



BADU

Open Badges to validate youth work

GUIDEBOOK

A practical guide to the BADU Open Badges system

For youth workers, volunteers and youth organisations

Project's Reference Number:
2016-3-DE04-KA205-014598



Erasmus+

Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation
and the exchange of good practices



GUIDEBOOK

A practical guide to the BADU Open Badges system

For youth workers, volunteers and youth organisations

Project's Reference Number: 2016-3-DE04-KA205-014598



Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

Contents

Chapter 1	6
BADU – PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
1.1. Background	6
1.2. About the project	7
Chapter 2	10
A WEBSITE FOR YOUTH WORKERS & YOUTH ORGANISATIONS TO VALIDATE YOUTH WORK THROUGH OPEN BADGES	
2.1. What are BADU Open Badges?	11
2.2. Why the BADU Open Badges?	13
2.3. How can a youth organisation issue BADU Open Badges?	14
2.4. How can youth workers/volunteers claim the BADU Open Badges?	17
Chapter 3	20
BADU PROJECT PARTNERS	
3.1. Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. - Germany	20
3.2. EduMoby - Italy	20
3.3. GoEurope - Spain	21
3.4. Zemgale NGO Centre - Latvia	21



Chapter 1

BADU – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Background

The BADU Guidebook helps youth workers and volunteers as well as youth educators (trainers & mentors) and youth organisations navigate through the BADU website in order to claim and issue Open Badges respectively.

The BADU Open Badges are an innovative tool which makes it easy to:

VALIDATE the competences that youth workers/ volunteers have acquired

RECOGNISE the learning outcomes in youth work

DISPLAY verified BADU Open Badges on social media and other online platforms

1.2 About the Project

People involved in youth work constantly acquire new competences outside formal qualification systems which are quite necessary and important elements of youth work. For instance, intercultural communication, active EU citizenship and civic participation are vital qualities that youth workers should have.

The need for creating Open Badges to recognise and validate youth workers' competences arose from the direct experience of the BADU project partners' consortium and the analysis of policy documents produced by the European Commission and the Council of Europe¹.

Youth workers in non-formal education/learning settings need to have an instrument which could help them:²

- a) identify, assess and record their competences
- b) describe their competences to others, and
- c) to set their own learning and development goals.

¹ The European Commission wants to support the recognition and validation of youth work. The European Youth Strategy (2009) already pointed out the need 'to equip youth workers with professional skills and promote their validation through the appropriate European instruments (Europass, EQF, ECVET)'. The 2010 Brussels Resolution on youth work invites the Commission to develop 'instruments for the documentation of competences of youth workers and youth leaders which would help to recognise and evaluate the quality of youth work in Europe.' The new European Youth Strategy (2019) sets a focus on the recognition of non-formal learning and encourages the Member States to promote the qualification of professionals in the use of digital tools and to develop recognition tools.

² European Portfolio for Youth Leaders and Youth Workers, Version April 2007. Consultant writer and researcher: Mark Taylor, Brussels (brazavil.training@yahoo.com).

BADU fosters the use of Open Badges for validating youth workers' competences in the areas of **youth mobility and non-formal learning**.

Youth work in Europe is conducted by many different institutions and organisations and by many different people. It is very diverse, taking different forms. Some countries have a long tradition of professional youth work (qualified staff working with young people through local and national authority-funded programmes and institutions).

Other countries have long-established voluntary youth work structures and diverse activities provided by



voluntary organisations. There are also countries that have established youth work as part of social welfare provision, with youth work practices being put to the service of employability, social inclusion and social assistance.

And, in some countries youth work takes place without the existence of a recognised “profession” of youth work, where volunteers are mainly responsible for working with young people and involving them in their activities and projects. When it comes to non-formal learning, recognition of competences is still in progress.

Several countries have created systems to recognise non- formal learning skills, but innovative digital tools that are transparent and comprehensible, can be used in different learning settings and are attractive to young people, are still missing.

The BADU project strives to fill this gap.

How do the BADU Open Badges differ from other recognition systems?

There are several online platforms that provide tools for developing different badge systems, leading to a wide range of diverse validation frameworks, whereas BADU is an Open Badge system itself, specifically covering competences of youth workers which consist of knowledge, skills and attitudes. It is a standardised system, which means that the Open Badges’ recognition is subjected to certain requirements to be fulfilled, previously agreed upon by the project partners.



