



# CEE&ME HUB NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025, 1ST EDITION



**UNISERVITATE**  
Service-learning in Catholic Higher Education



## WE ARE CONTINUING!

**Dear Colleagues,**

*The Uniservitate project has reached its midpoint! Over the past five years, we have witnessed significant progress in the implementation of service-learning in our universities. But beyond institutional advancements, this project has also profoundly influenced us on a personal level.*

*We are excited to present the first issue of our CEE&ME Hub Newsletter. We hope it will become a platform for sharing both our successes and challenges, offering us a chance to reflect on how much we have accomplished together. Through this journey, we have connected not only as university teams but also as individuals. We celebrate our victories together and support one another in difficult moments—this is a true treasure!*

*We warmly welcome the new members of our hub! Their perspectives and contributions will undoubtedly enrich our collaboration and broaden our horizons.*

*While we have already built a strong foundation of projects and research, many opportunities still lie ahead. We are particularly honored to host the VI Uniservitate Global Symposium in our region—an event that will highlight the vital role our community plays in advancing the service-learning movement.*

*We take pride in what we have achieved, but our journey continues!*

*Let us move forward together!*

*Hub Coordination Team*

*Olha Mykhailyshyn & Maria Müller-Pulsfuß*

### Content

**We are continuing!**

**VI Global Symposium**

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Private audience with Pope Francis. 2024 Divisione Fotografica - Vatican Media

## VI GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM

Our region is honored to host the VI Global Symposium in Eichstätt on November 6-7, 2025. The theme of this year's symposium will be:

**"Service-Learning in a Fragile World: Universities Nourishing Peace and Hope."**

Additionally, we are planning an onsite regional meeting the day before the symposium.

Please save the dates—we look forward to seeing you in Eichstätt!

- 5th November - Regional Hub Meeting
- 6th - 7th - VI Global Symposium



## Second call for Small Research Grants on service-learning in Catholic Higher Education



We have already received several applications, but we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and apply for support for your research.

The call is open to all researchers who meet the requirements and submit projects aligned with the **terms and conditions** of this proposal.

We look forward to receiving your proposals by completing the following **form**.

Here is a reminder of the process timeline.

Call start: **1st March 2025**

Deadline for submission: **31st May 2025**

Communication of selection of winners: **1st July 2025**

Research Timeframe: **1st September 2025 - 31st August 2026**

Report Submission: till **15th October 2026**

For further information, write to: [uniservitate@ku.de](mailto:uniservitate@ku.de)

## NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome new institutions to our hub!

- Austria: **University College Of Teacher Education Of Christian Churches**
- Hungary: **Pázmány Péter Catholic University**
- Poland: **Uniwersytet Śląski w Katowicach**

Their participation will undoubtedly enrich our community, foster collaboration, and open new horizons for all of us. We look forward to working together as a strong and dynamic team, sharing knowledge, experiences, and innovative ideas.

**A very warm welcome to the team!**

To learn more about our new members, please see the next pages.





## The University College of Teacher Education of Christian Churches Austria

is Austria's largest private university college for teacher education with eight campus locations in Vienna and Lower Austria. The layout as an institution for pre-service teacher education, teacher professional development and advanced teacher training should lead to the best possible professionalization of teachers in all pedagogical contexts including

Religious Education. In emulating an ecumenical perspective, the University College fosters the cooperation of the seven Christian Churches which act as stakeholders of the college (Roman-Catholic, Protestant of Augsburg Confession and Reformed Confession, Greek-Orthodox, three Oriental Christian Churches, Old Catholic Church as well as Free Churches) while each of the Churches maintains its independent identity. Moreover, two dioceses cooperate to run the college. In addition, the college cooperates with the Islamic, Alevi, Jewish and Buddhist institutions in training programs for teachers of Religious Education with a view to foster interfaith competences.

