

Call for Participation

Utrecht Network Workshop 2018

“Service Learning and Community Engagement in Higher Education Institutions”

11-12 April 2018
Bratislava (Slovakia)

Rationale

The current and future global challenges call for new solutions to societal needs and for the **civic engagement and social responsibility of all the key actors of a society, especially the “educational” actors – among which our universities.**

The adoption of this educational approach implies an **“experiential learning”** process which fosters a **collaboration between universities and the community.** The implementation of the S-L approach starts from an analysis of the real needs of the community, in response to which a “service” offered by the **students is designed.** Thus, **students can achieve their learning goals by performing a “community service”:** an experience that is not to be confused with humanitarian work, volunteerism or internship, since the “service project” forms **part of the study course** and allow the student to earn credits. The S-L approach ensures equal focus on both the service being provided and the learning that is occurring, so that **benefits are for both the “recipients” and the “providers” of the service.**

The S-L methodology can be implemented **in any field of study.**

In addition to achieving **disciplinary/technical learning outcomes** and developing specific skills/competences/knowledge linked to the specific field of study, students develop other **“transversal” skills, competences and attitudes which are required to be socially responsible and civically engaged citizens.**

This methodology of “teaching and learning through community engagement” has proven to be **extremely effective and rewarding for teachers and learners and to promote positive societal change – both in the community “at large” as well as within the HEIs themselves.**

Main topics/focus

The workshop will focus on:

- The concept of Service-Learning: theoretical foundations, learning goals and service outcomes, existing resources and examples of best practices implemented in Europe and beyond
- Institutionalisation of Service-Learning in HEIs: examples, resources, tools
- Service-Learning and social responsibility (“University Third Mission”)

Speakers/trainers

While the Service-Learning approach is still **relatively new (and sometimes unknown) to European universities**, it is already largely adopted in some non-European contexts - mainly US, Canada and Latin America. It is therefore very appropriate that this workshop is co-led by two European universities of the Network and takes advantage of the valuable contribution of an expert from the United States who will be a Fulbright scholar at Bologna University from January to June 2018.

So this workshop will be co-led by:

- Bruna Zani, professor of Community Psychology, Department of Psychology, University of Bologna
- Henrietta Grönlund, University Lecturer of Urban Theology, Faculty of Theology, University of Helsinki
- Seth Pollack, Director, Service Learning Institute, California State University, Monterey Bay (USA)

Target groups and participants

The workshop is addressed to **both academics and administrators**, ideally a person who would be in the position to act as potential “multipliers” within his/her institution.

The maximum number of participants in the workshop is about 30 people. In case applicants are more than the maximum number, a selection will be carried out among applicants, and **at least 1 place for each UN member institution will be guaranteed.**

Institutional representatives of the UN are invited to promote this initiative within their institutions.

Learning objectives

The main learning objectives of the workshop are the following:

- To acquire an **understanding of Service-Learning as an innovative educational “experiential learning” approach which could be extensively adopted by European HEIs**
- To gain knowledge of **how to implement Service-Learning within the university degree course units** (detecting community needs; establishing university-community partnerships service; identifying learning goals and service outcomes; adopting appropriate tools and quality standards, etc.)
- To gain knowledge of **how to develop plans for the institutionalisation of Service-Learning** at the participants’ home institutions
- To **consolidate or expand existing networks of collaboration among the UN member institutions**

Methodology

The workshop will consist of a combination of lectures, activity (group works) and lively discussions. The working language will be English.

Workshop Programme

11th April

9.00 – 10.00	Introduction to the workshop concept Ice-breaking activity, welcome coffee and sharing participants' experiences
10.00 – 12.30	PART I. Introduction to service learning methodology: experiential learning and critical reflection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Specificity of the educational approach of Service-Learning compared to other forms of experiential education (internship, volunteering, etc)</i> • <i>Examples/best practices of S-L</i> • <i>Discussion and wrap-up</i>
12.30 – 14.00 Lunch	
14.00 – 18.00	PART II. Service-Learning course design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>identifying specific learning outcomes</i> • <i>identifying relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes</i> • <i>issues of assessment of student learning</i> • <i>Activity: designing a S-L project</i>
19.30 Social Dinner	

12th April

9.00 – 12.30	Institutionalisation of Service- Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guidelines and scenarios for the institutionalization of Service-Learning</i> • <i>Activity: designing a S-L institutionalisation plan for your university</i>
12.45 social lunch and goodbye	

Workshop Schedule

Arrival of participants: 10th April 2018

Day 1: 11th April 2018 from 9.00 to 18.00. Social dinner offered by the Utrecht Network

Day 2: 12th April 2018: from 9.00 to 12.45. Closing lunch offered by the Utrecht Network

Departure of participants (if not attending the AGM meeting): 12th of April (afternoon)

Application procedure and conditions

The application form is available online:

<https://www.unibo.it/fs/fs.aspx?surveyid=55144ce3b8a4c5d9a4a1327997e0be2>

and it will be open until **the 5th of February 2018.**

Accepted candidates will be informed by the 15th of February 2018.

The workshop is free of charge for the staff of Utrecht Network universities. Meals are offered by the Utrecht Network. Travel and accommodation should be covered by the sending institutions.

Further information

For questions related to **your institution's support**, please contact your Utrecht Network institutional representative (see List of Utrecht Network institutional representatives in annex)

For questions related to the **workshop's contents**, please contact:

- Alessia Marchi – University of Bologna (alessia.marchi@unibo.it)
- Francesco Girotti – University of Bologna (francesco.girotti@unibo.it),

For questions related to **logistics in Bratislava** please contact:

Michal Dzurik – Comenius University in Bratislava (michal.dzurik@rec.uniba.sk)