

PROFESSIONAL CENTER ORGANIZING SERVICE-LEARNING



Figure 13: Service Learning Poster at University of Cologne
Source: <https://professionalcenter.uni-koeln.de/lehre/service-learning>

AT A GLANCE

STUDY FIELD:	Open for all faculties
DIGITAL READINESS:	Medium - High
SOCIAL IMPACT EXPERIENCE:	Medium – always a result in the end
LOCATION:	Cologne
TARGET GROUP:	Bachelor and Master
PARTNER ORGANIZATION:	Pool of different NGOs
TEACHING METHODS (DURATION):	Service Learning (full semester)
WEBSITE:	LINK



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FREQUENCY:



The University of Cologne's professional center offers students and students of the TH Köln University of Applied Sciences every semester a service-learning course in which students can choose between eight to ten different projects, tackling the challenges of different NGOs.

SOCIAL IMPACT



The societal impact is felt differently depending on the partner organization and focus of the challenge. It can include creating educational videos showing the necessity of preventive measures against skin cancer, drafting social media campaigns for smaller NGOs to broaden their reach, supporting international students arriving in the city for a semester abroad, and getting them integrated.

STRUCTURE



The course is organized and coordinated by the professional center of the University of Cologne, and each semester, new projects are acquired, some with existing partners, others with new organizations. The challenges are jointly specified based on available resources and previous experiences. Significant is that a seminar matching the projects accompanies the challenge. For example, students are taught how to film, cut, and mix videos when creating a promotional video for an NGO. The professional center relies on experienced professionals to host these seminars and coordinates the whole semester so that the interdisciplinary groups of students get the skills needed to fulfill their respective challenges. The challenges are defined so that each accompanying seminar addresses more than one project group. At the start of the semester, the center presents the projects in a joint meeting, after which the students can select their respective projects. During the semester, they are then working on the challenge and attending the seminar, which is focused on teaching the general skills but not going into detail on their specific task. The semester culminates again in a joint final session, where the teams present their results.