In September 2024 we have joined the global Uniservitate network, but already before that we have started to promote and institutionalize service learning in our institution as a pedagogical concept that is primarily suitable for implementing the SDGs, with a focus on combining academic learning and social engagement. One example is the following project 'Learning Together, Growing Together: Enhancing Pre-Service Teachers Professionalization in a Learning Club for Refugee Students – A Service Learning Project'. Since the summer semester of 2018, the seminar 'Kommunikationsräume' (led by Mag. Dr. Lena Cataldo-Schwarzl, BA) has been conducted each semester with different thematic focuses, such as research-based teaching, discrimination or language-sensitive teaching, within the broader topic of multilingualism due to migration. The course is designed for pre-service teachers teaching in the age group of 10 to 19 year old students within the so-called North-Eastern network of Universities and University Colleges in Austria ([www.lehramt-ost.at](http://www.lehramt-ost.at)). These pre-service teachers share a wide array of different specializations, yet they all need to be professionalized for teaching and learning in a multilingual society. The seminar 'Kommunikationsräume' has been designed as a service-learning course from the very beginning. Since the summer semester of 2018, the cooperation with the so-called UniClub ([www.uniclub.at](http://www.uniclub.at)) started, over time, additional partners have joined, such as Schule im Aufbruch ([www.schule-im-aufbruch.at](http://www.schule-im-aufbruch.at)) and Kinderfreunde Wien ([www.gemeinsam.kinderfreunde.at](http://www.gemeinsam.kinderfreunde.at)). All those partners share that they are trying to enhance the formational chances of children and young adults with (forced) migration background. Pre-service teachers of the mentioned seminar engage intensively with the topic of multilingualism in the context of both individuals and schools. Students expand their theoretical knowledge in the multilingual environment of the UniClub, where young people aged 13 to 19 with refugee backgrounds receive learning support from students, youth workers, social workers, and psychologists. The course emphasizes reflecting on the experiences gained in this setting, analyzing the pre-service teachers' behavior in the role of a teacher, and linking theory with practice.



### Publications on this project:

Foidl, R., Cataldo-Schwarzl, L. & Renner, J. (2025).

Translanguaging, trasiweithu und translanguajear in halbinstitutionalisierten Unterrichtssettings: Eine gesprächsanalytische Fallstudie. Wiener Linguistische Gazette.

Cataldo-Schwarzl, L. (2024): Professionalisierung durch Service-Learning: Lehramtsstudierende im UniClub. In Krobath, T., Mikusch, T., Plotz, T. & Schmidt-Hönig, K., Service Learning – Caring Society: Pädagog:innenbildung in globaler Verantwortung. LIT Verlag.

Cataldo-Schwarzl, L. & Renner, J. (2023): Interaktionen im UniClub – forschende Lehre im Lehramt und der Sprachwissenschaft. Zeitschrift für Hochschulentwicklung.

See also [Blog](#) and information about [UniClub](#).





## Pázmány Péter Catholic University (PPKE)

is an accredited higher education institution in Budapest, Hungary, run by the Catholic Church and governed by the Hungarian Catholic Bishops' Conference. The foundation of the institution in Nagyszombat in 1635 and its re-foundation in 1992 are the two cornerstones of Hungary's oldest continuously operating university. With its diverse training system, it serves both the transmission of traditional knowledge and values necessary for the development of the entire human personality, as well as the formation of the information society and its adaptation to human fulfillment.

The spirit of the Budapest-based university is fundamentally determined by its Catholic affiliation and the resulting human and community values. Respect for each other, building a professional and friendly community across generations, as well as paying attention to each other and helping each other are of fundamental importance to PPKE. Knowledge is transferred in a people-oriented environment, always taking into account the capabilities, skills and needs of the students. The University pays particular attention to the importance of high quality science and education. These universally recognized values guarantees that the issued degrees maintain their value and results in the favourable reception of PPKE's graduates in the labour market.



