1949	0	2	6	8
Born in 1948	3	5	2	10
Born in 1947	1	2	3	6
Born in 1946	0	5	4	9
Born in 1945	4	0	0	4
Born in 1944	2	2	1	5
Born in 1943	1	1	1	3
Born in 1942	1	1	0	2
Born in 1941	1	0	2	3
Born in 1940	2	1	0	3

Further explanation:

Concerning the year in the top row: The Youthpass database counts the project number registered related to Action and year of approval round. This means that e.g. if a beneficiary implements a project with the number DE-11-12345-2007-R5, it is counted under 2007. No matter if it takes place in 2008.

Information about the age is voluntary in Actions 1.1, 3.1, and 4.3. The basis for counting is an overall number of 36,760 participants who gave information about their age. The years of birth 1998 – 2000 might either result from typing mistakes or participants who are younger than foreseen.

Annex 7 - Overview of the translation of Youthpass Certificates

Language	Certificate translation online			
	A. 1.1 & 3.1 Youth Exchanges	A. 2 EVS	A. 4.3 & 3.1 Training Courses	A. 1.2 Youth Initiatives
Bulgarian	in progress	in progress	in progress	
Czech	x	x	X	
Danish				
Dutch	x	x	in progress	
English	x	x	X	x
Estonian	x	x	in progress	in progress
Finnish	x	x	x	
Flemish	x	x	x	
French	x	x	in progress	
German	x	x	x	x
Greek	x	x	x	

Hungarian	x	x		
Icelandic	in progress	in progress		
Italian	x	X		x
Latvian	in progress	in progress		
Lithuanian	X	x		
Maltese				
Norwegian	X	x	x	
Polish	X	x	x	x
Portuguese	X	x	x	
Romanian	X	x		
Slovakian	in progress	in progress	in progress	
Slovenian	x	x	X	
Spanish	x	x	X	
Swedish	x	x	X	
Turkish	x	x	X	

Annex 8 – Overview of the web site translation

Language	Web site translation online	
	Further content pages	**Technical tool pages**
Bulgarian	x	x
Czech	x	x
Danish	x	
Dutch		x
English	x	x
Estonian		x
Finnish	x	x
Flemish	x	x
French	x	x
German	x	x
Greek	x	x
Hungarian		x
Icelandic		x
Italian		x
Latvian	x	x
Lithuanian		x
Maltese		
Norwegian	x	x
Polish		x
Portuguese	x	x
Romanian	x	x

Slovakian		x
Slovenian	x	x
Spanish		x
Swedish	x	x
Turkish	x	x

Annex 9 - Number of participants per training courses and per country – between 2006 and 2010

	AT 06	PT 07	UK 07	SK 08	BG 08	TR 08	RO 08	FR 09	PL 09	SI 09	DE 09	IT 10	Total participants per NA
Austria	2	2		2						1		1	**8**
Belgium-DE		2											**2**
Belgium-FL	1	1			1		1	1	1	1	2	1	**10**
Belgium-FR	1	1		2						1			**5**
Bulgaria	2				7				1			1	**11**
Cyprus	1							1					**2**
Czech Republic	1	2	2						2				**7**
Denmark													**0**
Estonia	1	2	2	6	2	1		3	2	1		2	**22**
Finland		2									2		**4**
France	1	2			2		1	3	1		2		**12**
Germany	1	2	2		1			1		1	1		**9**
Greece	1	2			1		1	1					**6**
Hungary	2	1	1	5			1	3					**13**
Iceland		1				3				1	2		**7**
Ireland	1				2		1	2		3			**9**
Italy	3	1	2		1					2	4	4	**17**
Latvia	1	2	1			1				2			**7**
Liechtenstein													**0**
Lithuania		1	2				2			1			**6**
Luxembourg					1								**1**
Malta	1		2										**3**
Netherlands	2	3	2	5				1			1	1	**15**
Norway									1		1	4	**6**
Poland	3		2		2		1	3	4	2	2	3	**22**
Portugal		2			2	1				4	2	3	**14**
Romania	1	1			1	1	5			1		1	**11**
Slovakia	1	2		4					1				**8**
Slovenia	1	2	1		2					1	2		**9**
Spain	2	2						1		2	1		**8**

