



## 1 WHAT CAN BE YOUR GOALS OR REASON?

The majority of these projects focus on public goods while some also address social justice and a few economic goals. You will most likely want to increase the skills of your students while developing locals into global citizens. These projects often focus on mutual learning effects since they bring the local to the global. And service learning puts the local community in the focus of interest.

## 2 WHO CAN BE YOUR BENEFICIARIES?

Usually, the beneficiaries abroad are organisations or companies to which you send your students for volunteering and service learning. Volunteering will focus on local NGOs, often in the field of education or equal rights. Service learning has a broader spectrum of target groups including SMEs, local administration and NGOs. SL is often more focused on concrete projects for the local partner solving a practical problem and therefore can serve the IHEs goal directly by combining the international with the problem solution.

## 3 WHO ARE YOUR PARTNERS IN YOUR UNIVERSITY?

For both, service learning and volunteering, students are the key actor group. Service learning, however, is only effective if you involve academics who supervise the stay abroad since these projects require the application of academic knowledge to practical problem-solving. International volunteering is more often managed by administrators in your international office but academics can be helpful providing contacts. Also, for volunteering it might be recommendable to cooperate with a local NGO specialising in international volunteering.

## 4 HOW CAN YOU REALISE SUCH ACTIVITIES?

Both activities are located within the classical priority area of internationalisation: mobility. If you are eligible, you can certainly include service learning projects as part of your Erasmus+ KA1 activities. Volunteering might also qualify, if it is set up as an internship. Furthermore, you could look into the Solidarity Corps or the Youth part of the E+ programme. Service learning is often set up directly between a department of academic and their contacts abroad, since they need the close link to the academic interest of the supervisor



## 5 WHO CAN BE ENABLERS TO SUPPORT YOU?

Both types benefit from a wide range of enablers. Next to the academics and students, these are especially donors and foundations who can provide travel funds, opportunities and frameworks. Also individual local citizens, probably connected to academics or students, can be invaluable to make contact with local NGOs and companies. Another strong partner can be your own municipality which might have several partnerships abroad with other municipalities that can act as facilitators to set up a service learning or volunteering.

## 6 RISKS, SOLUTIONS, WHAT TO DO & WHAT NOT

Time is one of the biggest problems for universities organising such projects since they typically last at least 3 months and need substantial time to prepare. Several universities also faced problems to motivate students to participate (often worried about the academic value) or to convince social partners of the benefits. The lack of experience and good practices also meant, many had to start from scratch without a "safety net". The key was always intensive communication, input by previous participants and connection to successful projects.

## 7 INTERESTING EXAMPLES

### **Actively shaping the city – Forms of engagement of newcomers**

→ <https://uni-tuebingen.de/en/study/finding-a-course/transdisciplinarycompetencies/certificates/civic-engagement-certificate/>

### **Young Universities for the future of Europe: YUFE in our cities**

→ <https://yufe.eu/citizens-and-cities/>

### **International Volunteering Service**

→ <https://www.udg.edu/en/viu/Cooperacio-i-Voluntariat>

Follow the whole IHES 2021 session on youtube:

→ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dAYAIEOGx8>



Internationalisation  
in Higher Education  
for Society

# >>> Service Learning and Volunteering #IHEES guidelines

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*We often assume that people from certain backgrounds are xenophobic and not interested in such projects, but we were overwhelmed by the interest in the volunteering and service learning.*

(Emma Zeniou, University of Cyprus, YUFE alliance, CY)

*While service learning and volunteering is not usually part of the internationalisation strategy, it should be because it offers great opportunities.*

(Franziska Müller, University of Tübingen, DE)

*To communicate with students about such projects, you need to be on Instagram, a university website simply does not cut it.*

(Oriol Jordà Farrés, University of Girona, ES)



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benefits of internationalisation  
for social engagement.

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