**The Teach for Hungary! (Tanítsunk Magyarorszáért!) Program** has been operating continuously since 2021 at PPKE. This mentoring program is a unique initiative based on the simple, yet profound realization that sharing knowledge and helping is a joy. The mission of the program is to provide children from small settlements in difficult situations (economic and social disadvantages) with the opportunity to live a full life and achieve success in the world of learning and work. We believe that learning and working can move them forward and thus contribute to strengthening communities.



The program is open to all full-time and part-time students at PPKE, and especially those majoring in teacher-training programmes. During the TM! Program, the students have the opportunity to be a mentor for a group of elementary schools students and help them with teaching on a weekly basis. The program also offers the opportunity to organize 'experience days' and small school trips for the elementary school students, as well.



This mentoring activity not only contributes to reducing social inequalities, but also offers mentors opportunities for personal and professional development. By participating in the program, they can gain valuable experience that can help them in their future employment. The mentorship is integrated in the curriculum and counts towards the individual school practice of teacher-training students of PPKE.



## Our Path to UNISERVITATE:

### Building a Culture of Social Engagement and Service Education



Katarzyna Trynda, Mariola T. Kozubek, Irena Polewczyk, ks. Dawid Ledwoń

The University of Silesia is actively implementing and promoting the Service-Learning (SL) methodology through two major areas of international cooperation. The first is its participation in the global UNISERVITATE network, which the university formally joined in December 2024. The coordinator of SL-related activities within this initiative is Dr Mariola Kozubek, Associate Professor at the University of Silesia. The second area involves the Transform4Europe alliance, a consortium of eleven European universities. Here, the coordination of SL activities at the University of Silesia is led by Professor Izabela Polewczyk. Both pathways include research, teaching, pilot projects, and international collaboration. Below is an overview of selected initiatives carried out in this field.

#### Individual Collaboration: CLAYSS, LUMSA, UNISERVITATE

- CLAYSS training in Vienna (2013) on Service Learning conducted by Prof. Nieves Tapia (CLAYSS), attended by Assoc. Prof. Mariola Kozubek, PhD and Asst. Prof. Weronika Juroszek, PhD from the Faculty of Theology, US.
- In 2019, Prof. Nieves Tapia (CLAYSS and UNISERVITATE) published an article titled: "Ama y comprenderás": el carisma de Chiara Lubich en diálogo con la pedagogía del aprendizaje-servicio, invited by Assoc. Prof. Mariola Kozubek, PhD and scientific editor of Volume 43 of the journal Paedagogia Christiana (43(1), 487-505). <https://doi.org/10.12775/PCh.2019.023>.
- Assoc. Prof. Mariola Kozubek, PhD and Rev. Assoc. Prof. Arkadiusz Wuwer, DSc, PhD, together with Prof. Dorota Kornas-Biela and Prof. Adam Biela (Catholic University of Lublin John Paul II), were invited by UNISERVITATE to contribute to the second volume of the book Service-Learning Pedagogy and the Teachings of the Catholic Church, published as part of the UNISERVITATE Collection (2021). They authored a chapter entitled "St. John Paul II and Solidarity: From Personal Experience to Testimony of Service".
- Since 2013, Assoc. Prof. Mariola Kozubek, PhD, Professor at the University of Silesia (UŚ), as a member of the International Scientific Committee of the Postgraduate School in Education for the Development of Civic Society (EIS) at LUMSA University since 2013, has gained knowledge and competences in the field of Service Learning by participating in events dedicated to this methodology and completing a research internship there.



#### International Erasmus+ KA220-HED Project Between

2021 and 2024, the University of Silesia (Faculty of Theology and Institute of Pedagogy) coordinated the international project e-Service Learning for More Digital and Inclusive EU Higher Education Systems (e-SL4EU), in partnership with: LUMSA University (Italy), Matej Bel University (Slovakia), University of Zagreb (Croatia), National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA of Bucharest (Romania), Valuedo srl (Italy).

