

VALUE AND RECOGNISE LEARNING DURING INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY WITH DIGITAL OPEN BADGES



INTRO

Today's learning opportunities for young people are limitless. Individuals acquire new competences not only in the traditional setting of a classroom or at work, but increasingly outside of it, through participation in civil society, volunteering or taking part in a learning mobility programme. These experiences generate skills, knowledge and wider competences that often remain invisible.

In fact, existing recognition tools are not fully answering to the need of self reflection, awareness, validation and recognition of the key competences acquired by young people in these new contexts. Open badges can be the solution, also allowing the integration of different recognition systems with the existing tools and across sectors: formal, non formal and informal learning.

EBA - THE PROJECT

European Badge Alliance (EBA) is a strategic partnership of organisations and institutions active in learning mobility and committed to the quality and recognition of learning and achievements using digital Open Badges.

EBA aims at using digital Open Badges to innovate the recognition, validation and communication processes of key competences acquired by young learners and staff in non-formal learning contexts, especially through experiences of learning mobility abroad.

The partnership has set the following objectives for the period September 2015-July 2017:

- To identify, test and mainstream digital Open Badges for the recognition of key competences acquired by learners through mobility.
- To improve competences of staff (e.g. youth leaders, mentors, tutors, etc.) for the use of badge systems to support the recognition processes of non-formal or informal learning within mobility experiences.
- To raise awareness among decision makers on the importance of improving recognition of key competences learned through mobility.
- To increase the integration and interaction among non-formal, informal and formal learning.

ABOUT US



UNISER (lead partner, Italy):

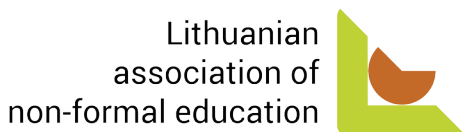
Uniser is a cooperative offering learning and training mobility - VET services since 1998. The core activity is the design and organisation of experiences abroad for schools wishing to offer to their learners and staff internships and study visits all around Europe. The aim is turning Erasmus into a core element for businesses and training systems.

To be at the forefront of learning mobility, UNISER has a research and development department aimed at innovating and increasing quality. This department manage international projects focused on transversal issues according to the cooperative priorities and needs. Badges are one of these items



European Federation of Intercultural Learning (Belgium):

The European Federation for Intercultural Learning - EFIL, is the umbrella of 30 national organisations running AFS Intercultural Programs in Europe. AFS Intercultural Programs is an international volunteer-based organisation providing intercultural learning activities for school pupils, schools, volunteers. The main activity is individual school pupil mobility programmes and EFIL supports its members in the recognition of competences gained through these learning experiences.



Lithuanian Association of Non-formal Education (Lithuania):

Association of Non-formal Education in Lithuania (LiNA) unites practitioners working in the field of non-formal education. In recent 15 years the association works towards better recognition of non-formal learning and quality in youth work. LiNA is designing and implementing recognition systems based on Open Badges standard since 2013.



Youth for Exchange and Understanding (Belgium/Portugal):

Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU) is an International Youth NGO and network with young people from over 30 countries across Europe and Africa involved in our activities. YEU brings young people together during youth exchanges, seminars, conventions, meetings, study visits, training courses and uses non-formal education methods to increase tolerance and awareness between young people from different countries, cultures and traditions.



HOC-Lab (Politecnico di Milano, Italy):

HOC-LAB (Hypermedia Open Center) was founded in 1997 and it is a multidisciplinary lab at the Department of Electronics and Information of Politecnico di Milano (Italy), specialized in multimedia, multichannel communication.

HOC is charged with conducting research into three main directions: Methodologies (design, accessibility, usability, etc.), Tools (3D cooperative environments, multichannel digital storytelling, etc.) and Applications (real-life and large scale, involving thousands of users). The main applications areas are: eLearning, eCulture and eTourism



BadgeCraft (Lithuania):

Badgecraft offers a multilingual platform to manage any achievements using Open digital badges. Learning providers can easily set up their badge projects, create and issue Open digital badges, assign roles to users. Badge earners can use Badge Wallet mobile app to earn, display and share their digital Open Badges.



A.E.C.A. (Italia):

Associazione Emiliano-Romagnola Centri Autonomi di Formazione Professionale (AECA) is an association of 16 VET organisations and 28 centres following Catholic principles and cooperating with more than 1,000 enterprises. AECA is committed to young people, adults, women, foreigners, disabled people, enhancing their employability and personal satisfaction. AECA contributes to EU VET system promoting transnational projects, also with local authorities.



Semper Avanti (Poland):

The main aims of the association are: promoting international cooperation and understanding among young people from different countries and cultures, providing young people with the opportunity to gain international experience for personal and professional development. Main fields of work are voluntary service and internships. Occasionally, we organize youth exchanges, seminars and trainings.