Sweden	1				3			1					**5**
Switzerland													**0**
Turkey		2			1	5		2	2				**12**
United Kingdom	1	2	2		1	3	1			1	2		**13**
EECA	1		2		1	2		3				2	**11**
SEE	1		1		1	1				2	1	1	**8**
Euro-Med			1		1							1	**3**
participants per TC	*34*	*40*	*25*	*24*	*30*	*18*	*17*	*23*	*18*	*27*	*25*	*25*	**306**

*Annex 10 – **Youthpass information letter***

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

Youthpass

SALTO-YOUTH
TRAINING AND COOPERATION
RESOURCE CENTRE

Education and Culture

State of affairs – March 2010

| 1. Youthpass for specific Actions - Action 1.1, Action 2, Action 3.1 and Action 4.3 |

Action 1.1   **Youthpass for Youth Exchanges**. **Certificate versions** are available in Czech**,** Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish**,** Flemish**,** French, German, Greek**,** Hungarian**,** Italian, Lithuanian**,** Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese**,** Romanian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Slovenian. We are planning to integrate the use of the **Key Competences** as soon as possible.

Action 1.2   **Youthpass for Youth Initiatives.** The European Commission followed the recommendation of the Youthpass Advisory group and subgroup to **implement Youthpass for Youth Initiatives** by **April 2010**. Further information will follow!
We would like to thank the colleagues and test projects **in BE-FR, DE, EE, FR, IT, NL, PL, the SALTO Participation Resource Centre and European Youth Forum** for supporting the test phase.

Action 2   **Youthpass for European Voluntary Service**. **Certificate versions** are available in Czech**,** Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish**,** Flemish**,** French, German, Greek**,** Hungarian**,** Italian, Lithuanian**,** Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese**,** Romanian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Slovenian. The SALTO T&C RC is still working on the technical solution for **Co-ordinating Organisations**. To develop the best solution, the SALTO T&C RC will co-operate with the beneficiaries concerned.

Action 3.1   **Youthpass for Youth in the World (Youth Exchanges and Training Courses).** Since April 2009 Youthpass has been available for this Action and will be **retroactively valid** for projects from 1 January 2007.

Action 4.3   **Youthpass for Training Courses. Certificates in Action 4.3 (Training Courses)** are available in Czech, English**,** Flemish, Finnish, German, Greek, Spanish Norwegian and Turkish**.**

Development of **Youthpass for further Actions** is not foreseen until a further decision has been made by the Programme Committee.

2. Youthpass Guide

The **Youthpass Guide Part A (theoretical part) and Part B (practical part)** have been available on http://www.youthpass.eu/en/youthpass/guide since March 2009.

By April 2010 the chapter **Youthpass for Youth Initiatives** will be added to the Youthpass Guide.

During 2010 **translations of the Youthpass Guide** will be promoted and uploaded on the web site.

3. Youthpass Web site

The web site http://www.youthpass.eu/en/youthpass/ is the main **communication instrument** of the Youthpass project. Thanks to the contribution of the Youth in Action National Agencies, **the Youthpass web site is available in 24 languages**.

In 2010 we will present a **translation tool** which will be a technical solution to make the translation process easier for everybody involved. With this tool we will continue translating parts of the web site which are only available in English so far.

Technical priorities for the coming months regarding the **Youthpass web site** are: adjustment of the technical tool for Youthpass for Youth Initiatives, development of the translation tool, adjustment of the statistic tool. Further important projects are the adjustment of the tool for Co-ordinating Organisations in Action 2 and Centralised projects and the use of the Key Competences for Action 1.1.

4. Youthpass Advisory Group

The **Youthpass Advisory Group** is supporting the European Commission and the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre (SALTO T&C RC) in the further development and implementation of Youthpass. The **Youthpass Advisory Group** discusses the broader political context and formulates recommendations on the Youthpass development. NAs BE-FL, DE, FR, NO, SI, UK are representing the network of NAs in the Youthpass Advisory Group.

The result analysis of Youthpass will be presented during the next meeting of the Programme Committee of the Youth in Action Programme in April 2010. There the current state of art and further implementations of Youthpass will be discussed and decided on. The result analysis will cover the chronology of the implementation, specific implementation measures, and figures around the Youthpass implementation. As soon as the final version can be published it will be sent to the NAs.

An **information strategy** has to be integrated in the general strategy for the Youth in Action Programme. Target groups should be young people, project promoters, and stakeholders in- and outside the field of youth work. This has to be discussed in the broader context of the Youth in Action Programme communication strategy.

