

Diffusion of Service-Learning in Spain

2009 - 2011

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Outline

- **1.** What is the project?
- **2.** Why is it needed?
- **3.** Why is it opportune?
- **4.** What precedents are there?
- **5.** What do they do?
- **6.** What strengths do they have?
- **7.** What is the strategy to be followed?
- **8.** Where is the innovation?

1. What is the project?

Promote and disseminate SERVICE-LEARNING in Spain

An educational methodology which promotes social commitment in children and young people linked to gaining knowledge, learning skills, attitudes, and values:

Learn by doing a service for the community

2. Why is it needed?



2. Why is it needed?



International research on Service-Learning proves its educational and social efficacy (Andrew Furco, University of Berkeley, 2003)

3. Why is it opportune?

- 1. Because there is now greater social sensibility towards educational challenges.
- 2. Because there is a new subject that has been introduced in compulsory education that favors it.
- 3. Because now the educational community(schools, social entities, parents and public administrations) is willing to explore new methods.
- 4. Because now we count on the support in human resources provided by Ashoka.

4. What precedents are there?

Before 2009 two initiatives were born:

In Catalunya: Centre Promotor APS 2005

A network of boosting entities

In the Basque Country: Fundación Zerbikas 2007

A foundation of new creation

5. What do they do?

Example: Centre Promotor APS work plan in Catalunya

1. Training and research

- Course of Initiation to S-L
- S-L courses for municipalities
- S-L courses for teachers
- Teacher trainer seminar
- Research and doctoral theses

2. Diffusion and projection

- S-L website
- Publication of S-L books
- Conference cycle
- S-L monographs in magazines
- Papers in conferences
- Practical guides in digital format

3. Entity and project support

- Call for aid in S-L projects
- S-L project advising
- Experience exchange conferences
- Dynamization of boosting entities

- 4. Impact on public policies and institutional relations
- Inclusion of the Service-Learning concept in the curriculum of Education for Citizenship.
- Pilot Service-Learning projects in some municipalities.
- Seminar of city councils which are launching Service-Learning educational policies

6. What strengths do they have?

What success factors are at the foundation of the basque and catalan iniciatives?

- 1. Consider Service-Learning as everybody's patrimony, spreading and sharing a project with a meaning for many.
- 2. Group and represent diverse and complimentary educational sectors.
- 3. Be provided with leadership taken on by an institution with authority and social legitimacy.
- 4. Present Service-Learning as an acknowledgment to good practice, an added value, an opportunity for children and youth, and not as the latest teaching trend.
- 5. Commit public administrations on different levels and areas of responsibility.

Premises:

- 1. TERRITORY: Work on the foundation of what already exists and is valuable, letting each territory draw their own introduction strategy.
- 2. PLURALISM: Unite, in each territory, a small diverse network of educational agents willing to explore Service-Learning, led by an organization with legitimacy and social recognition.
- 3. EXCHANGE: Favor the exchange of resources, methods and knowledge among the different territorial initiatives.

Foreseen starting itinerary

- 1. Start with the regions which have begun to implement the course Education for Citizenship or those which have shown interest in Service-Learning.
- 2. Detect the key educational agents, the valuable experiences and the possible leader organization in the regions, with the collaboration of experts in the educational sector.
- 3. Offer an initial formational impact in Service-Learning the spark -, with the goal of recognizing the advantages of this methodology in usual educational practices.
- 4. From first impact, each territorial group decides how to get organized to develop Service-Learning.

Foreseen itinerary to carry on

- 5. Ease advising and follow-up needed, mobilizing the necessary resources.
- 6. Explore the possibility of boosting a space of general coordination as territorial processes mature.
- 7. Obtain institutional support and inclusion of Service-Learning in public policies.

Example of Service-Learning spark in a territory



To:

- 1. Define the regions where diffusion of Service-Learning may be easier.
- 2. Detect in them the key educational agents and the possible leader organization.
- 3. Offer the chance of an initial encounter.



It will be necessary to:

- 1. Identify sources of information.
- 2. Build a contact map by regions.
- 3. Devise a minimum informative packet.

8. Where is the innovation?

- 1. Service-Learning is an unknown methodology in Spain.
- 2. The narrow link between the formal educational sector and the nonformal educational sector which demands Service-Learning represents a novelty.
- 3. It is not frequent to base a strategy of introduction "from the bottom up", empowering existing territorial organizations, instead of creating a new organization.



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