

forthem.



SERVICE LEARNING

between School & University



University of Palermo, 19-23 May 2025

Organized by Alessandra La Marca, Elif Gulbay, Leonarda Longo, Ylenia Falzone



Aims

- **Disseminate and implement Service Learning (SL)** as an innovative pedagogical approach in teacher education
- **Promote fundamental educational values:** responsibility, solidarity, collaboration, active and digital citizenship
- **Provide an international training space** for PhD students, senior students in Primary Education Sciences, and primary school teachers
- Show the **transversality of SL** in different contexts and disciplines



The Summer School has, as a central aim, the dissemination and implementation of the use of Service Learning (SL) as an innovative pedagogical approach in teacher training.

Spreading and implementing the SL strategy as early as primary school implies encouraging young pupils and teachers to develop values, ethical behavior and to aim for a global and comprehensive education of the human being.

19 MAGGIO 2025

14:30 – 15:00 Registrazioni

15:00 – 15:30 Saluti

Massimo Midiri, Rettore, Università degli Studi di Palermo
Fabio Mazzola, Prorettore alla Didattica e alla Internazionalizzazione, Università degli Studi di Palermo
Luisa Amenta, Prorettore al Diritto allo studio e all'Innovazione dei processi di apprendimento e Presidente del Teaching Learning Center – CIMDU, Università degli Studi di Palermo
Antonino Bianco, Direttore del Dipartimento SPPEFF, Università degli Studi di Palermo

15:30 – 18:00 Panel:

“Sfide e Opportunità per il Service Learning nella Formazione Iniziale degli Insegnanti”

Introduce e modera

Alessandra La Marca, Delegata del Rettore per la Formazione degli Insegnanti e Metodologie Didattiche, Coordinatore del Centro di Ateneo per la Formazione Insegnanti, Coordinatore del Corso di Laurea a Ciclo Unico in Scienze della Formazione Primaria, Università degli Studi di Palermo

Dal sapere teorico alla prassi riflessiva: il Service Learning come dispositivo formativo per i futuri insegnanti.

Ylenia Falzone, Docente di Didattica Generale, Università degli Studi di Palermo.

Competenze digitali e Service Learning: preparare i futuri insegnanti alla cittadinanza digitale attiva.

Elif Gülbay, Docente di Tecnologie Didattiche, Università degli Studi di Palermo.

Valutazione dei processi di Service Learning.

Leonarda Longo, Docente di Docimologia e Pedagogia Sperimentale, Università degli Studi di Palermo.

Un'esperienza di Service Learning.

Sofia Ricca, studentessa CdS Scienze della Formazione Primaria, Università degli Studi di Palermo.

Sala Magna Palazzo Chiaramonte - Steri, Palermo

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:
 Alessandra La Marca, Elif Gulbay, Ylenia Falzone, Leonarda Longo



Canale Microsoft Teams

<https://lc.cx/yFvCNC>



Day 1: Welcome and Pedagogical Vision

May 19, 2025

- Institutional greetings
- **Panel: «Challenges and Opportunities for SL in Initial Teacher Education»**
 - From theory to reflective practice
 - Digital citizenship and future teachers
 - Assessment of SL processes

PROGRAMMA
20 - 23 MAGGIO 2025

20 may 2025, 9:30 – 17:00

Day 2: Motivating and Engaging Students Through Service Learning

9:30 – 11:00 “The Role of Motivation and Engagement in Service Learning”: Understanding how SL influences student motivation, engagement, and academic success through hands-on learning experiences.

Maria Cinque, full professor at the University of LUMSA, Rome.

11:30 – 13:00 Case Study: “Music, Opera, and Civic Engagement: Real-World Applications”: Example of a SL project where students engage with opera, music, and social issues, building empathy and civic awareness.