Key project outcomes:

- Participants: 326 students, 58 institutions and social organizations, 35 academic teachers.
- Pilot SL projects conducted at US: 6 initiatives (3 at the Faculty of Theology, 3 at the Institute of Pedagogy), involving 53 students and 7 community partners.
- Developed in 6 languages: online Course for academic teachers, 4 handbooks, Framework of Design Principles and Quality Standards for SL.
- Final project conference titled Transformative Learning Through Service: A European Perspective on E-Service Learning held in Katowice at the Faculty of Theology, US (October 25, 2024), with 60 participants from Poland, Croatia, Spain, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Italy.





### US at the 5th UNISERVITATE Global Symposium (Rome, 2024)

On November 7–8, 2024, a delegation from the University of Silesia participated in the 5th UNISERVITATE Global Symposium – Service-Learning: Transforming Higher Education from Within, organized at LUMSA University in Rome. The university was represented by Assoc. Prof. Katarzyna Trynda, Vice-Rector for Education, as well as researchers from the Faculty of Theology and the Faculty of Social Sciences (Institute of Pedagogy) engaged in SL development: Rev. Assoc. Prof. Dawid Ledwoń, Assoc. Prof. Mariola Kozubek, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Irena Polewczyk, DSc, PhD. Kozubek and Polewczyk presented a paper titled: Service Learning and the Personalist Value of Act according to Karol Wojtyła: An Educational and Ethical Synthesis in the Context of Higher Education.

### Academic Staff Training

Researchers from US both participate in and organize SL training for academic staff:

- Online lecture by Prof. Maria Cinque (LUMSA, member of the UNISERVITATE Scientific Committee): Dal Service Learning al e-Service Learning (June 8, 2021) for researchers from the Institute of Pedagogy, US.
- UNISERVITATE training at the Catholic University of Lublin (online, November 25–26, 2021): SL conference and workshops for lecturers, students, and administrative staff. Participants: Mariola Kozubek, Irena Polewczyk, Rev. Dawid Ledwoń.
- Trainings under the e-SL4EU project (2021–2024): online course for academic teachers in 6 languages, implemented and tested at US as part of pilot initiatives supporting the development of didactic competences in the spirit of SL.
- Online lecture by Irene Culcasi, PhD (LUMSA, European Association of SL in Higher Education): Service-Learning: A Bridge Between Academic Education and Civic Engagement (December 11, 2024), as part of the Katowice – European City of Science program.
- The online workshop “Students, Teachers and Action: Service Learning as a Promoter of Public Engagement” (20 January 2025) was organized by the Faculty of Education and Psychology, Universidade Católica Portuguesa and the University of Silesia in Katowice as part of the Transform4Europe consortium.

### Preparing Students for Participation in Service-Learning Projects

Starting from the 2025/2026 academic year, two new 30-hour courses dedicated to the Service-Learning (SL) methodology will be available among the university-wide elective modules at the University of Silesia. Both courses have been approved by the University Teaching Committee. The first course – “Service-Learning – Learning by Serving: From Theory to Action” – is designed for students interested in the social dimension of education and will be offered within the field of social sciences. The second course – “Interdisciplinary Pathways of Understanding: Service-Learning as Method and Reflection” – is intended for master’s level students and focuses on an interdisciplinary approach to SL as both a method and a subject of academic reflection. Both courses, each comprising 30 contact hours, will be taught by Assoc. Prof. Mariola Kozubek, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. Irena Polewczyk, DSc, PhD who combine extensive teaching experience with hands-on involvement in SL projects at both national and international levels.

### Our publications

[Please see the list of our publications here](#)

### Our Values and the Future

The University of Silesia considers Service Learning a key tool in fulfilling the university’s Third Mission, strengthening ties between the university and the community. We are honored to join the UNISERVITATE family and contribute our experience, values, and openness to mutual learning.





## SERVICE-LEARNING MEETS BUSINESS EDUCATION: STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION AND COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT

During February 26-28th Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU), in collaboration with the Social Impact Start-up Academy (SISTAC) in Ingolstadt, inaugurated the Uniservitate international workshop titled "Service-Learning Meets Business Education: Strategies for Effective Integration and Competency Development." The event welcomed numerous representatives from Catholic universities worldwide, providing an opportunity to continue discussions initiated at the Uniservitate Symposium in Rome and to further develop the Third Mission—the social responsibility of universities.