5. Youthpass Contact persons in the NAs

The SALTO T&C RC organises yearly **Youthpass contact persons meetings** to discuss the implementation strategies of the National Agencies and next steps of the Youthpass development. The next meeting will take place from **28** to **30 June 2010 in Bonn**.

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6. Planned international training courses related to Youthpass/non-formal learning topics

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The SALTO T&C RC in the long-term works with a group of eight **trainers from eight different countries** - **Youthpass trainers group**. The trainers are developing tailor-made training courses focussing on the implementation of Youthpass and the situation of the recognition of non-formal education/learning specific to the country. Through their high commitment the trainers of the Youthpass trainers groups contribute a lot to <u>the further development of the Youthpass implementation</u> but as well to the general development of Youthpass.

Youthpass training course for multipliers	in co-operation with NA IT Host IT – **2-8 February 2010**
Youthpass training course – SEE region	in co-operation with SALTO SEE, NAs DE, GR, FR, PT – **18–23 April 2010**
Youthpass training course for multipliers (in French)	in co-operation with NAs FR, LU Host LU – in 2010
Recognition of NFL/Policy focus TC	in co-operation with NA DE Host DE – in 2010

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7. Further priorities in 2010

Youthpass and EVS training courses
At the beginning of March at the latest, NA SI and the SALTO Training and Cooperation will publish a booklet **for EVS trainers** with support material on how to integrate Youthpass and methodologies on self-directed learning and learning to learn in various ways in the EVS training cycle. This is a result of a training course which took place in October 2009 in co-operation with NAs IE, PT, SI, and the SALTO T&C RC.

Seminar on tools for training courses
In co-operation with the German NA and UNIQUE, the SALTO T&C RC will organise a seminar to exchange and develop tools and methodologies on how to motivate the implementation of self-directed learning, learning to learn aspects related to Youthpass in training courses. A publication on this topic is planned as a follow–up.   Dates of the seminar: **22 – 28 November 2010 in Germany**

Youthpass and Inclusion
Since January 2010 the booklet **Youthpass for all** has been available on http://www.salto-youth.net/YouthpassForALL/ . The publication is an outcome of the seminar on Youthpass and Inclusion which took place in May 2009 in co-operation with NAs EE, FR, and IE, the SALTO Inclusion and SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centres.
In 2010 SALTO Inclusion and SALTO Training and Cooperation will continue their co-operation and focus more on concrete tools to recognise learning in practice. The **NEW Perspectives project** of the German NA will be an excellent project for testing such tools.

For further and detailed information contact Rita Bergstein/SALTO T&C RC, January (rita@salto-youth.net)

Annex 11 – Visits, downloads, and amount of Certificates generated on www.youthpass.eu

	2007[17]	2008	2009	overall
Visits on www.youthpass.eu	-	35,050	124,742	159,792
Downloads Youthpass Guide	-	-	7,289	7,289
Youthpass Certificates	10,748	22,566	19,185	52,499
Youthpass Certificates with at least one Key Competence in one language	3,137	4,416	1,953	9,506
Organisations using the Youthpass web site	1,160	1,624	936	3,710
Projects that implemented Youthpass	1,805	2,454	1,155	5,414

Further explanation: Youthpass Certificates = Total amount of Certificates generated, 1 Certificate = 1 participant

Concerning the year in the top row: The Youthpass database counts the project number registered related to Action and year of approval round. This means that e.g. if a beneficiary implements a project with the number DE-11-12345-2007-R5, it is counted under 2007. No matter if it takes place in 2008.

Annex 12 – Downloads of different chapters/Youthpass Guide – available since autumn 2009

Chapter	2007	2008	2009	2010
A1 What is Youthpass	-	-	555	337
A2 Getting interested in non-formal education and learning	-	-	355	200
A3 Hitchhikers' guide to recognition in the youth field	-	-	290	186
A4 You hold the keys to lifelong learning	-	-	311	187
A5 Youthpass – more than a certificate of participation	-	-	379	210
B1 How to support learning	-	-	341	195
B2 Youthpass in practice Action One (1.1) – Youth Exchanges	-	-	409	253
B3 Action Two (2) – European Voluntary Service	-	-	536	356
B4 Action Four Point Three (4.3) – Training Courses	-	-	397	211
Total number of downloads of different chapters			**3,573**	2,135

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[17] The dates in these tables (and all following tables) are always related to the year of decision on the grant for the project (selection round). This is the most suitable way to count the number of projects.