

# YOUTHPASS in Volunteering Projects



## WHAT IS YOUTHPASS?

Youthpass is a **process** that helps volunteers become aware of their learning journey when taking part in European Solidarity Corps. It is also a **certificate** that recognises their learning achievements by including their self-assessment in the official certificate. In this sense, Youthpass complements the certificate of participation in the European Solidarity Corps.

All volunteers are entitled to receive a Youthpass certificate. To inform and support them is the project organisers' responsibility.



## WHY USE YOUTHPASS?

Using Youthpass increases the value of the project as a learning experience. While writing their self-assessment for the certificate, the volunteers learn to reflect on their learning, to explain their learning outcomes and to become more aware of learning as such. This makes it possible to improve the quality and the visibility of a project and to contribute to Europe-wide efforts to recognise youth work and non-formal learning.

The Youthpass process continues throughout the project life cycle.



During the **planning and preparation phases**, it is important to inform the volunteers about the possibility of receiving a Youthpass. It is a good idea to invite them to think about their learning goals and perhaps even draw up a learning plan – in other words, to consider what would help them achieve a certain goal and who to ask for help along the way. This planning is most effective when done with the help of the mentor.



✓ If a project foresees a Preparatory Visit where volunteers also take part, this presents a great opportunity to put the focus on learning and discuss how to plan the learning support throughout the project.

While **implementing the project or activity** it is important to invite the volunteers to reflect regularly on their learning experience. The volunteers can be encouraged to record their learning - by keeping a diary, making video recordings or using any methods they prefer - throughout the project to help create the basis for their Youthpass. Where applicable, planning a diverse range of reflection activities including individual, peer and group reflection moments help to enrich the results.



✓ In projects involving larger volunteering teams, using peer support can be helpful to support learning. It is also important to remember that learning is personal and may differ greatly among volunteers of the same team. Therefore, providing ways for volunteers to individually express their learning and get personal support is advisable.

Towards the **end of the activity and during the follow-up phase**, the volunteers may need help in writing their learning outcomes for the certificate following the Key Competences for Lifelong Learning framework. Where possible, additional guidance can be offered on how to make use of Youthpass for participants' future personal and professional development.

✓ In some cases, the first section of the Youthpass certificate is given to the volunteers on their last day of the project, giving volunteers some additional time after the conclusion of the activity to complete the self-assessment part of their Youthpass. If the learning process is followed and the volunteers have reflected on their learning during the project, this additional time will help the volunteers to enrich their Youthpass, given that they will then have a chance to look back at their experience and reflect on it at a distance. Here the support of the sending partners can also be sought.

## HOW TO WORK WITH THE YOUTHPASS WEBSITE

The project organisers use the Youthpass website to create the certificates. They enter the project information and invite the volunteers to edit their personal data and write up their learning outcomes. Once the volunteers have finished working on their Youthpass, the certificates can be issued through the website.



It is advisable to start entering first project information into the Youthpass database as early as possible during the project. This will enable making full use of the YANS – the Youthpass Automatic Notification System – that offers advice on how to support learning at different phases of the project.

To see some of our favourite Youthpass resources, have a look at the publications on [youthpass.eu](https://youthpass.eu):



**Youthpass Unfolded** provides practical tips and hands-on methods on Youthpass as a process



**One 2 One** has details on individual learning support



**Valued by You, Valued by Others** describes how to support reflection on learning and how to formulate learning outcomes on Youthpass.



**Youthpass videos** give tips and insight into supporting learning through Youthpass.

Check the Help & Instructions section of [youthpass.eu](https://youthpass.eu) for more information on the Key Competences for Lifelong Learning; step-by-step instructions on creating certificates; and certificate examples.



WE WISH YOU A WONDERFUL PROJECT FULL OF LEARNING! *Your Youthpass Team*

Youthpass is the recognition instrument for the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ Youth programmes. The Youthpass certificate helps to recognise participation in the projects as an educational experience and a period of non-formal and informal learning.

SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre is responsible for the implementation of the Youthpass Strategy across Europe. You can contact the Youthpass Team at [youthpass@salto-youth.net](mailto:youthpass@salto-youth.net).

Further support on Youthpass is available from Youthpass Officers in each National Agency.

**Youthpass**

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