Your Future, Your Volunteers

Open badges

Open badges are digital badges that you can award to volunteers for skills, achievements or attitudes. You need to use a badge platform to issue a badge, and there are many available, some are even free of charge to use. The two future skills badges created by the FutVol project are free for voluntary organisations to copy and issue for their volunteers. This documents contains information on achievement criteria and related matters.

As mentioned, open badges can be awarded on a digital platform. They are information rich. This means that they contain metadata about the skills the criteria and the issuer. When you view a person's badge, information about their achievement can be seen.

The basis for our two badges is the Your Future, Your Volunteers skills model, which contains 14 future skills in volunteering and criteria for what it means that a volunteer has these skills and methods for displaying them. Volunteers can either describe their skills using the STAR model or by other means. Their supervisor or another assessor then assesses the badge application and can issue a badge id the criteria are fulfilled.

We have designed templates for two badges: The Skilled Future Volunteer for which the volunteer needs to display 4 out of the 14 skills, and the Champion Future Volunteer for which the volunteer shows 8 skills. There are two ways of approaching the badge: either a volunteer demonstrates the skills to the supervisor, who issues them a badge and they can add evidence of their skills, or the volunteer sends in an application for a badge displaying the situations where they have applied the skills using the STAR grid (they can be attached) or by other means. Thus, the badges can also serve as portfolios.

You can use the badge descriptions freely but remember to mention that the future skills concept has been developed by the Future Skills for Volunteering Erasmus+ project (2017-1-FI01-KA204-034696).

Template for the Skilled Future Volunteer Badge:

Skilled Future Volunteer

The holder of this badge is able to display competences (skills, knowledge and attitudes) that show that s/he can handle future challenges in volunteering at basic level.

Award criteria:
In order to gain this badge, the holder has displayed relevant competences in at least four of the following skills through examples and reflections in an on-line portfolio or in an authentic setting assessed by a competent volunteer coordinator or and adult educator.

Conflict resolution: managing and preventing a conflict situation, being a force of resolution and not an element of increased tensions.

Respect in communication: behaving and judging empathetically

Active and passive communication: using active (writing, speaking) and passive communication (reading, listening) to manage various tasks

Critical thinking: thinking clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas, and engaging in reflective and independent thinking and reasoning.

Empathy and altruism: trying to understand another person's difficulty or opposition and have a willingness and motivation to help, and the effects of their own emotional responses.

Intercultural understanding: communicating effectively and appropriately with people of other cultures and understanding cultural differences.

Digital competence: the confident and critical use of information and communications technology

Adaptability: quickly acquiring new knowledge and new skills, adapting to changing environmental requirements and taking rapid action when necessary.

Teamwork: recognising roles in a group, choosing roles that are appropriate for themselves and communicating effectively with others.

Assessment and recognition of one's skills: recognising their own preferences, skills, attitudes and trusting themselves and recognising their potential.

Time management: planning and prioritising actions and the resources needed to implement them on schedule.

Problem-solving: looking at a problem from different perspectives and providing arguments and acting to reach a goal or compromise.

Taking initiative: working without being told what to do and showing self-management skills, resilience and determination.

Organisational skills: self-management, organising other people's tasks and the effective planning of the workload in their activities.

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Template for the Master Future Volunteer Badge:

Master Future Volunteer
The holder of this badge is able to display competences (skills, knowledge and attitudes) that show that s/he can handle future challenges in volunteering at an advanced level.

Award criteria:
In order to gain this badge, the holder has displayed relevant competences in at least eight of the following skills through examples and reflections in an on-line portfolio or in an authentic setting assessed by a competent volunteer coordinator or and adult educator.

Conflict resolution: managing and preventing a conflict situation, being a force of resolution and not an element of increased tensions.

Respect in communication: behaving and judging empathetically

Active and passive communication: using active (writing, speaking) and passive communication (reading, listening) to manage various tasks

Critical thinking: thinking clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas, and engaging in reflective and independent thinking and reasoning.

Empathy and altruism: trying to understand another person's difficulty or opposition and have a willingness and motivation to help, and the effects of their own emotional responses.

Intercultural understanding: communicating effectively and appropriately with people of other cultures and understanding cultural differences.

Digital competence: the confident and critical use of information and communications technology

Adaptability: quickly acquiring new knowledge and new skills, adapting to changing environmental requirements and taking rapid action when necessary.

Teamwork: recognising roles in a group, choosing roles that are appropriate for themselves and communicating effectively with others.

Assessment and recognition of one's skills: recognising their own preferences, skills, attitudes and trusting themselves and recognising their potential.

Time management: planning and prioritising actions and the resources needed to implement them on schedule.

Problem-solving: looking at a problem from different perspectives and providing arguments and acting to reach a goal or compromise.

Taking initiative: working without being told what to do and showing self-management skills, resilience and determination.

Organisational skills: self-management, organising other people's tasks and the effective planning of the workload in their activities.

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