

**"TRUST-
ED BADGE
SYSTEMS"
– BUILDING
TRUST AND
RECOGNI-
TION WITH
OPEN
BADGES**

DISCLAIMER

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"TRUSTED BADGE SYSTEMS" – BUILDING TRUST AND RECOGNITION WITH OPEN BADGES

The Lithuanian Association of Non-Formal Education in cooperation with the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists and international partners Breakthrough Foundation and Stichting JeugdWelzijnsBeraad from Netherlands, Asociacion Cazalla-Intercultural and Asociación de Jóvenes Empresarios de la Comarca del Guadalentín from Spain, Deutsches Rotes Kreuz Landesverband Sachsen-Anhalt e.V. GoEurope! Team and Plattform e.V. from Germany has implemented a strategic partnership project "Trusted Badge Systems" in 2015-2017. The project aimed at strengthening cooperation between non-governmental organisations and companies and ensuring better recognition of competences acquired in a non-formal setting through the technological standard of open badges. To strengthen cooperation, efforts were made to increase the value and reliability of open badges by creating a sustainable and effective ecosystem of competences acquired in a non-formal setting in Lithuania and Europe.

Open digital badge is a digital certificate that encrypts information related to the learning process, achievements or competences of the badge owner. It is an innovative digital tool to recognise learning and skills that are often too difficult to measure within the programme/process of non-formal education (soft skills, acquired attitudes, participation, personal hobbies, etc.). Each badge has important information

built in on the achievement: name, description, criteria, the issuing body, evidence, the date of issuing and other additional information.

In 2011, the Mozilla foundation introduced the open badge infrastructure as a new technical standard for recognising skills and achievements. Digital badges which are compatible with the Mozilla Open Badge Standard follow a technical protocol, describing requirements for a badge image, its metadata, issuing and storage processes. The technical standard and its updating are coordinated by international membership organisation IMS Global. It creates future learning technology and maintains the infrastructure of educational tools.

A person who earns a digital badge can share it on social media, attach it to their CVs and reliably present their achievements when entering a university, getting a job or participating in organisational activities.

Reader of this booklet can find 6 badge systems which were created and tested during the project. All badge systems are free and publically available for use at badge library of the badge management platform www.badgecraft.eu.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAMME "DISCOVER YOURSELF"

DEVELOPED BY LITHUANIAN ASSOCIATION OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

BACKGROUND

The achievement programme "Discover Yourself" is a specialised online system based on open badges standard. With a help of this tool, digital badges are issued for the completion of certain tasks and the improvement of the chosen competences.

Voluntary service is a form of volunteering. It is a volunteering programme designed to carry out volunteering activities as well as to develop volunteers. Volunteering helps people to develop as personalities, acquire new knowledge, improve their personal skills, boost self-confidence, increase responsibility, learn to deal with personal problems and help others to solve their problems. From September 2015, the Youth Volunteer Service is a part of the youth guarantee initiative's project "Discover Yourself" in Lithuania. "Discover yourself" is coordinated by the Department of Youth Affairs under Ministry of Social Security and Lithuanian Labour Exchange. Voluntary service is open to any young person who is between the ages of 15 and 29 and not in education, employment or training. The duration of voluntary service in the "Discover Yourself" project is from 1 to 4 months. Young people undertake to volunteer from 4 to 8 hours per day, up to 25 hours per week and up to 100 hours per month.

The achievement programme is open to "Discover Yourself" participants who are involved in the Youth Voluntary Service – volunteer at one of the host organisations. To participate in the programme, a young person must first participate in the project and then commit to volunteering at one of the host organisations for at least one month. If all these conditions are met, the mentor explains the volunteer how to join the achievement programme online and how to complete tasks and earn open digital badges.

THE LOGIC OF THE SYSTEM

The achievement programme is aligned to the eight key competences for life-long learning: learning to learn, digital competence, civic competence, cultural awareness, entrepreneurship, mathematical competence, science and technology, mother tongue and foreign languages.

