



EUROPEAN PLATFORM ON LEARNING MOBILITY in the youth field

Recognize your strengths and talk about it: Good marks for the Youth Pass

12.07.2013, Youth policy for Europe at <https://www.jugendpolitikineuropa.de/beitrag/erkenne-deine-staerken-und-rede-drueber-guten-noten-fuer-den-youthpass.9848/>

235,000 certificates issued by 10,000 organizations in 20,000 projects are the impressive numbers for the Youth Pass. A new study reveals its particular help to recognize own strengths and to communicate.



Since 2007 the instrument documents learning experiences in youth meetings as well as in the European Voluntary Service, youth initiatives or training courses under JUGEND IN AKTION. The effect of this instrument has lately been examined by two researchers on behalf of the European Commission, supported by the SALTO Training & Cooperation Resource Centre and the European Youth Forum.

Based on an online questionnaire, 741 carriers applying the Youth Pass in their projects under JUGEND IN AKTION and 1,143 participants from these projects were interviewed. 80% of them had received a Youth Pass, mostly, 61%, in exchange settings. Focus groups and experts were interviewed as well.

Communication Support

Ideally, the Youth Pass is created in joint reflection and action between leaders and participants. Thereby the participants become aware of the experience they have gathered during the action, how to use their talents, what strengths they attached and which skills they developed. Therefore and widely known, one of the most important effects of the use of the Youth Pass is making young people aware of their own learning process. In fact: 80% of the respondents confirmed they had been made aware as well as they can communicate their strengths better and plan their further education more consciously. However, the reference to the eight key competences of the EU – recommended to describe learning experiences - is rather considered as "too abstract" and "too complex" than particularly helpful. Further achievement requires more instruction.

Quality Boost

Educational effects of the Youth Pass are not surprising since the use of a communication instrument obviously makes people in charge planning their activities more focused and using their methods more intentional.



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Youth Partnership
Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



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More than 80% of the respondents agree to an expanded awareness of educational processes in informal and non-formal contexts and thus, for instance, encouraged discussions about the intentions of a project. They are confident that the Youth Pass causes attention to non-formal education and youth work on superior levels. It often acts like a "catalyst" to talk about the quality of youth work.

Employment Assistance

What about the Youth Pass as a useful certificate for education and work as a main argument? 80% of the organizers suppose that the Youth Pass enhances opportunities of young people in search of training or further education. 70% apply it for job search as well. More than 70% of the participants indicate they want to actually use the Youth Pass for job applications. More than 40% would apply it for further education. However, organizers keep higher faith in that success than the young people themselves. In both cases statements are based on rather personal opinions. Only 50% of the organizers knew concrete examples of what the young people actually do with their Youth Pass, of whom only 20% had experience with further utilization.

It Shall Keep Moving

Overall, the Youth Pass gets high marks as an important tool for direct beneficiaries such as general youth work. Researchers wish for further educational guidance and support in particular order to take disadvantaged young people into account better, as well as more publicity to enhance acceptance in formal education and labour relations. Above all, they want the Youth Pass to keep its importance in the upcoming program and to expand.

(Dr. Helle Becker on behalf of JUGEND für Europa; translated by EPLM Coordination/transfer e. V., August 2013)

Youthpass Impact Study. Personal development and employability and the recognition of youth work. Marti Taru and Paul Kloosterman. Commissioned by The European Commission, DG Education and Culture (Brüssel, 2013) is available at

<https://www.jugendpolitikineuropa.de/downloads/4-20-3438/Youthpass%20Impact%20Study%20-%20Report.pdf>.

For further information visit <https://www.jugendpolitikineuropa.de/>.



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