Benedetta Miro, Professor of Music Education at the University of Palermo

14:00 – 17:00 Group Activity: “From Theory to Practice: SL in University Education”: Identification of a real-world problem, idea generation through small-group brainstorming, and drafting of an initial project concept for a service-learning activity. *Savannah Olivia Mercer, PhD student at the Univeristy of Palermo,*

21 may 2025, 9:30 – 17:00

Day 3: Building Civic Awareness Through Service Learning

9:30 – 11:00 “Soft Skills and Responsibility in the 21st Century”. The role of SL in fostering social responsibility, community engagement, and ethical citizenship.

Elif Gülbay, Professor of Educational technologies at the University of Palermo.

11:30 – 13:00 Interactive Session: “Designing Service Learning Projects”

Practical guide to designing SL projects for various age groups and disciplines, with an emphasis on teamwork and collaboration.

Ylenia Falzone, PhD and Professor in General Didactics at the University of Palermo.

Giulia Andronico, PhD and Professor in Service Learning at the University of Palermo.

14:00 – 17:00 Workshop: “Social Impact Projects: Mapping Community Needs and Student Contributions”: Participants will create a project proposal focused on social change and community engagement, emphasizing collaboration with local communities. Participants work in small groups to identify local issues and design SL projects that address those needs.

22 may 2025, 9:30 – 17:00

Day 4: Transversality of Service Learning: Interdisciplinary Applications

9:30 – 11:00 Case Study: “Service Learning in Initial Primary Teacher Education: Real-World Applications”: Example of a SL project where students engage with social issues, building empathy and civic awareness.

Ylenia Falzone, PhD and Professor in General Didactics at the University of Palermo.

11:30 – 13:00 Discussion: “e-Service Learning: Opportunities and Ethical Challenges (AI and mixed reality)” Exploring how new technologies can be integrated into SL, both as a tool for learning and as a subject for critical reflection on ethics.

Ylenia Falzone, PhD and Professor in General Didactics at the University of Palermo

Savannah Olivia Mercer, PhD student at the University of Palermo.

14:00 – 17:00 Workshop: “Student Reflection and Assessment in Service Learning”: How to design reflective practices and assessment tools to evaluate the impact of SL on students and the community.

23 may 2025, 9:30 – 13:00

Day 5: Implementing Service Learning: Moving from Vision to Action

9:30 – 11:00 Final Project Presentation: “Designing Your Own Service Learning Initiative”: Participants will present their project proposals based on the topics and tools learned throughout the week, with peer feedback.

11:30 – 13:00 Closing Ceremony: “Reflection and Moving Forward”: A discussion on the future of SL in teacher training and how to overcome potential barriers to widespread adoption. Wrap-up of the summer school with final reflections, sharing of insights, and a commitment to integrate SL into participants’ own educational contexts.

