



OUTCOMES
OF THE TRAINING COURSE
YOUTHPASS FOR BETTER QUALITY IN YOUTH EXCHANGES
HAAPSALU, ESTONIA, 25 – 30 JUNE 2009



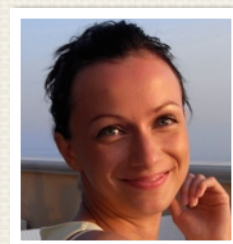
Foreword

Youthpass - it is not just a certificate. Youthpass is a philosophy – a tool for recognition of non-formal education. Together strongly believes in the value of non-formal education and the benefits it brings to young people. That is why we decided to organise the training course “Youthpass for better quality in youth exchanges” and share our experience and knowledge with other youth organisations from different countries.

We believe it is our small contribution to the recognition of non-formal education and that the participants of the training course will become “ambassadors” of this message in their local communities.

This newsletter is also part of the dissemination of results of the training course. It was prepared together by the participants of the training course, with a limited assistance of the trainers. You can find inside information

about the training course, about Youthpass and several methods for self-evaluation as well as other useful hints.



Anna Roganova
Project co-ordinator
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About the training course

The idea of the training course "Youthpass for better quality in youth exchanges" came from the conclusion that there is a great need and demand to develop the methodology and tools of the ways of implementation of Youthpass in the "Youth in Action" programme.

Youthpass became obligatory since more than one year now; however, there is a risk that the fantastic recognition tool that helps also to add greater importance to the non-formal learning process during the projects in general, and youth

exchanges in particular, is not completely understood by many organisations that are implementing it.



With the support of the resource centre SALTO Germany we proposed to set up a training dedicated to organisations, dealing with youth exchanges and that need to increase their

knowledge on Youthpass: evaluate the existing experience and gain concrete tools in order to put it into practice during their activities and to implement it not just as a diploma, but as a motivating self-accessed recognition tool.

The training was led by experienced Youthpass trainers from "Together" organisation network, participating in Youthpass implementation since its pilot experimental phase in 2006, and continuing to use Youthpass during their activities.



What is Youthpass ?

Youthpass is a part of the European Commission's strategy to foster the **recognition of non-formal learning**. As a tool to visualise and to **validate learning outcomes** gained in "Youth in Action" projects, it puts policy into practice and practice into policy:



What is Youthpass

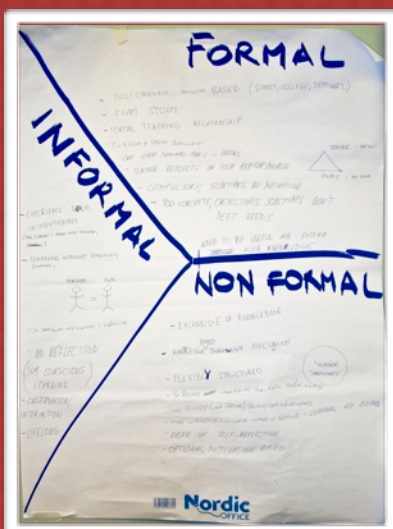
- Creating their Youthpass Certificate together with a support person, participants of “Youth in Action” projects have the possibility to describe what they have done in their project and which competences they have acquired. Thus, Youthpass supports the **reflection upon the personal non-formal learning process**.
- Documenting the added value of a “Youth in Action” project, Youthpass visualises and supports **active European citizenship** of young people and youth workers.
- Being a Europe-wide validation instrument for non-formal learning in the youth field, Youthpass contributes to strengthening the **social recognition of youth work**.
- Making visible and validating key competences through a certificate, Youthpass finally aims at supporting the **employability** of young people and youth workers.

(Source: youthpass.eu)

Formal/non-formal/informal??? What is it???

- Informal learning happens nearly all the time in daily life (at home, on the street, in cafés, etc) but it is not a planned activity;
- Non-formal learning is voluntary, is assisted by others and is planned;
- Formal learning is structured, regulated from the outsider and involves some form of certification

(Source: YouthPass Guide)

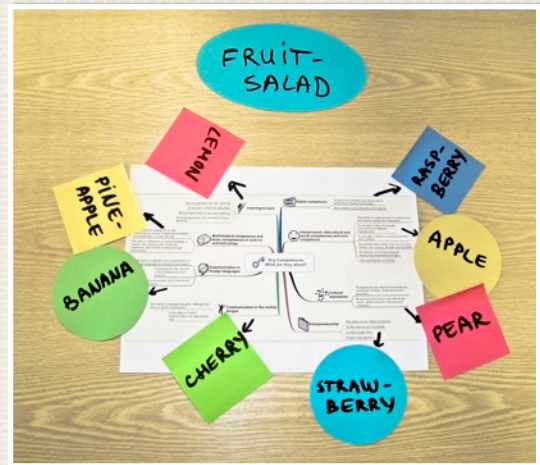




Self-Evaluation Methods

Self-evaluation is an important part of personal learning process and key role in the personal development. The methods that are used in this process are usually practised in a group of people (rather smaller groups, which make the participants more open). This can make these activities more social and interactive.

Here you can find several methods of interactive self-evaluation that could be also used in Youthpass implementation:



Magical Mirror

In this activity, you'd need a mirror as a symbol (you can make it from the paper) and a paper poster with questions. These questions can be divided into three groups: 1. Three character features that best characterise the person; 2. Three competences that the participant wants to learn; 3. Three competences that the participants needs for his/her job or other activities. The questions should be reflected individually and then shared with someone else in order to get in the evaluation process. This activity can help with defining their potential within reflecting over these questions.

