

ApS(M)

Bridging Academia and Community in the SL perspective



UNIVERSITÀ
di VERONA



GLOCAL & FACTORY



Cofinanciado por
la Unión Europea





FOCUS ON THE LEGAL CLINICS

Learning Objectives

- Promote an intercultural approach to managing relationships with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds
- Enhance competencies in immigration law and rights
- Improve understanding of bureaucratic procedures
- Foster an intercultural approach in relationship management
- Gain hands-on experience with a real-world case to understand the practical application of laws.

Objectives for Migrant Inclusion

- Empower migrants through practical involvement
- Develop cross-cultural competencies among students
- Strengthen ties between academic institutions and community entities.

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Avvocato di Strada ODV - www.avvocatodistrada.it

In Verona, the association “Avvocato di Strada” provides legal assistance to the homeless, with a focus on migrants.

To support its work with legal consultations and socio-professional integration, the NGO partnered with the University of Verona to establish a student-run legal clinic. This initiative has three main goals:

- to introduce students to migrant legal aid through **hands-on cases**
- to highlight the **positive role of law in reducing migrant marginalization**
- to emphasize the need for **both legal and social support** as complementary pillars of effective assistance.

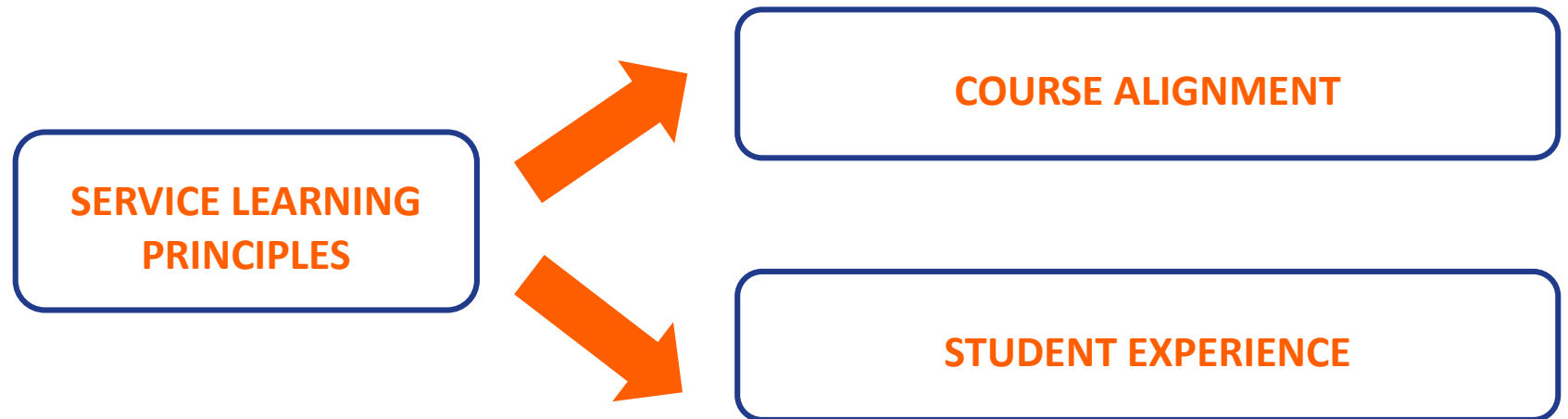




ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL CLINICS IN THE SL PERSPECTIVE

In the context of SL, the legal clinic course and students' experiences reflect the core principles of SL, where academic learning is integrated with meaningful community service to address real-world issues.

Here's how the course aligns with and exemplifies the SL methodology:





1. INTEGRATION OF THEORY AND PRACTICE

SL PRINCIPLE

The SL experience focused on **applying** academic knowledge in practical, community-based contexts.



COURSE ALIGNMENT

The legal clinic allowed students to put **theoretical knowledge into practice** by working on real cases of family reunification.

This practical experience **bridged the gap** between classroom learning and professional legal work, reinforcing students' understanding of legal processes while simultaneously addressing community needs.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students found value in **applying legal concepts learned in class to help real clients**, enhancing both their academic knowledge and practical legal skills.



2. MUTUAL BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY

SL PRINCIPLE

SL creates a **sybiotic relationship** where both students and the community benefit from the experience.