Chiesa S. Antonio Abate - Steri, Palermo

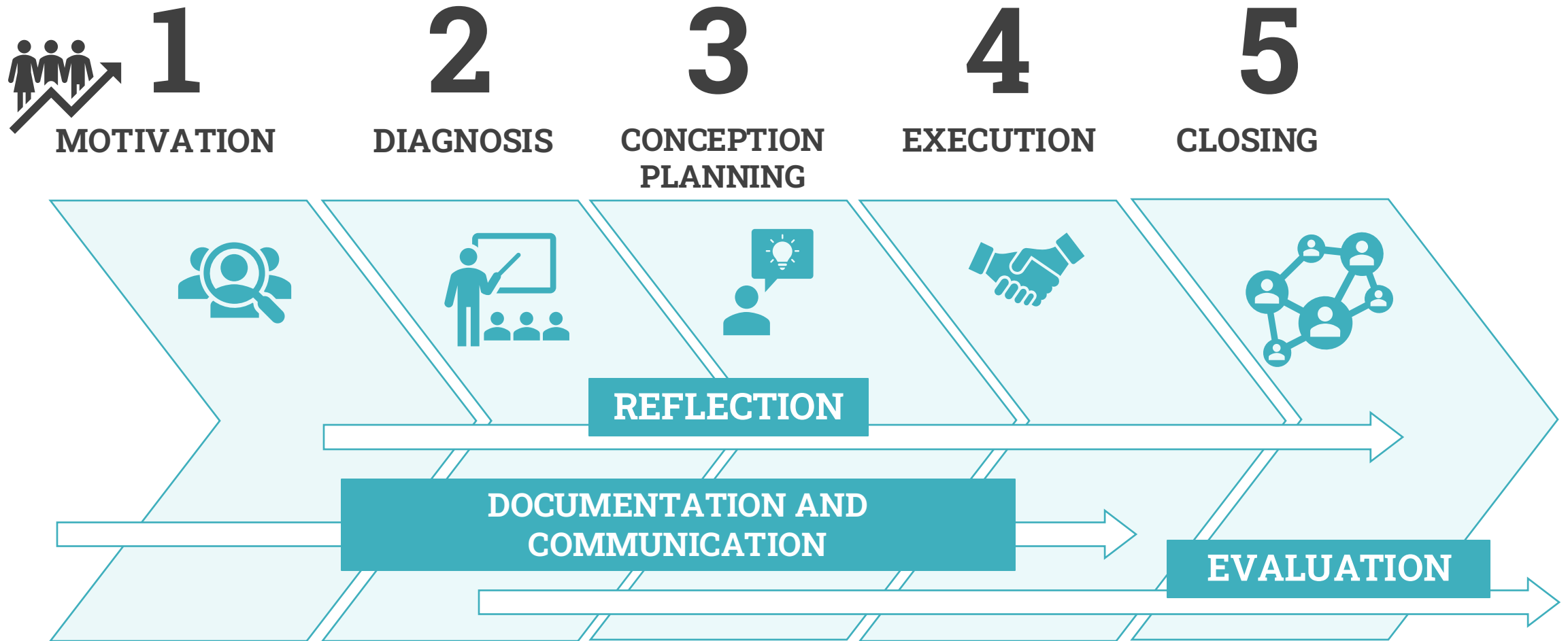


Activities and Structure of the Summer School

During the Summer School, we organized various activities to support the **design of Service Learning (SL) projects** across different European contexts.

- **Morning sessions** featured expert-led lectures focusing on key aspects of SL.
- **Afternoon workshops** provided guided, hands-on experiences in SL project design.
- Participants worked in groups and followed a structured model to **identify and address the specific needs of their local communities**.

Model for designing service learning paths



Day 1 - Welcome and Introduction

- **Official Welcome and Opening Remarks** by institutional representatives
- **Presentation of the Summer School:** objectives, structure, and pedagogical vision
- **Introductory Lectures:** setting the stage for Service Learning as an educational approach
- **Participant Introductions:** getting to know each other and sharing expectations



Day 2 - Start designing service learning

Morning sessions: Motivating Students through SL

- **The Importance of Motivation in Service Learning** (Exploring how SL fosters student engagement, personal growth, and active participation)
- **Case Studies of SL in Italy and Around the World** (Concrete examples of SL projects implemented in different cultural and educational contexts, highlighting best practices and impact)

