



# Youthpass

## for Youth Exchanges

**Volker Schmitz**

born on **07/05/1988** in **Bonn, Germany**

participated in

**Ecological development in Europe,**

a Youth Exchange with 24 young people  
from Germany, United Kingdom, France and Estonia.

The activity took place from **10/07/2007**  
to **20/07/2007** in **Manchester, United Kingdom.**

## 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.



Werner Schmitz

Representative of the organisation

The ID of this certificate is HTJL-PEND-NZCY-7DQV.  
If you want to verify the ID, please go to the web site of Youthpass:  
<http://www.youthpass.eu/qualitycontrol/>

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

## 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.

## Project 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 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 SALTO Training and Co-operation Resource Centre in co-operation with Princess Trust (UK).

The Youth Exchange was co-financed by Naturfreunde Böblingen.



Jens Mayer  
Person in charge of the project

Manchester, 20/07/2007