Picture Sea

There are different images of people and objects cut from the magazines (postcards or other) on the table (or on the floor) and every participant can select the one that he/she finds the best in describing him or herself during the learning process. This game gives a chance to reflect his or her way of learning in an interactive way.

„It was the easiest way how to share my experience with other people.“

Toufik from France





Self Evaluation Forms

From the SALTO website (www.salto-youth.net/toolbox/), you may download various ready-to use self-evaluation forms or cards. These tools contain tables, where the participant can write his own evaluation and define his/her strategic learning objectives and ways how to achieve them. This is more formal way, but still can suit to the needs of some of the participants (that should first of all define what type of learner they are).



How is my Learning Flower Doing ?

A method for reflecting on one's learning process

The aim of this exercise is to visualise one's learning targets, his/her learning process and also the final results.

The exercise is based on the parallel between learning and growing a plant.

The key words for displaying and dealing with different aspects of the learning process are:

a seed – one's talent, a plan, a wish, an idea, an ability, a skill, a learning objective, or whatever is supposed to be developed, to be grown
E.g.: If one wants to be confident at speaking a foreign language, this is his seed which needs to be cared of and grown.

a field – one's surrounding, background, learning conditions: anything that is around us and influences our learning environment – from an actual room we are learning in, to a current social or political situation.

E.g.: Someone needs to learn in an absolute silence, whereas someone else cannot concentrate without a TV or radio on.

From a different point of view the field is also our potential, which we have to discover and further develop – it's certain that everyone is talented in a certain field and it is important for them to "plant on the fruitful soil".

E.g.: If someone is talented at sports, there is no need for him to "grow the seeds of science", but he should use and develop his sporting potential.



tools - every seed needs to be watered and carefully taken care of in order to grow and finally give tasteful fruit. The same is with the learning objectives: if they receive enough efforts and a proper field, they will grow into a powerful competence.

E.g.: There are several learning types of people and one should be able to identify his most efficient learning style.

fruits – after the whole process of learning the results finally come or maybe not. There is always a good, patient and hard working gardener behind a juicy piece of fruit, on the other side, without any care, trees get dry and bring no results.

How's my learning flower doing?? That is the crucial question we always ask during this exercise. Situation of our flower helps us reflect on the process and partial results of our learning. Other questions closely relate to the situation of the flower:

Does it have deep and stable roots?

Does it actually grow or fade?

Am I satisfied with planting my flower? Did I choose the right one?

What am I going to do with the fruit? Is it worth pursuing the growing process?



We can easily find another type of questions related more closely to our concrete flower using the key words mentioned above:

Do I have any seed I want to grow? Which one is the right one? (The 8 key competences should help us here.)

What type of field did I choose? Are there any obstacles that need to be taken off the way of growing?

Am I using appropriate tools to grow what I really want? And finally, how does the fruit look now? How is it going to prosper in a week/month...





The best way to implement this exercise is by drawing a flower as a visual aid to be able to express and share our learning process and also see its development in time.

Other approach gives us the possibility to look around us on real flowers and types of plants in the nature. Not every tree gives tasty fruits, also not every plant has a colourful blossoms.

Each day we can go through the key words for our flower and, looking at the picture, reflect on how the flower has developed since yesterday. Are there any changes? What are feelings about our learning process? How's my learning flower doing?

Regardless the flower you are going to grow, remember and wish this quote was truthful for you!

„There can be no other occupation like gardening in which, if you were to creep up behind someone at their work, you would find them smiling.“ ~Mirabel Osler

How can we promote the Youthpass ??

Participants of the training course got the chance to receive theoretical and practical knowledge, skills and competences necessary to promote Youthpass and use it in their organisations. We all undertake to become kind of “Youthpass Ambassadors” and share the philosophy further. During one of the training sessions, each of the participants prepared a specific action plan to use, promote and valorise YouthPass.



Here you can see a few examples of ideas and proposals:



“In Italy, I will organise an info seminar in my organisation, to write an article or radio interview about this training course to explain what Youthpass is.” – Eliana, Italy

“I see my role as a Youthpass promoter by organising a youth exchange and explaining the learning process in non-formal education to the participants.” – Marine, France

“It would be good to do an info day for students and for career counsellors, also for personal managers of companies.” - Mari – Liis, Estonia



Programme of the training course

	25.6.	26.6.	27.6.	28.6.	29.6.
8-8:45	arrivals	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast	breakfast
9:00		you told "competences" ?	global political concept	action plan - bringing everything together	working on personal YP
10:30		coffee break	coffee break	coffee break	coffee break
11:00		learning as such and learning in YE	how to use in questioning the quality	presentation of the results	evaluation
13:30	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch	lunch
15:00	getting to know each other	exchange of methods	what does it mean practise? methods, concrete steps	future projects networking national vs. international levels	departures
16:30	coffee break	coffee break	coffee break	coffee break	
17:00	introduction to Youthpass and all around	presentation of personal experiences - examples of good practice	YP reflection group	YP reflection group	
19:30	intercultural dinner	dinner	dinner	dinner	
21:00		cultural evening	cultural evening	farewell party	

Links

<http://www.youthpass.eu> – The official Youthpass web site

<http://demo.youthpass.eu> – Demo-version of the system for generating Youthpasses

<http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/> - The official web site of the Youth in Action programme

<http://www.network-together.eu> – Website of Together Network

The "Youthpass for better quality in youth exchanges" was financed by the Youth in Action programme of the European Commission and organised by Together Estonia in June 2009.

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