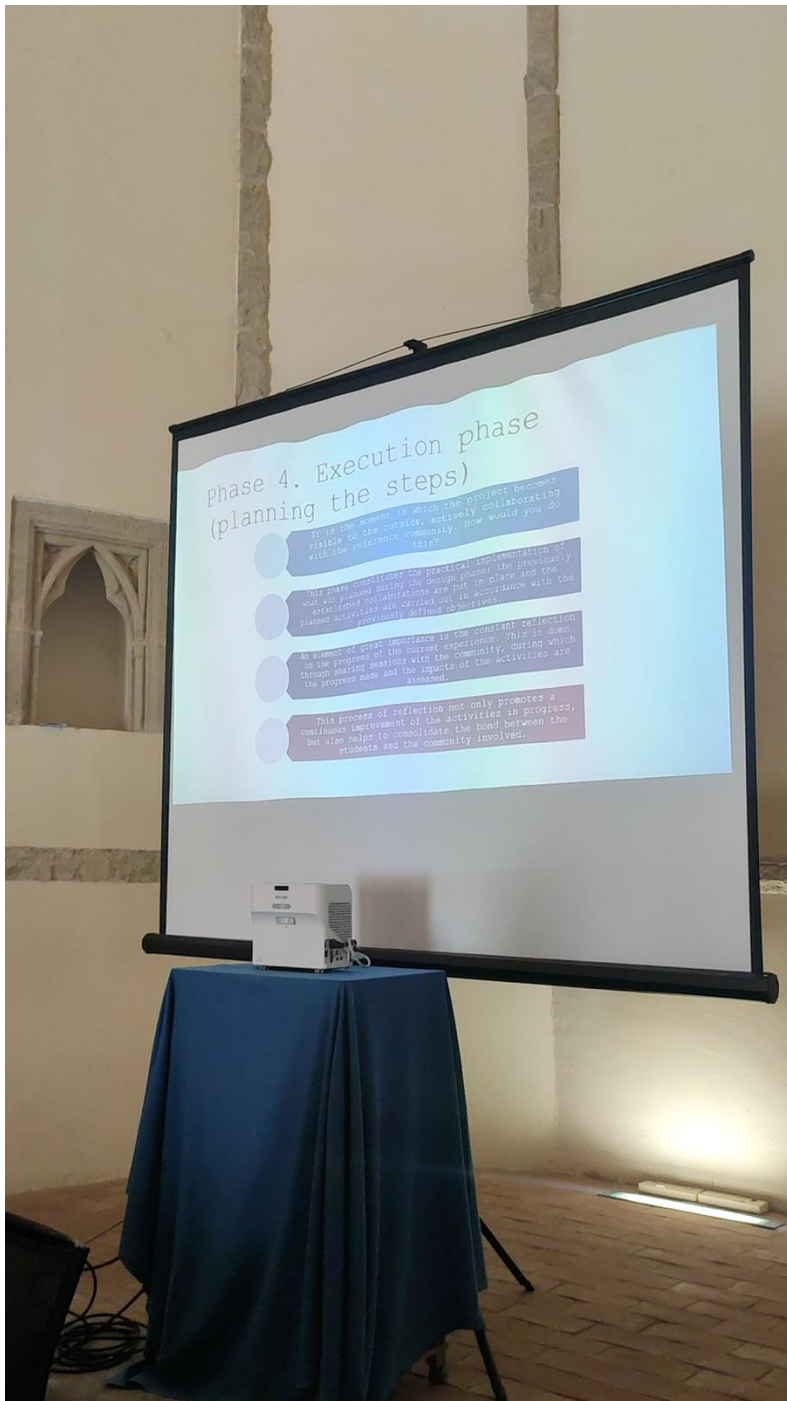
Afternoon workshops: Designing a Service Learning Project

- In small groups, participants began planning their own SL initiatives, starting from real-world problems and applying a structured design model.



Day 3 - Soft Skills and Social Responsibility

- **Morning sessions:** SL as a tool for ethical and civic development
- **Workshop: Conception and Planning**
Mapping of human resources (experts, school/university staff); Definition of required technical and professional skills; Establishing territorial/community partnerships; Development of a clear timeline of actions
- **Phase 4: Execution** (Focus on the practical implementation of the project)
- Projects gain external visibility; Collaboration with the local community takes shape





Day 4: Interdisciplinary Applications

Morning session: Discussion about ethics, AI, and e-Service Learning

Workshop Theatre of the Oppressed: Represent a Service Learning Project (Nonverbal Skit)
create and perform a **short, nonverbal theatrical scene** (2–3 minutes) that represents a situation related to a **service learning project**, including its **context, challenges, and values**.



- **Workshop Conclusion and Evaluation**

Final phase focused on assessing the project's impact, analyzing the results achieved, and planning dissemination activities. It also includes the graphic design of the completed phases.

Day 5 - From Vision to Action: Implementing Service Learning

Final presentations: participants showcase their own SL project proposals

World cafe

- Map the different interpretations of Service Learning in European contexts
- Identify specific challenges and solutions for each context
- Build a collective understanding of transnational best practices
- Create a shared knowledge network to support your future projects





Thanks