NEW AND UPDATED SET OF BADGES:

As part of the project, the consortium got the chance to update existing set of digital Open Badges for mobility programmes, but also to create several new sets that could contextualize the learning taking place in other types of mobilities.

The set of Badges created and tested within the European Badges Alliance are:

- Long Term Secondary School Exchanges
- International Training Activities
- International Facilitators
- Junior Trainers
- Senior Trainers
- Organizers of International Activities
- Vocational and Educational Training Mobility

At the same time, the Alliance got to test the following existing sets:

- International Youth Exchanges
- Mobility of Youth Workers
- European Voluntary Service
- Mentoring in European Voluntary Service
- Strategic Partnership

From July 2016 till June 2017, the consortium piloted all the systems mentioned above in order to update as best as possible the new sets and at the same time develop properly the Badge issuing platform. Applying this pilot phase allowed the Alliance to assure the maximum quality offered to providers and users when using Open Badges.

LONG-TERM SCHOOL EXCHANGES

Badges for individual long-term secondary school exchanges (3-10 months) aim at supporting and recognising learning of pupils throughout the exchange programme and after. This badge framework applies to exchanges that are host-family and host-school based.

The badge system is a supporting tool for planning, documenting and reflecting upon learning and can be included in the pupils on-arrival and mid-term and re-entry trainings. It can be used by pupils alone or with the support of mentors. The badge images reflect the branding of AFS Intercultural Programs: they are not publicly available and cannot be used within pupil exchange programmes outside the AFS network.



INTERNATIONAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Badges for international training activities support participants and recognise the development of their competences and skills during their participation in Mobility Trainings. This Badge framework applies to youth workers and other young people who are taking part in the Educational Trainings.

Badges can be used as learning support tool for mentoring and acknowledgment of the learning process which takes place during a Training. Therefore, it assists young people to develop and improve their competences and skills in general, but also in relevance to the topic of the Training Activity.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGES

This badge system invites every participant of a youth exchange to become the Youth Exchanger by developing their competences and super powers. Everyone is challenged to complete specific missions and unlock Open digital badges which signify their (learning) achievements. Badges promote learning of participants in the areas of foreign languages and learning-to-learn, encourages participants' proactivity and supports intercultural learning. Young people complete missions of their choice, collect evidence of achievements and unlock Open digital badges.



MOBILITY OF YOUTH WORKERS

This badge system invites youth workers who take part in an international training activity to set their goals, monitor learning progress and self-assess their personal and professional development. Specific missions challenge participants to take learning opportunities and unlock Open digital badges which signify their (learning) achievements.

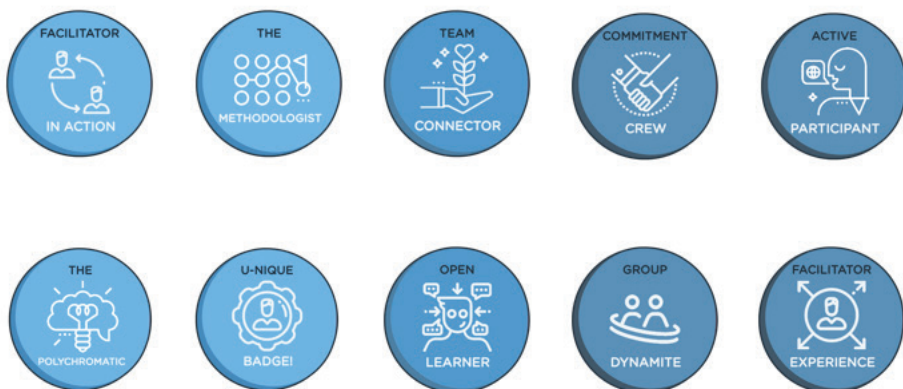
Badges promote youth workers' personal and professional development linked to the areas of 8 key-competences for lifelong learning. Participants complete missions of their choice, collect evidence of achievements and unlock Open digital badges.



INTERNATIONAL FACILITATORS

Badges for International Facilitators and Facilitators of short-term educational activities were created in order to support them and recognize the development of their competences and skills. This Badge framework applies to youth workers and other young people who are active as facilitators during short-term educational activities.