In her opening speech, KU President Prof. Dr. Gabriele Gien emphasized that knowledge transfer within the Third Mission is almost equivalent to a First Mission for Catholic universities, as the concept of service-learning is deeply embedded in their identity. She highlighted KU as a prime example of integrating academic study with community-oriented engagement.

KU regularly collaborates with partners across social, cultural, sports, environmental, and educational sectors, fostering mutual exchange of knowledge and competencies. Prof. Dr. Gien expressed her delight that KU serves as one of seven global hubs within the Uniservitate network, dedicated to promoting and expanding service-learning at Catholic universities worldwide. Hosting this conference is an extension of that mission, offering KU experts a platform to share their research, including Prof. Dr. André Habisch, one of the conference's co-organizers. In his keynote speech, delivered with Eva Wack (Managing Director of SISTAC), he explored how to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset and develop key competencies essential for this process.

María Rosa Tapia, Program Coordinator of Uniservitate, Argentina, underscored the importance of knowledge exchange on equal footing, noting that we often learn the most from people we least expect. She also announced a significant milestone for advancing service-learning: the global Uniservitate Symposium, which will take place at KU in November.



## Inclusive Media Literacy Education in Palestine

The Inclusive Media Literacy Education in Palestine project has made strong progress over the past two years. In 2024, Bethlehem University implemented two Media Literacy Training courses for 49 students, resulting in 21 community projects across Bethlehem, Hebron, and Jerusalem. These were developed as part of the students' service-learning component in collaboration with their instructors and local organizations.

The Institute for Community Engagement and Partnership (ICP) hosted the closing event for the second round of activities, celebrating students who completed 40 hours of training and worked with 11 partner institutions. Their projects included awareness workshops and media products such as posters, bulletins, and educational videos, reaching over 1,000 people directly and 46,000 via social media.

Following the projects, the English Department launched a digital awareness campaign titled "Data Wise" in collaboration with the Interactive Media Department, using materials developed by the students.

- "Protect Yourself from Cybercrimes" by Aseel Alqadi [🔗 Instagram link](#)
- "Tips When Using Social Media" by Hala Dkeidek [#datawise #bu #campaign #awareness #protection](#)

Razan Hamid and Diala Ayesh, supervised by Tamara Abu Laban, led an awareness initiative in Tuqu' Municipality on the spread of rumors and verifying fake news. Targeting local youth, the session focused on digital security and media literacy through interactive activities and games, helping participants better understand the importance of fact-checking.

- [🔗 Instagram](#)
- [🔗 Workshop Article](#)



Rana Rahal and Jihan Zawahra, supervised by Tamara Abu Laban, led the initiative "Between Rumor and Truth" at the St. Nicholas Charitable Society in Beit Jala. The session focused on the dangers of media rumors, how to counter them, and the importance of verifying information. It included awareness videos, interactive discussions, and a musical performance by Adam Al-Lahham, which added a joyful touch to the event.

- [🔗 Article](#)
- [🔗 Design](#)



Ikhlas Najajreh, Majd Abu Al-Halawa, and Saja Qaraqe', supervised by Hisham Al-Lahham, led an awareness initiative at Bethlehem Girls High School on the ethics of posting photos on social media. Students took part in an interactive activity sorting images into "publishable" and "non-publishable," followed by a session on ethical guidelines. In video interviews, students shared how the topic resonated with their daily lives.

- [🔗 Article](#)
- [🔗 Instagram](#)



Mai Ihsan and Aseel Al-Qadi, supervised by Hisham Al-Lahham, led a digital security initiative at the Latin School in Beit Jala. Targeting 8th and 9th graders, the session focused on securing social media accounts and raising awareness of online safety—topics that strongly resonated with the students.