COURSE ALIGNMENT

The legal clinic benefited migrants by **providing them with free legal assistance** in navigating complex bureaucratic processes like.

Students gained **practical experience**, exposure to real-world challenges, and the opportunity to develop empathy and cross-cultural competencies.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students reported that working with migrants increased their awareness of **social justice issues** and the barriers migrants face in the legal system. This enhanced their sense of **civic responsibility** and **social engagement**.



3. REFLECTION AS A LEARNING TOOL

SL PRINCIPLE

Critical reflection is a key component of SL, encouraging students to think deeply about their experiences and the impact of their service.



COURSE ALIGNMENT

The legal clinic provided structured opportunities for reflection, allowing students to **analyze** the **ethical, social, and legal dimensions** of their work.

Students reflected on the **challenges migrants face**, such as systemic delays and discrimination, and how legal interventions can help address these issues.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Reflective discussions about multiculturalism, prejudice, and legal processes helped students internalize the lessons learned. They reported gaining a **deeper understanding** of how their **actions can influence** the lives of vulnerable populations, as well as the **importance of empathy** in legal practice.

4. CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS



SL PRINCIPLE

SL fosters critical thinking by **challenging** students to address real-world problems and find **innovative solutions**.



COURSE ALIGNMENT

In the legal clinic, students **faced real challenges**, such as administrative delays and legal ambiguities, requiring them to think critically and develop practical solutions: they had to draft legal memoranda, navigate complex immigration laws, and find alternative routes to family reunification when initial strategies encountered obstacles.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Through these activities, students developed strong analytical and **problem-solving skills**, learning how to apply legal theory to real-world cases.

They also gained insight into the **limitations of legal systems** and the **need for reform**.



5. SOCIAL AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

SL PRINCIPLE

SL aims to foster a sense of **civic responsibility** and **social justice** in students by engaging them in community issues.



COURSE ALIGNMENT

The legal clinic placed students at the **intersection of law and social justice**, as they worked on cases that directly impacted migrants' rights.

This experience heightened their **awareness** of the social and legal barriers faced by marginalized communities, instilling in them a **commitment to advocate for systemic change**.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students reported an increased **sense of responsibility** toward supporting migrant rights and a deeper understanding of **the role** lawyers can play in **advocating** for social justice. This sense of civic duty is a **hallmark** of effective service learning.



6. INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING

SL PRINCIPLE

SL encourages **interdisciplinary approaches** to address complex social problems, integrating different fields of study.



COURSE ALIGNMENT

The legal clinic incorporated **legal, sociological, and anthropological perspectives** to help students understand the complexity of migrant inclusion.

Students were exposed to concepts like **intercultural communication, stereotypes, and systemic discrimination**, which are critical for addressing the legal and social needs of migrants.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students **appreciated the interdisciplinary approach**, which allowed them to see how law interacts with society. This **broadened their perspective** on how to approach legal cases involving diverse cultural and social backgrounds.



7. REAL-WORLD IMPACT AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

SL PRINCIPLE

SL provides students with **opportunities to develop** practical, job-related skills **while contributing to the community.**



COURSE ALIGNMENT

By working on **real legal cases**, students developed essential skills such as legal research, drafting memoranda, and client communication.

These are **critical skills for their future careers** as lawyers, particularly in fields related to human rights, immigration, and social justice.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students **felt more prepared for the legal profession**, having been exposed to the practicalities of working on real cases and understanding the procedural intricacies of immigration law.

They felt **more connected to the community** through their direct involvement in migrant issues.



8. LONG-TERM IMPACT ON MIGRANT INCLUSION

SL PRINCIPLE

SL aims for **lasting, positive change** in both students and the communities they serve.



COURSE ALIGNMENT

The legal clinic not only helped migrants with their immediate needs but also highlighted systemic issues in immigration processes that could lead to **advocacy for future reforms**.

Students contributed to a more inclusive legal environment by **raising awareness** and helping to address barriers to family reunification.