Each competence has 3-level badges and the mandatory number of tasks to complete:

- Level I – 1 task. Mandatory completion of the task;
- Level II – 4 tasks. Minimum number of the tasks to complete: 2 of 4 chosen tasks;
- Level III – 6 tasks. Minimum number of the tasks to complete: 3 of 6 chosen tasks.

A volunteer can choose any competence area to start with. They would start from the level I badges and can level up by gaining more experience during the voluntary service. Mentor can support volunteer to define specific tasks from the second level badges and in this way badge adapts to the specific volunteering context.

The programme allows volunteers to monitor and evaluate their achievements as well as show to the world what they are capable of and what qualities they have. Badge earners can manage their achievements using a Badge Wallet application developed during the "Trusted Badge Systems" project. The volunteer is free to choose which achievements to share and where. The platform offers a feature to share badges and achievements with friends via social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Google+ or LinkedIn. The badge owner can transfer his/her improved skills to his/her CV and receive a certificate of achievement.

BADGES FOR CAREER AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and the Lithuanian Association of Non-Formal Education work in close cooperation with employers and aim to ensure the recognition of non-formally acquired competences and the open badge system as such. Already now volunteers can get 0,25 points (out of 10) during admission process to the University. This achievement programme is endorsed by Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists and Lithuanian Labour Exchange.

Level III



Bendravimas gimtąja kalba



Bendravimas užsienio kalbomis



Gebėjimai mokslų ir technologijų srityse



Skaitmeninis raštingumas

Level II



Bendravimas gimtąja kalba



Bendravimas užsienio kalbomis



Gebėjimai mokslų ir technologijų srityse



Skaitmeninis raštingumas

Level I



Bendravimas gimtąja kalba



Bendravimas užsienio kalbomis



Gebėjimai mokslų ir technologijų srityse



Skaitmeninis raštingumas

Level II



Mokymasis mokytis



Socialiniai ir pilietiniai gebėjimai



Iniciatyva ir verslumas



Kultūrinis sąmoningumas ir raiška

Level II



Mokymasis mokytis



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Kultūrinis sąmoningumas ir raiška



RECOGNITION OF LEARNING AT THE EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

DEVELOPED BY CAZALLA INTERCULTURAL

European voluntary service (EVS) badges were created to support and recognise learning of EVS volunteers through the whole volunteering process abroad, which can last up to 12 months. It can be used as a learning support tool for mentoring. An EVS mentor can use the system as a supporting tool for planning, documenting, reflecting and recognising the learning achievements of a EVS volunteer, while volunteers can use this system on their own to plan, monitor and recognise their learning and share achievements with others. Badges also support the Youthpass process and can be used as part of a CV. Certificates with badges have endorsement of the regional association of young entrepreneurs of Lorca.

When volunteers start their EVS, they work on implementing on-boarding missions and claiming three on-boarding badges that help volunteers to get familiar with the system and start exploring and earning badges. These badges are easy to earn and help volunteers get to know what badges they can earn throughout their volunteering experience.

The key set of badges is aligned to eight key competences for lifelong learning as part of the European Competence Framework. There are three levels, where volunteers can choose what competences to work on and which badges to earn. To earn a next-level badge, volunteers must have a previous-level badge of the same competence.

EXPLORER BADGE LEVEL

By the end of the first months of the EVS project, a volunteer will:

- have factual knowledge on volunteering and living abroad;
- apply basic skills required to carry out volunteering tasks and manage a life abroad;
- be able to solve routine problems using simple rules and tools;
- carry out volunteering tasks under limited supervision with some autonomy;
- acquire and apply basic key competences at this level.