Mohammad Abu Nimah, Salma Jaradat, Natalie Abu Ayyash, and Yousef Awidat, supervised by Hisham Al-Lahham, led a digital security initiative in Al-Shuyukh (Hebron) titled Empowering the Future Generation in the Internet World. Through short videos, they raised awareness about online threats and how to stay safe on social media.

- [🔗 Article](#)
- [🔗 Instagram Post](#)
- [🔗 Awareness Video](#)

Omar Suleiman, Ahmed Miqdad, and Nour Abu Laban, supervised by Assyed Al-Amarneh, held a workshop with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Bethlehem titled "No to Misinformation... Yes to Facts." It focused on combating fake news and verifying online information.

- [🔗 Instagram](#)



Khaled Abu Aisha and Hamza Abu Srouf led an initiative at Al Ruad Center in Aida Camp to raise awareness about fake news. Targeting the center’s media club, the three-session program covered identifying misinformation, practicing debate skills, and ended with a video debate applying what participants learned.

The initiative helped strengthen participants' critical thinking and media literacy skills. [Article](#)



In the scenic village of Battir, Sireen Najajreh, Areen Abu Srouf, Zainab Shaqirat, and Rua Wazwaz—under the supervision of Tamara Abu Laban and in cooperation with the Rural Women’s Development Society—organized an initiative titled “Verifying News and Misinformation.”

The initiative targeted women from rural communities including Hussan, Wadi Rahhal, and Beit Fajjar, aiming to raise awareness about detecting fake news and verifying online content. The event featured interactive activities such as the “Fact or Rumor” game, role-playing, and discussions to break stereotypes. Participants also learned to use digital tools like reverse image search for fact-checking.

Held in a warm, heritage-rich setting, the event was praised for its engaging atmosphere and practical value, reflecting Bethlehem University’s commitment to empowering women and promoting media literacy.

[Arabic article](#) [English article](#) [Instagram post](#)



Afnan Al-Shouli and Sudeil Issa, supervised by Tamara Abu Laban, led an initiative titled “Media Education and Digital Security” at the Salesian Institute in Bethlehem. In collaboration with the Palestinian Police’s Electronic Crimes Department, they held awareness sessions for students in electricity, carpentry, and mechanics.

Major Fares Salahat delivered a session on cybercrimes and digital safety, while the students provided training on citizen journalism and media literacy, highlighting the importance of safe and responsible use of digital platforms.

[Full article](#) [Instagram post](#)



Hala Edkidek and Saja Al-Jabri, supervised by Assyed Amarneh, held two initiatives at the Burj Al-Luqluq Foundation in occupied Jerusalem on digital security and social media algorithms. The sessions engaged local women and sparked strong interest in these relevant and impactful topics.

[Post 1](#)

[Post 2](#)

Haroun Abu Ramila and Abdul Rahim Mahmoud, supervised by Assyed Al-Amarneh, led a media education initiative at Al-Ru'a School in Beit Hanina, Jerusalem. The event, which included 50 fourth and fifth graders and featured the clown "Zozo," focused on digital security and privacy. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about verifying information in the digital age, teaching students to critically analyze news and identify credible sources.

[Facebook Post](#)





Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence

## Service-learning in UCU: the main updates

Service-learning is one of the strategic priorities at UCU and is an integral part of UCU Strategy 2030. Each year, the number of SL projects and initiatives continues to grow, along with awareness of this methodology. These initiatives included projects ranging from educational activities and research to countering Russia's armed aggression and working with local territorial communities that demonstrate a real impact on important social challenges.

One of the key projects was "Invest in the Community", in which BA political science students improved investment passports for three territorial communities in the neighboring Ternopil region. This project was particularly valuable due to investment challenges caused by the war.

Moreover, sustainability is a defining characteristic of several service-learning projects at UCU. For instance, initiatives like the Law Clinic and the "Poradnia" psychology consulting center have been ongoing for several years and 2024 was no exception.