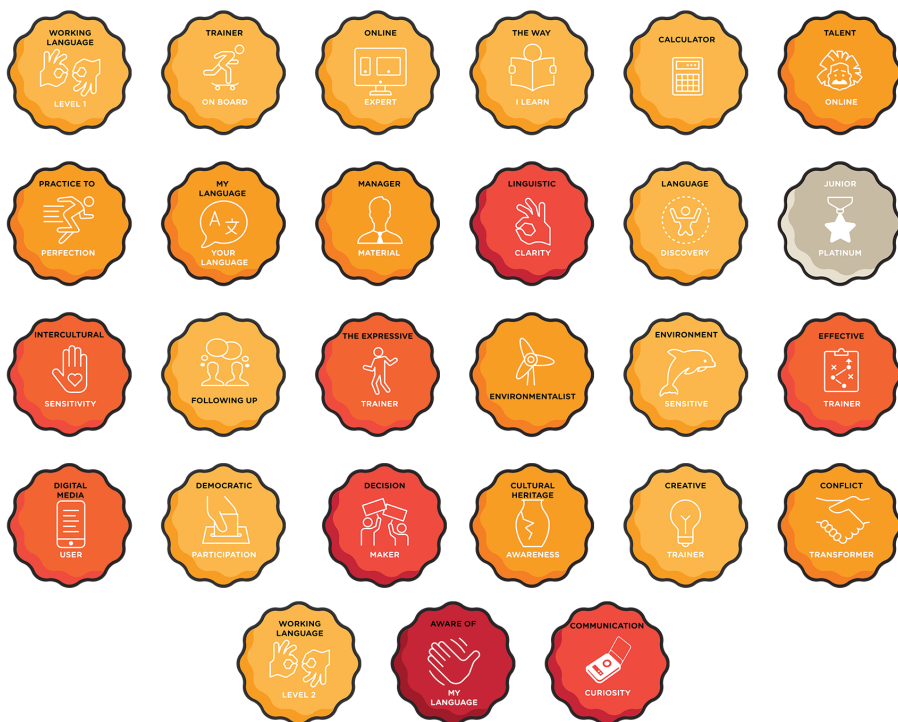
An organization can use the system as a supporting tool for the learning process of individual who acts and want to develop as facilitator. Therefore, the facilitator to be can identify the learning path, the steps for good preparation and implementation of an educational activity and also how to improve and work for a better cooperation to achieve the learning outcomes of the process they facilitate.



JUNIOR AND SENIOR TRAINERS

Badges for Junior Trainers for educational activities were created in order to support Trainers and recognise the development of their competencies and skills. This set of Badges applies to youth workers and other young people who are accredited as Junior or Senior Trainers for educational activities.

Depending on the level of expertise of the Trainer, an organization can apply the Set of Badges for Junior Trainers for “Beginners” and the Set of Badges for Senior Trainers for “Experienced”. That in each case can support Youth Trainers to develop better their knowledge, skills and attitudes towards the topics of interest or activities that the organization focuses on.





ORGANISERS OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Badges for Organizers of educational activities support and recognise the development of their competences and skills. This Badge framework applies to youth workers and other young people who are accredited as Organizers of International activities

Badges can be used as learning support tool for mentoring and acknowledgment of the process to develop and improve organizational competences and skills. Therefore, the Organizer can identify the learning path and the steps for good preparation and implementation of an international activity. Additionally, it helps them to improve personally and work for a better cooperation to achieve the learning outcomes.



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Badge System for VET students aims to support participants in raising awareness about the key competences developed while experimenting life abroad. The use of badges turns into game the learning process and the badges images make it even more fun for participants linking each competence to famous characters!

The badge system developed can be easily adapted by Mobility Coordinating Organisations. It can be used to integrate existing tools to recognise the development of participants competences and skills during their mobility. Badges can be used during the on-arrival training, the mentoring and the final evaluation meeting with VET students regardless their nationality, their VET sector or the duration of their mobility.



EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Badges for European Voluntary Service (EVS) were created in order to support and recognise learning of EVS volunteers through the whole EVS process. It can be used as learning support tool for mentoring. In this case mentor can use system as a supporting tool for planning, documenting and reflecting upon recognising the learning of EVS volunteer.

Volunteer can use this system on his/her own, in order to plan, monitor and recognise his/her own learning and share achievements with others. This system works best for EVS volunteers who are involved in the long-term projects.



MENTORING IN EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Badge system for mentors of European Voluntary Service (EVS) motivate them to carry on systematic work with EVS volunteers as well as guide mentors through their development within specific mentors' competence areas. By using this badge system both organization and mentors can easily display EVS mentors' achievements.

The system is divided into two main areas: 23 badges for professional development within five competences and then 15 badges for systemic work within 4 functions of an EVS mentor.



INTERNATIONAL PLACEMENTS

Badges for International Placements were created in order to support and recognize the development of competences and skills by Interns/ Trainees and Job Shadowers. This Badge framework applies to young people participating in a work placement, an internship or Job shadowing.

Badges can be used as a learning support tool for mentoring and acknowledging the process to develop and improve work related competences and skills. In this case, an Intern/Trainee or a Job Shadower can use the system as a supporting tool for preparation, implementation and monitoring of the placement as an individual and as an Intern/trainee or Job Shadower.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Badges for Strategic partnership projects support and recognise learning and achievements of involved staff and participants.

Badges communicates the expectations and desired behaviour for successful and effective implementation of complex and long-term international projects.



MORE ON EBA:

General Information:

<http://ebawebsite.net>

Available Badge Systems and Guides:

<http://ebawebsite.net/badge-systems/>

Badges Platform for Providers and Users:

www.badgecraft.eu



WWW.EBAWEBSITE.NET

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