However, it is also possible to create new badges, as long as the youth organisations respect the quality standards.

BADU Open Badges include metadata, the so-called learning targets and performance requirements. These serve as an orientation for the issuer and help increase the comparability of the badges across the different country-specific frameworks. At the same time, the diversity of different non-formal education approaches at European level are maintained.

Summing up, what makes BADU unique is the fact that it is a badge system:

1. that covers youth work competences
2. that is based on quality standards
3. that is open to new ideas regarding the competences of youth workers.

Collect your BADU Open Badges and prove your experience in youth work!



Chapter 2

A WEBSITE FOR YOUTH WORKERS & YOUTH ORGANISATIONS TO VALIDATE YOUTH WORK THROUGH OPEN BADGES

The BADU guide provides information on how to use the BADU Open Badges website. The website is available in 5 different languages: English, German, Italian, Latvian and Spanish.

This guide enables:

1. YOUTH ORGANISATIONS to register and create their profile, award the Open Badges created by the project consortium to their youth workers/volunteers. They also have the possibility to create their own badges according to their needs and focus.
2. YOUTH WORKERS/VOLUNTEERS to register and create their personal profiles and receive an Open Badge that can be added to their portfolio.



- What are Open Badges?
- Why to use Open Badges
- How to use Open Badges
- Creating Open Badges

2.1

What are the BADU Open Badges?

A BADU Open Badge is a virtual representation of a competence that youth workers/volunteers have gained through their experience. Youth workers/volunteers can receive the BADU Open Badge(s) after the successful completion of a voluntary/learning/training activity they have participated in or facilitated. The BADU Open Badges website allows youth workers/volunteers to verify their competences with regard to youth work and more specifically with reference to their experience in youth mobility and non-formal learning. Open Badges in youth work also certify social and non-formally acquired competences that are usually not validated through a formal certification. Every badge includes the following features:

- an image file that represents the Open Badge
- a description of the Open Badge
- issuer and recipient's details (name, contact)
- learning targets and performance requirements
- administrative details (badge issuing time, badge expiry date, badge issuer ID, badge earner ID)

Collect your badges and move to the next level!

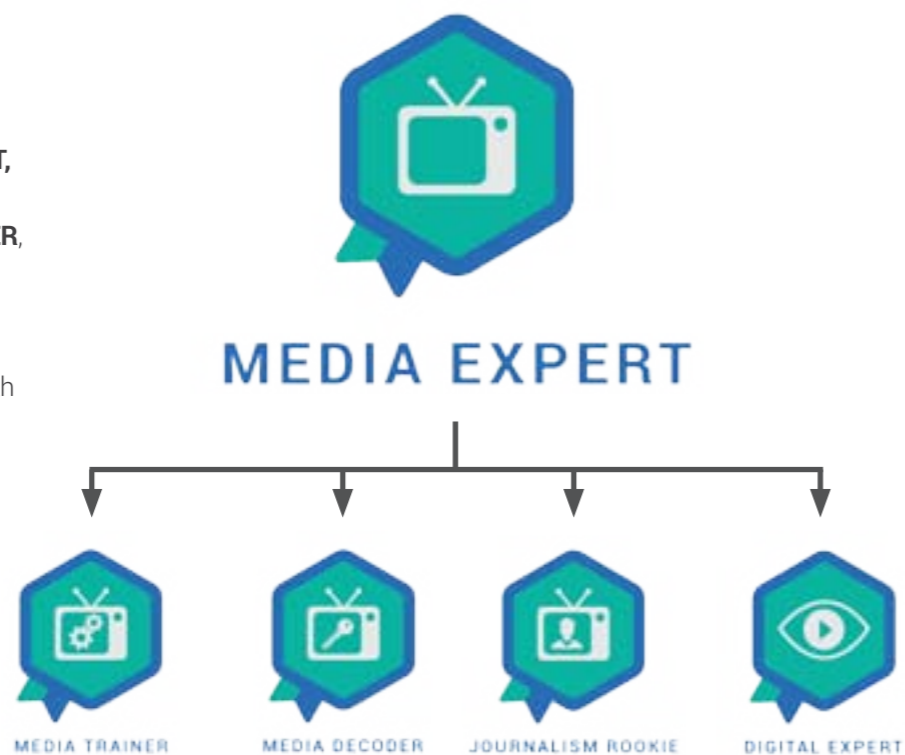
BADU Open Badges are divided into 11 categories. Each category is represented by a Metabadge (main competence) which consists of several Open Badges (sub-competences). Following the principle of gamification, playful elements are included to make the use of Open Badges more attractive and challenging. If you collect all badges (sub-competences) in one category, then the Metabadge gets unlocked and is awarded to you signifying that you have acquired the main competence.

