

Service Learning in the Law Department

The experience of the Legal Clinics

 Service-Learning
Migrants/Refugees



UNIVERSITÀ
di VERONA



GLOCAL
FACTORY



Cofinanciado por
la Unión Europea



The organization

From an operational perspective, the project was divided in 2 phases:

1° phase: designing and implementing training courses for university teachers and students

2° phase: implementing Service Learning projects at the University based on the needs identified in the first phase

3° phase: data analysis concerning the impact of the Project (still ongoing)



Why the Law Department

The primary need identified by involved organisations in Verona was for legal assistance for migrants and help in regularising their status.

We decided to involve Law degree students and create a hands-on course: a legal clinic.

→ 21 students



The legal clinic

Generally, legal clinics are workshops where a lawyer presents a real case they are working on and invites students to help identify the best legal strategy.



The project

Specifically, we had two requirements:

1. the legal clinic needed to focus on migrant-related issues
2. the seminar needed to involve direct community engagement to address a real need

For this reason, we decided to collaborate with a local association called "Avvocato di Strada"



Students' activities

During the practice sessions, students will:

- do legal research to help the lawyer
- write legal documents and go with the lawyer to public offices
- talk to the client, explaining the process stages
- keep a reflective clinical diary
- write a final individual essay



Conclusions

«I didn't know anything about immigration law; it's the first time I've heard about it at university. I believe it's essential to teach students the most current aspects of the law so we're not influenced solely by the statements of various politicians. It helps us have a practical approach to immigration».

[Student at the legal clinic]



Practical learning
Development of professional and transversal skills
Interactive experience
Interdisciplinary approach

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High level of commitment required
Lack of autonomous activities
Need to improve access to digital resources

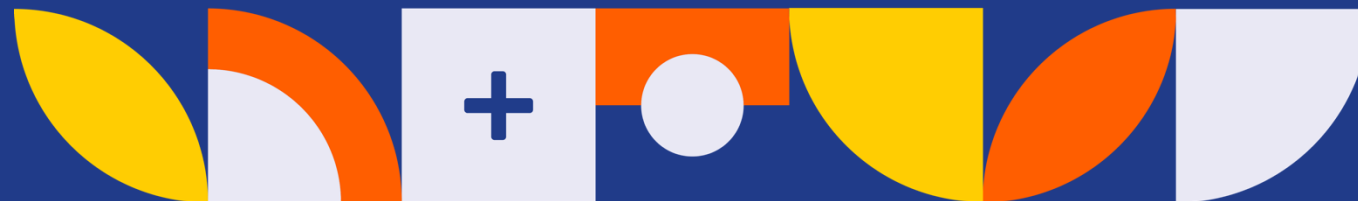
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Increasing integration of legal practice in universities
Increasing international collaboration
Expansion into other disciplines
Development of intercultural skills

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High workload
Dependence on the expertise of instructors

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Thank you for your attention!

