STUDY ON THE YOUTHPASS' IMPACT

WHY DOES YOUTHPASS MATTER? PERSPECTIVES FROM EUROPEAN STAKEHOLDERS

WHY THE STUDY?

Over almost 20 years, more than 2 million Youthpass certificates have been issued for nearly 120,000 projects across the European Youth Programmes.
These numbers show the reach of Youthpass as a tool that helps people recognise and document what they learn through their activities. The study explores how Youthpass supports learning in the youth programmes, how it is used and perceived, and what could strengthen its role in the future.

HOW WAS THE STUDY DONE?

Different methods were used. We looked at the existing research and data from the RAY network, analysed requests sent to the Youthpass Helpdesk, and talked to people during focus group interviews.



DESK RESEARCH
RAY FINDINGS
HELPDESK REQUESTS
FOCUS GROUPS

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Youthpass has a strong impact on individual learning and self-reflection.

It helps to turn participation in European youth projects into a structured learning experience. It conveys that learning is not only tied to institutions of formal education.

> " Retrieving my Youthpass allows me to keep a formal record of this experience, to explain it to others, and to integrate it into my current reflections about the direction I want to give to my future."

> " It's always lovely to see that they [the young people] are also finding a new approach to learning /.../. Youthpass gives them a fresh perspective on their development and learning."



78% *of Erasmus+ participants and* **71%** *of the European Solidarity Corps participants that had used the Youthpass certificate in their future educational or professional steps, confirm that it had been helpful*

Youthpass as a certificate is appreciated.

Youthpass serves as valuable evidence of non-formal learning. It's a formal document that can support transition in education, employment and mobility contexts. In some cases, Youthpass may be the only document that recognizes a young person's strengths and competences. Often, the Youthpass certificate becomes valuable years after participation in a project, especially when used for job applications, university applications, CVs and professional portfolios.

> "Well, (...) so really that I can show employers that I actually acquired those skills in an international realm. I would say that's probably the most important. And also just for me, as like a souvenir, I really enjoy just having them."

Youthpass contributes to validation processes or recognition practices.

The validation of competences acquired through participation in Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps projects in other systems remains a challenge. The existing practices include examples where non-formal learning opportunities must be taken into account within formal learning settings (Estonia), validation within university contexts (Belgium), and Youthpass as an official document for reintegration of young offenders into society (Italy).

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Youthpass's European dimension is a major strength.

It helps to promote European values, to foster active citizenship competences and empower young people to participate actively in the civil society.

"Youthpass demonstrates that Erasmus+ is not only about travelling, but about personal growth, active citizenship, intercultural understanding, solidarity, and lifelong learning."

"I don't think Youthpass really pushes you [toward active civic engagement], but it does make you question: What am I already doing? Could I be doing more? And I think, the answer is most of the time ´yes´. So, I'd see Youthpass more as a form of self-reflection that gives you a little nudge, rather than the tool itself pushing you."

Youthpass strengthens the quality of projects.

Youth workers and National Agencies report that it encourages organisations to focus more deliberately on learning objectives, strengthens the learning dimension of projects and can contribute to the quality of youth work.

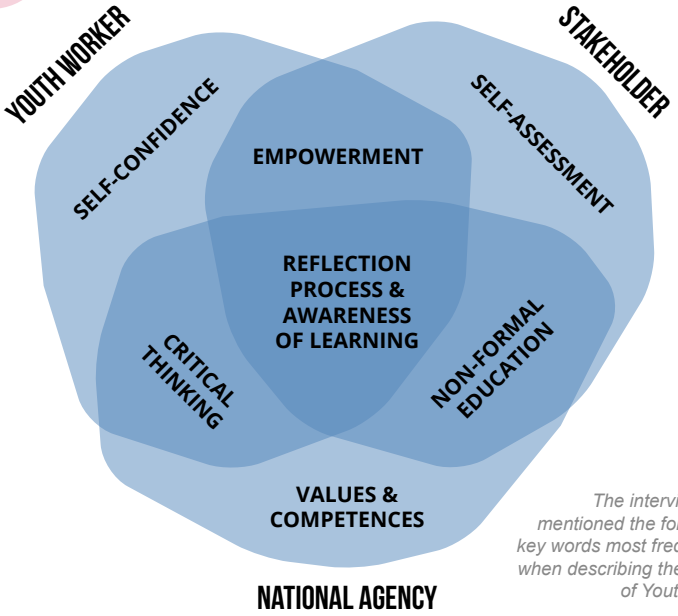
"Youthpass also encourages facilitators to intentionally design activities with learning objectives instead of focusing on logistics or entertainment. In our case, we design daily activities for each competence."

WHAT PEOPLE TOLD US

Youth workers emphasized the **personal of Youthpass,** mentioning its empowering dimension. Its official and European character has an important added value.

National Agency staff members mentioned **values and competences,** and highlighted the personal learning effect of Youthpass. The recognition dimension of Youthpass is crucial for the youth work sector.

Other stakeholders see the **reflection around learning as the main advantage.** They also value how Youthpass makes non-formal and informal learning tangible for other sectors.



The interviewees mentioned the following key words most frequently when describing the value of Youthpass.

To build on its impact, the following key principles should be followed:

Inclusiveness Adaptation to the current challenges in society
Coherence with policy developments Diversification Digital update Training
Further research on its impact More promotion

ABOUT YOUTHPASS

The Youthpass concept consists of three core elements:

- the certificate;
- the reflection process that leads to self-assessment of competences;
- the strategic work at European level to enhance the learning value of the EU youth programmes.

ABOUT THE STUDY

23.000 participants' data was considered within the frames of the RAY survey

24 people took part in the focus group interviews

14 people responded to the questionnaire

119 helpdesk requests were analysed

Study conducted: in Munich, August 2026

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Full report: https://www.youthpass.eu/en/about-youthpass/youthpass-impact-study/

In 2026, the Center for Applied Policy Research at Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich conducted a study to gain insights into the Youthpass' impact.

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