What is Service-Learning

Erasmus+ KA2 Project SL-ICP
The problems our world is facing!

These are not just academic or research issues... but mostly civic engagement issues!!!
The Bologna Declaration

“A Europe of knowledge is now widely recognised as an irreplaceable factor for social and human growth and as an indispensable component to consolidate and enrich the European citizenship,... The importance of education and educational co-operation in the development and strengthening of stable, peaceful and democratic societies is universally acknowledged as paramount...”
The Mission of the University

“*It is a Public Law entity to which corresponds, within the scope of its competences, the public service of higher education through research, teaching and study, as well as the transfer of knowledge to society.*

(...) *It is defined by its will to innovation and social involvement, in coordination and collaboration with other universities and institutions*”
Our ivory tower
We study nature. YOU go save it!
Higher education

Civic engagement
learning  community
When faced with human suffering, one can…

... ACT
Much more than a methodology

A way of understanding...

the world  development  justice

education  learning  citizenship
1. What is Service-Learning?
If students at a Chemistry class collect trash in a disadvantaged neighborhood, they are providing a service to the community.
If they collect water and waste, analyze it in the laboratory and draw conclusions about pollution, they are doing a **practical activity**.
When the students

• Pick up garbage,
• Analyze what they collected
• Share the results with the neighbors
• Provide suggestions about how to recycle and reduce the bill.
• Reflect on their experience

service-learning
Something simple...

Learning by providing a service to the community
...and powerful

competent citizens capable of transforming society
Service-learning (SL) is...

Service-Learning (SL) is an experiential educational method in which students engage in activities that address real human, social and environmental needs from the social justice perspective, by integrating community service with the curriculum to enrich learning in any degree, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities through action and critical reflection.
S-L is not...

- A Volunteering program
- A practicum
- A single-sided coin: There is a mutual benefit
- Only academic
- Only for the young
2. Some S-L experiences
París-365 Community Kitchen

The service

Students of Agricultural Engineering produce vegetables for meeting the needs of a community kitchen, and they provide bags with food to people in need.

The learning

Technical knowledge of the subject “Horticultural farming,” development of abilities for programming farming, knowledge of the surroundings, collaborative work, communication abilities.
Lights and... Action!

The service

Students of Mining and Electrical engineering support students from an Initial Profesional Qualification Program who provide advice on electrical supply in old apartment buildings for improving their energy efficiency and preventing electrical risks.

The learning

Applying knowledge and abilities on electrical supply, communication skills with clients, planning, organization and collaborative work skills, responsibility.
Fiare Project

The service

Students from various schools become familiarize with Ethical Banking and organize campaigns and actions for its dissemination among youth sectors that do not know it.

The learning

Knowledge about banking entities and social entities, and their values, critical thinking towards the traditional banking system, group work, a world view from an ethical and social perspective.
Water for human consumption

The service

Chemical Engineering students design a system for reducing lead and sulfate concentrations in drinking water of a municipality and advise the council.

The learning

Introduction to research, communication skills, technical-economical balance, management difficulties.
The service

Students teach computing to adults, who are away from the technological world, helping them to overcome the "digital divide".

The learning

Computer skills; discovery of the "digital divide"; communication and relationship skills with the elderly; teaching strategies ...
Training for employment

The service
Student teachers support, as mediators, young people with intellectual disabilities participating in a job placement program who contribute to recycling and destruction of paper.

The learning
Labor skills in the administrative sector, independent living skills, knowledge of the environment, citizen participation, social and communication skills.
Adams Project

**The service**

Medical and Nursing students act as clowns in oncological units to compensate the impact that it has on children with cancer during their hospital stay.

**The learning**

Direct contact with patients, family and professionals who take care for them, understanding about living conditions in hospitals, empathy, communication skills, recreational resources, responsibility and professional skills.
Right to rights

The service

Students and professors of Law give legal services to individuals and disadvantaged groups, collaborating with public, social and professional organizations.