Metabadges represent one of the following categories:

- 1) Group & Individual Trainer (Trainer & Mentor Expert)
- 2) Communication Wizard
- 3) Youth Work Expert
- 4) Civic Participation Master
- 5) Media Expert
- 6) Voluntary Project Expert
- 7) Intercultural Moderator (or Mediator)
- 8) English Pro
- 9) Europe Specialist
- 10) Project Manager
- 11) Youth Exchange Guru

Here is an example of a **Metabadge** (main competence), the **MEDIA EXPERT**, which consists of 4 Open Badges (sub-competences), the **MEDIA TRAINER**, **MEDIA DECODER**, **JOURNALISM ROOKIE**, **DIGITAL EXPERT**.

The Metabadge MEDIA EXPERT gets unlocked and is awarded when the youth workers/volunteers acquire all 4 Open Badges



2.2 Why the BADU Open Badges?

Advantages for youth organisations:

- Using a new innovative way of recognition and validation of youth workers' and volunteers' competences.
- Assisting youth organisations in the evaluation of learning outcomes.
- The youth workers and volunteers' personal and professional development have a positive impact on the youth organisations they are involved in.
- The visibility and reputation of the youth organisations that are badge issuers increase.

Advantages for youth workers/volunteers:

- Europe-wide visibility of non-formally or informally acquired competences by sharing BADU Open Badges on social media sites (Facebook & LinkedIn), blogs, websites, blogs and e-portfolios.
- Validation and recognition of youth workers' competences at European level through the BADU Open Badge system.
- Promotion of youth workers' mobility and non-formal learning at European level.
- Motivation to acquire new competences and develop existing ones.



2.3 How can youth organisations issue the BADU Open Badges?

Youth organisations are able to use the BADU Open Badges and also create their own ones.

The process of creating a badge involves three tasks:

- Offering a learning, volunteering or training experience (often with an associated assessment).
- Creating a badge to represent that competence and experience within the Open Badges framework.
- Awarding the badge after completing the badge criteria successfully.

The screenshot shows a registration form with the following fields: Username*, E-mail address*, Confirm e-mail address*, Name of Organisation, and Description. A blue progress bar is visible above the Name of Organisation field.

1st step:

Register your organisation. As soon as your youth organisation is registered, you will receive an email to confirm your registration and have access to the system.

2nd step:

Your organisation is now ready to issue and award BADU Open Badges to youth workers/volunteers that are actively involved in your organisations. Start your search and select the Open Badges that correspond to the skills, knowledge and attitudes of youth workers/volunteers.

The screenshot shows a search interface with a 'FILTER' sidebar on the left and a main 'OPEN BADGES' area. The main area includes a search bar with 'SEARCH' and 'RESET' buttons, and three badge listings: 'Communication Expert', 'Text Pro', and 'Non-violent Communicator'. Each listing features a badge icon and an 'EXPLORE' button.

The screenshot shows the details for the 'COMMUNICATION EXPERT' badge. It includes sections for 'Badge Details' (Name, Description), 'Learning Targets' (Knowledge, Skill, Attitude), 'Performance Requirement', and 'Additional Text'. Each section contains a series of horizontal lines for text input.

3rd step:

As a youth organisation you can create your own Open Badges. Sign in and select the button “add badge model”, fill in the field, add your icon and the badge is ready to be assigned to your youth workers/volunteers.

The screenshot shows the 'CREATE BADGE' interface on the BADU website. It features a sidebar on the left with a list of items. The main form area includes a 'Language' dropdown menu set to 'English', a 'Title' text input field, a 'Badge Description' text input field, and a 'Badge Image' section with a file upload button and a preview area. Below these are sections for 'Context' with a dropdown menu and 'Learning Targets' with a series of radio buttons and a plus sign for adding more targets.

2.4 How can youth workers/volunteers claim the BADU Open Badges?

The BADU Open Badges earners can combine multiple badges from different issuers on the BADU Open Badges website to tell the complete story of their achievements.