To learn more about some of the SL projects implemented in 2024, please follow the links:

- [UCU Legal Clinic](#)
- SL project [Sensitive space](#)
- SL project [Ghetto in Lviv: space and everyday life](#)

### Annual Service-Learning Month 2024

In November 2024, the fifth Annual Month of Service-Learning took place at UCU. The program included discussions, exhibitions, and roundtables for students and faculty, where they discussed the results of projects, cooperation with local territorial communities and other institutions, and the practical aspects of implementing this approach in the educational process. The purpose of the events was to raise awareness of the development of service-learning at the university and to popularize it in Ukrainian education.

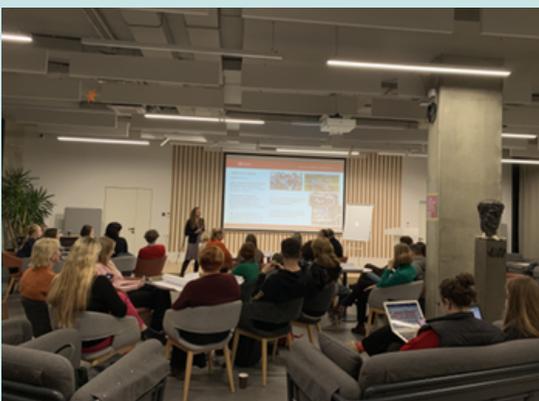
More about this initiative in the [article on UCU's website](#).

### 2024 statistics

UCU offered 36 SL courses.  
4 of those were taught in 2 semesters.

More than 10% of teachers and about 1500 students were involved in their implementation

12 courses were implemented exclusively by students of MA programs





# servU



ServU is an Erasmus+ project on service-learning in higher education for Ukraine's recovery. It was created in 2023 by uniting 6 Ukrainian and European universities, including Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, LUMSA, KU Leuven, Sumy State University and Dnipro University of Technology. Ukrainian Catholic University is the coordinator of this project.

During 2024, the team of the project implemented several initiatives, including collaboration with local territorial communities and researching their needs, a comprehensive toolkit, and guidelines for educators and practitioners on adaptation of the service-learning methodology to the conditions of war and recovery. Read more about the results of the first year of the ServU project by [following the link](#)

## MOOC "Service-learning Teaching Approach"

At the end of March 2025, an open online course "Service-learning Teaching Approach" was launched on the UCU Online platform. The course introduces participants to the concept of service-learning (SL) and provides practical tools for its implementation in the educational process. It is designed for educators of academic institutions, community leaders, managers of organizations and is available in two languages – Ukrainian and English. Upon successful completion, participants will receive a certificate (1 ECTS credit).

Find more details and [registration by following the link](#)

Online course Free

## Service-learning Teaching Approach

Start -24 March | 6 Modules 1 ECTS

This material was produced with co-funding from the European Union. It reflects the views of the ServU project and does not necessarily represent the official position of the European Union.

Co-funded by the European Union servU UCU ONLINE

## Ukrainian Service-learning Platform

Ukrainian Service-Learning Platform is an innovative resource hub created to facilitate cooperation between universities, local territorial communities, and NGOs through the application of SL methodology. The platform creates a single space for the development, implementation and monitoring of service-learning initiatives, which helps to integrate the learning process with addressing real societal needs.

The platform aims to support the development of a "bottom-up" model of cooperation, in which Ukrainian universities will be able to synchronize their efforts with local territorial communities without centralized guidance from government agencies. This approach actively contributes to the effective recovery of Ukraine through the integration of education with public life.



## An Intense and Fruitful Time for Service-Learning at KUL

The final months of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 marked a particularly dynamic and productive period for the implementation and promotion of the Service-Learning (SL) methodology at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL). This time was characterized by significant institutional developments, active academic engagement, and growing recognition of SL within the university community.



### November 2024: International Visibility

In November, KUL proudly published the English version of the **Service Learning. Together for Society** Yearbook, which showcases the university's dedication to integrating academic knowledge with community engagement. The publication, available online, documents diverse SL projects and initiatives, highlighting the growing impact of the method at KUL and enhancing the university's visibility in the international Uniservitate network.

