



Your Future, Your Volunteers

Highlights

The **Future Skills for Volunteering** (FutVol) project has worked to increase understanding about the skills that are needed in volunteering in the future and for shaping the future through foresight activity. As a result, we have designed the Your Future, Your Volunteers model, which comprises the following tools:

- A **future skills model** for volunteering, which includes a list of the **14 most relevant skills** around Europe and their descriptions, and instructions and tools for their documentation and **validation**, including templates for Open Badges
- A **peer learning model** that can be used with volunteers to understand their competences and discuss the need for acquiring new ones
- A **foresight tool** by which volunteers and their organisations can engage their stakeholders in talking about the future and to make plans. This also includes tips for facilitating a foresight process.

Our work has been collected in a report. It includes partners' experiences, interviews with volunteers about their ideas of volunteering and skills for the future, and an expert article by Joy Williams, Research Fellow from the Institute for Employment Studies in the UK.

What have we found out?

- The 14 skills and aptitudes identified, ranging from digital skills to time management and empathy, resonated well with volunteers. Many thought that acquiring these kinds of skills when volunteering can help them to find work and to be better volunteers; our model works particularly well with younger volunteers
- Learners who took part in our activities also found discussing their skills with other people a positive experience. Group facilitators need to make sure that there is an encouraging atmosphere as talking about one's strengths and weaknesses can be a sensitive matter.
- Design thinking, the method we used for the peer learning activity, can make volunteers think about solutions to help them move to the future
- The foresight tool corresponds quite well to the needs of the voluntary sector, as there is a shortage of related tools available.

The expert article opens up trends in volunteering emerging in the UK. We have noted many issues to be relevant in other European countries as well. For example, even though people are dedicating less time to volunteering, they will be increasingly interested in micro-volunteering, i.e. volunteering for short periods at a time using digital devices. Also youth volunteering is on the rise in many countries, but some of the interviewees in our publication also noted that we need to pay attention to transmitting the values of volunteering to younger generations.

Take a look at our tools on our website <http://www.futvolproject.eu/> and give us your feedback!