Open Badges
for adult education

Mozilla Open Badges

Guide For Adult Learners

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Why exist badges?

In your class, you are the one who always provide support to your peers so that they better understand the teacher's instructions – you have good teamwork skills.

At school, for appointments you are always on time – you have good time management skills.

You are able to work alone and learn by yourself to reach your objectives- You have good learning to learn skills.

Do you know that these are skills very much appreciated by companies? Do you have any certificate for them? Probably not?

But it is possible to get them certified through a simple badging system.

A growing pool of training providers and certifying bodies are engaged in the Mozilla Open Badge initiative.

Badges may give you an opportunity to display competences you have not been able to show before via digital media. So, you may use badges while searching for a job, or when you want to show for your organisation or your peers your competencies and skills that you have acquired e.g. by volunteering. You can organise your badges into different collections and share them when you want on social media or as a web link to your badge collection.

What is an open badge?

A badge is a little digital image that can be displayed on social media or other places on the Internet. The hidden beauty of an Open Badge lies in its metadata and is revealed when you click on the image: Metadata are information contained within a badge that defines it, the metadata includes name, description, and links to other important details like the badge's criteria, evidence. Metadata also contains a description of what the badge earner had to do in order to gain it and a link back to the awarding institution for verification.[1]
The provider of the badges such as Education organisations and companies can check that the badge has been delivered to you when you earned it. [2]
Badges are digital rewards issued in educational institutions at all levels as well as practical contexts. Some badges are awarded for rather simple tasks, like participating in a workshop, attending a course, or basic use of web sites for specific purposes. Others require real efforts like organising a seminar, being a mentor of a group, obtaining a good test result or completing an on-the-job training etc. and are used as real credentials. Thus, badges offer an important way to recognize little achievements of learners and keep track of positive behaviour. They can be shared

---

[1] http://openbadges.org
[2] https://openbadge.wordpress.com

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

by badge earners on social networking profiles or displayed anywhere on websites and exported to Europass CV.

Badges can be obtained after e-learning through online or off-line assessment, they can also be obtained after following regular face to face training that includes an assessment process.

You can use badges as an innovative digital way of acknowledging achievement, knowledge, skills and attitudes. Badges are increasingly emerging in web-based learning all over the world, both within the educational sector and working life.

Badges are a reward and a reward is like a door. Unlock it to get yourself the next learning opportunity.

You can understand the concept of milestones …
it is something that you receive on the road while you get better at something … Milestones = awards = Badges

You can see the rewards as an incentive for learning and to remember what you have learned.
You can understand the different levels of difficulty to obtain awards. You can earn awards throughout your career and at thus that have a system of lifelong learning.

What are the badges for?

- Badges are motivating for your learning.
- Badges can be an alternative assessment: perhaps a way of thinking beyond one-size-fits-all
- Through badges you can be more engage and increase your interest through game-based learning
- Badges can recognize your learning beyond the academy
- Badges are a way of increasing the development of your digital skills.

Benefits of using MOB

Why Earn Open Badges?
Open Badges are for everyone to recognize skills gained through a variety of experiences, regardless of your age or background. They allow you to follow your interests and passions and unlock opportunities in life and work by standing out from the crowd.
Organizations create and issue Open Badges for you to earn, enabling you to build up your own unique collection and share them across the web. Each badge you earn contains data about your skills and the issuing organization within a portable image

Open Badges
for adult education

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

file. This data can be viewed when you display and share your badges, helping people find out more about you. [3]

You can share your badges in:
- Blogs, websites, e-Portfolios, and professional networks
- Job applications
- Social media sites - Twitter, Google+, Facebook, LinkedIn
- Even in your email signature!

Badges may represent many different types of results and requirements:
- Hard skills such as knowledge of a programming language
- Soft skills such as cooperation
- Participation
- Official certification
- Community Involvement
- New skills and literacies not recognized by traditional education

Since the system is based on an open standard, you can combine multiple brands from different issuers to tell the whole story of your verifiable achievements, both online and offline. Open Badges can appear wherever you want them on the Web, including on social media profiles and services, which store and display badges. Brands can be shared for employment, education or lifelong learning.

Advantages with badges

- Badges are digital and optically appealing. They fit into the social media, job sites or blogs
- With awards such as badges, knowledge can be tested and skills demonstrated.
- Achieved awards are a proof of the level and focus of your knowledge. Anyone who sees a set of awards can see the qualities they look for in a future employee, trainee, mentor or volunteer
- You can acquire knowledge and skills in areas that are not within the normal education courses and receive recognition for their work

Example of badges from the Bada project

Adaption to change

Teamwork

---

[3] https://openbadges.org/get-started/earning-badges/

Example of the use of badges

The project BADA will develop a set of 50 MOB such as communication in one's mother tongue, foreign languages, digital skills, literacy, and basic skills, learning to learn, social and civic responsibility, initiative and entrepreneurship, cultural awareness, and creativity. The same competence will be differentiated by levels. So you have the opportunity to certify your skills and get a badge through BADAs platform.

You can also get badges from other courses online that have system of badges, such as Khan Academy who is best known for its free courses in math and in the app Duolingo for self-study in different languages. Badges are used both to make visible progress from level to level and to assist you when something is difficult or boring.

When you earned a badge from for example a test of language skills in the BADA platform you can collect them in your backpack
The Mozilla Backpack is a tool for you to collect, share and display the badges you have been awarded. There you can group your badges and decide which ones you want to show, for example, on your Facebook page. In order to have access to your backpack, it is necessary to create an account there.
Here you create an account were you can collect your badges
https://backpack.openbadges.org/backpack/login
Mozilla backpack is an example on where you can store your badges there are other platforms that can do the same.

More information

What is a badge? (EN)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgLLq7ybDtc
A Short Story About Open Badges (EN)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xc4xDgNbl6Y
An Introduction to Open Badges (EN)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oACpeW6NA-o
Create and issue an Open Badge in 90 seconds (EN)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gGCOqudJ7w
Information about badges (EN)
https://www.badgecraft.eu
https://www.badgecraft.eu/en/use-cases
An open tool to create and deliver badges (EN)
https://www.openbadges.me/
A place to store badges (eq. backpack) (EN)
https://openbadgepassport.com/