

Do you recognise me?

WHO RECOGNISES US?

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Recognition, recognition, recognition – there seems to be a lot of it about, or moves towards it, all over the place at the moment.

Raising the visibility of youth work seems to be important, for helping everyone to raise their heads and assert how important our work is for young people and society.

If you look closer, you may find a slightly differentiated picture. It's possible to hear nicely contrasting statements such as these:

We do a great job, so the politicians should leave us alone to get on with things, instead of imposing their restrictions and demanding all these reports...

It is really difficult to talk about our work with pride, it sounds too much like boasting...

Give us the resources and leave us alone; we know what we are good at doing...

It is as if we are a little afraid of what recognition could really mean – too much external examination of what we do, and even an over-formalisation of what we like to think of as 'non-formal learning'. Tools for recognition such as the Youthpass are starting to be, well, recognised!



Maybe we need just to be a bit clearer about what we want to be recognised: Youth work? Young people's learning? Non-formal learning? And just as importantly who should be doing this recognising?

Or, maybe, sometimes its enough to be recognised by a participant in a personal way, like this:



RECOGNITION
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