

Background for the TC “ABC of learning in EVS”

The European Voluntary Service ([EVS](#)) gives young people the opportunity to express their personal commitment through full-time voluntary work in a foreign country within or outside the European Union. The EVS aims to develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, while contributing to strengthening social cohesion and promoting active citizenship. The EVS is envisioned to be a learning service, meaning that during the period of the mobility abroad, the volunteers are doing their tasks and in the same time are learning new set of competencies that they can use in their lives. But, learning is not only limited to the EVS volunteers. Both the sending and receiving organizations, as well as the local communities are learning within the EVS projects: before, during and after the mobility period abroad.

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) [Charter](#) highlights the roles of EVS sending, receiving and coordinating organizations and the main principles and quality standards of EVS. Within the Charter it's clearly indicated that the learning support for the volunteers should be provided by all involved organizations (sending, receiving and coordinating) and within the entire duration of the project.

The learning experience of the EVS volunteers is formally recognized through a [Youthpass](#). The Youthpass is not only a certificate, but it also comprises an entire learning reflection process which ensures that the EVS volunteers reflect on regular basis on their learning outcomes, that they are developing learning plans and are learning to learn within the mobility project. In order to support the volunteers and the organizations in these learning journeys, several tools and courses were developed in the past. Recently, a national level course was held in Estonia focused on the learning in EVS, which addressed issues connected with learning support and also provided practical tools and awareness of the learning in EVS. Driven from the good feedback of the national training course and in order to ensure proper support for learning within the EVS project the Estonian National Agency for Erasmus+ programme in cooperation with the Slovenian, Lithuanian, Italian, Spanish National Agencies and SALTO South East Europe resource centre developed this international training course “ABC of learning in EVS”.