

**A1 What is Youthpass?**

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Youthpass is a new way for participants in the Youth in Action Programme to describe what they have done and to show what they have learnt. (Up until now the only people to have standardised proof of this through a certificate were participants in European Voluntary Service). Starting with Youth Exchanges, EVS and Training Courses, every participant will have the opportunity to get their Youthpass and other Actions will be added as time goes on.

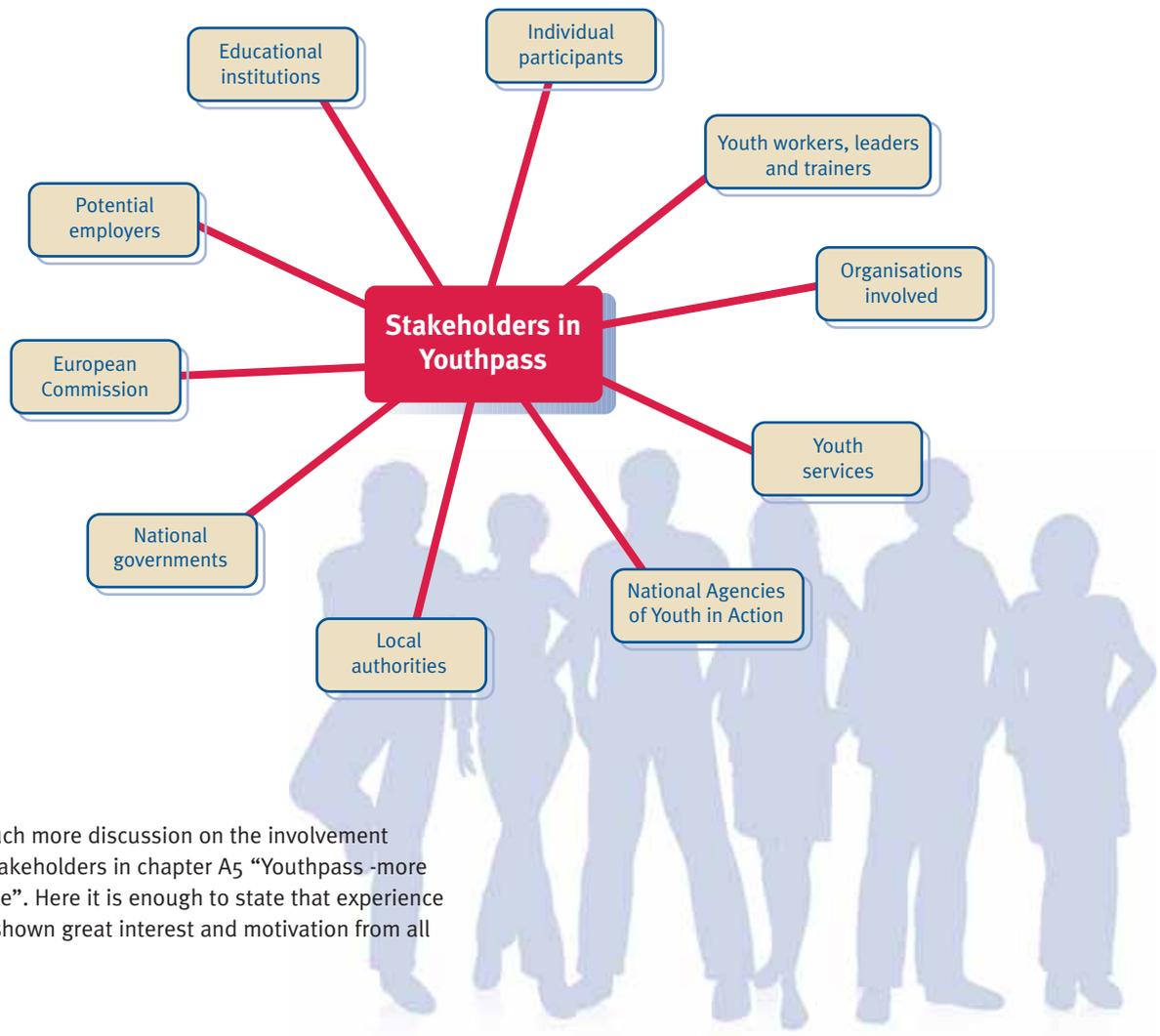
We shall go into much more detail in this publication about how Youthpass can be used and the different steps needed to make the most of the opportunities involved – here we just want to give an outline of the basics. And this includes also making sure that there is no confusion about what Youthpass is NOT!

<b>Youthpass IS</b> 	<b>Youthpass IS NOT</b> 
a confirmation of participation by the organisers of a specific activity	something which gives any rights to the holder
a description of the activity (at the moment this includes participation in Exchanges, Voluntary Service, or Training Course – other Actions will be introduced later)	a formal accreditation of competences
an individualised description of - activities undertaken - learning outcomes	a replacement for any formal qualifications
a certificate for people participating in Youth in Action Programme activities	available to demonstrate learning outcomes from activities undertaken in the YOUTH programme (which came to an end in 2006)
a tool which puts the Key competences for Lifelong Learning into practice	
firmly based on principles of non-formal education and learning	
supported by the Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission	
a way of improving visibility of learning in the Youth in Action Programme	
an explanation of Youth in Action Programme activities which can be understood by people outside the youth	

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What all this is based on, how participants look at themselves and their learning and how they can be supported and use the experience are things we will see in the following chapters!

Raising awareness of Youthpass and its implementation will be a huge task and we will need the cooperation and support of a whole range of potentially interested people and organisations, such as:



You will find much more discussion on the involvement of Youthpass stakeholders in chapter A5 “Youthpass -more than a certificate”. Here it is enough to state that experience up to now has shown great interest and motivation from all sectors.