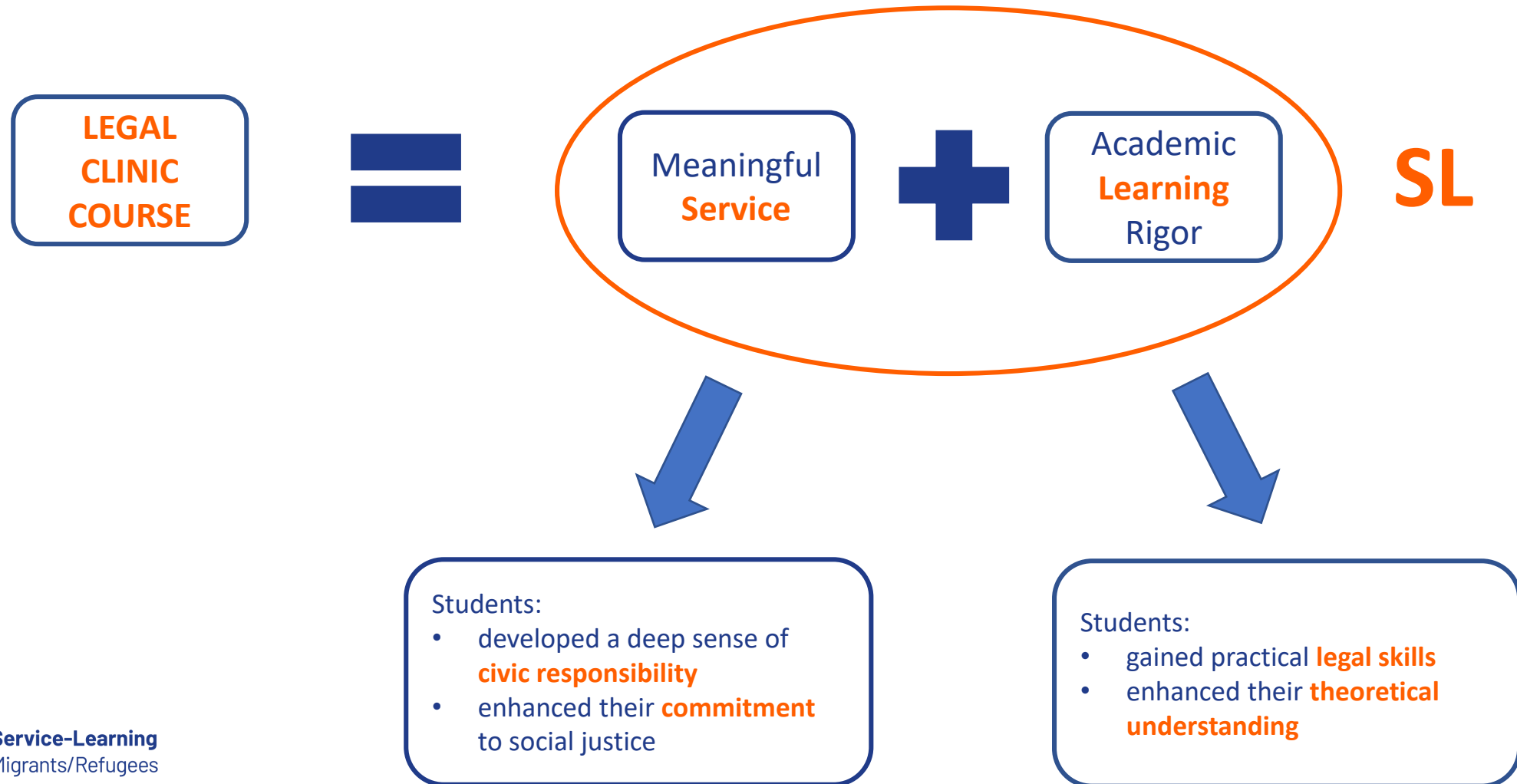


STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students came away from the course with a **commitment to promoting migrants' rights** in their future legal careers. The long-term impact is seen in their increased advocacy for policy changes.

RECAP

Service Learning in Action



CONCLUSIONS

In the context of the Legal Clinics implemented, the SL perspective:

- **prepares future legal professionals** to advocate for vulnerable populations while fostering a more inclusive approach;
- equips future legal professionals to advocate for **systemic changes**, in order to create more inclusive legal systems and public institutions ensuring that migrant communities rights and dignity are upheld;
- fosters **empathy** and promotes **interdisciplinary understanding**.





THANK YOU!

