Service-Learning at the University of Barcelona (UB): how SL can help us meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Introduction

Universities are key contributions to the SDGs by not only forming aware professionals, but also by educating motivated and empowered citizens for the future. To achieve these objectives and despite the importance of including the SDGs in the curricula, others activities seem very good options, such as the powerful service-learning experience.

SDGs

The 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly. The 17 SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that everyone enjoys peace and prosperity. They work on issues of social and economic development, such as poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, the environment and social justice and others.

Service learning

Service learning is a teaching and research proposal that integrates community service and academic learning into a single project that allows students to learn while working on real needs of the society in order to help to improve it.

SDGs

We work with artist creation methods
Art, light and life
Experiences from art, nature and sustainability

Non-violent communication
Sexual rights of people with functional diversity
Why is gender violence growing among young people?
Web 2.0, social networks...also for learning and studying?

Wonderful brains
Globalization influences our wildlife
What should we expect from a material subjected to strain

Field

Workshop

Related SDGs

Artistic

Social and humanities

Scientific

Some examples

Some figures

(Student figures are not to the present)
Participating secondary schools: 223
Participating class groups: 595
Workshop offered: 347
College students involved: 755

Student awareness

We have seen that service-learning initiatives produce a profound and positive long-term change in the university students, which will allow them to face with greater awareness the challenges of the future that we face today that are in the core of the SDGs.

Group ApS (UB)

The ApS Group (UB) is an interdisciplinary group of teaching staff from different faculties and areas of knowledge of the University of Barcelona that has the desire to disseminate and extend service learning at the university.

https://www.ub.edu/portal/web/educacio/aps

Conclusion

We conclude that framing service-learning activities in the SDG environment provide a great benefit that helps both service-learning projects and the achievement of the SDGs.

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