VOYAGER BADGE LEVEL

By the mid-term of the EVS project, a volunteer will:

- have knowledge on the facts, principles, processes and general concepts of volunteering and living abroad;
- apply a range of skills required to accomplish volunteering tasks and manage a life abroad;
- be able to solve routine problems by selecting and applying basic methods, tools, materials and information;
- take responsibility for the completion of volunteering tasks;
- adapt own behaviour to circumstances in solving problems;
- acquire and apply basic key competences at this level.

SUCCESS BADGE LEVEL

By the end of the EVS project, a volunteer will:

- have broad knowledge on volunteering and living abroad;
- apply a range of skills required to generate solutions to specific problems in a field of volunteering and living abroad;
- exercise self-management within the guidelines of volunteering contexts;
- supervise the routine work of others, while implementing personal projects;
- take some responsibility for the evaluation and improvement of volunteering activities.

Learning can be fun, too! If volunteers become bored with serious tasks, they can take a breath and earn some Fun badges.

ONBOARDING



FUN BADGES



BADGE SYSTEM FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

DEVELOPED BY BREAKTHROUGH FOUNDATION AND JEUGDWELZIJNSBERAAD
NETWORK OF YOUTH CARE YOUTH COUNCILS
DEVELOPED BY GOEUROPE! TEAM

BACKGROUND

A Youth Council badge system is developed especially for young people who are participating in youth care youth councils to support them in recognising skills and achievements of their membership. Badge earners are young people from youth councils between 12 and 18 years old. These young people are often familiar with digital tools. By using Youth Council badges young people will have a better understanding of what kind of activities they develop, organise and accomplish. This will in turn grow their self-esteem and help them to identify the scale of their achievements. Focussing on positive skills and experiences is important for this target group because there are many areas in their life that are not going as well for them.

For youth councils Open Badges will provide a much needed way of monitoring and demonstrating outputs and outcomes of the work they are doing. We believe that Open Badges give acknowledgement and recognition of the vital work youth councils do advocating for the rights and needs of young people in youth care on a local, regional and international level.

For many years, young people have been demonstrating how useful and important participation of young people is for advising management and carrying out research in youth care. The participation of youth councils in decision-making often has a positive impact on young people, changing their situations for the better. However, this good work is not always recognised or acknowledged by young people themselves, social workers or organisations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BADGE SYSTEM

- To connect the learning of youth council members with lifelong learning competences.
- To provide young people in youth councils with a place to view, control and access their achievements digitally.
- To recognise achievements and competences of young people in youth councils.
- To develop a badge system in collaboration with young people from youth councils.

THE LOGIC OF THE SYSTEM

The badge system is made up of three 'levels' of badges that unlock as young people progress through the system. At first people need to earn 1st level badges, unlocking 2nd and finally 3rd level badges. There are 27 badges in total across nine different competence areas:

- 1) on-boarding and membership,
- 2) skills in holding meetings,
- 3) communication skills,
- 4) presentation skills,
- 5) debating,
- 6) working on projects,
- 7) learning to learn,
- 8) social competence and
- 9) digital competence.

MEMBERSHIP
AND ONBOARDING
BADGES



SKILLS FOR
HOLDING MEETINGS

LEVEL III



LEVEL II



LEVEL I



COMMUNICATION
SKILLS



PRESENTATION
SKILLS



DEBATING
SKILLS



LEVEL I



LEVEL II



LEVEL III



PROJECT
MANAGEMENT SKILLS

LEARNING
TO LEARN

SOCIAL SKILLS

DIGITAL SKILLS

BADGES FOR NATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE AT GERMAN RED CROSS SAXONY-ANHALT

BACKGROUND

The German Red Cross is an organisational body for more than 700 young volunteers within the national voluntary service programmes BFD (Bundesfreiwilligendienst) and FSJ (Freiwilliges Soziales Jahr), supporting their one-year voluntary service in kindergartens, schools, nurseries, cultural centres and many other social facilities in the German federal state of Saxony-Anhalt. The majority of volunteers are aged between 16 and 27. As an organisational body, the German Red Cross (DRK) coordinates the voluntary service through organising volunteers and sites of deployment and running all administrative tasks, including seminars which generally last for five days.