[Service Learning Yearbook KUL](#)



### January 2025: Strengthening Institutional Support

A milestone for the institutionalisation of Service-Learning at KUL was the appointment of dr. habil. Ewa Trzaskowska, prof. KUL, as the university's Service-Learning Coordinator. Appointed by Vice-Rector for Education, Rev. dr. habil. Jarosław Jęczeń, she brings her vast experience in academic excellence and her pivotal role in founding the Center for Teaching and Learning (Centrum Dydaktyki Akademickiej) in 2021. This appointment signifies a strategic commitment to embedding SL more deeply into KUL's educational framework.



### January 31: Engaging the Teaching Community

On January 31, an important meeting for academic teachers was held, led by dr. habil. Ewa Trzaskowska and dr. Jan Kamiński, SL experts from the Center for Teaching and Learning. The session provided an introduction to the SL method for educators new to the concept and served as a platform to exchange experiences and discuss challenges related to implementation. These meetings are planned regularly, with individual consultations available to support teachers further.

### March 25-27: Sharing Best Practices with Other Universities

At the end of March, the Center for Teaching and Learning welcomed a group of academic staff from Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa for a study visit focused on Service-Learning. The visiting educators participated in dedicated training sessions, learned about SL methodology in practice, and explored examples of successful projects at KUL, including a practical handbook and the Yearbook. This event underscored KUL's role as a leader in promoting SL in higher education across Poland.

### March/April: Training the Teachers of Tomorrow

A key element of this productive period was the launch of a 16-hour SL training course for KUL academic staff. Offered as part of the university's "Doskonały Dydaktyk" ("Excellent Teacher") project, the training is led by dr. Jan Kamiński, the KUL coordinator for the Uniservitate project. The course equips educators with the tools and knowledge to design and implement SL-based courses, thereby enriching the learning experience and fostering civic engagement among students.

These months have not only demonstrated KUL's commitment to Service-Learning as a pedagogical approach but also laid a strong foundation for its long-term integration into academic life. Through structured training, strategic appointments, and knowledge-sharing events, Service-Learning at KUL continues to grow as a vibrant and impactful part of the university's mission.



## Second call for Uniservitate memberships

We are expanding the program experience!

From April 1st to April 30th. Learn more here.

### The Uniservitate experience is growing!

Uniservitate are opening its network to all Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs) who wish to implement or strengthen their service-learning (SL) or community engagement practices and come in contact with colleagues from all around the world.

To join follow [the link](#)

For questions, please, contact: [memberships@uniservitate.org](mailto:memberships@uniservitate.org)

### Join the Transformation Summer Camp 2025 at KU Eichstätt!

Explore the vital connection between health, well-being, and climate protection. We believe that sustainable societal development depends on recognizing how closely human and planetary health are linked. The camp offers advanced students, graduates, and early-stage PhD candidates the chance to create innovative research ideas at the intersection of health and sustainability, in direct exchange with researchers.

At the camp, you will:

- Dive into key future topics;
- Use methods like Design Thinking to develop original research ideas;
- Learn how to foster collaboration between science, business, and society.

Apply for a scholarship now!

More info: [Transformation Summer Camp](#)



Dear Colleagues,

As we celebrate the spirit of renewal, hope, and togetherness this Easter season, we would like to extend our heartfelt wishes to you. May this time bring peace, joy, and inspiration to all.

It is also a wonderful opportunity to express our gratitude for the connection we share through our mutual commitment to Service-Learning. In these challenging times your dedication and compassion are truly remarkable.

Let us continue to support one another and build fruitful collaborations across our institutions.

Together, we can empower our students and communities through meaningful engagement. Wishing you a joyful Easter and a season filled with new beginnings, both personally and professionally.

Warm regards,

Hub Coordination Team

Olha Mykhailyshyn & Maria Müller-Pulsfuß

In our next edition:

International visits

Small Research Grant winners announcement

Global Symposium preparation updates