The BADU Open Badges earners receive their Open Badges and metabadges as a pdf and can upload them on their websites, blogs, LinkedIn and Facebook profiles, their e-portfolios and CVs. This way, competences as the above ones are validated and recognised.

The screenshot shows the 'USER ACCOUNT' registration form on the BADU website. It includes fields for 'Username*', 'E-mail address*', and 'Confirm e-mail address*'. Below these are fields for 'First Name*' and 'Surname*'. There is a 'Country' dropdown menu and a 'Date of Birth' section with three dropdown menus for day, month, and year. At the bottom, there is a checkbox for terms and conditions and a 'Sign Up' button.

**How does this work?
In a simple step process:**

1st step:

Create your own profile. You will get an email to confirm your registration and get access to the personal menu. Your knowledge, skills and attitudes can be recognised by the youth organisation which awards you the Open Badge(s).

2nd step:

After you register, the youth organisation that has awarded you the Open Badge(s) can search for and select your profile in the database and assign you the BADU Open Badge(s).

The screenshot shows the BADU website's search interface. At the top, there's a search bar and a user menu. Below the search bar, there are input fields for 'Youth Worker' and 'Badge', along with 'ISSUER' and 'SUBMIT' buttons. A search result for 'VOLUNTARY PROJECT COORDINATOR' is displayed, featuring a badge icon and buttons for 'DELETE', 'DOWNLOAD BADGE', and 'VIEW'.

The screenshot displays the details for the 'VOLUNTARY PROJECT COORDINATOR' badge. It includes a section for 'Context of the Achievement' with fields for 'Issuer', 'Trainer/Mentor', 'Start of the activity', and 'End of the activity'. Below this is the 'Badge Details' section with fields for 'Name' and 'Description'. The 'Learning Targets' section includes fields for 'Knowledge', 'Skill', 'Attitude', and 'Performance Requirement'.

3rd step:

The assigned badges are stored in your personal account and can be shared on social network websites (Facebook and LinkedIn), websites, blogs, your e-portfolio and CV.

REGISTER AND AWARD OPEN BADGES!
www.badge-badu.eu/

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!
www.facebook.com/BADU.EuropeanProject/

The screenshot shows a Facebook share dialog. At the top, there's a 'Share on Facebook' header. Below it, there's a 'Share on your timeline' button and a text input field with the placeholder 'Say something about this...'. The main content area displays the 'Digital Expert' badge. At the bottom, there are 'Public', 'Cancel', and 'Post to Facebook' buttons.

The screenshot shows a LinkedIn share dialog. At the top, there's a 'LinkedIn' header. Below it, there's a text input field. The main content area displays the 'Digital Expert' badge. At the bottom right, there's a 'Share' button.

Chapter 3

BADU PROGECT PARTNERS



Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. (JKPeV) – GERMANY

Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V. is a non-profit organisation that was founded in 2004 in Dresden and is dedicated to Education, Culture and Art. Our main goal is to conceive and implement projects that have a social impact, promote diversity and inclusion, and foster active participation and civic engagement among youth and adults.

Website: www.jkpev.de

Email: info@jkpev.de



EduMobY (Educational Mobility for Youth) – ITALY

The organisation is a not-for-profit social enterprise, founded in 2012 and active in the field of transnational mobility for education. EduMobY, with the support of institutional, national and international partners, has achieved a significant experience in the sector of traineeships abroad for young people to improve their life skills.

Website: www.edumoby.it/

Email: informazioni@edumoby.it



Go Europe - SPAIN

The European Intercultural Association Go Europe was founded in Valencia with the aim of promoting an international spirit aligned with the common European cultural objectives. Our goal is to promote lifelong learning and initiatives of transnational mobility addressed to young learners and professionals, with the ultimate vision of developing innovation by sharing knowledge and fostering strategic collaborations among partners all over Europe.

Website: www.goeurope.es

Email: info@goeurope.es



Zemgale NGO Centre - Latvia

The organisation was established in 1998 with the aim to promote the development of the civic society. Currently the organisation is a resource centre for more than 600 NGOs (non-profit organisation) and 4000 information network users. Regular activities are consultations on fundraising for public beneficiary measures, information, education & technical assistance for youth organisations.

Website: www.zemgalei.lv/en/

Email: info@zemgalei.lv