According to the concept of a voluntary service, both programmes are seen as a learning experience for young people within the lifelong learning framework. Young people who are engaged in a voluntary service not only contribute to the society, but also develop their own competences and skills in various fields. The learning process takes place on a personal and individual level and is different for each volunteer and each site of deployment.

To create an individual and comparable way of visualising and recognising volunteers' learning pathways and experiences, the Department of Voluntary Services chose Open Badges as a tool for implementing a modern and innovative approach towards the recognition of learning, which is youth-oriented and thereby meets the needs of the target group.

LOGIC OF THE BADGE SYSTEM

The system consists of 23 different badges, divided into several categories:

1. Participation Badges

Participation badges are earned by attending educational seminars during the voluntary service. They are round in shape and display a different number of stars according to the number of the seminars attended. Volunteers can earn a maximum of five of these badges. In addition, they can earn one badge for attending at least three seminars.

2. Skills and Knowledge Badges

Volunteers can earn these Skills and Knowledge badges by showing skills and knowledge during their voluntary service. Some of them are related to the content of educational seminars, others to different phases and steps of the service.

3. Competence Badges

Competence badges show the development of certain competences during the voluntary service and can only be earned in combination with Skills and Knowledge badges. Competence development can be demonstrated by showing the related skills and knowledge during the service.

4. Final Badge

The final badge confirms participation in the voluntary service. Six months is the minimum period to earn this badge and to have your engagement as a FSJ and BFD volunteer recognised officially. All badges must be claimed by volunteers by providing evidence, such as picture upload, text input, data upload.

All badges are endorsed by GOEUROPE! European Youth Competence Centre Saxony-Anhalt and the German Red Cross Saxony-Anhalt.

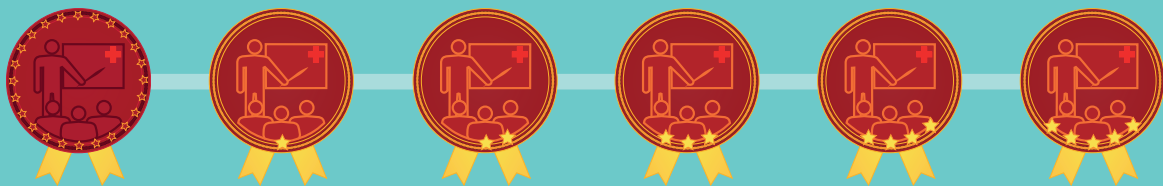
SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE BADGES



COMPETENCE BADGES



SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTARY SERVICE



PARTICIPATION
BADGES

BADGE SYSTEM FOR YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP – LADEBALKEN

DEVELOPED BY PLATFORM E.V.

BACKGROUND

Ladebalken Badges – micro-project badges – were created to raise interest and eventually skills to set the start for a successful future for young people. These skills and competences can be developed through participating in different projects organised by Plattform e.V. or any other organisation that offers similar micro-project development. The main purpose is to strengthen basic project management skills in young people by increasing their sense of initiative and entrepreneurship. Participants of this programme are young people from local areas who are aged between 12 and 18 and have their own ideas. These young people are often familiar with digital tools. They could benefit from having their competences recognised as they often have challenges in receiving positive feedback.

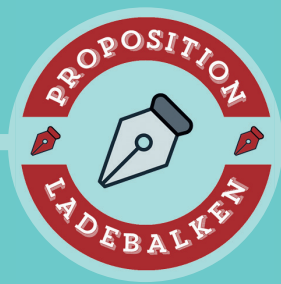
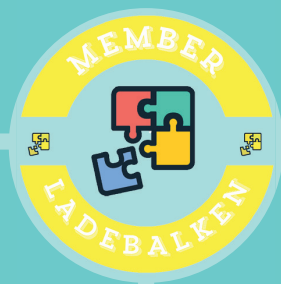
By getting support in developing their own ideas and projects, young people develop skills which serve as a basis for entrepreneurship competences or managerial competences in general. With these basic skills young people can increase their chances on local and global job markets, find new job perspectives or new opportunities for professional development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BADGE SYSTEM