The learning

Knowledge of various subjects: penitentiary law, international, social law, children, gender, immigration, human rights and communication skills through the media.
Sleep and COVID-19: Let's get back our dreams

The service

Psychology students created short videos to help people manage their sleep during the pandemic, and they spread information about sleep, with BIOPILLS, a blog dedicated to scientific research topics.

The learning

Students put psychometric knowledge into practice and deal with professionals from scientific institutions.
3. Theoretical & practical foundations
Basic requirements

An educational practice is Service-Learning when it meets 4 basic requirements:

- Reflection
- Participation
- Learning
- Service
Some topics for reflection

- Preparation for service
- Motivation, expectations, concerns, prejudices
- Diversity and Cultures
- SDG
- Social justice
- Gender equality
- Public policy in the local context
- Conflict management
- Risk management
- Connections with other disciplines
- Achievement of leaning objectives
- Achievement of service objectives
- Project closure
- Sustainability of the project
Quality Standards of S-L

- Meet actual real needs
- Offer adequate time frames
- Direct contact
- Include evaluation & documentation

Sustainability
A typology of services

Environment
Health promotion
Citizen participation
Cultural heritage
Generational exchange
Close help to others
Educational support
Different paths lead to S-L
Any local entity can propose a S-L project as a co-creation and learning space that offers solutions to local challenges connected to the SDGs and from a social justice perspective.
Actions to be developed in a project ApS

- Investigate
- Prepare
- Act
- Reflect
- Demonstrate Disseminate
- Evaluate
- Celebrate
The relevance of a template...
There are projects...

Big & small

S-L

S-l

s-L

s-l

More or less integrated in the curriculum
International research on S-L has revealed positive impact in 6 developmental areas:

- Civic
- Vocational & professional
- Ethical & moral
- Personal
- Social
- Academic & cognitive

Andrew Furco
University of California-Berkeley, 2013
Impact in teachers

- Greater satisfaction with the quality of student learning
- Improves the classroom climate
- Improves relationships with students
- They increasingly integrate SL in their subjects
Impact in the higher ed institutions

- Increases institutional commitment to social responsibility
- Improves relations with the community
Impact in the community

- Satisfaction with the participation of the students
- Provides a useful service
- Improves relations with the University
Develops students’ transversal competencies

**Instrumental**
- Capacity of analysis and synthesis
- Capacity of organization and planification
- Capacity of information management
- Problem solving
- Making decisions

**Systemic**
- Autonomous learning
- Adaptation to new situations
- Creativity
- Leadership
- Initiative and entrepreneurship
- Sensitiveness towards the environment
- Motivation for quality

**Personal**
- Team work
- Abilities for interpersonal relations
- Acknowledgement of diversity & multiculturality
- Critical reasoning

**Other**
- Critical and self-critical capacity
- Capacity for communicating with experts from other fields

**Community service**
We learn best when we put into **practice** what we are trying to learn

The learning pyramid of Cody Blair
We learn even more when the practice is linked to a social need...

... because it generates a commitment.
Respects differences in learning style

- Profound – Superficial – Strategic
- Serialist – Holistic
- Convergent – Divergent
- Asimilator - Acomodator
- Reflective - Impulsive
Learning by doing improves memory
5.

S-L in Europe
Service-learning around the world
Service-Learning in Europe - 2023

National networks

Suomessa
Red finlandesa de ApS
And what is going on in Europe?
Milestones of SL in European Higher Ed

2014
I European Regional Conference of IARSLCE

2015
Launching European Network

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

I European Conference-Bratislava

IV European Conference-Bucarest
EOSLHE has identified SL projects in 29 European countries
Mapping S-L experiences in Europe

European Observatory of Service-Learning in Higher Education

PLACE YOUR S-L EXPERIENCE ON THE MAP!
Challenge:
At least 100 EXPERIENCES SHARED in 20 different COUNTRIES by 31st December 2020

Experiences collected so far....

86 Experiences
Service-Learning Experiences Shared
18 Countries
Institutionalization of S-L means that a higher ed institution develops administrative processes and provides resources needed to support S-L
What is the ultimate goal of education?
The ultimate goal of education is none other than the sake of humanity.