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E-course

“Service Learning: an approach for a better world”



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1. Presentation

Dear trainee: The training you are about to start has been designed within the framework of the Erasmus+ project "Learning To Serve" (L2S).

In it, schools and social organisations from Croatia, Italy and Spain have joined forces to promote the Service-Learning approach as a suitable methodology to link global issues with curricular learning and to educate in the common values of the European Union.

Service-Learning methodology is linked to a rich pedagogical trend that has two fundamental referents at its origin: J. Dewey in the USA and Paulo Freire in Latin America. Ideas such as democratic education, active learning, transformative education and for hope or social responsibility, are re-emerging with a new modernity, at a time when the dominant homogeneous culture invites an individualistic conception of learning.

Service-Learning makes students face their vital problems and brings them closer to their community. Strongly anchored both to the student's experience and to the social context in which it develops, Service-Learning highlights the role of students using the best active and socio-constructive methodologies.

In addition, it is a methodology that makes a change in educational practices and manages to promote values of solidarity among students, since teachers include the contents of Education for Global Citizenship in the curriculum, while the school is open to community.

In recent years, we have observed that teachers who put the Service-Learning methodology into practice incorporate it into their educational practice in a comprehensive and sustainable way, which is why we have verified its great transformative potential in educational practice. This has led us to commit ourselves to the dissemination and promotion of this methodology at a European level, not only among teachers, but also in social entities and public authorities.

For all these reasons, we are very proud to be able to present this e-course, which we hope will be useful in helping to implement the Service-Learning methodology in the field of formal education at a European level, as a tool





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to promote a Global Citizenship committed to common values of the European Union.

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2. Project introduction

L2S is a European Project co-financed by Erasmus+ program of the European Union. The project is led by the Spanish NGO Madre Coraje and these are the other partners: ProgettoMondo MLAL (Italy), Rete Tante Tinte – Golosine (Italy), Breza association (Croatia), Dokkica (Croatia) y ACES (Spain).



The Learning 2 Serve project revolves around the idea that the SL methodology is ideal for teaching common values in schools, since it offers opportunities for student participation in social and civic life through formal learning activities. Innovative SL projects make the school interact with its environment: neighbourhood, city, civil society; and vice versa: they introduce civil society entities, neighbourhood, city... in the school. If the school does not serve to solve extracurricular situations (non-school situations), occurs what is known as “school learning bubble”. For this





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reason, using the innovative SL methodology offers students the opportunity to apply learning, values and skills (competences) worked in the classroom in non-school situations.

That's why the "service" part of this methodology is so important and has to be very well designed and be very consistent with the principles of the SL methodology. Service is not a practice that takes place after learning, it is an extension of learning. And that is why this project intends to improve the knowledge of the SL methodology among volunteering NGOs and associations, which are the service providers in SL projects. We need these entities not to consider themselves just as recipients of a school activity but an essential part of the teaching-learning process.

If we succeed in designing and applying rigorous and accurate SL projects, we will be ensuring that the key competences are really learned, thus ensuring a solid learning of common values, civic engagement and participation. The more the children and young people intervene in their social environment through volunteering associations and NGOs, the stronger the link with the common and civic values.

Objectives:

- o Students of the leading schools acquire relevant cognitive and non-cognitive competences and develop a more positive attitude toward common values.
- o Teachers and community educators at local and national level are more aware about the challenges of education to common values.
- o The whole school community and the volunteering NGOs and associations who provide the services in the SL projects are more involved with SL methodology.

To achieve these objectives we will train teachers and support them in the design and implementation of lesson plans on common values based on SL methodology, we will collaborate with parents and CSOs and we will produce the following outputs:

- o Didactic manual for innovative education to common values based on SL methodology.





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- o Toolkit to foster cooperation in education to values through SL approach between schools, volunteering associations and NGOs, parents and other community stakeholders, including tools for Service-Learning practices.
- o Knowledge, learning and networking web platform about education to common values.