Open Badges will give the LADEBALKEN project an important opportunity to monitor and demonstrate outputs and outcomes of the work that young people are doing by developing and implementing their own projects, as well as the impact this programme has on the future of these young people. This data can be used as evidence of the impact with funders or other interested parties. We believe that Open Badges give acknowledgement and recognition of the vital work NGOs like us do for the benefit of young people on a local, regional and international level. In this way badges recognise the achievements and competences of young people. Badges are aligned to eight key competences for lifelong learning, based on the Common European Framework.

LOGIC OF THE BADGE SYSTEM

The system consists of consecutive badges which are leading towards Entrepreneurship competences. The introductory level is Curiosity and Idea badges, which allows users to earn badges for generating ideas and communicating them to organisations. Other badges are issued based on the followup of the project with implementation and active participation of participants. There are twelve badges that cover the whole lifecycle of the project implementation.



EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE MENTORS BADGES

DEVELOPED BY NGO „SOCIALINIS VEIKSMAS“ AND LITHUANIAN ASSOCIATION OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

THE CONTEXT

European Voluntary Service (EVS) is a mobility programme for young people, supported by Erasmus+ programme. Through EVS young people get the opportunity to volunteer abroad, contributing with their efforts to a cause they believe in – be it solidarity with refugees and migrants, work on environmental issues, activities for children or the elderly, support for nongovernmental organisations, work for cultural events or a number of other topics.

The mentor is a key actor in EVS: his/her role is to provide to the volunteer the on going personal support throughout the duration of the activity, which is one of the main responsibilities of organisations participating in EVS. The role of the mentor is like a shadow- invisible- but always present, helping to put various pictures together and see bigger and different perspectives, whose role is to support socially, emotionally, culturally and learning-wise a foreign volunteer; encourage and evaluate the learning process as well as creating supportive and trust atmosphere in goal setting of the volunteer.

AIMS AND LOGIC OF THE BADGE SYSTEM

Open badges system for European Voluntary Service (EVS) mentors aims to motivate mentors in keeping up systematic work with EVS volunteers as well as to 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:

- 1) 23 professional development badges
- 2) 15 systemic work badges

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BADGES

These are the badges related to the development of EVS mentors within five competence areas: (1) Methodological, (2) Intercultural, (3) Educational relationship, (4) Facilitation of learning to learn, (5) Communication and cooperation competences.

Mentors can choose any badge to start with and accomplish number of quests, reflect on their experience while working with EVS volunteers during the entire project and achieve digital open badges verifying Mentor's professional development. Some badges are based on self-assessment and reflection, while other ones are issued after the confirmation of the EVS coordinator working with mentors.

Badges can be earned in any sequence and process of badge earning is not time bonded. If a person earned all badges of the same competence area, one unlocks a meta-badge. Mentors can continually develop their professional competences next years and they will receive 'Year 2', 'Year 3', etc. badges with additional evidence based on new experience gained through mentoring EVS volunteers.

SYSTEMIC WORK BADGES

Badges of this area are related to 4 functions of a mentor: (1) Cooperation and reflection of mentorship practices with EVS coordinator; (2) Ongoing support and contact with the EVS volunteer; (3) Ongoing cooperation, learning and supporting in cooperation with other mentors, and (4) Cooperation with the hosting organization(s).

These badges are mainly relevant if EVS organization has more than one mentor and several hosting organisations. In this case organisation has more than one mentor and it aims to ensure that trainers keep contact among themselves, with coordinating organisation as well as with EVS volunteer and hosting organisation. Badges are earned by providing evidence of attending training workshops, meetings with peer mentors or volunteers.

● Development badges

⬡ Systemic work badges

