Open Badges for adult education

GUIDE FOR LEARNERS

Erasmus+
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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?

However, it is possible to get them certified through a simple badging system.
WHAT IS A BADGE?

The badge is a small digital image that can be a reward, an alternative, or a complement to the certificates. You can display badges on social media or other places on the Internet.

The hidden beauty of the Open Badge is in the metadata that is revealed when you click on an image: Metadata are the information that the badge contains and defines it. Metadata include the name, description, and links to other relevant information, such as the criteria for assigning a badge, evidence. Metadata also contains a description of what the recipient of a digital badge had to do to gain it, and a link to an educational institution that granted it for verification.

Badges are digital and optically attractive.

1 http://openbadges.org
TEAMWORK

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

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!
BADA OPEN BADGES

The Open Badges for Adult Education project provides more than 100 badges related to behaviours, attitudes and key competences, including communication in mother tongue, foreign languages, digital skills, numeracy, literacy, sciences and technologies, learning to learn, social and civic responsibility, initiative and entrepreneurship, cultural awareness. These are available in English, French, German, Slovene, Spanish and Swedish on www.open-badges.eu.

Therefore, you can find step-by-step instructions visualised via short videos developed by the consortium for the awarding process.

Learner's testimonials:

»Digital badges rules! Since I posted them on social networks, the number of my FB's site trackers is increasing."

"I did not know the digital badges. When a professor told us in German course that we would receive them at the end of the exam, I was wondering if they were replacing a printed certificate. But when we really got the digital badges, and in addition to the printed certificates, I found that they are really even better! No more printing, I support the green."

"I do not know how I managed without digital badges! Since I got one in a foreign language course, I tried and searched for other providers on the web, so I already have them 8 today. It's extremely useful for using LinkedIn!"
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Project partners:

1. Greta du Velay – France
2. Folkunivrsitetet – Sweden
3. VHS Cham Ev. – Germany
4. Ljudska univerza Ptuj – Slovenia
5. Accion Laboral – Spain

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